RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date:	**Thursday, 29 October 2026**
Time:	**Following Council meeting**
Venue:	**Council Chamber** **Rangitīkei District Council** **46 High Street** **Marton**

Chair:	Cr Dave Wilson
Deputy Chair:	Cr Paul Sharland
Membership:	HWTM Andy Watson Cr Alan Buckendahl Cr Fi Dalgety Cr Sandra Field Cr John Hainsworth Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa Cr Graeme O'Fee Cr Coral Raukawa Cr Jeff Wong

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Notice is hereby given that an Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 29 October 2026 at Following Council meeting.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome / Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: **Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The minutes from **Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 27 August 2026 are attached.**

Attachments

1. Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting - 27 August 2026

Recommendation

That the minutes of Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 27 August 2026 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: **Thursday, 27 August 2026**

Time: **9.30am**

Venue: **Council Chamber**
Rangitīkei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Alan Buckendahl
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Sandra Field
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Online)
Cr Graeme O'Fee
Cr Coral Raukawa
HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Jeff Wong

In attendance
Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
Mr Darryn Black, Acting GM Assets Infrastructure and Projects
Mr Eswar Ganapathi, Senior Project Manager
Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager
Ms Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor

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UNCONFIRMED

1 Welcome / Prayer

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.31am and read the Council Prayer.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/016

That the apologies from Cr Diana Baird, Cr John Hainsworth and Cr Paul Sharland be received.

Cr S Field/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/017

That the minutes of Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 28 May 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings

The Committee accepted that the matters listed on the register are complete and are to be removed.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/018

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Wong. Carried

UNCONFIRMED

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - August 2026

The Chair highlighted the ongoing changes regarding legislative reform and international geopolitical tensions which are relevant to the Committee.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/019

That the report Chair's Report - August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Terms of Reference - Assets/Infrastructure Committee

Members discussed the current legislative change from central government which will affect non-elected representative's voting rights in committees and boards and how this could impact the inclusion of a Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti representative within the Assets/Infrastructure Committee.

The Committee agreed that regardless of voting rights, the voice which a TRAK representative provides is important. A footnote that this appointment may be subject to further directions from Council, noting the Local Government (System Improvements) Bill currently moving through parliament would be added to the Draft Terms of Reference.

His Worship the Mayor raised concerns that the delegation powers outlined within the Draft Terms of Reference are too broad, specifically regarding contract approval for major capital projects. Members agreed "(delegations)" would be removed from the Draft Terms of Reference, and this matter will be revisited at a later time, at which all Council committee delegations will considered.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/020

That the report Terms of Reference – Assets/Infrastructure Committee be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/021

That the Assets/Infrastructure Committee recommends to Council the updated Terms of Reference are adopted, as amended.

Cr D Wilson/Cr S Field. Carried

UNCONFIRMED

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Project Update Report - August 2026

Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Members asked about the status of the Options Report regarding land acquisition. Mr Benardie advised this report is subject to the periphyton risk assessment which has not been completed yet. Members discussed the importance of this report regarding the upcoming Central Districts Water (CDW) transfer in informing decisions.

Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land

Members discussed the complexities of making decisions on projects that are included in the CDW transfer. Mr Bernadie advised there is a mechanism in place to communicate the information regarding progress made on considering project options to CDW, but the responsibility of managing projects to be transferred lies with Council until 01 July 2027.

Cr Raukawa asked about of progress on this project, the current budget compared to initial forecast and involvement of iwi, hapū and other stakeholders at this point. Mr Bernadie advised that initial forecasts were very high level and that the project is not at the decision-making point where further stakeholder engagement would occur.

Members discussed concerns about the impacts of delays on the communities involved. Mr Bernadie advised that these delays are due to the complexities of the project, including the consenting process. Members requested if Officers are able to link previous reports in upcoming Project Update Reports to keep Committee members and the communities more informed of progress.

Cr O'Fee left during this item at 10.16am and returned at 10.21am.

Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects

Mr Bernadie highlighted that external advice is progressing well to find where improvements can be made. The main issue currently is the high volume of inflow infiltration, particularly from private properties. Resolving this issue is complex and considering the costs to private property is key to officers' process, alongside following the national guidelines concerning this issue.

Marton Water Strategy

Mr Bernadie advised that CDW have accepted this as a project with a long-term allocated budget of $20 million. Details of the timing will be confirmed by CDW as they evaluate all transferred projects from Rangitīkei, Horowhenua and Palmerston North councils.

Marton EOC

Officers advised that construction is beginning 01 September 2026, with project completion planned for April 2027.

UNCONFIRMED

Taihape Grandstand (Community Led Project)

Members raised concerns of the level of information provided through the update and reiterated that Council requires oversight of the project. Officers advised that the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC) has completed a reset with assistance from Frame Group and will now be able to report back to the Committee/Council with more detailed information within three identified workstreams - heritage, changing rooms and compliance. These reports will include updates regarding funding, completion of works, timeframes and risks.

Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment

Officers highlighted that the detailed design phase would be finished early September.

Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

Officers confirmed there is a delay with delivery of the steel roof frames due to geopolitical tensions.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/022

That the report Project Updates Report – August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

10.2 Consent Compliance Report - August 2026

Members raised concerns regarding the apparent level of non-compliance for the water reporting. Officers advised there are complexities around consenting limits and non-compliance does not always signal significant issues. Were these to arise, Taumata Arowai would advise Council officers to remedy the matter, which would also be brought to the committee.

Cr Hiroa left during this item at 11.02am returned at 11.04am.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/023

That the report Consent Compliance Report – August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10.3 Roading Update – August 2026

Otara Bridge

Mr Black advised that a full capacity assessment of the bridge is underway, noting the complexity of repairs to suspension bridges as well as the age of the bridge. The length of time restrictions will be in place is unknown. Members discussed how this is a shared issue alongside Manawatū District Council and communication and collaboration will be key to ensure the best outcome.

UNCONFIRMED

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/024

That *Standing Order 4.2 No meeting can sit for more than two hours continuously without a break of at least ten minutes, unless the meeting resolves to extend the time before a break* is set aside until the completion of Item 10.3.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/025

That the report Roading Update – August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

The meeting closed at 11.35am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Assets/Infrastructure Committee held on 29 October 2026.

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Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings

Author: **Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Assets/Infrastructure Committee meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

2. Decision Making Process

2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

Attachments:

1. **Follow-up Actions Register** ⇩

Recommendation

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	27-Aug-26	Further reporting requested on the Taihape Grandstand project from the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Society.	Gaylene	Further reporting will be included as part of the PMO reporting on this item.	In progress
2	27-Aug-26	Land in bulls - understand the implications/risks of transfer to CDW or non-transfer to CDW. Report to October Council meeting.	Arno	This was completed in the 01 October Council Workshop Agenda Item CDW Transfer Agreement.	Completed
3	27-Aug-26	Investigate the feasibility of providing links to past reports on key projects in the regular projects update report.	Arno	This is feasible, provided links are limited to key historical reports and decisions rather than all previous reporting. For longer-term projects, relevant reports may span several years and have been considered by both Council and its committees. An initial review would be required to identify the most relevant reports, with links then maintained through the regular project reporting process.	In progress
4	27-Aug-26	The presentation on the Ratana WWTP project be circulated to elected members	Arno	This has been ciruclated to members.	Completed
5	27-Aug-26	Detail on what the delay is in the Mangaweka CPU replacement (from consent compliance report).	Arno	The Mangaweka CPU was replaced in late 2025 but was experiencing issues with data retrieval. This has been rectified and the data will be reflected in the next report.	Completed

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - October 2026

Author: **Dave Wilson, Deputy Mayor**

Thank you, members, for your attendance and for your commitment to our District.

Although we are in a holding pattern with regards to the up-coming election and central Government's pause on 'Simplifying Local Government Reforms' our B.A.U. continues with regards to the Assets & Infrastructure work programmes.

In today's order papers we have our standard reporting on Roading, Compliance and general projects which are largely 'Business as usual' functions and are reported by way of variances etc.

As a change in reporting three of our 'High Community Interest' CAPEX work projects, being Marton EOC build, the Taihape Town Hall redevelopment and the Marton Swim Centre upgrade, now all have separate reporting lines.

The purpose of this is to allow for easier access to information for Elected Members and to allow for more detailed discussion and understanding by members regarding the progress of these high-interest projects. It is my thinking that this change will allow members to focus in more detail on project variances, such as budget scope and time-lines with matters arising being captured on our action list for further clarification.

With this in mind, I look forward to today's discussions.

Recommendation

That the report Chair's Report - October 2026 be received.

ITEM 9.1

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Capital Projects Update Report - October 2026

Author: **Eswar Ganapathi, Senior Project Manager**

Authoriser: **Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager - Corporate Services**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 This is a report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council officers for the period ending September 2026.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects

2.1 Marton Emergency Operations Centre

2.1.1 Key points of note:

- Soil contaminated from the oil drum have been stockpiled on site ready to be moved to Bonny Glenn. This had impacted the project timeline and added additional cost towards the dumping fee.
- A second area of contamination was discovered on 19 October 2026, while excavating for the new retaining wall. Soil testing has been scheduled for 22 October 2026 with the test results expected by 30 October 2026.
- The ground bearing capacity was less than anticipated in certain parts of the site which meant additional excavation and deeper foundations.

2.1.2 Project Budget:

- The cost impact from the first contamination is estimated at $20K, subject to QS evaluation and final certification. Until such time the QS have evaluated this claim, a part payment has been approved towards this claim.

Current use of contingency funds:

	Description	***Amount***
1	Part payment towards additional works related to contaminated soil	$ 8,473.50
2	PowerCo fee for new power connection	$4,200.00
	Current Spend	***$12,673.50***
	Contingency anticipated in the next reporting period as quoted by Maycroft. **The CDEM team have noted that there is a requirement for -** Connections for washing machine facilities and Additional data outlets to ensure offline connectivity should all internet connections fail.	$ 11,160.00
	Estimated Spend	***$ 23,833.50***

2.1.3 Project Timeline

- While the impact to project completion has been notified, the extent of impact is yet to be determined.

2.2 Taihape Town Hall & Library Redevelopment

2.2.1 Key points of note

- Detailed designs have been completed. There have been no further changes to already approved floor plans.
- The bus stop on Kuku Street will need to be relocated during construction and staff are in contact with the CE of Bus & Coach Association of New Zealand over this subject.

2.2.2 Project Budget

- Current spend is within the approved design budget.

2.2.3 Project Timeline

- Building consent application was lodged on 9 October 2026.
- The final lump sum price for construction works is expected by 30 October 2026, which will then be peer reviewed by the project QS, before presenting to Council for approval.
- Based on the next sequence of events, we anticipate construction to start by end of January 2027 with an 18-month construction duration.

2.3 Marton Swim Centre

2.3.1 Key points of note

- Structural steel from China has left the Singapore port and is currently tracking on schedule for arrival in Wellington on 27 October 2026. The impact from this delay has already been factored into the updated project delivery date.
- Removal of existing roof is scheduled to start on 26 November 2026.
- Structural steel installation should be underway, if not completed, before closing for year-end holidays
- The new ETFE roof works are slated to begin in the new year, which means the building will be without a roof over the holiday period.
- PowerCo have indicated a tentative date of 17 December for installing the new transformer. This will be confirmed once their Network Access Planning Application has been approved. The gym operator is informed of this development.

2.3.2 Project Budget

- The project is tracking within approved budget.
- Current use of contingency funds:

	Description	***Amount***
1	Change in paint system for steel trusses	-$ 49,830.96
2	Removal of provisional sums	-$ 61,500.00
3	Upgrading of existing mechanical submain cables	$ 12,729.16
4	Cost of dilapidation report	$ 3,047.63
5	Cost of Traffic Management	$ 4,910.06
6	Cost of Plumbing works	$ 17,835.82
7	Cost of Hardware	$ 5,632.97
8	Cost of temporary propping	$ 40,470.42
9	Retaining wall along new footpath	$ 1,891.79
10	Man-safe anchors	$ 3,328.69
11	Slip resistance testing for tiles along the pool upstand	$ 1,440.00
12	LTS pool cladding replacement	$ 6,601.33
13	Construction works insurance	$ 21,771.06
14	Geotechnical inspection	$ 3,600.00
	Current Spend	***$11,928.37***

2.3.3 Project Timeline

- No further changes to project schedule since the shipping delays had been captured.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 A financial update is provided for each project. A detailed breakdown of contingency is provided where relevant.

4. Impact on Strategic Risks

4.1 Relevant strategic risks include:

- Political environment creates significant change – This is an ongoing risk that staff manage as change occurs. For these three projects the relative risk is low.
- Capital programme falters – this risk is low as each project had a been resourced adequately and focus is given when risks arise.

5. Strategic Alignment

5.1 The Marton Emergency Operations Centre, Taihape Town Hall and Marton Swim Centre projects align with Council's strategic framework. They support the community outcomes of social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing. They also align with the strategic priority of enhancing our community hubs.

6. Mana Whenua Implications

6.1 Any mana whenua considerations are managed by the individual projects.

7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

7.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with these projects.

8. Statutory Implications

8.1 Statutory implications are considered and managed for each project. This includes considerations and requirements such as for building consents, and resource consents where required.

9. Decision Making Process

9.1 This report is for information only, no decisions are required.

Attachments:

1. **Capital Projects Dashboard** ⇩

Recommendation

That the report Capital Projects Updates Report - October 2026 be received.

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 1

MARTON EOC

Capital Projects

REPORT DATE : 20 Oct 2026

1 OVERALL STATUS

PRE-CONSTRUCTION ITEMS

Design — Completed
Tender — Completed
Contractor Procurement — Completed
Building Consent — Completed

Construction Contract Start: 31 August 2026

2 COMPLETION & COMPLIANCE DATES

MILESTONE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	
Completion	13 May 2027	-	
Code Compliance Certificate	15 Jun 2027	-	

4 WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Earth works
- Ground beams
- Excavation for retaining wall

7 SITE PHOTOS



3 KEY MILESTONES

MILESTONE	SCHEDULED DATE	STATUS / TARGET
Site Clearing	08 September 2026	Completed
Excavation works	09 November 2026	In progress
Boundary retaining wall	05 November 2026	In progress
Main Building Foundations	20 November 2026	In progress
Ground Floor slab	23 December 2026	Yet to start
Wall/Roof Framework	04 February 2027	Yet to start

5 PROJECT RISKS

Contaminated Soil
Contaminated soil stockpiled ready to be Taken off-site – New contamination found At retaining wall location

Ground conditions
Loose soil encountered at certain locations. Deeper excavations than anticipated

6 FINANCIALS

CATEGORY	ACTUAL / BUDGET	CURRENT SPEND
Construction Contract	$2,370,349.00	$91,861.76
Project Contingency	$192,314.24	$12,673.51
Construction Budget	**$2,562,663.24**	—
Professional Fees	$286,805.01	$164,348.76
RDC Project Management	$100,000.00	$23,107.96
Resource & Building Consent	$50,531.75	$47,480.75
ICT	$50,000.00	-
FF&E	$150,000.00	-
Total Project Budget	**$3,200,000.00**	**$339,472.74**

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
$3,200,000.00

CURRENT SPEND
$339,472.74

PROJECT CONTINGENCY
$192,314.24

REMAINING CONTINGENCY
$179,640.73

TAIHAPE TOWN HALL

Capital Projects

REPORT DATE : 20 Oct 2026

1 OVERALL STATUS

PRE-CONSTRUCTION ITEMS

Tender — Completed
Design — Completed
Building Consent — Application submitted
Contract Signing — Mid Dec 2026

Construction Contract Start: 27 January 2027*

2 COMPLETION & COMPLIANCE DATES

MILESTONE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	
Completion	31 Jul 2028	-	
Code Compliance Certificate	31 Aug 2028	-	

4 WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Building consent application
- Contractor's Lump Sum pricing Expected by 30 Oct 2026

7 SITE PHOTOS

3 KEY MILESTONES

MILESTONE	SCHEDULED DATE	STATUS / TARGET
Contract Lump Sum pricing	30 October 2026	In progress
QS Report	20 November 2026	Yet to start
Council Approval	10 December 2026	Yet to start
Building Consent	30 November 2026	In progress
Contract Signing	18 December 2026	Yet to start
Site Mobilization	27 January 2027	Yet to start

5 PROJECT RISKS

- **Existing Façade condition – repairs excluded in pricing**
- **Ground conditions**
- **Current market dynamics affecting construction price**

6 FINANCIALS

CATEGORY	ACTUAL / BUDGET	CURRENT SPEND
Construction Contract	$TBC	
Project Contingency	$TBC	
Construction Budget	**$11,202,581.00**	
Professional Fees	$1,583,238.00	$1,041,338.00
Project Management (incl RDC)	$477,221.17	$309,637.72
Resource & Building Consent	$110,000.00	$0.00
FF&E / IT / AV	$500,000.00	$0.00
Miscellaneous	$126,959.830	$113,270.34
Total Project Budget	**$14,000,000.00**	**$1,464,246.06**

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
$14,000,000.00

CURRENT SPEND
$1,464,246.06

PROJECT CONTINGENCY
TBC

REMAINING CONTINGENCY
TBC

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 1

MARTON SWIM CENTRE

Capital Projects

REPORT DATE : 20 Oct 2026

1 OVERALL STATUS

PRE-CONSTRUCTION ITEMS

Design — Completed
Tender — Completed
Contractor Procurement — Completed
Building Consent — Completed

Construction Contract Start: 10 June 2026

2 COMPLETION & COMPLIANCE DATES

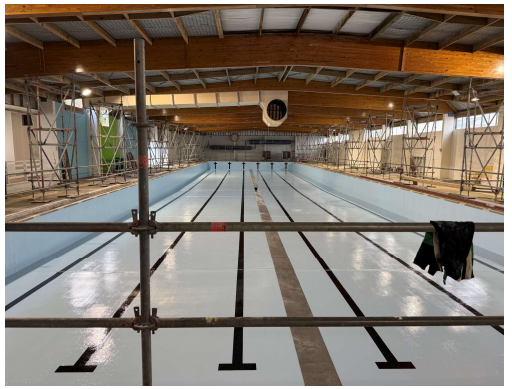
MILESTONE	ORIGINAL	REVISED
Completion	04 Feb 2027	02 Apr 2027
Code Compliance Certificate	18 Mar 2027	17 May 2027

4 WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Pool repairs completed. Painting in progress
- Internal wall painting works
- New fire exit & footpath completed
- New fire systems installed

7 SITE PHOTOS





3 KEY MILESTONES

MILESTONE	SCHEDULED DATE	STATUS / TARGET
Procurement	04 February 2026	Completed
Plant Room demolition	30 June 2026	Completed
Existing Roof removal	10 September 2026	9 Dec 2026
Structural Steel Installation	30 October 2026	21 Jan 2027
New Roof	8 January 2027	4 Mar 2027
Mechanical Equipment	16 November 2026	17 Mar 2027

5 PROJECT RISKS

Shipping delay
Ship from Singapore is being tracked closely

PowerCo transformer upgrade
Dates to be confirmed by PowerCo

Weather / roof exposure
Pool likely to be without a roof over Christmas Break

6 FINANCIALS

CATEGORY	ACTUAL / BUDGET	CURRENT SPEND
Construction Contract	$4,552,772.00	$1,316,386.06
Project Contingency	$564,526.76	-$13,442.69
Construction Budget	**$5,117,298.76**	—
Professional Fees	$800,000.00	$677,658.61
RDC Project Management	$200,000.00	$134,288.52
Building Consent	$45,000.00	$39,260.53
Power Upgrades	$70,000.00	$54,195.12
Insurance	—	$21,771.06
Geotech Inspection	—	$3,600.00
Total Project Budget	**$6,232,298.76**	**$2,234,602.43**

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
$6,232,298.76

CURRENT SPEND
$2,234,602.43

PROJECT CONTINGENCY
$564,526.76

REMAINING CONTINGENCY
$552,598.39

9.2 Project Update Report - October 2026

Author: **Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**

Authoriser: **Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 This is a report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council officers for the period ending October 2026.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects

Wastewater Projects

3. Project: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Project Manager: Steve Carne
Budget: $85.36M
Reporting Period: October 2026

3.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	🟡	🟢	The delay in completing the Periphyton Risk Assessment could create program delays if not resolved soon.
Scope	🟢	🟢	T+T scope up to lodgement to be defined
Schedule	🟡	🟢	On track as per latest HRC advisory in May but now at risk due to the Periphyton Risk assessment delays.
Budget	🟢	🟢	Within upper bound LTP- estimates expected to decrease
Benefits	🟢	🟢	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	🟢	🟢	Positive iwi feedback about land passage/wetland discharge to Rangitīkei River

3.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Slow progress on periphyton risk assessment required by the Wastewater NEPS regulations.
- Agreement with HRC to adjust the consenting timelines due to periphyton risk assessment processes.
- Refinement of the short list as a response to the National Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards ('Wastewater Standards')
- Concept design and cost estimates of short list options
- Assessment of loading impacts to the Rangitīkei River for each of the short-listed options
- Additional monitoring of influent at both Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs), as well as investigation into trade waste and septage components of influent at Marton WWTP.

In progress:

- Periphyton risk assessment as per WW NEPS Regulations.
- Land Passage/wetland concept designs being developed with iwi
- Finalise Short List Options Report to be presented to Council
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Further Understanding of ANZCO Contribution

3.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Periphyton Risk Assessment Complete	End June 2026	🔴
Preferred Option Identified	End August 2026	🟡
Consent Lodgement	December 2026	🔴

3.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	$85.36M
Actual Spend	$1.61M
Forecast Completion	$85.36M

Variance: **within budget**

3.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Uncertainty related to Periphyton Risk assessment process.	Medium	Early liaison with Taumata Arowai and HRC
Uncertainty re timing of cultural values assessment with iwi and hapu	Medium	On-going dialogue

3.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Verification of preferred Option selection will be presented to Council for consideration.

4. Project: Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land
Project Manager: Steve Carne
Budget: $8M
Reporting Period: October 2026

4.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	🟡	🟡	Alternative Options prepared and submitted to Officers for review
Scope	🟢	🟢	Strategy to reticulate Koitiata and discharge Ratana and Koitiata effluent via sea outfall at Koitiata was investigated and identified as an option to be included for consideration.
Schedule	🟡	🟡	Program to be confirmed
Budget	🟢	🟢	Budget is dependent on consideration of newly identified options and project outcomes.
Benefits	🟢	🟢	Benefits that can be achieved will be dependent on final option selection.
Stakeholder Support	🟡	🟡	New strategy not being discussed with the wider community and stakeholders until Council has considered Alternative Options Report

4.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- A new Central Government wastewater treatment initiative has the potential to add value to the Rātana alternative solutions. The Wastewater Investment Accelerator (WIA) initiative was initiated by National Infrastructure Funding and Financing (NIFF).
- This initiative will accelerate the investment in Wastewater infrastructure specifically in the purchase and installation of package wastewater treatment plants targeting small communities (less than 2,000 population, circa. 800 homes).
- RDC have a number of wastewater treatment plants that will fall into this category, and we are following progress with interest.
- This initiative will advance ‘proven’ treatment processes through the development of an Infrastructure Design Solution, procurement at scale (whole of life) and streamlined delivery.
- A centralised Government tender is currently out to the market, closing on 16 December 2026 and will be evaluated early in 2027.
- Progress with this project is on hold until we can evaluate the costs involved with these package plants and be able to evaluate how this could benefit the Rātana WWTP solution as well as other small wastewater treatment plants across our district.

In progress:

- Alternative options to be presented to Council for consideration.

4.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Evaluate new package plant opportunities	February 2027	●
Finalise the options report to be presented to Council for decision	April 2027	●
Stakeholder Consultation Starts	January 2027	●

4.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	$8M
Actual Spend	$1.5M
Forecast Completion	$9M

Variance: **Uncertain until alternative options are presented to Council for approval.**

4.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Community views and acceptance of alternative strategy	High	Early consultation re: alternatives and reasons why

4.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Consideration of alternative options available.

5. Project: Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects
Project Manager: Steve Carne
Budget: $2.18M
Reporting Period: October 2026

5.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	●	●	Process and Strategy clarified to move forward
Scope	●	●	Scope of the I&I work as well as the WWTP performance assessment has been agreed.
Schedule	●	●	Schedule has been finalised and included in CDW budgets.
Budget	●	●	Within tolerance
Benefits	●	●	Lowest capex and compliance with consent conditions and WW NEPS Regulations
Stakeholder Support	●	●	Positive community feedback thus far re network investigations

5.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- The phase 1 technical review of the plant performance, infrastructure and historical data has been completed.
- Key issues and root cause of poor performance and critical data to collect has been identified.
- Clarifier assessment and DAF feasibility analysis has been completed.

In progress:

- Hydraulic and wastewater loading assessment continues.
- Membrane filtration system performance assessment
- Development of upgrade options and process improvements
- Procurement of wastewater network relining to reduce the amount of stormwater and groundwater infiltration into the wastewater network is out for tender. This relining is planned to be completed by June 2027.
- Preparing to communicate with the Taihape residents to educate property owners on what to look out for to help us reduce the Inflow and Infiltration of stormwater from private properties into the wastewater network.

5.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Complete the hydraulic and load assessment	Dec 2026	●
Complete membrane performance assessment	Dec 2026	●
Start targeted communications with property owners	Nov 2026	●

5.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	$2.18M
Actual Spend	$1.03M
Forecast Completion	$2.18M

Variance: **None**

5.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Effective Transfer of program to CCO	Medium	Develop clear strategy

5.6 Further Information/Decisions that May Be Required of Council

Council decision regarding the funding of private property inflow defects and rectification works will be required.

6. Water Projects

Project: Marton Water Strategy
Project Manager: Gwilym van Hoffen
Budget: $3.5M
Reporting Period: October 2026

6.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	●	●	Following the Council decision in April, work is proceeding well with the interim operational improvement solutions proposed to be implemented before summer 2026
Scope	●	●	The scope going forwards is aligned with the April Council decision
Schedule	●	●	The project is currently on track to deliver better quality water in Marton for the summer peak of 2026
Budget	●	●	The rescoped project budget is currently on track
Benefits	●	●	The outcomes and benefits of the project are expected to be significant
Stakeholder Support	●	●	Stakeholder support is good, based on the April Council decision

6.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Calico Line package plant
  - RDC operations staff are busy connecting the new plant to the bore, reticulation network, and wastewater lines. Testing will commence on 27 October, and the Go Live date is currently projected to be Wed 11 November.
  - There will be an initial period of settling in, followed by an extended period of operational adjusting and blending trials, to get the correct settings for flows over summer from the new plant into the network
- Ultrasonic devices
  - The units were installed in the Tūtaenui reservoir on 18th June, and initial test results continue to show significant reductions in bacterial counts. Water quality is being monitored weekly/fortnightly as appropriate to detect trends/reductions in cyanobacteria over time. WSP is reviewing all test results.
  - Consulting work to develop a long-term capital replacement for the existing Marton WTP is also proceeding. An updated budget estimate has been provided to CDW.
  - A placeholder budget for a full new WTP has been developed for inclusion in the CDW capital works programme.

In progress:

- Design work and costing is underway to develop a conveyance solution for the backwash water at the existing Marton WTP. It will also be future proofed to handle a new plant in the future.

6.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Commissioning of the Calico Line package treatment plant	Nov/Dec 2026	●
Commissioning of the ultrasonic devices in the Tūtaenui Reservoir	Sept/Oct 2026	●

6.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget (revised 2026)	$3.5M
Actual Spend	$0.5M
Forecast Completion	$1.5M

Variance: **None**

6.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Public perceptions	Medium	Ongoing communication and regular engagement with Marton residents
New technology risks	High	Obtain high-quality engineering review and technical advice

6.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Nothing anticipated at present.

7. Community Facilities

7.1 The Community Facilities project updates for the Marton Offices and Library, Marton Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment, and Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation will now be reported separately through a dedicated Capital Projects Update Report**.** This will provide a consolidated overview of progress, key milestones, risks and issues associated with these projects, ensuring continued visibility and oversight by Council.

8. Project: Taihape Grandstand (Community Lead Project)

Staff Support: Pio Rowe/Gaylene Prince
Reporting Period: October 2026

8.1 Since starting as a community led development project, it was identified that a considerable amount of work has been successfully completed on the Grandstand since 2020; this critical information had yet to be brought together into a single unified framework.

8.2 Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC) have taken a strategic direction and collaborated with a consultancy group to initiate a project reset, ensuring the initiative has a clear baseline to move forward from.

8.3 TGRC will re-enter the RDC Procurement Policy process and are preparing to go to market with a prepared Request for Proposal (RFP) document using the consultants Project Reset documents and a RDC standard template.

8.4 The RFP will be finalised by the Committee on the 21 October 26 and given to the CE on the following day for final sign off as Council are the owner of the building. A minimum of four providers will be invited to put in a proposal for the project.

8.5 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Community Fundraiser	June 2026	🟢
Engaged a consultancy group to do a current state review and reset the project	July 2026	🟢
Reset the Project	July – August 26	🟢
Identify outstanding Governance questions: 1. NBS rating 34% and public toilet's location	September 2026	🔴
Dudding Trust Funding – Application $289,00	July 2026	🟢
Engaged Consultancy to produce EOI	September 2026	🟢
External Funding Application: EOI to WCF $2Mil Fund	September 2026	🟢
External Funding Application: DIA Community Facilities Grant: $85,530	September 2026	🟢
TGRC to formulate Request for Proposal	October 2026	🟢
RFP out to market, invite providers to put Proposals to take on the Project	October 2026	🟡
Deadline for Proposals	November 2026	🟢

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
External Funding Full Application: WCF $2Mil Fund: $1,474,976	November 2026	

8.6 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Project Reset established

In Progress:

- Publish the Request for Proposal

8.7 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget to TGRC	$693,579.00
Actual Spend by TGRC	$35,626.00
Forecast Completion	$693,579.00

Small Capital Projects

9. Project: Calico Line Watermain (In conjunction with footpath)
Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

9.1 General Update

The pipeline has been completed and is now operational. Completion of the shared pathway has been delayed due to the procurement of traffic management devices from overseas. These have now arrived, with works expected to be completed by the end of November 2026.

10. Project: Bredins Line Stormwater
Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

10.1 General Update

Pipeline construction is complete, and the pipeline is now operational. Minor reinstatement works were delayed due to adverse weather conditions but have since recommenced. The project remains within budget.

11. Project: Marton to Bulls Pipeline – Pipe Bridges
Project Manager: Peter Sharpe

11.1 General Update

Installation of all three pipe bridges and associated connecting pipework is complete. Bund shaping and site reinstatement works at Site 1 have recommenced, with completion expected in late October or early November 2026. The project remains within budget.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 A financial breakdown is provided for each project. Each project outlines the budget, spend to date, forecast spend and provides a status and comment against how the project is tracking in relation to the budget.

13. Impact on Strategic Risks

13.1 Relevant strategic risks include:

- Failure to honour commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – iwi are involved in major projects of interest from the start of the project and throughout.
- Political environment creates significant change – This is an ongoing risk that staff manage as change occurs. At times this risk can create re-work.
- Capital programme falters – this risk is low as each project had a been resourced adequately and focus is given when risks arise.
- Obligations with environmental protection are not met – This risk is low as officers work within the statutory framework in relation to wastewater and water consenting projects.

14. Strategic Alignment

14.1 Council's water and wastewater projects align with its community outcomes of environmental, social, economic wellbeing and being a trusted partner with iwi.

15. Mana Whenua Implications

15.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects. Officers work with mana whenua directly on understanding implications throughout each project.

16. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

16.1 Climate change considerations are made for each project on a case-by-case basis.

17. Statutory Implications

17.1 Statutory implications are considered and managed for each project. This includes considerations and requirements such as for building consents, resource consents, compliance with drinking water standards.

18. Decision Making Process

18.1 This report is for information only, no decisions are required.

Attachments:

1. **Taihape Grandstand Concept Plan** ⇩

Recommendation 1

That the report Project Updates Report – October 2026 be received.

ITEM 9.2 ATTACHMENT 1



9.3 Consent Compliance Report - October 2026

Author: **Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**

Authoriser: **Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The reason for the report is to update elected members on district-wide consent compliance performance for the period ending Sept 2026.

1.2 The consent compliance includes raw water abstraction, Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules and treated wastewater discharge.

2. Water Supply

2.1 Water Supply Consent Compliance

2.1.1 Table 1 shows the compliance of each water supply scheme against abstraction consent conditions. Only those schemes for which Rangitīkei District Council (RDC) is the consent holder have been shown.

2.1.2 RDC is authorised to abstract surface water and groundwater to provide water for eight water schemes. The associated limits for eight of these abstractions were complied with for the duration of Sept 2026 (see Table 1 for details).

Table 1: Consent Compliance with Abstraction - Water Supply

Scheme	Compliance September 2026	Comments	Actions
Marton	Compliant		No action required
Taihape	Compliant		**Consent expired - S124**
Bulls	Compliant		**Consent expired - S124**
Mangaweka	Compliant		No action required
Ratana	Compliant		No action required
Erewhon Rural		This is Horizons Equipment	
Hunterville Rural	Compliant		No action required
Omatane Rural	Compliant		No action required

2.2 Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules

2.2.1 Tables 2a through 2f show the compliance for Sept 2026 of each water supply scheme against the Drinking Quality Assurance Rules (DWQAR) (2022) Treatment Rules. E. coli is monitored monthly at Mangaweka.

ITEM 9.3

Table 2a: DWQAR Compliance Monitoring Treatment Rules - BULLS

	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September	Comments	
Bacterial	T3.2	C.t.	≥ 15 min.mg/L (95%)	Compliant		Treated Water
	T3.3	FACE	≥ 0.2 mg/L (100%)	Non-Compliant		
	T3.4	T_{10} contact time	≥ 5 minutes contact	Compliant		
	T3.5	Turbidity	< 1.0 NTU (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.6	Turbidity	Not > 2 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
Protozoal	T3.31	Turbidity	≤ 0.15 NTU (95%)	Compliant		Filters 3 Log
	T3.32	Turbidity	not > 0.5 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.85	Flow	Within certified range (95%)	Compliant		UV 4 Log
	T3.86	UV Dose	≥ Required Dose (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.87	UV Dose	Not < Req Dose for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.88	Turbidity	Not > 5.0 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		

Continuous Monitoring Checks

bacterial	T3.1	chlorine disinfection / treated water	×
protozoal	T3.33	coagulation, flocculation, direct filtration	×
	T3.91	UV disinfection	×

Table 2b DWQAR Compliance Monitoring Treatment Rules – HUNTERVILLE

	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September	Comments	
Bacterial	T3.2	C.t.	≥ 15 min.mg/L (95%)	Compliant		Treated Water
	T3.3	FACE	≥ 0.2 mg/L (100%)	Compliant		
	T3.4	T_{10} contact time	≥ 5 minutes contact	Compliant		
	T3.5	Turbidity	< 1.0 NTU (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.6	Turbidity	Not > 2 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
Protozoal	T3.43	Turbidity	≤ 0.15 NTU (95%)	Compliant		Filters 3 Log
	T3.44	Turbidity	not > 0.5 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.65	Turbidity	≤ 1.0 NTU (95%)	Compliant		Cartridge Filters 0.5 Log
	T3.66	Turbidity	not > 1.0 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.67	Turbidity	Filtrate not > Raw for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.68	Flow	Within certified range (100%)	Compliant		
	T3.69	Differential Pressure	Within certified range (100%)	Compliant		
	T3.70	Differential Pressure	Min DP > new DP (100%)	Non-Compliant		
	T3.85	Flow	Within certified range (95%)	Compliant		UV 4 Log
	T3.86	UV Dose	≥ Required Dose (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.87	UV Dose	Not < Req Dose for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.88	Turbidity	Not > 5.0 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		

Continuous Monitoring Checks

bacterial	T3.1	chlorine disinfection / treated water	×
protozoal	T3.45	coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration	×
	T3.72	cartridge filtration	×
	T3.91	UV disinfection	×

Table 2c: DWQAR Compliance Monitoring Treatment Rules - MANGAWEKA

Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September 2026	Comments	
T2.1	E Coli	<1	Compliant	1 per month required	Treated Water
T2.1	Total Coliforms	<1	Compliant	1 per month required	
T2.2	Turbidity	<5 NTU	Compliant	continuously monitored	
T2.2	FAC	≥ 0.5 mg/L	Compliant	continuously monitored	
T2.2	pH	between 6.5 - 8	Compliant	continuously monitored	

Table 2d: DWQAR Compliance Monitoring Treatment Rules - MARTON

	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September	Comments	
Bacterial	T3.2	C.t.	≥ 15 min.mg/L (95%)	Compliant		Treated Water
	T3.3	FACE	≥ 0.2 mg/L (100%)	Non-Compliant		
	T3.4	T_{10} contact time	≥ 5 minutes contact	Compliant		
	T3.5	Turbidity	< 1.0 NTU (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.6	Turbidity	Not > 2 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
Protozoal	T3.39	Turbidity	≤ 0.30 NTU (95%)	Compliant		Filters 3 Log
	T3.40	Turbidity	not > 0.5 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.85	Flow	Within certified range (95%)	Compliant		UV 4 Log
	T3.86	UV Dose	≥ Required Dose (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.87	UV Dose	Not < Req Dose for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.88	Turbidity	Not > 5.0 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		

Continuous Monitoring Checks

bacterial	T3.1	chlorine disinfection / treated water	×
protozoal	T3.41	coagulation, flocculation, direct filtration	×
	T3.91	UV disinfection	×

Table 2e: DWQAR Compliance Monitoring Treatment Rules - RATANA

	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September	Comments	
Bacterial	T3.2	C.t.	≥ 15 min.mg/L (95%)	Compliant		Treated Water
	T3.3	FACE	≥ 0.2 mg/L (100%)	Compliant		
	T3.4	T_{10} contact time	≥ 5 minutes contact	Compliant		
	T3.5	Turbidity	< 1.0 NTU (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.6	Turbidity	Not > 2 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		

Continuous Monitoring Checks

bacterial	T3.1	chlorine disinfection / treated water	×

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Table 2f: DWQAR Compliance Monitoring Treatment Rules - TAIHAPE

	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September	Comments	
Bacterial	T3.2	C.t.	≥ 15 min.mg/L (95%)	Compliant		Treated Water
	T3.3	FACE	≥ 0.2 mg/L (100%)	Compliant		
	T3.4	T_{10} contact time	≥ 5 minutes contact	Compliant		
	T3.5	Turbidity	< 1.0 NTU (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.6	Turbidity	Not > 2 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
Protozoal	T3.39	Turbidity	≤ 0.15 NTU (95%)	Compliant		Filters 3 Log
	T3.40	Turbidity	not > 0.5 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.85	Flow	Within certified range (95%)	Compliant		UV 4 Log
	T3.86	UV Dose	≥ Required Dose (95%)	Compliant		
	T3.87	UV Dose	Not < Req Dose for 15 min period	Compliant		
	T3.88	Turbidity	Not > 5.0 NTU for 15 min period	Compliant		

Continuous Monitoring Checks

bacterial	T3.1	chlorine disinfection / treated water	×
protozoal	T3.41	coagulation, flocculation,sedimentation, filtration	×
	T3.91	UV disinfection	×

Note: All plants recorded non-compliances with continuous monitoring rules in September due to the daylight-saving time change which caused a gap in continuous monitoring data; a system change to NZST is being investigated to prevent recurrence.

2.2.2 Drinking water was safe to drink for the month of Sept 2026.

2.2.3 Digital reporting of DWQAR compliance to Taumata Arowai is updated using Water Outlook. Large water supplies (population greater than 500) are reported monthly. Small water supplies have a 3 monthly reporting timeframe; the only Rangitīkei District water supply of this size is Mangaweka.

Table 3: DWQAR Compliance Distribution Rules D3

Scheme	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September 2026	Comments
Bulls BUL001BU	D3.19	FAC	0.2 mg/L (85%)	Compliant	
	D3.29	E. Coli, Total coliforms	<1	Compliant	
	D3.22	Disinfection by-products	various	Compliant	samples required once per quarter
	D3.24	Plumbosolvent Metals	various	No samples	samples required twice per year
Hunterville HUN001HU	D3.19	FAC	0.2 mg/L (85%)	Compliant	
	D3.29	E. Coli, Total coliforms	<1	Compliant	
	D3.22	Disinfection by-products	various	Compliant	samples required once per quarter
	D3.24	Plumbosolvent Metals	various	No samples	samples required twice per year
Marton MAR001MA	D3.19	FAC	0.2 mg/L (85%)	Compliant	
	D3.29	E. Coli, Total coliforms	<1	Compliant	
	D3.22	Disinfection by-products	various	Compliant	samples required once per quarter
	D3.24	Plumbosolvent Metals	various	No samples	samples required twice per year
Ratana RAT001RA	D3.19	FAC	0.2 mg/L (85%)	Compliant	
	D3.29	E. Coli, Total coliforms	<1	Compliant	
	D3.22	Disinfection by-products	various	Compliant	samples required once per quarter
	D3.24	Plumbosolvent Metals	various	No samples	samples required twice per year
Taihape TAI001TA	D3.19	FAC	0.2 mg/L (85%)	Compliant	
	D3.29	E. Coli, Total coliforms	<1	Compliant	
	D3.22	Disinfection by-products	various	Compliant	samples required once per quarter
	D3.24	Plumbosolvent Metals	various	No samples	samples required twice per year

Table 4: DWQAR Compliance Distribution rules D2 (new rules commenced 1 January 2025)

Scheme	Rule	Parameter	Limit	Compliance September 2026	Comments
Mangaweka MAN001MA	D2.1	E. Coli, Total coliforms	<1	Compliant	samples required once per month
	D2.2 & D2.7	FAC	0.2 mg/L (80%)	Compliant	samples required 8x per month
	D2.5	Plumbosolvent Metals	various	No samples	samples required once per year

3. Wastewater

3.1 RDC has seven discharge consents, two of which were fully compliant for the reporting period up to September 2026 (See below tables for details).

Marton WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant		Compliant	
Aug 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant		Non-Compliant	D/S - scBOD, Turbidity
Sept 2026	compliant	0	Compliant		Compliant	

*No consented maximum daily discharge limit for Marton.

Taihape WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant	No consent limit available	Compliant	
Aug 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant	No consent limit available	Compliant	
Sept 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant	No consent limit available	Compliant	

Bulls WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant		Compliant	No consent limit available
Aug 2026	Non-Compliant	2	Compliant		Compliant	No consent limit available
Sept 2026	Non-Compliant	6	Non-Compliant	TSS	Compliant	No consent limit available

Mangaweka WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Non-Compliant	3	Compliant		Compliant	No consent limit available
Aug 2026	Compliant	0	Compliant		Compliant	No consent limit available
Sept 2026	Non-Compliant	3	Non-Compliant	scBOD	Compliant	No consent limit available

Hunterville WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Non-Compliant	8	Compliant		Compliant	
Aug 2026	Non-Compliant	5	Non-Compliant	DRP, scBOD	Compliant	
Sept 2026	Non-Compliant	9	Non-Compliant	DRP, scBOD	Compliant	

Koitiata WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Compliant	0		no samples taken		no samples taken
Aug 2026	Compliant	0		no samples taken		no samples taken
Sept 2026	Compliant	0		no samples taken		no samples taken

Ratana WWTP

Month	Volume		Effluent		Environment	
	statement	Days non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant	statement	Parameters non-compliant
Jul 2026	Compliant	0		no samples taken		no samples taken
Aug 2026	Non-Compliant	4		no samples taken		no samples taken
Sept 2026	Non-Compliant	11	Compliant			no samples taken

*Rātana effluent sampling is quarterly.

4. Glossary

Acronym	Full Term	Brief Definition
	Plumbosolvent Metals	Most drinking water in Aotearoa New Zealand is plumbosolvent. This means the water can dissolve small amounts of metals it may encounter, such as lead and copper in your plumbing fittings (like pipes and taps).
	Turbidity	A measure of water cloudiness from suspended particles. High turbidity requires additional treatment to ensure the effectiveness of disinfection, protect public health, and meet regulatory requirements.
Ammonia-N	Ammonia Nitrogen	Elevated levels of ammonia-N in drinking water are primarily a treatment concern, not a direct health risk at low levels, but can cause taste and odour issues and reduce the effectiveness of chlorine disinfection.
C.t.	Concentration-Time	Water treatment plants use the C.t value to determine if their disinfection process is effective at inactivating microorganisms, like bacteria and viruses.
DBPs	Disinfection by-products	When disinfectants, such as chlorine, are added to drinking water this results in the creation of chemicals, referred to as DBPs, which can be bad for our health if not monitored.
DP	Differential Pressure	Used with drinking water in filtration and purification systems to monitor filter health and detect blockages. A clean filter or membrane offers little resistance to water flow, so the pressure difference is low, while a clogged filter will show as a high DP.
DRP	Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus	A form of phosphorus readily available for plant and algae growth, and high concentrations can cause algal blooms and harm aquatic life.
E. Coli	Escherichia Coli	A bacterium that comes from faecal matter. Its presence in drinking water signals that the water has been contaminated with faeces from animals or humans. While not all E. coli strains are harmful, some can cause serious illnesses.
FACE or FAC	Free Available Chlorine Equivalent	The residual chlorine that remains in water after a set contact time. A sufficient FACE indicates that enough chlorine has been added to kill or inactivate pathogens.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	The standard unit to measure turbidity or how cloudy water is. It's used as a visual indicator for how well a wastewater treatment system is working.

pH	Potential of Hydrogen	A measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution on a scale of 0 to 14. The guideline value for the pH of drinking water at your tap is between 7.0 and 8.5.
scBOD	Soluble Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand	A measure of water pollution from organic matter that consumes oxygen as it decomposes. High SCBOD in rivers and streams can indicate wastewater contamination and is a concern for both environmental health and drinking water safety.
T10	T10 contact time	T10 (contact time) is the minimum effective time water is exposed to a disinfectant, often a minimum of 5 minutes for chlorine, to ensure microbial inactivation for safe drinking water.
TC or T.Coli	Total Coliforms	TC in drinking water are monitored as an indicator of potential contamination, though they don't always pose a health risk themselves. Their presence signals a possible issue with treatment effectiveness or points to vulnerabilities in the water supply.
TSS	Total Suspended Solids	Refers to particulate matter, such as mud and silt, that is suspended in water, affecting its clarity and harming aquatic life. High concentrations can be a significant threat to coastal and marine environments, leading to reduced light for underwater plants and potential issues for marine animals.
UV	Ultraviolet	UV disinfection is an effective, chemical-free method for treating drinking water to eliminate bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. New Zealand's regulations set criteria for a UV system including pre-filtration and a minimum UV dose.
VSS	Volatile Suspended Solids	High VSS levels in natural water bodies indicate high organic pollution, which consumes dissolved oxygen during decomposition, threatening aquatic life.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. Consent compliance monitoring is undertaken in accordance with approved budgets.

6. Impact on Strategic Risks

6.1 Relevant strategic risks include:

- Political environment creates significant change – This is an ongoing risk that staff manage as change occurs. At times this risk can create re-work or additional work.
- Obligations with environmental protection are not met – Non compliances in relation to wastewater discharge are being addressed through targeted investments and re-consenting processes.

7. Strategic Alignment

7.1 Council's water and wastewater projects align with its community outcomes of environmental, social, economic wellbeing and being a trusted partner with iwi.

8. Mana Whenua Implications

8.1 Water and wastewater are of significance to mana whenua. Mana whenua implications are managed by engaging directly with iwi on projects (which is outside of the scope of this report).

9. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

9.1 There are no direct climate change impacts to consider associated with consent compliance for water and wastewater.

10. Statutory Implications

10.1 Drinking water compliance is reported on in accordance with the Drinking Quality Assurance Rules (DWQAR) (2022).

10.2 Wastewater consent and water consent reporting is provided in accordance with approved resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991.

11. Decision Making Process

11.1 This report is for information only, no decisions are required.

Recommendation

That the report Consent Compliance Report - October 2026 be received.

ITEM 9.4

9.4 Roading Update

Author: **Darryn Black, Acting GM Assets Infrastructure and Projects**

Authoriser: **Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 To provide an update on the roading activity.

2. Otara Bridge Update

2.1 On 18 August 2026 a non-routine inspection of the Otara Road bridge identified that a steel component on the eastern abutment structure had failed.

2.2 WSP have completed a detailed assessment of the bridge which involved closing it to all traffic while they released the tension from each of the hangar supports so they could assess the function of the bridge in an unloaded / relaxed state. WSP now intend to analyse their findings against the previous structural repairs and initial design of the structure so they can identify the root cause of the current failure.

2.3 The 6-tonne weight limit and 10kph speed restriction will need to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

3. Fuel prices and contract cost increases

3.1 Conflict in the Middle East and disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz have increased fuel prices, placing pressure on road maintenance and construction costs.

3.2 NZTA publishes cost indices that track changes in costs for labour, plant and equipment. We compare the relevant index with its value when the contract was tendered, then apply the percentage change to the eligible contract costs so the contractor is compensated for cost movements. This process is known as Cost Fluctuation Adjustment (CFA).

3.3 There is a three-month lag between when the indices become available and the period that the indices apply to. This has the effect of the contractor submitting a catch-up claim to balance the over/underrun in costs claimed. In stable times the effect of these catch-up claims is negligible.

3.4 2025/26 CFA's rose from 3.4% in Q3 to 11.9% for Q4. This has resulted in a catch-up claim of approximately $180,000 to costs for Q4.

3.5 A CFA factor of 11.9% will be added to 2026/27 Q1 costs until the next indices are published in December 2026 and the cycle of catchup claims is continued with the latest adjustment factor.

3.6 Continued cost escalation will reduce the volume of work that can be delivered within existing budgets.

4. NZTA Procedural Audit

4.1 NZTA undertakes periodic procedural audits of local authorities to ensure that National Land Transport Fund funding is managed appropriately and in accordance with NZTA requirements. The audits review financial management, procurement practices and

supporting processes to provide assurance that public funding is being used appropriately and to identify opportunities for improvement.

4.2 NZTA undertook a Procedural Audit on RDC processes during September 2026, the audit process identified some areas for improvement, however, the executive summary of the resulting report notes;

> *Overall, Rangitīkei District Council is managing NZTA investment in its land transport programme effectively, with sound financial processes, a clear audit trail supporting funding assistance claims, and effective contract management practices*

4.3 The overall rating from the audit – Some Improvement Needed – for detail on the suggested improvements please refer to the audit report attached (Attachment 1).

5. 2026/27 Major Works

Pavement Rehabilitation (overlays)	
Williamsons Line (2020m)	Between SH3 and Makirikiri Rd
Williamsons Line (1138m)	Between Makirikiri Rd and Hendersons Line
Williamsons Line (540m)	Between Hendersons Line and Wanganui Rd
Spooners Hill Rd (264m)	Between Pungatawa Rd and Addis Rd
Fern Flats Rd (830m)	Between Waimutu Rd and Wanganui Rd
Asphalt Resurfacing	
Broadway / High St Roundabout	
Tutaenui Rd / Calico Line Intersection	
Pukepapa Rd / High St Intersection	
Chipseal Resurfacing	
District Wide	31km (4% of sealed network)
Low Cost Low Risk Programme	
Murimotu Rd	Stream realignment / earthworks
School Signage Upgrades	Upgrades to signage at 10 schools
Environmental / Minor Events	
Waiaruhe Rd	Earthworks to correct major slump

6. Old Mangaweka Bridge

6.1 At a Council workshop held on 3 December 2025 officers provided a brief background to Council on the old Mangaweka Bridge and outlined the need to undertake further assessment to better understand possible maintenance requirements for the bridge going forward. The assessment was provided for as part of the Annual Plan 2026/27.

6.2 Subsequently WSP has provided a preliminary Present Value End of Life (PVEOL) evaluation to help inform Councils' consideration for the bridge's future. This evaluation considers two scenarios, being the continued maintenance of the bridge over the next 30 years and an alternative which would be to remove the bridge.

6.3 Officers are currently working through the evaluation information and have reached out to officers at Manawatū District Council to understand their position on the bridge.

6.4 Further information on the options, costs and potential implications including Manawatū District Council's preliminary position will be brought to Council for discussion at a workshop in November 2026 to seek direction for how Council wants to provide for this bridge as it considers budgets for the Long Term Plan 2027-37.

7. Planned Road Closures

Event / Worksite	Roads Closures	Date
Hunterville Shemozzle	Bruce St, Ongo Rd, Paraekaretu St	31 October - Advertised
Marton Market Day	Broadway	28 November
Silverfern Rally	Watershed Rd	3 December - Advertised
Silverfern Rally	Pohonui Rd	3 December - Advertised
Silverfern Rally	Turakina Valley Road 4 To Tangiwhai	3 December - Advertised
Marton Christmas Parade	Follet St, Broadway	6 December - To be advertised
Hunterville Christmas Parade	Bruce Street (SH1)	24 December - Advertised
Taihape Christmas Parade	Hautapu St, Tui St, Kokako St, Kuku St, Huia St	5 December - Advertised
Downer - Rehab (daytime closure)	Williamsons Line SH3 To Makirikiri Rd	21 October - 23 December - Advertised
Downer - Rehab (daytime closure)	Williamsons Line Makiriki Rd to Whanganui Rd (2 sections)	February / March TBC
Downer - Rehab (daytime closure)	Spooners Hill Rd	January - TBC
Downer - Rehab (daytime closure)	Fern Flats Rd	March / April - TBC
Kiwi Burn	Cooks Rd Hunterville	26 January - 1 February - Advertised

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The delivery of the roading programme occurs within approved budgets. Financial pressures from fuel increases and contract cost increases have been outlined in the report above.

9. Impact on Strategic Risks

9.1 The following strategic risks are relevant:

- Political environment creates significant change – this risk is low for the roading activity which has not directly been subject to significant legislative change.
- Obligations with environmental protection are not met – this risk is low. Roading works are undertaken in accordance with standard environmental protection practices.

10. Strategic Alignment

10.1 Roading activities support Council's strategic framework, including the community outcomes of economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing. The roading projects also contribute to Council's strategic priorities of Connection with the Central North Island, Facilitating Growth and Town Centre Revitalisation.

11. Mana Whenua Implications

11.1 There are no known mana whenua implications associated with items updated in this report.

12. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

12.1 Climate change considerations are given to each project as required.

13. Statutory Implications

13.1 The delivery of the roading programme is completed within any statutory requirements.

14. Decision Making Process

14.1 This report is for information only, no decisions are required.

Attachments:

1. **NZTA Procedural Audit Report - September 2026** ⇩

Recommendation

That the report Roading Update - October 2026 be received.

ITEM 9.4 ATTACHMENT 1



Investment Audit Report

Procedural Audit of Rangitīkei **District** Council

Monitoring Investment Performance

Report of the investment audit carried out under Section 95(1)(j)(ii)(iii) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

Tony Pinn

15 October 2026

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY WAKA KOTAHI

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa New Zealand Government

Approved Organisation (AO):	Rangitīkei District Council
Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Investment (2024 – 2027 NLTP):	$32,614,006 (budgeted programme value)
Date of Investment Audit:	28th to 30th September 2026
Auditor:	Tony Pinn - Senior Investment Auditor
Report No:	RATPI-2666

AUTHORITY SIGNATURES

Prepared by:

Tony Pinn, Senior Investment Auditor

Approved by:

Emma Moseley Head of Risk and Assurance 16/10/26

DISCLAIMER

WHILE EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THIS REPORT, THE FINDINGS, OPINIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED ON AN EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE ONLY AND MAY NOT ADDRESS ALL ISSUES EXISTING AT THE TIME OF THE AUDIT. THE REPORT IS MADE AVAILABLE STRICTLY ON THE BASIS THAT ANYONE RELYING ON IT DOES SO AT THEIR OWN RISK, THEREFORE READERS ARE ADVISED TO SEEK ADVICE ON SPECIFIC CONTENT.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) funds Rangitīkei District Council's (Council, RDC) land transport activity through its National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). The Council is responsible for the management of the land transport activity, excluding the state highways, within the Rangitikei District Council boundaries.

This procedural investment audit covers the period 1st of July 2022 to 30th of June 2026,

Funding assistance claims for the four-year audit period were successfully reconciled to Council's final TIO submissions, and transaction testing confirmed that sampled expenditure was eligible and correctly recorded. Minor issues were identified in the allocation of emergency works expenditure between Response and Recovery phases and the management of an aged retention.

Council has a current NZTA-endorsed Procurement Strategy. While procurement documentation was generally satisfactory, the audit identified areas for improvement relating to the accuracy of tender evaluation documentation, changes to Tender Evaluation Teams, and consideration of price weightings and their impact on Supplier Quality Premiums.

Contract management was assessed as effective. Council maintains active oversight of its road maintenance performance-based maintenance contract, supported by regular liaison with the contractor, appropriate processing of RAMM dispatches, independent assurance activity, and arrangements for Safe System Audits and exemptions.

Council's methodology for allocating overhead costs to in-house professional services differs from that commonly observed at other councils. Further review and documentation of the methodology is recommended to ensure costs are appropriately treated and claimed.

Overall, Rangitīkei District Council is managing NZTA investment in its land transport programme effectively, with sound financial processes, a clear audit trail supporting funding assistance claims, and effective contract management practices.

AUDIT RATING ASSESSMENT

Subject Areas		Rating Assessment*
1	Previous Audit Issues	N/A
2	Financial Processes	Effective
3	Procurement Procedures	Some Improvement Needed
4	Contract Management	Effective
6	In-house Professional Services & Administration	Some Improvement Needed
Overall Rating		**Some Improvement Needed**

** Please see Introduction for Rating Assessment Classification Definitions*

Before being finalised this report was referred to Rangitikei District Council for comment. Council's responses are included in the body of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The table below captures the audit recommendations. Agreed dates are provided for the implementation of recommendations by the approved organisation.

We recommend that Rangitīkei District Council:		Implementation Date
R2.1	Ensures emergency works expenditure is correctly allocated between the Response and Recovery phases in TIO claims to support accurate reporting.	Immediately
R2.2	Reviews the outstanding Mangaweka Bridge retention and determines whether there remains a valid basis for continuing to hold the amount.	Immediately
R3.1	Strengthens its quality assurance over tender evaluations to ensure PQM spreadsheets are completed accurately.	30/6/2027 Or before next tender
R3.2	Ensures that any changes to a Tender Evaluation Team after issue of the RFT are appropriately documented and communicated to tenderers where required.	30/6/2027 Or before next tender
R3.3	Ensures that proposed price and non-price weightings are appropriately considered before tendering, including the potential impact on the Supplier Quality Premium and resulting adjusted evaluation prices.	30/6/2027 Or before next tender
R5.1	Reviews and documents the methodology and basis for allocating overhead costs to in-house professional services to ensure transport staff costs are appropriately treated and claimed	Complete – updated overhead costsings were included in our 2027/30 NLTP submission

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Audit Objective

The objective of this audit is to provide assurance that NZ Transport NZTA Waka Kotahi (hereafter NZTA) investment in Council's land transport programme is being effectively managed and delivering value for money. We also seek assurance that the Council is appropriately managing risk associated with NZTA investment. We recommend improvements where appropriate.

1.2. Assessment Ratings Definitions

	Effective	Some Improvement Needed	Significant Improvement Needed	Unsatisfactory
Investment management	Effective systems, processes and management practices used.	Acceptable systems, processes, and management practices but opportunities for improvement.	Systems, processes, and management practices require improvement.	Inadequate systems, processes, and management practices.
Compliance	NZ Transport Agency and legislative requirements met.	Some omissions with NZ Transport Agency requirements. No known breaches of legislative requirements.	Significant breaches of NZ Transport Agency and/or legislative requirements.	Multiple and/or serious breaches of NZ Transport Agency or legislative requirements.
Findings/ deficiencies	Opportunities for improvement may be identified for consideration.	Error and omission issues identified which need to be addressed.	Issues and/or breaches must be addressed, or on-going NZ Transport Agency funding may be at risk.	Systemic and/or serious issues must be urgently addressed, or on-going NZ Transport Agency funding will be at risk.

Previous recommendations not being addressed may result in an elevated audit rating at the auditor's discretion. Additionally, multiple minor issues may collectively contribute to an increased rating due to their cumulative impact.

1.3. Council Comments

RDC has a long history of relying on external providers for asset management and contract management services. Our endorsed Procurement Strategy recognises that these previous arrangements have eroded RDC's in-house roading expertise. The C1152 Road Maintenance and Services Contract was developed to address this by combining road maintenance delivery with professional services and progressively transferring knowledge, skills and systems to RDC.

The audit has shown that RDC has been able to maintain continuity through the recent transition to professional services being delivered jointly by RDC and Downer staff.

All the areas for improvement identified by the audit can be easily rectified. Some have already been addressed within two weeks of the audit's completion.

2. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Our findings relating to each subject area are presented in the tables below. Where necessary, we have included recommendations and/or suggestions.

1. Previous Audit Issues

There were five recommendations from the previous procedural audit in May 2023 as per below.

The Auditor recommends that Rangitīkei District Council:		Implementation Date
R2.1	Formally documents the process for claiming funding assistance	11 August 2023
R2.2	Reviews and validates the claim spreadsheet prior to claims being submitted to Waka Kotahi.	11 August 2023
R2.3	Ensures compliance with the condition of funding for the LC,LR Programme by updating actual project expenditure by 31st August of the FY recently completed.	11 August 2023
R3.1	Ensures its endorsed Procurement Strategy is published on the Council's website.	After the Council adopting the Procurement Strategy
R3.2	Ensures that all future contract requests for tender include the Council's policy on late tenders.	The next contract to be compiled will be the road maintenance contract. We will ensure this contract has the late tenders clause – Nov 23

All of these recommendations have since been satisfied.

* * *

2. Financial Processes	Effective

Claims for funding assistance for the four financial years from 1st of July 2022 to 30th of June 2026 were reconciled to Council's final TIO claim submissions. The reconciliation process was generally easy to follow, with supporting documentation readily available for audit. NZTA work categories align with the relevant general ledger accounts in the trial balance, and the direct linkage with Magiq has addressed the issue identified in the previous audit regarding the manual entry of claim data.

Council experienced a significant number of weather-related emergency events during the audit period, with $10.4 million of NZTA financially assisted expenditure relating to this activity over the four years. Emergency works expenditure was appropriately accounted for and separately identified in the general ledger.

However, the audit identified a transfer of approximately $100,000 between the Response and Recovery phases of the February 2026 weather event. While this did not affect the amount of funding assistance claimed, Council is reminded that expenditure should be correctly allocated between the Response and Recovery phases in TIO to ensure accurate reporting.

Transaction testing was undertaken across a range of work categories. The expenditure tested was eligible for funding assistance and correctly recorded. The 30/70 allocation applied to street cleaning expenditure was also tested and confirmed as correctly applied.

The retentions account was reconciled and confirmed to be in balance. However, an outstanding retention of $4,490.06 relating to the Mangaweka Bridge refurbishment, dating from February 2022, remains held. Given the age of this retention, Council should review whether it remains appropriate for the amount to continue to be held.

Low Cost Low Risk (LCLR) programme

LCLR expenditure for the four financial years audited matched the LCLR reporting, addressing the previous audit recommendation.

Recommendations:	That Rangitikei District Council: R2.1 Ensures emergency works expenditure is correctly allocated between the Response and Recovery phases in TIO claims to support accurate reporting. R2.2 Reviews the outstanding Mangaweka Bridge retention and determine whether there remains a valid basis for continuing to hold the amount.
Rangitīkei District Council's comment	R2.1 We will implement this immediately, however the main reason for the overrun for the February 2026 claim was due to the cost of a larger mulching machine which was bought in post response to tidy up heavy vegetation left at dump sites following the storm. The timing of the claim for this work affected the Response / Recovery split as the TIO activity had been setup by that stage. R2.2 We will implement this immediately. Non release of this retention is an error on our part but mainly due to poor hand over following termination of the shared services arrangement with Manawatu DC in June 2024.

* * *

3. Procurement Procedures	Some Improvement Needed

Council has a current NZTA endorsed Procurement Strategy, which is due to expire in March 2027. The Strategy is published on Council's website, consistent with Rule 10.6 of the NZTA Procurement Manual.

The audit reviewed five physical works contracts (see appendix B for details).

For the Street Light Maintenance contract, the Price Quality Method (PQM) evaluation spreadsheet did not deduct provisional sums as expected, and some locked cells in the NZTA template for PQM appeared to have been overridden. Differences were also identified between the provisional sums included in the engineer's estimate and those recorded in the PQM spreadsheet. These matters indicate that greater scrutiny is required to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the evaluation spreadsheet.

For the Ruahine Road contract, the Tender Evaluation Team (TET) was specified in the Request for Tender, which also included a commitment to notify tenderers of any subsequent change to the evaluation team. However, the Tender Evaluation Team was changed without a Notice to Tenderers (NTT) being issued. This created a risk of challenge, particularly if an actual or perceived conflict of interest arose in relation to the revised evaluation team.

For the Road Maintenance contract, the price weighting of 18% resulted in a disproportionately high Supplier Quality Premium (SQP), producing a rather unusual outcome in the resulting adjusted evaluation prices. The resulting SQP also represented a substantial willingness to pay for the higher-scoring non-price attributes, raising questions as to whether the premium was proportionate to the additional quality or benefits expected. Given the magnitude of the SQP and its effect on the evaluation outcome, we would have expected a 'what-if' or sensitivity analysis to have been undertaken to test the impact of alternative price weightings and confirm that the selected weighting reflected an informed and reasonable willingness to pay and produced a robust outcome.

All other contracts reviewed complied with NZTA procurement requirements.

Recommendations:	That Rangitikei District Council: R3.1 Strengthens its quality assurance over tender evaluations to ensure PQM spreadsheets are completed accurately. R3.2 Ensures that any changes to a Tender Evaluation Team after issue of the RFT are appropriately documented and communicated to tenderers where required. R3.3 Ensures that proposed price and non-price weightings are appropriately considered before tendering, including the potential impact on the Supplier Quality Premium and resulting adjusted evaluation prices.
Rangitīkei District Council's comment	R3.1 Noted, we will ensure correct process is followed going forward. R3.2 Noted, we will ensure correct process is followed going forward. R3.3 This is relates to Contract 1152 which was procured in line with our NZTA endorsed procurement strategy and specific contract procurement plan.

* * *

4. Contract Management	Effective

RDC's Road Maintenance and Renewals contract with Higgins, a traditional measure-and-value contract, expired on the 30th of June 2025. Under that arrangement, Manawatū District Council provided contract management services for road maintenance and asset management activities through a shared services arrangement.

In July 2025, Council entered into a Performance Specified Maintenance Contract (PSMC). This outcome-based contract places responsibility on a single supplier to maintain road assets and deliver agreed performance standards, rather than paying for specified inputs or activities.

After the contract had been operating for more than a year, Council commissioned Solidify Collaborative Services Ltd to independently review its first year of operation. The review was intended to provide assurance that the Rangitīkei Road Maintenance Contract was delivering the intended financial, commercial and contractual outcomes. The final audit report was not available at the time of this audit, but Council has agreed to forward this on when they receive it.

Downer also completed an Asset Management Maturity Assessment (AMMA), benchmarking the contract against their comparable peer contracts. The assessment rated the contract overall as "Proficient and done most of the time" across most of the seven key asset management areas.

Although professional services are included within the contract, Council staff continue to monitor delivery closely through regular meetings and daily liaison with Downer staff, who are co-located with Council. A sample of RAMM dispatch jobs was reviewed and confirmed as being appropriately recorded and processed through to the contractor's monthly claims.

Safe System Audits

Council demonstrated a good understanding of Safe System Audit requirements and has recently established a process to incorporate these requirements within the PSMC arrangement.

Rangitīkei District Council's comment	RDC is three months into the second year of its collaborative road maintenance contract with Downer. The contract includes asset management and contract management professional services, with a key objective being the transfer of knowledge, skills and capability to RDC over the term of the contract. This will strengthen RDC's capability to manage the roading network and its long-term stewardship.

* * *

5. In-House Professional Services & Administration	Some Improvement Needed
Since the commencement of the new maintenance contract, professional services have been brought in-house with additional/specialist services supplemented by the contractor though the PSMC arrangements. The overhead cost allocation methodology for in-house professional services differs from the approach commonly observed at other councils, with a 45% overhead rate applied to base salaries. A review of the methodology is recommended to ensure the basis for the overhead allocation is appropriate and that transport staff costs are correctly treated and claimed. NZTA guidance is available to support this review.	
Recommendation:	That Rangitikei District Council: R5.1 Reviews and documents the methodology and basis for allocating overhead costs to in-house professional services to ensure transport staff costs are appropriately treated and claimed.
Rangitīkei District Council's comment	R5.1 This has already occurred and is included in our 2027/30 NLTP submission. Prior to the current NLTP, overhead costs were mostly direct on charging of payments made to MDC as they provided professional services for subsidised activities to 30 June 2024. The 2024/27 NLTP bid was prepared by MDC under that arrangement so overheads were not formulated by RDC although we are now left with that legacy.

* * *

APPENDIX A

Audit Programme

Previous audit outcomes – from last procedural audit undertaken in May 2023	
Land Transport Disbursement Account	
Final claims 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25,2025/26	
Transactions (accounts payable)	
Retentions Account	
Procurement Procedures	
Contract Variations	
Contract Management	
Road Safety Audits	
Professional Services	
Transport Investment On-line (TIO) Reporting	
Other issues that may be raised during the audit	
Close out meeting (to be arranged)	

10 Meeting Closed.