

ORDER PAPER

BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2025
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi
Bulls Community Centre
4 Criterion Street
Bulls

Chair: Mr Greg Smith
Deputy Chair: Cr Brian Carter
Membership: Mr Nigel Bowen
Mr David Yates
Mr Graham Jenkins
Mr Alistair Stewart
Cr Coral Raukawa
Cr Paul Sharland (Alternate)
HWTM Andy Watson

Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided¹.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

Quorum

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 31 October 2019) 11.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

At least 1 Elected Member must be present at the meeting.

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor, 0800 422 522 (ext. 917), or via email

kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

¹ Appended to the Delegations Register

Notice is hereby given that a Bulls Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi, Bulls Community Centre, 4 Criterion Street, Bulls on Wednesday, 9 July 2025 at 6.00pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome

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

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2025** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Bulls Community Committee Meeting - 14 May 2025**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2025 [**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



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 14 May 2025
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi
Bulls Community Centre
4 Criterion Street
Bulls

Present

Mr Nigel Bowen
Mr Greg Smith
Mr David Yates
Mr Alistair Stewart
Cr Paul Sharland
Cr Brian Carter
HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

Ms Janice Glenys Sutherland
Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Ms Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

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1 Welcome

Mr Smith opened the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies received from Graham Jenkins and Coral Raukawa.

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

The Chair added two items for discussion at the end of the agenda.

- Meet the candidates evening for the elections
- Increasing meeting frequency when needed
- Letter from RSA to Historical Society – RE: Statue

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/029

That the minutes of Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 12 March 2025 **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.

Mr G Smith/Mr D Yates. Carried

7 Follow-up Actions

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings

That staff include the dump station action and the person assigned Greg Smith as Item 4.

Item 3 – Traffic Calming options

It was advised that if there was any budget remaining in this financial year that officers will progress this work in the new financial year.

Bulls Bus Lane

Cr Carter gave an update on the Bulls Bus Lane and that this work will be underway shortly.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/030

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr N Bowen. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chairman's Report - May 2025

Mr Smith provided a verbal report highlighting

- The community assets are under the cleanup and repair process. Mr Dear provided some paint from past projects to help with touch ups.
- Haylock Park and the asset this is to the community
- Attended the Marton Community Committee
- Invited Santoft Domain Management Committee, Scott's Ferry Beach Committee and Rural Women to the Bulls Community Committee to our meetings, for membership on the committee and if they wish to help with Meet the Candidates.

It was asked the amount of RFS have been received about the rubbish and the trends in Bulls. HWTM mentioned reports should be available online.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/031

That the Chairman's Report – May 2025 be received.

Mr Stewart/Mr D Yates. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025

Mrs Gordon introduced herself as the new Chief Executive.

The Mayor noted Local Water Done Well and the ongoing changes and a deliberations report will be made available.

The Mayor highlighted some of the benefits of LGNZ including training for councillors and Mayor's Taskforce for Job funding.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/032

That the Mayor's Report – 27 March 2025 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.2 Mayor's Report to Council - 30 April 2025

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/033

That the Mayor's Report – April 2025 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.3 Update on recommendation from the Bulls Community Committee - GIS Boundaries

The committee discussed this item and the impact this has on the small projects fund.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/034

That report Update on recommendation from the Bulls Community Committee - GIS Boundaries be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.4 Governance Matters

Quorum

Mr Smith was concerned about the number of members before the end of the year due to decreasing membership. The Mayor noted that quorum is adjusted as membership decreases.

Community Consultation

Mr Smith noted that emails can be used to approve this.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/035

That the report Governance Matters be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr Stewart. Carried

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - May 2025

Mr Smith provided receipts for the remaining Haylock Park project.

The committee acknowledged the murals from Julie Oliver across Bulls.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/036

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update – May 2025 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/037

That the Bulls Community Committee approve payment to Greg Smith for \$177.45 for Haylock Park upgrades.

Mr Stewart/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/038

That the Bulls Community Committee request council to carry-forward \$63.74 for the next financial year.

Mr G Smith/Cr B Carter. Carried

9.6 Funding Schemes Update - May 2025

Mr Smith updated that there are other funds for those available.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/039

That the Funding Schemes Update – May 2025 be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr N Bowen. Carried

9.7 Consultation Tracker - March

The committee noted the elections. Mrs Gordon provided some information on publications and advertising for this.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/040

That the report 'Consultation Tracker - March' be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr Stewart. Carried

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Planters and Seating in Town

Mr Yates gave an update to the committee on this item.

Mr Yates noted the planter boxes and that these need to be refreshed and that these are deteriorating in the weather.

Mr Smith has been hoping to contact Ohakea and no response to get them to attend the Bulls Community Committee meetings going forward.

Mr Smith noted the maintenance budget as part of the small projects fund or who will do this work.

Mr Smith did note that he will waterblast the planters and potentially dispose if they are unable to bring up to standard.

Mr Smith to claim back the \$200 as earmarked for repairs as required.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/041

That report Planters and Seating in Town be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/042

That the committee continues to allocate \$200 for small repairs in Bulls.

Mr Stewart/Mr D Yates. Carried

10.2 Meet the Candidates

The committee discussed the meet the candidates as a project for the committee, noting that the previous by-election meet the candidates did not go well.

10.3 Further meeting for Bulls Community Committee

Mrs Gordon noted that the Bulls Community Committee can hold a workshop as staff resourcing for meetings are limited.

10.4 RSA Chris Amon Statue

Mr Smith read a letter from the RSA about the Chris Amon statue being too large.

Cr Sharland will talk to the RSA regarding this matter along with Alistair Stewart.

Resolved minute number 25/BCC/043

That the letter from the RSA be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr D Yates. Carried

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Bulls Community Committee held on 9 July 2025.

.....
Chairperson

ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1

Unconfirmed

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Bulls Community 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 Bulls Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	14-May-25	That the Chair to investigate motorhome/caravan dump station	Greg Smith	Mr Smith to update the committee	In progress
2	13-Nov-24	Plaque at Te Matapihi for volunteer contribution	Gaylene Prince	This has been completed.	Complete
3	13-Nov-24	Haylock Park development options	Greg Smith	The opportunity to update the committee on Haylock Park.	In progress
4	11-Aug-21	RDC please look at traffic calming options on Criterion St and Taumaihi St.	Arno Benadie	Council wants to progress this as soon as possible, noting the item was not included in the annual works programme and would either be unbudgetted and will stay on the radar to see if there is any funding available at the end of the financial year. Therefore this item will remain on the action list until the end of the financial year.	In progress.

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chairman's Report - July 2025

Author: Greg Smith, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. Capability to uplift the planter boxes and rebuild and reinstate with new planting has been improved with an offer to borrow a forklift when needed. Waiting for weather to improve. One box has been recovered and preparations begun on refurbishment.

Had a few tree suggestions. Likely to be a while before I can get to it so by the next meeting (our last for the Triennium)

I'll have a list of trees and soil requirements for reinstatement. Murray from Parks is happy, as I spoke with him last week of June.

Also have someone willing to try and re-plant the old Pohutukawa's on their property.

2. Received flowering pansies for Bulls planting boxes around town. Planted half out with the second half waiting to go into the refurbished tree planters.

Thanks to Murray from Parks for provision of these valuable assets.

3. Reminded Parks of the Daffodil regrowth period and to stop mowing the areas to avoid damaging the flowers that start appearing from around this time of year.

Murray undertook to advise Damien of the need to avoid the areas.

4. Attended Marton Community Committee Meeting.

5. Attended Bulls Domain/Urban Planning meetings on 3 occasions in June as:

- a. An Individual
- b. Bulls Community Committee Chairman with Beautify Bulls
- c. Member of Domain Committee

A large number of opportunities were discussed as well as initiatives from Mr Bowen, Mr Yates and Cr Raukawa, which meshed neatly with many of my personal recommendations, and the community's responses from discussions and Bulls Locally NZ Facebook discussion.

We thank RDC for enabling this report and look forwards to its completion and anticipate subsequent voting in Council to provide budget and timeframe in Annual Plans.

6. Attended Chris Amon Statue unveiling

7. Attended Horizon's RC Rangitikei region Flood Advisory meeting in Marton

Recommendation

That the Chairman's Report – July 2025 be received.

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Mayor's Report - June 2025

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

King's Birthday Honours List 2025

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the following recipients of the recent King's Birthday Honours –

Ian McKelvie - Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit - "for services to local government, governance and as a Member of Parliament". Although not in our district, Ian has a special relationship as being the National Party MP for Rangitikei for many years.

Alan (Curly) Troon – King's Service Medal – "for services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand". This recognition goes far beyond Curly's Gold Star with the Fire Brigade for 25+ years service (he has served 34 years to date, becoming Chief Fire Officer in 2009) and recognises his involvement with everything else in Taihape including gumboot throwing, rural games and overall community support and also overseeing the rebuild of the Taihape Fire Station in 2022.

2025 Youth Awards

On 29 May I attended the 2025 Youth Awards evening at Te Matapihi and was astonished at the incredible things our rangatahi have accomplished over the last year. I have listed the winners below and a brief outline of their achievements so you, like me, can take pride in all the great work and initiatives our youth in the district are involved in.

Winner of the Northern Rural/Rangatahi Taiwhenua Award (sponsored by Hautapu Pine) - Isobel Phynn. Isobel raised over \$3,400 for the Manawatu-Rangitikei Rural Support Trust to support rural mental health. In addition to raffles Isobel also organised a "gumboots and pyjama's" mufti day at school raising another \$400 for this Trust. Isobel also organised someone from the Trust to come and speak at the House Dinner, to explain the work of the Trust.

Winner of the Southern/Rangatahi Taiwhenua Rural Youth Award (sponsored by The Downs Group) - Olivia Ward. Olivia helped Rangitikei College become an Enviroschool. She took the initiative to thoroughly research the programme's criteria and navigate the application process, which included securing board commitment and policy changes, liaising with external agencies, and demonstrating excellent organisational skills and commitment. Ultimately leading to Rangitikei College successfully achieving Enviroschool status.

Winner of the Youth of Arts/Rangatahi Toi Award (sponsored by Te Rūnanga O Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa) - Eva Dreliozis. Eva has played key roles in school productions, notably co-choreographing the Showquest team in 2024. A gifted musician and vocalist, she plays the guitar and sings with confidence and expression. Her academic achievements in Speech and Drama further highlight her artistic dedication, receiving Honours Plus.

Winner of the Youth in Sports/Hākinakina Award (sponsored by New World Marton) - Poppy Joy Priddle. Poppy is a natural athlete with exceptional speed and skills that has been noticed across many sports. Softball, football, tennis, athletics, netball and cricket, where she was a Whanganui rep in each code. She was noticed at the National U17 Representative Softball Tournament by National Selectors, making the 2024 NZ Junior White Sox. She was picked up by Hawkes Bay National Fastpitch team to compete at Women's NFC 2025, she's played for the Whanganui Women's team in the inaugural Heartland Championship and Selected for NZ White Sox Canada Cup Tour 2025. Quote from NZ White Sox Head Coach - "Poppy has the one skill we haven't had in the White Sox for a long time, and that is her elite speed".

Winners of Eco Warrior/Taiao Award (sponsored by River Valley) - 3 amazing rangatahi, Ketana Musgrove, Aaron-Lee Sime & Tseleste Tahau. They are a part of the "Mōkai Arikinui" group run by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hinemanu me Ngāti Paki – The Taiao portfolio. Under the Rūnanga, they have been trained to correctly collect samples, test water samples, to read data and give recommendations to iwi/hapu, and are a part of the development of the Ngāti Hinemanu me Ngāti Paki - Freshwater testing Science Laboratory at Winiata Marae, which is the first freshwater testing lab at a Marae in Aotearoa!

Winner of Youth in Work Development/ Rangatahi Whanaketanga Award (sponsored by Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs) - Jack Inwood. Jack was an apprentice in 2020 and having now finished his Apprenticeship has set up in business as Taihape Auto Service.

Winner of Youth Of Hope/Rangatahi Tūmanako Award (sponsored by Rangitīkei Anglican Parish) - Te Arawa Ratana. Te Arawa works alongside the Māngai and our Mōrehu people across Marton, Rangitīkei, and wider Aotearoa, supporting whānau through tangihanga, uplifting the hauora of those who are māuiui/sick, and standing on the paepae to uphold the mana of our marae and our people. His connection to Rātana is not just one of service but of deep aroha and responsibility, ensuring that tikanga, faith, and kaupapa Māori remain strong.

Winner of Youth in Leadership/Manukura Award (sponsored by Evans Henderson Woodbridge) - Denise Pio. Denise is currently Head Prefect at Rangitīkei College, student Board of Trustees representative and leader of the Pasifika Aiga group, she has consistently inspired and motivated her peers. She possesses a natural and remarkable ability to foster collaboration, communicate effectively and guide teams towards achieving common goals. At Pasifika Fusion she has been involved in Samoan cultural performances, debating, public speaking, and visual art.

Winner of the "John Turkington Best Over all Youth of the Year" – Denise Pio. This rangatahi is one of a kind. She's the type of rangatahi that radiates excellence in everything she does, whether she's in the classroom, on stage, in the community, church, or with whānau. She brings her full heart, energy and dedication. She leads, inspires and uplifts those around. Earlier this year she took part in the Race Unity Speech Awards, delivering a heartfelt speech which spoke against racism and racial prejudice earning the runner up award for Manawatu Regionals. She is a passionate artist and musician. She got 1st place at the 2024 Pasifika Fusion Festival, her theme "Dawn Raids," reflecting history and strength. She is also the main bass player in her year group band, which won their school's Talent Showcase performing "Sweet Child O' Mine" in May 2024. Last year, she returned to her primary school to honour a dedicated teacher by creating a large painting about preserving traditions and culture. She has performed at many music events in the Rangitīkei region, including Christmas Carols (2024), the Pink Cancer Foundation event in Bulls (2024), the festival in Bulls earlier this year (2025) and music and cultural concerts at Marton Bible Chapel. She has played many sports

ITEM 9.1

throughout her college years and has captained several teams, including netball, basketball, volleyball, and badminton. Last year, she took a break from playing winter netball for her college teams in Palmerston North to focus on school but continued to referee games for her former primary school. She placed 1st in her school's athletic throwing events, earning a spot at the interschool athletics in Whanganui. There she won 1st place in shot-put and broke a school record set in 1969. This achievement qualified her to compete at the North Island Secondary School Athletic Championships. Without professional training just self-taught and she gave it her best, finishing close to the Top 10. She is proud to represent her small school and appreciates the support she received. While she was training for the North Island Secondary School Athletics Championships, her former primary school reached out to ask if she could run workshops for students preparing for their athletics day in Hunterville, volunteering her time to guide students in discus and shot-put techniques. Her coaching proved successful, with Pati, a Year 7 student, breaking the senior section discus record which had stood for 17 years. Denise is always happy to contribute to her team's success as well as her own. She has consistently achieved Excellence endorsements in NCEA within the college, her leadership has been impactful. As Head Prefect, student Board of Trustees representative, and leader of the Pasifika Aiga group, she has consistently inspired and motivated her peers. She possesses a natural and remarkable ability to foster collaboration, communicate effectively, and guide teams towards achieving common goals. At Pasifika Fusion she has been involved in Samoan cultural performances, debating, public speaking, and visual art. Beyond the school, her commitment to leadership extends to various community organisations. Her active participation and leadership in the Youth Council highlights her dedication to making a positive difference in the wider community. Through forum such as the Race Unity Speech Awards, debating and Pasifika Fusion, she has also been a key agent of change and advocacy for youth. Significantly, she was also a member through 2023-2024 of the Children's Commission 'Youth Voices Group', which involved 30 young people throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand providing input, insight, advocacy directly through to the Children's Commissioner. Underlying all of her achievements is a strong sense of integrity and humility. Denise consistently acts with honesty, kindness, fairness, and respect, and so earns the trust and admiration of those around her. Her commitment to her values is evident in all she does, making her a role model for all other young people in our community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity of background. She is hugely respected at school and fully embodies everything this award stands for.

I personally congratulate each and every one of the winners on their remarkable achievements.

RDC Matariki Stars Awards 2025

The Matariki Stars Staff Awards were held on 13 June and I will leave the detailing of this to Carol which is appropriate as an operational matter however I would like to say the awards highlighted to me just how hard our staff have worked and what they are involved with outside of work in the community. It gave me a real thrill to hear Marita Wilkinson awarded the Hiwa-I-Te-Rangi/Personal Achiever award for passing her final exam towards an accountancy degree (while also working full-time) – this is such a special occasion and highlight in her life. The overall Matariki Star/Chief Executive's Award presented to Mike Hart was richly deserved – Mike's commitment to council and the community is outstanding and much appreciated.

Local Water Done Well

I will follow these accolades with a report on "the never-ending story about LWDW"

- After months of analysis and consultation, our preferred solution was to form a Regional CCO (Council Controlled Organisation) with Whanganui and Ruapehu.

- What we have now is a Regional CCO to be set up with Palmerston North City, Horowhenua District Council and ourselves, the Rangitikei, with the hope that Whanganui and Ruapehu will join us. These are now decisions made by the first three councils. Ruapehu and Whanganui will decide over the next 2-3 weeks.
- I suspect that Whanganui and Ruapehu may not join with us.
- This Regional CCO is based on savings to the ratepayer by way of loan structures and efficiencies and includes scale of about 50,000+ connections.
- We will argue as part of the governance board of the new entity for –
 - a) Each council will have an equal vote (we have support for this)
 - b) Price harmonisation or cross-subsidy over time where everyone pays the same charges for water. (This will need to be a long term discussion and will not be happening in the short term).
 - c) That price harmonisation should happen initially in reach respective district, i.e. the charges in the Rangitikei will be the same throughout the district (this should be straightforward).
 - d) That the shareholding will be based on the value of assets transferred (expected to be a given).
 - e) That there will be mechanisms worked out to capture the collective lwi considerations (this could, in my opinion, be by an advisory board).
 - f) The Board will probably have an independent chair.
 - g) The rural water schemes such as Omatane, Erewhon, Hunterville and Putorino will be set aside from the entity (the mechanism for this will need to be approved by Government).

So what happens now???

1. We wait on Ruapehu/Whanganui decisions
2. The operational plan for delivery needs to be submitted to Wellington for approval/ratification by 3 September.
3. The councils will form the governance boards to work on strategy/pricing.
4. The governance board will need to start interviewing/searching for a chief executive of the entity. (I note these positions will be competitive and I suspect entities will need to act quickly to get preferred staff).
5. The formation of these entities will result in significant changes to councils' LTPs (Long Term Plans) this will be complex and include –
 - Staffing changes (although many staff of the entity will remain in-situ with each council);
 - There will be, I think, rating changes especially in the areas of public good concerning water/wastewater delivery and there may need to be some rebalancing here with other charges;
 - Council's debt/loan structure will alter;
 - As we transfer the assets we have the loan component 'handed back' in some form and in stages to the council. How we choose to handle that leaves many interesting options that I will expand on at another time.
 - Yes we have made a decision but the work gets tough from hereon in!

Social Investment Fund

ITEM 9.1

Recently I spent a couple of hours listening to the details around a new fund set up by Government – The Social Investment Fund. This fund of \$275m, of which \$190m will be new money, will be focussed on early prevention and supporting New Zealand social outcomes.

The fund has Andrew Coster as it's Chief Executive and he introduced the fund with a lot of 'government speak' –

- Supporting social outcomes;
- Will use outcome focussed contractors (i.e. they will contract out services to committees to deliver);
- The fund will look for 'innovations';
- The fund will focus on set outcomes (presumably this is a reference to accountability conditions).

He ended his presentation by saying significantly, the fund has mechanisms where it can grow, i.e. it can draw on funding from other agencies. I think these comments reference that the New Zealand Government pays out around \$7b annually in buying services from non-government agencies. The Government is concerned about the accountability and performance (value for money) of this purchase. This fund would then be a mechanism to re-distribute this money with better checks and balances.

Andrew Coster was followed by Joe Fowler, the interim Head of Commissioning for the fund, who talked about how the fund will work. There are three pathways to access this fund –

1. Pathway 1 –
 - a) Applications will open in July with 5-8 initiatives funded in August.
 - b) Government is looking for 20-30 initiatives over the next 12-18 months.
 - c) Priorities for funding have not yet been set but are likely to be focussed on youth and children.
 - d) The programme will need to reach several hundred people over the coming years.
2. Pathway 2 – this pathway targets secondary prevention though I am not sure what it covers and I'm not sure Government is aware of what it covers either.
3. Pathway 3 –
 - a) "still in early development".
 - b) Government is interested in speaking to organisations that already operate as a collective impact model with Local Government arrangements.

Summary of my thoughts -

1. This is rushed, not fully developed to coincide again with Government wanting to see it established in this term of office.
2. It is under the control of the Minister of Finance who definitely wants more accountability. In my opinion many organisations that currently receive money could stand to lose their financing in the future.
3. But it does open up the opportunity for Local Government. This may indicate that Central Government is too heavily burdened with staffing/administration costs.
4. Part of the fund is already allocated –
 - a) \$20m for programmes strengthening the first 2000 days of a child's life i.e. reducing harm.

- b) \$25m to prevent children and vulnerable young adults entering state care (included as a Crown response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse under Care position).

I finish this section with two quotes attributed to the Minister of Finance –

“Over the next 2-3 years I expect to see significant amounts of funding transferred from current social services to this fund as communities and providers developing new approaches to working with Government”. (From me - social services would probably include employment/health/benefits?).

“Each investment will have a robust evaluation built in from the start so the impact can be tracked”.

Annual Plan

On the agenda is the adoption of the Annual Plan. This is one of the “cornerstones” of Council and is a section of the Long Term Plan. There are several points I wish to make regarding the Annual Plan and the associated rating position/adoption of fees and charges.

- Councils throughout the country have struggled with resourcing annual plans against a backdrop of considerable change. Local Water Done Well has soaked up huge staffing resources especially for smaller rural councils.
- I thank Carol as CE and staff, in particular the Finance and Three Waters staff for what has been a challenging process.
- We are likely to adopt a rate increase of under 8% and that is quite an achievement considering that we started at a much higher figure. This rate increase is probably mid-pack compared to other councils throughout New Zealand.
- Costs increases faced by council are well beyond the national CPI (Consumers Price Index) for example, the costs for roading have risen substantially over the last couple of years and roading is a huge part of our budget.
- Council’s capex (capital expenditure) spend has been less than forecasted in this year so there are some carry-overs of existing budgets. Some of that delay is operational or consenting in nature but some of it is prudent considering the changes proposed by Government. Taumata Arowai, the regulator for discharge consents, has proposed new standards which could, if adopted, reduce costs. We will have to comply with these new standards so it makes sense to delay spending money until we have further advice.
- With decisions made around LWDW there will be a revision of our LTP required next year, something that the new council will need to consider.

Policy/Planning Meeting 12 June

The Policy/Planning Committee, as part of their terms of reference to develop, monitor and review Council’s strategies and plans, considered and made decisions to refine where officers should continue work for the rezoning of land to accommodate residential growth. Council will make the final decision on adopting the plan change for notification. I would like to make several points –

- We are required to go through planning change processes as a function of council.
- The demand for space for residential is heavy in the southern parts of the district, i.e. Bulls/Marton areas.
- As such, for consultation we are allowing principally for new areas of growth in those areas but we are also looking at possible spaces in Mangaweka to make land available for the northern region.

- For those people that are interested please ask to see the Policy/Planning Committee notes from 12 June.

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Remits

The Local Government New Zealand (of which Rangitikei is a member) 2025 Conference will be held in Christchurch on 16-17 July. As part of that conference there will be a series of remits proposed by different councils throughout New Zealand for LGNZ, our governing body, to consider at the AGM. If they receive support by way of vote it will effectively direct LGNZ to engage with Government asking them to either stop a process, change a process or look at future direction of Government. This is the direct way that we have as a council of directing Government. These remits have been proposed by individual councils and we as a council will need to make a decision as to whether we support them or not. At this council meeting I am asking for a vote on each remit as to whether we support it or not. That gives myself as delegate at the AGM, an understanding of the direction of our council. I do note that there will always be new supporting evidence presented as part of the LGNZ conference which could potentially change our view. That is the nature of debate.

On 7 June I attended the Open Day for the Otiwhiti School of Agriculture. Otiwhiti is committed to training young people to become the new breed of managers that the sheep and beef industry needs and takes on 18 rural students each year to build a working knowledge of shepherding as a career. These students often come in without any form of background in farming, they commence in January and are expected to arrive with a 5 month old heading pup that they will assist in the training of over the course of the year. At the end of the year they will leave with a New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture Level 3, covering basic skills in shepherding, cropping, tractor work and fencing and most are able to shear 100 sheep a day which is no small achievement. The Open Day was an invitation for people to seek applications for one of the 178 positions available. The turnout was huge with several families saying this was their second year of application or this is our first year of application but will really probably be considered better in our second year. The standard of facilities at the school are brilliant, there's a brand new butchery going in where the shepherds learn to dress venison, pork, mutton and make sausages. Students spend one day a week 'in class' and four days a week on a farm throughout the course gaining the skills required and can elect to carry on their studies after the conclusion of this. The standout from the Otiwhiti School is that virtually every year 100% of the graduates are placed in employment, many of them on neighbouring stations right up through the Turakina Valley and Rangitikei High Country.

Late afternoon on 6 June I travelled to the River Valley Lodge on invitation from Brian Megaw and the team. Invitees to an evening session were those people involved with tourism in the northern part of our district looking to see how we could work together in the future. I thank Brian for making this opportunity available – it is important that we leverage off each other and he made the point that visitors might make enquiries with him that could be better provided for by another local operator rather than them leaving the district. Our tourism operations throughout the district certainly don't link together as well as they could, however apart from the business of the day it was good to be able to meet up with friends around a roaring fire on an early winter's evening and I thank Brian for the great hospitality provided.

Mayor's Engagements

June 2025

1	Attended Potitini - election Information event
3	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Taihape Grandstand User Group Meeting Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Omatane Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly meeting with staff re Marton Water Strategy Attended governors Q&A at monthly Executive Leadership Team meeting Attended online meeting with Hon Simeon Brown and staff
5	Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting Attended Tenders Board Subcommittee Meeting Attended Council Meeting – Annual Plan Deliberations
6	Attended online Tripartite Meeting with Whanganui and Ruapehu Mayors Attended Northern Tourist Businesses hui at River Valley Lodge
7	Attended Otiwhiti tour of school Attended Bulls walk around of town murals Attended meeting with Taihape constituent
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with staff re Urban Growth areas Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting
10	Attended Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti meeting Attended meeting with staff re Urban Growth areas Attended MSD Social Investment Fund Webinar Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Ratana Community Board Meeting
11	Attended Ruapehu District Council Meeting in Ohakune Attended Marton Community Committee Meeting
12	Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee workshop Attended Policy/Planning committee meeting
13	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Core Group Meeting in Wellington Attended RDC Matariki Stars Awards Evening
16	Attended Nga Wai Tota hui at Makaranui Marae

ITEM 9.1

	Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting
17	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
18	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff Attended monthly comms catchup with staff Attended Youth Lobby in Taihape with staff Attended Mayors Event for Defence Hub in Palmerston North
19	Attended Marton Office & Library Project Governance Fortnightly Meeting Attended Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting Attended Regional Leadership Group Hui – Manawatu-Whanganui Attended Urban Planning in Bulls meeting Attended Mid Winter Xmas BA5 in Marton
23	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Quarterly Catchup with MP Suze Redmayne Attended Downer Board Function at NZ Parliament House
24	Attended NZ Tiny House Association online hui Attended Citizenship Ceremony in Bulls Attended LGNZ zoom on Rates Capping
25	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended quarterly catchup meeting with Chief Executive and NZDF Ohakea Base Commander and Command Team
26	Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Council Meeting
27	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend fortnightly economic development meeting with staff To attend meeting with Arohanui Hospice CE
29	To attend unveiling of Chris Amon statue in Bulls
30	To attend meeting with Deputy Chief Executive To attend Tripartite monthly Mayoral Meeting with Whanganui and Ruapehu Mayors To attend Election Candidate Information Session in Taihape To attend Election Candidate Information Session in Marton

Attachments:

1. **LGNZ Remits** [↓](#)
2. **LGNZ Rates Caping** [↓](#)
3. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

That the Mayor's Report – June 2025 be accepted.



2025 Remits



// 01 Security System Payments

Proposed by:	Far North District Council and Central Otago District Council
Supported by:	Zone 6 and Zone 1
Remit:	<i>That LGNZ advocates for security system payments to be included as an allowance under the Local Government Members Determination, in line with those afforded to Members of Parliament.</i>

Why is this remit important?

The importance of safety for elected members has become more apparent in recent times. With an increase in animosity towards “government figures,” both online and in person, the time has come to address this. Recent examples of elected members being threatened, harassed and abused, including incidents occurring at or near their home address, highlights the need for changes to the Local Government Act to be updated. The ability for security system payments to be made as an allowance would go some way towards encouraging actual and perceived safety for existing elected members, as well as ensuring future candidates can feel safer while representing their communities.

Background and Context

Democracy worldwide is currently considered a “tinderbox” according to multiple news sites. In 2024, 37 candidates for election were murdered in Mexico. While this may seem extreme – our own Electoral Commission in NZ has a page dedicated to “security advice” for potential candidates. The rise of fringe groups, anonymity of online forums, general mistrust of government figures and polarising coverage of worldwide democratic outcomes has been creating a platform for those with singular or disaffected viewpoints. While we recognise that some of the sentiment is online, there have been instances of this spilling over into daily life for our elected members. Much of “being safe” is about “feeling safe.”

The Members of Parliament Determination 2023 (Section 48) allows for up to \$4500 to install a security system at a member’s primary place of residence, along with up to \$1000 per year to monitor this.

LGNZ’s own research carried out last year identified three quarters of elected members had suffered abuse or harassment at public meetings, a third at the supermarket or school pick up, and that half of EM’s felt it was worse than a year ago. Supporting new anti-stalking and harassment Legislation is a good start, but this is something that could immediately help our elected members to feel safer at home.

Some councils are already supporting elected members in personal safety. Central Otago District has paid for a member to install a camera at their home address where they live with young kids following an obnoxious campaign including items being left in their letterbox. There will be multiple other examples where councils are promoting personal safety, wellbeing initiatives and also installing or providing additional security measures at homes and council offices.

Far North and Central Otago Districts are just two examples of our huge, remote areas. Overnight Central Otago, all 9,968 square kilometres of it, is covered by two on-call Police officers, based 30km



apart. Feeling safe plays a big role in actual safety. Expectations of safety will be different for an older female to a young dad with kids, a large family or a person living alone, and they are also different between rural and urban areas.

This election, we want to ensure worry about how safe someone is in their own home is not a barrier to putting their hand up to fulfil a wonderful role for our communities.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

Ties into the research on safety that LGNZ carried out last year, and also the support of the Crimes Legislation (Stalking and Harassment) Amendment Bill.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Connect with Minister Mark Patterson (Minister for Rural Communities) for support

Investigate the possibility for a partnership with a national retailer/supplier of home security systems and/or trail cams

Timeframe - depends how quickly things could progress before the election?



// 02 Improving Joint Management Agreements

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to Government for: a) legislative change to make the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) mechanism more accessible for councils to use with iwi/hapū, b) for the provision of technical, legal and financial support to facilitate the use of JMAs for joint council and iwi/hapū environmental governance, and c) for a mechanism such as JMAs to be included in the Government's new resource management legislation.*

Why is this remit important?

JMAs are a valuable tool for councils and iwi / hapū to work together on environmental governance. Many councils support stronger partnerships with tangata whenua, but the statutory and practical barriers to formalising JMAs have severely limited their uptake by councils and iwi/hapū. There is thus a need to address the limitations of the current mechanism under the RMA, to make it more accessible to councils and tangata whenua, as well as to ensure a mechanism such as JMAs is included in the Government's new resource management legislation.

Recommended improvements include a) simplification or modification of the JMA statutory requirements and criteria; b) provision of a customisable JMA template and detailed guidance on when JMAs might be appropriate and how to establish them; c) explanation of the legal implications for the parties, and the Health & Safety obligations; d) making JMAs mandatory in appropriate circumstances in addition to Treaty settlements; and e) provision of funding to support iwi/hapū capacity to develop and implement JMAs.

Background and Context

JMAs under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provide for agreement between a local authority and an iwi authority and/or groups representing hapū to jointly perform or exercise any local authority functions, powers or duties under the RMA relating to a natural or physical resource.

Since inclusion as a mechanism under sections 36B-E of the RMA in 2005, only two JMAs have been established, apart from their mandatory use in some Treaty settlements.

For a JMA to be developed, the local authority must be satisfied that the agreement is an "efficient" method of exercising the function, power or duty. However, if a JMA were to require more funds and resources to support administrative costs and extra person-hours than what council would itself expend, the "efficiency" criterion might not be satisfied. Thus, "efficiency" could compel an iwi/hapū to contribute its own resources to the collaborative management process if it wished to conclude a JMA. A lack of financial resources is repeatedly identified by iwi/hapū as being the most significant barrier to their full participation under the RMA.

Another requirement of s36B is that the local authority must be satisfied that the other party to the JMA has the "technical or special capability or expertise to perform or exercise the function, power,



or duty jointly with the local authority". Many (especially unsettled) iwi/hapū are under-resourced, often having to rely on voluntary contributions of resources and expertise; thus funding and technical support may be needed to facilitate iwi/hapū participation in JMAs.

Another deterrent to JMA uptake is that the agreement can be cancelled by either party at any time. If conflict arises, the local authority will always have the "upper hand" because the function(s) shared under the JMA will revert exclusively to local authority control. More stringent cancellation requirements could be introduced that give JMA parties greater assurance of continuation.

Only those JMAs created as part of Treaty Settlements are currently mandatory for local authorities. A similar mandatory requirement under the RMA for councils to enter into JMAs in appropriate circumstances would facilitate uptake.

Currently there is very little information available on the legal implications of JMAs, and on the process and considerations for developing and implementing such an agreement. There is also no template provided for such agreements. Technical guidance from central government would further facilitate uptake.

In summary, very low uptake of JMAs reflects the high barriers to their uptake by councils and iwi/hapū. They remain a potentially useful tool if sufficient guidance, resourcing and technical support is provided, and if criteria for developing them are made more enabling.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns with LGNZ's strategy, in particular the long-term goal that Te Tiriti partnerships between local government and Māori are authentic, strong and respected. We are not aware of any existing or planned work to advocate for improved legislative mechanisms and implementation support for Joint Management Agreements.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

We can provide some technical expertise to support analysis of specific options to improve how JMAs function and some advocacy support.



// 03 Alcohol Licensing Fees

Proposed by: Far North District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Remit: *That LGNZ advocates for the government to update the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 18 December 2013 to account for inflation and include a mechanism for automatic annual inflation adjustments.*

Why is this remit important?

If a local council does not have a bylaw that sets alcohol licensing fees and charges it must default to the schedule of fees in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013. These default fees were set 12 years ago and, with the impact of inflation over this period, no longer enable local councils to reasonably recover the costs to administer the alcohol licensing system. This has led to increasing ratepayer subsidisation of these costs. Currently the only way that councils can increase these fees and charges is to make an Alcohol Fees Bylaw under an Order in Council associated with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is an inefficient and expensive way for councils to raise their alcohol licensing fees and charges, when this issue could be simply resolved by the government updating the schedule of fees in the Regulations.

Background and Context

Objectives relating to the setting of alcohol licensing fees were listed in the review of the Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013 conducted by the Ministry of Justice in 2017. These objectives include: - recovering the total reasonable costs incurred by local councils and ARLA in administering the alcohol licensing system - ensuring that those who create the greatest need for regulatory effort bear the commensurate costs.

Alcohol licensing fees and charges are intended to cover the reasonable costs of administering the alcohol licensing system via a 'user pays' approach. The fees and charges set in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013 are now 12 years out of date and have not been updated since 2013, despite two reviews of these fees conducted in 2018 and 2022 as required by section 404 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act. With inflation since 2013, costs to manage alcohol licenses cannot be recovered through the fees prescribed in these Regulations. This means that every time Council processes an alcohol licence it costs more than the fee paid by the licensee and the difference must be covered by general rates.

To increase these fees and charges in their districts, local councils can make Alcohol Fees Bylaws under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fee-setting Bylaws) Order 2013. However, making a bylaw is a relatively costly and inefficient way to address this issue as it involves: - time and effort to research and draft the bylaw - costs for public consultation - the need to regularly review the fees and charges set in the bylaw. A better solution would be for the government to update the fees and charges listed in the 2013 Regulations to reflect current costs. The schedule of fees in the revised Regulations should also allow for an annual CPI increase and allow cost recovery for hearings objections to District Licensing Committee decisions.

**How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

This remit sits within the Funding and Financing advocacy area within LGNZ's Advocacy Work Programme. Specifically, this relates to: - Advocating for changes to local government funding and financing - Building and working with a coalition of the willing to support LGNZ's advocacy for changes to local government funding and financing. Fees and charges are also specifically mentioned in LGNZ's funding and finance toolbox. We understand that the regulation of alcohol fees is not currently part of this Work Programme.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

We can provide detailed evidence of the current income received by FNDC from licensing fees based on applying the outdated fee schedule in the 2013 Regulations, compared with the costs to administer the alcohol licensing system. In summary, in the 2023/24 financial year FNDC received \$410,000 in income from licence application fees compared with costs of \$581,000. This means there was a shortfall of \$171,000 which has to be recovered from general rates. In 2023/24 licence application fees covered 71% of costs for the Council. By contrast, the 2017 Review of the 2013 Regulations reported that cost recovery across all local councils was 108%.



// 04 Aligning public and school bus services

Proposed by: Nelson City Council

Supported by: LGNZ Regional Sector

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate for the reform of the Ministry of Education funded school bus services to provide an improved service for families and to better integrate the services with council provided public transport services, including the option of Public Transport Authorities (e.g. regional and unitary councils) managing such services (with appropriate government funding), noting that:*

- a. councils better know their local communities; and*
- b. the potential to reduce congestion from better bus services for schools; and*
- c. the efficiency gains realised from integrating these two publicly funded bus services*
- d. the outdated and inflexible rules of the current centralised school bus system*

Why is this remit important?

The quality and efficiency of school and public bus services is compromised by school and public bus services being funded through two different arms of Government. Some services are funded through the New Zealand Transport Agency and councils, and others are through the Ministry of Education School Bus Transport Service. This remit proposes to align those functions by transferring the funding and management to Regional Public Transport authorities which are better placed to understand and respond to local transport needs. By improving our bus services for students, we can also reduce congestion which is noticeably less during the school holidays in towns and cities around New Zealand.

Background and Context

There are essentially two drivers for this reform. The first is that it makes no sense to have two different arms of Government separately planning and contracting publicly funded bus services. The second is that decisions about bus services are best made locally.

The co-ordination and contracting of public bus services, whether for getting students to school or for other passengers, is a complex job. Decisions about the routes, frequency, bus size and convenient bus stops are difficult, requiring the juggling the objectives of making the service as convenient as possible, maximising usage, managing costs and ensuring safety. These decisions are inherently local.

The centralised school bus transport system is a huge source of frustration to communities and councils all over New Zealand. It is governed centrally by archaic, rigid rules that date back nearly 100 years, and are unchanged to this day.



The Ministry of Education officials do the best they can within the current policy, but the system is fundamentally outdated and broken. It makes no sense for education officials to be running transport services, and it is impossible to run a community focused, flexible school transport system over thousands of schools and communities from Wellington.

One of the big opportunities of this reform is to reduce congestion by improving our bus service for students. The potential is highlighted in towns and cities all over New Zealand during school holidays when there is much less congestion. An improved bus service with timetables and routes tailored to students' needs would be a wise investment for the overall transport network.

Regional councils, unitary authorities and Auckland Transport are all public transport authorities with delegated responsibility for the development, planning and delivery of public transport services in New Zealand.

The current system has perverse incentives in that if a public transport authority uses rates to improve public transport service to an area, the Ministry of Education withdraws its service. The current system discourages councils to provide public transport services on routes and times that work for students.

Nelson/Tasman are exploring trialling the integration of the management of public and school transport services. We believe there is the opportunity to provide a more responsive service to families of school aged children, to expend our public transport network and to get efficiency gains from contracting for both types of services. If successful, the trial may result in wider reforms.

This is a significant proposal currently involving more than \$125 million of annual public expenditure on school bus services that would need to be transferred to public transport authorities. It would be a complex reform that requires careful attention to detail and consultation with parents, schools, bus service providers and councils. The prize is a better bus services in places like Nelson, less congestion on our roads and more efficient use of public money.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

Transport is a critical issue facing all councils and we need to be proactively looking for way to better deliver services. This remit goes to the heart of LGNZ's vision of localism in that it proposes to localise the delivery of school bus services. This remit also compliments LGNZ's strategic relationship with Government in that it proposes reforms that improve efficiency, and is not just asking for more funding in fiscally constrained times. It also supports LGNZ's sustainability goals by providing opportunities for expansion of public transport services.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Nelson City Council is keen to help advance the case for this reform. We have already engaged with the Ministry of Education, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Transport who are interested in the reforms and keen to trial this alternative approach for the delivery of school bus services. We also commit to sharing our experiences should Nelson Tasman proceed to trialling this reform.



// 05 Review of local government arrangements to achieve better balance

Proposed by: Tauranga City Council

Supported by: LGNZ Metro Sector

Remit: *That LGNZ works with the Government and Councils to review current local government arrangements, including the functions and structure of local government, to achieve a better balance between the need to efficiently and effectively deliver services and infrastructure, while enabling democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities.*

Why is this remit important?

Efficient and effective local democracy and associated decision making is paramount.

Background and Context

A number of local government reviews undertaken previously, have concluded that the current structure and arrangement of the local government sector, is not conducive to ensuring that infrastructure and services delivered to communities, are always done so in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Current sector arrangements are a legacy, and do not always reflect how our communities have expanded, nor how modern services are delivered.

Central government is underway with key policy and legislations changes that both directly and indirectly significantly impact the local government sector. This will require an agile and well planned response by the sector.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This is an important issue for local government as the sector responds to the current central government policy and legislation changes and reforms underway. Seeks advocacy for a work programme between central government, local government and LGNZ, to undertake this review, and ensuring local communities are well considered.

This remit sits within the principles of the Local Government Act 2002 in that it would give local government a tool to provide services more efficiently. While this is not currently part of LGNZ's work programme, engaging with central government will be essential to making progress in this area.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Metro sector councils will provide support and resource to participate and work on the programme established.



Rates capping AGM paper

Purpose of this paper

- To update members on the Government's approach to rates capping and seek agreement on LGNZ's direction of travel.

Recommendations

- That the AGM **approves** the direction of travel set out in this paper.
- That the AGM **notes** members will agree the next phase at a Special General Meeting after the 2025 elections (in March 2026 or earlier if needed).

Background

What is rates capping and what is being proposed?

Rates capping sets a limit on how much councils can increase rates. Often the cap is indexed to economic measures such as consumer inflation, local government inflation or population.

All rates capping policies effectively transfer local fiscal decisions from local communities to central government politicians or bureaucracies.

In August 2024, the then Local Government Minister set out a Local Government Forward Work Programme. This programme included a proposal to investigate a rates cap on "non-core" expenditure by councils. This policy was to be modelled on similar policies in Australian states New South Wales and Victoria.

The Government plans to distinguish between core and non-core spending, applying the cap only to non-core expenditure. Core services may be identified in the soon-to-be-reinstated Section 11A of the Local Government Act 2002 and new purpose of local government. It's still unclear how the Government will enable the cap to apply only to non-core expenditure as this is not a feature of other rate caps overseas. The distinction is likely to be unworkable at a practical level and generate significant bureaucracy. It is unclear for instance how support activities which are used across all councils services, such as call centres and human resource functions would be defined in such a cap.

What rates capping looks like in other countries

Rates capping looks slightly different in each jurisdiction. In NSW, rates capping extends to charges like development contributions. An independent authority decides the rates cap level and considers exemptions to it. However, in Victoria, the essential services commission provides advice to the state's Minister of Local Government who then decides the level of the rate cap.



LGNZ has engaged with local government experts from New South Wales and Victoria to understand how rates capping has affected their councils. They told us rates capping has led to negative outcomes for councils and communities, including:

- Degraded infrastructure and service delivery;
- Financial instability among councils;
- Severe infrastructure backlogs;
- Bureaucratic and expensive processes to approval rates above the cap;
- Reduced local economic growth; and
- Diminished local voice in council investment and revenue decisions.

NSW and Victoria's experience also suggests that once rates caps are in place, removing them is very challenging politically. NSW and Victorian councils also say that impacts worsen over time. Initially councils in those states were able to sell assets, and reduce services and staffing, to offset impacts of the rates cap. After several years, this is no longer an option.

LGNZ's advocacy so far

LGNZ's top advocacy priority (as set by members) is better local government funding and financing. Rates capping directly constrains local government funding and financing. Rates capping also runs counter to localism. Locally elected representatives – who are directly accountable to communities – are better placed than Wellington to make local taxation and investment decisions. Rates capping is not primarily about rates increases: it's about who decides what rates increases should be.

So far, LGNZ has communicated our views on rates capping in conversations and meetings with politicians and officials, via submissions, and through media. Some elected members around the country have publicly spoken out against the policy of their own accord.

Our advocacy needs to step up a gear

If we don't strengthen our advocacy, the Government is likely to implement rates capping. The Government is likely to introduce legislation next year. However, it is still politically possible to prevent rates capping. LGNZ successfully opposed a similar proposal in 2009. More recently, South Australia has held off a rates cap through lobbying and a strong public campaign.

Others will campaign for rates capping

Pressure group the Taxpayers Union has launched a campaign in support of rates capping that features anti-council rhetoric ("ballooning staff numbers and vanity project spending see councils delivering fewer core services"). This campaign is targeting particular councils and Mayors ahead of the local government elections.

Without balance, supportive voices will capture the public narrative around rates capping.

How we could stop rates capping

Rates capping AGM paper // 2



We would develop a comprehensive advocacy plan

This plan would draw on the strategies from LGNZ's 2009 advocacy and South Australia's successful campaign. We anticipate that public intensity would need to build as key policy milestones are passed (for example, when the Bill is introduced).

Being louder publicly would be essential

To argue that councils are better placed than central government to make rates decisions, we must boost public trust and confidence in local government. This would be one prong of our campaign, including highlighting popular council services and infrastructure that would be threatened by rates capping. A campaign centred on what the public would lose to a rate cap – and who has the right to decide – is more likely to succeed than one focussed on technicalities.

LGNZ sets the tone for rate capping advocacy. We know other groups and organisations oppose this policy but given this sits squarely in our space, no one will stick their neck out more than we do. Visible advocacy from LGNZ would be required to activate a "coalition of the willing".

The consequences of being louder

We also need to consider what political consequences might result from strongly and vocally opposing rates capping. Misinformation about LGNZ's political neutrality already exists. While we do (and will continue to) work closely with the Government on many other policies and portfolios, opposing specific proposals gains more attention.

However, other membership bodies talk loudly and publicly to the Government when certain lines are crossed. For example, Federated Farmers' "SOS: Save Our Sheep" campaign is aggressively calling on the Government to stop carbon forestry and preserve the sheep industry. Playing out across billboards, social media and media. It's important to note that opposing a policy does not prevent us from working constructively with the Government on other policy areas.

We need a mandate from members

The paper and the AGM 2025 vote are about confirming our direction of travel rather than agreeing explicit actions.

If the AGM agrees to the direction of travel, we will continue our current approach while developing a plan for the next phase.

That next phase would go to a Special General Meeting for approval. This SGM would be held after the 2025 elections so that we have an explicit mandate from the next triennium's members. It would potentially be held in March 2026 (or earlier if necessary).

LGNZ is clear that a mandate is needed from members to proceed with a strong public campaign.

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong
29-May-24	Creative NZ Committee	PR				PR							
30-May-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	AP	PR				PR	PR	AP		PR
30-May-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
6-Jun-24	Turakina CC	PR		AP							AT		
10-Jun-24	HRWS	PR			PR			PR					
10-Jun-24	Huntermville CC	CB			PR			PR					
11-Jun-24	TRAK Meeting	PR				PR	PR					PR	
11-Jun-24	ERWS	PR											PR
11-Jun-24	Ratana CB	PR					PR						
12-Jun-24	Marton CC	CB	PR										
12-Jun-24	Taihapa CB	PR				PR							PR
13-Jun-24	PPL Meeting	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR		AP			PR
19-Jun-24	Santoft DMC	PR		PR							AT		
20-Jun-24	RA Meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR				
27-Jun-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR	AT			PR	PR	PR		PR
27-Jun-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
11-Jul-24	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		PR
25-Jul-24	Council Workshop												
25-Jul-24	PPL Hearings	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	AT	PR	AT	AT	PR
25-Jul-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
5-Aug-24	HRWS	PR			PR			PR					
5-Aug-24	Huntermville CC	PR			PR			PR					
8-Aug-24	Council Workshop												
8-Aug-24	Turakina CC	PR		PR									
12-Aug-24	Youth Council	PR				PR							PR
13-Aug-24	TRAK	CB					PR					PR	
14-Aug-24	Taihapa CB	PR				PR							PR

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Mayor's Report - May 2025

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

There have been so many meetings since the last report to Council, most of which have been in regard to Local Water Done Well (LWDW) concerning how council delivers drinking water, waste water and stormwater. In previous reports council elected to form a regional CCO with Whanganui and Ruapehu councils and ourselves. Council, at its LWDW Deliberations Meeting held on 22 May 2025 decided as a preference to form a regional wider CCO with Palmerston North, Horowhenua and ourselves leaving the option for Whanganui and Ruapehu to join with us. Points I raised prior to that decision being made are as follows –

1. Government wants councils to form regional CCO partnerships to gain efficiencies and to lower future rate rises. They are insistent that these relationships are in place by September (i.e. made before Local Government elections in October).
2. Internal Affairs (Government) claim the efficiency gains for all councils will lie between 10 and 30% and that no council will be worse off in terms of rates by joining a CCO.
3. Councils will retain ownership by way of shareholding in the new entities after passing to the entity the assets and receiving back a credit for the loans against that asset.
4. Some councils in New Zealand will look to go alone and not form regional entities. If they do, then water services must by law be ring-fenced into separate council entities and face a high level of scrutiny and legislation. Government reserves the right to assign councils to other groups if they feel that is needed.
5. Regional entities will benefit by receiving long term loan funding at the best national rates available. This alone also serves to drive lower rates for councils in the short term.

ALL OF GOVERNMENT MEETING – WELLINGTON – 1 MAY

What I will try and do is list the pertinent points against each speaker.

- A. Welcome and background – President Sam Broughton, Selwyn District Mayor
 - The weather was horrific with many flights to Wellington cancelled and extensive flooding in his district of Selwyn, so attendance was a challenge.
 - MC was Ceinwen McNeil, Director from Aurecon.
 - Campbell Barry, Vice-Chair LGNZ did some of the introductions.
- B. Susan Freeman-Greene, CE LGNZ
 - She has announced her resignation so LGNZ will be looking for a new Chief Executive.
 - Her session was about addressing abuse and harassment, particularly in Local Government.
 - Maori and women disproportionately attacked by social media and suffer verbal abuse.

- LGNZ have released a new guide/toolkit on how to say safe entitled “Free to Lead”.
 - Councils need to ensure that they meet their own health and safety obligations for staff and councillors.
 - Session was supported by Nicola Grigg, Minister for Women.
- C. Fiscal Policy & Infrastructure Financing – Dominick Stephens, Deputy Secretary and Chief Economic Advisor for Treasury
- He talked about the difference between shocks and cycles and their effects on the economy.
 - Shocks are things such as droughts/floods, covid etc.
 - He noted that some of those shocks come from overseas actions, e.g. war in Ukraine – these are different to natural cycles.
 - Net core debt in New Zealand is rapidly rising. Government’s response in the past in times of shocks is to spend more to buffer these effects.
 - Net core debt as a percentage of GDP in 1972 sat at 5% - it is now likely heading in the future to 40%?
 - Government needs to be aware that investment by Government (Fiscal Policy) is to smooth shocks and is inflationary by nature.
 - Note - expanding the school lunch programme came out of a Government Fiscal covid response.
 - This was an interesting presentation and 15 minutes was not enough time for the audience to understand and assimilate.
 - When Government uses fiscal support, Government therefore must run surpluses in the good times. We note that this has not been happening.
 - Building resilience in the private/public sector, i.e. councils, is incredibly important.
 - Fiscal policy has a role when monetary policy is not coping.
- D. Infrastructure for Growth – Peter Nunns, GM Infrastructure Commission
- Interesting quote in Q&A – *“every \$1 dollar spend in capex results in a 33c increase in opex spend”*.
 - The above will be an issue for our council with the new builds for earthquake prone buildings. There will be an increase budgets particularly because of the cost of depreciation funding.
 - There were a series of slides illustrating comparisons between New Zealand and other OECD countries. The message here was we are slipping behind and will need a reset.
 - Again, this presentation should have been longer. The first safety presentation by Susan Freeman-Greene of over an hour was too long.
- E. Sam Stubbs – Managing Director, Simplicity
- This was on unpacking financing of infrastructure – the long term solution.
 - There has been a tidal wave of investment dollars in New Zealand. The sequence of overseas investment was –
 - English money
 - American money – think of the period around the war
 - Lately Japanese money
 - Kiwi Saver \$\$ investments continue to grow. You assume that this Kiwi Saver money will be continued to be invested in New Zealand.

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- Kiwi Saver will in the future have \$250 billion to invest – this will solve our investment needs.
 - Message here is that the next 25 years for New Zealand will be prosperous??
 - Aussie started this process earlier – they have 5 times our population but 50 times the investment in savings per capita.
- F. Anthony Walker – Standard & Poors
- This discussion was what is behind our credit rating downgrades.
- G. LGNZ Update – Sam Broughton (Chair) / Susan Freeman-Green (CE)
- The appointment of a replacement for Susan has been commenced but that appointment will be finalised by the new National Council after Local Government elections.
 - Scott Necklen will be the Acting CE to fill the gap.
 - Rates cappings – Government has been clear it wants to see control of rate increases but National Council wants to hold firm on no rates caps.
- H. Minister's Address – Hon. Chris Penk
- To speed up the economy there are changes coming to simplify the Building Acts and Public Works Acts.
 - We think too often council is left as the last man standing regarding consents (e.g. leaky homes). Therefore councils become risk adverse whereas Government wants to rebalance that liability. What the Minister is referring to is where builders can opt to go out of business to avoid a liability for leaky homes etc and then start again under a new registration business. This is good news for the sector!
 - Minister hopes to see an aggregation of councils re building authorities, potentially another new CCOs set up like LWDW? At this stage he is wanting a voluntary aggregation.
 - The BCA authority not now needed to a single residential unit where infrastructure is available by an accredited builder. In these cases council would have no liability.
 - Building companies with a qualified track record could self-certify.
- I. There were two case studies revealed of which the second one was the most interesting. This is where sports facilities done well have resulted in community growth.
- J. Te Ahu a Turanga – new road replacing the Manawatu Gorge, lessons learned –
- This told the success of working early with Iwi. James Kendrick, Nga Tuhoe, spoke passionately and well.
 - Iwi engagement on this project had a budget of \$10m – only needed less than \$4m because engagement was early and genuine.
- K. Minister's Address – Simon Watts
- Q&A session only – points raised –
 - i) I am impressed with collaboration, LWDW, in the North Island.
 - ii) We will allow councils, LWDW, to go alone unless they are deemed not to be financially sustainable.
 - iii) "I (Minister) am leading a policy approach to rates capping design". There are different designs to this in other countries.
 - iv) We need to address the inflationary process on rates rises – they are too high.

- v) But rates capping should not restrain growth – there is a way through that.
- vi) In response to a question regarding funding of tourism in places such as Queenstown – “I want tourism to drive economic growth and one size doesn’t fit all, I will work with Local Authorities”.

Mayor’s Comments –

- *Government wants Back to Basics principles from councils*
 - *Government wants Local Government to deal with unemployment via the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme*
 - *Government wants councils to deal with educational truancy. The question is how does this align with a Back to Basics principle?*
- The Minister also accepted that Central Government does drive costs for Local Government and again the response is “a need for dialogue and one size doesn’t fit all”.
 - The Minister then spoke about Regional Deals –
 - i) These deals will provide for certainty of funding for large capex programmes.
 - ii) The first Regional Deal will be signed off before Christmas.
 - iii) “There is a cost in doing nothing and a cost in delay of projects”.
 - iv) City Regional Deal will bring partnerships between Local Government and Central Government.
 - “There is no Government talk on amalgamation but we will support councils who want to consider it”.

TE RUNANGA O NGATI HINEMANU ME NGATI PAKI OPENING OF FRESH WATER SCIENCE LAB

On 17 May I attended the opening of the Fresh Water Science Lab at Winiata Marae. This is the first Iwi lead water testing lab in the country and I congratulate them for it. They have gone through a process of teaching their rangatahi how to collect water samples, how to prepare them and test them in the lab. Again this is impressive. This process has been supported and backed by Auckland University in association with Downer NZ.

HUNTERVILLE POLICING

Recently the local police and Area Commander Neil Forlong advised me that with the local officer in Hunterville transferring there would be a review undertaken as to how policing would be serviced in Hunterville. No decisions have been made at this point. When a decision is made by the Regional Commander there will be further consultation. I then advised the Hunterville Community Committee and suggested a public meeting. The meeting on 21 May was attended by Neil Forlong and Sgt David Fraser, our MP Suze Redmayne, myself, Carol Gordon our Chief Executive, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson and about 40 residents. Total support from the community was for a local police manning and presence. This was a genuine discussion covering roles and who the funders are – in this case NZTA Highway Control are a principal funder. We will now wait for the next steps.

MARTON POOL

As everybody is aware the Marton swimming pool suffered serious damage with one of the main leading trusses dropping by nearly a metre. The pool has been closed while council undertakes a review. Some of the salient points are –

- a) There has been an exhaustive look at the total future of the pool as to what is required to make it safe, comply with regulations and be fit for the next 40-50 years. The consultants that we had doing this work, Create, have expertise in this field and have produced a lengthy report giving a variety of options, ranging from a quick fix repair to the beams at a cost of under \$1m to a total refit of the building dealing with virtually all the issues and a possible

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reconfiguration of the 50m pool to a 25m pool with other hydro therapy/learn to swim options etc.

- b) Fortunately a community member has approached council and offered to substantially fund the repair of the roof. This comes at a cost of in excess of \$2m and we as a community and council are deeply appreciative of the gesture made. If the replacement of the roof and strengthening of the walls proceeds to tender, the funder has agreed, in view of transparency, to make their details known. Council is looking to tender the strengthening of the walls, the total replacement of the roof including a new clear-lite type product to let in light and help with heating. This is Stage 1.
- c) As part of that work there will need to be a number of building issues looked at to comply with existing regulations and council will consider how that can be internally financed.
- d) We will also actively look for other external funders and agencies such as Lotteries. If there are other businesses that would consider supporting us please get in contact with me.
- e) I was always hopeful that we would have this project underway this coming summer. That is my aim but many people tell me that timeframe is unlikely. As we know more we will talk to the community.

HEALTH SERVICES

The provision of health services in our district needs review. In the northern part of the district I commend Mokai Patea Services for the work they have done with Taihape Health to look at providing those services. Recently I sent a letter to the Minister asking for clarification on why the transfer of facilities from Te Whatu Ora to Mokai Patea Services has been delayed and requested a meeting. The Minister is Simeon Brown now and he has recently written to me agreeing to a meeting in Parliament on 4 June. This is a huge step forward. I will update a more detailed report and give Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa the opportunity to speak further on this as part of my Mayor's Report. She is the expert and I applaud her dedication to this project.

Mayor's Engagements

May 2025

1	Attended LGNZ All of Government meeting in Wellington Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs meeting
2	Attended the second TUIA Powhiri and Wananga at Taheke Marae Rotorua
4	Attended the Annual Plan Community meeting at Scotts Ferry
5	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group meeting
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up Attended annual Audit NZ meeting Attended Tripartite Monthly Mayoral online meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
7	Attended interview with Breeze Radio Station on Bulls Township Attended meeting with Chief Executive

	<p>Attended monthly Governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended Youth Award Nomination Assessments meeting</p> <p>Attended quarterly NZTA Regional Relationship meeting</p>
8	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting</p> <p>Attended LWDW Elected Members Hui in Palmerston North</p> <p>Attended Business After 5 function in Marton</p>
9	<p>Attended Accelerate35 Lead Team Meeting in Palmerston North</p> <p>Attended online Mayoral Meeting</p> <p>Attended Meet & Greet with Rangitikei College Principal Penny Keet</p> <p>Attended Mayors & CE's Online LWDW meeting</p>
10	Attended working bee at Marton Historical Society
12	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Arohanui Hospice team</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Transport Forum online meeting</p>
13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Andy Justice – Kiwiburn 2025 Debrief</p> <p>Attended LWDW online meeting with DIA</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
14	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Bulls Community Committee meeting</p>
15	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Annual Plan Hearing meeting</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended SLUI Advisory Group meeting in Palmerston North</p>
16	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended LWDW Workshop in Palmerston North</p>
17	Attended Te Runanga O Ngati Hinemanu Me Ngati Paki Opening of Fresh Water Science Lab at Winiata Marae Taihape
18	<p>Attended Marton Car Show</p> <p>Attended Marton Historical Society day across the district museums</p>
19	<p>Attended breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended relationship meeting with Horizons governors and RDC elected members</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up</p> <p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs F26 online update</p> <p>Attended meeting with Sport Whanganui representatives about rangatahi sport in district</p>

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	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
21	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended public meeting in Hunterville re Hunterville Policing
22	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting Attended Assets & Infrastructure meeting Attended LWDW Deliberations meeting Attended LWDW Mayoral Steering Group online meeting
23	Attended staff Pink Ribbon High Tea
26	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
27	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended site visit at Taihape Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
28	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Creative Communities Scheme meeting
29	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Council Meeting
30	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend new staff Whanaungatanga To attend fortnightly Economic Development meeting with staff To attend LWDW Mayoral Steering Group meeting

Attachments:**1. Elected Member Attendance - May** [↓](#)**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – May 2025 be accepted.

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
27-Mar-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
3-Apr-25	Turakina CC	CB		PR										
7-Apr-25	Hunterville RWS	PR			PR			PR						
8-Apr-25	TRAK	PR					PR					PR	AT	
9-Apr-25	Taihapa CB	CB				AP							PR	
9-Apr-25	Marton CC	PR	PR							PR				
9-Apr-25	Santoft Domain	CB		PR										
10-Apr-25	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP		AP	PR	AP	PR		PR	
10-Apr-25	Policy/Planning	PR	PR			AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR		PR	
14-Apr-25	Hunterville CC	PR			PR			PR						
15-Apr-25	Community Grants	PR		PR	PR	PR			PR		PR		PR	
15-Apr-25	Sport Travel Fund	PR	PR							AP				
16-Apr-25	Council Hearing	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	
30-Apr-25	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	AP	PR						PR		PR	
30-Apr-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
14-May-25	Bulls CC													Minutes not completed
15-May-25	Council Hearing	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	
22-May-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
22-May-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	

Present (and is a member of the committee)	PR
Apology	AP
Absent - no apology received	AB
Not a member of the committee	
Not a member of the committee (but still attended)	AT
Not present as on Council business	CB
Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used]	ZM

10.2 Small Projects Fund Update - July 2025

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Allocation

- 1.1 The total 2025/26 estimated allocation to the Committee's Small Projects Fund is \$1,363.47 this includes the potential carry forward of \$63.47 from 2024/25 and \$200 for minor repairs.
- 1.2 The decision to carry forward the full amount of \$63.47 will be made at the Council meeting at the end of the month.
- 1.3 Staff will be able to provide an update at the meeting on CPI going forward on the \$1,300 allocation.

Recommendation

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update – July 2025 be received.

10.3 Funding Schemes Update - July 2025**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Overview**

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
 - a. Community Initiatives Fund
 - b. Events Sponsorship Scheme
 - c. Creative Communities Scheme
 - d. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Round two for 2024/25 decisions were made at the April Community Grants Committee meeting with funds totalling \$10,340.
- 2.4 Successful applicants were:
 - 2.4.1 Whanganui Area Neighbourhood Support Groups
 - 2.4.2 Brain Injury Association Whanganui
 - 2.4.3 Marton Food Pantry
 - 2.4.4 Bulls Toy Library
 - 2.4.5 Forest and Bird Inc, Rangitikei Branch
 - 2.4.6 Taihape Community Development Trust
 - 2.4.7 Rangitikei MMA

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Round two for 2024/25 decisions were made at the April Community Grants Committee meeting with funds totalling \$4,048.
- 3.4 Successful applicants were:
 - 3.4.1 Bulls and District Community Trust
 - 3.4.2 Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble

4. Creative Communities Scheme

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4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:

- Demonstrate growth over time
- Develop and support local artistic communities
- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged

4.2 Creative NZ typically allocates \$24,090 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.

4.3 Round two for 2024/25 decisions were made at the May Creative Communities meeting with funds totalling \$10,992.82.

4.3.1 Square Edge Community Arts – Project: Arts Trail Manawatu

4.3.2 Bulls & District Community Trust – Art 4 Arts Sake & Youth Hip Hop

4.3.3 Kathryn Clark – Project: Bands in Schools 2025

4.3.4 Marton Players Inc – Screen Projection Onstage

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

5.3 The full amount of funding was spent at the Sport NZ committee meeting on the 15 April between six clubs and schools.

6. Further Information

6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – July 2025 be received.

10.4 Consultation Tracker - June**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is included for the Committee's information. The attached schedule will be update regularly.
- 1.2 This dashboard highlights the topic, staff lead and expected consultation period. There is a lot planned across the local government sector and for our Council over the next 12 months, so it is of benefit to provide this to not only Council but also our community committees on a monthly basis.

2. RDC Website

- 2.1 Council's website lists all open and recently closed consultations (see the below weblink). This is also where individuals can make submissions.

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/consultation/current-consultations>

Attachments:


1. Consultation Tracker [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Consultation Tracker - June' be received.

2025 Consultation Tracker

Rangitikei District Council



Project	Staff Lead	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	
Local Water Done Well	Arno	Adoption of Consultation doc - 26th Feb		Consultation 5th March - 2nd April		Deliberations - 22 May				WSDP submitted to Govt.				
District Plan Review	Tiffany	Urban Growth Plan Change				Engagement				Notification				
Annual Plan	Janna			Adoption of CD & draft annual plan - 27 Mar	Consultation 4 April - 5 May	Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June							
Fees & Charges	Janna			Adopt of draft consultation - 27 Mar	Consultation as part of Annual Plan	Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June							
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	Janna/Bryan				Consultation as part of Annual Plan	Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June							
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	Arno/Raj			Adoption of draft WMMP - 27 Mar	Consultation as part of Annual Plan	Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June							
Marton-Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Plan	Arno													
Local Body Elections	Katrina						regional, local campaign	nominations open - 4th July	Pre-election period		Election			
Māori Wards Referendum	Katrina						regional, local campaign	nominations open - 4th July			Election			
Bulls Recreation Master Plan	Tiffany	Engagement					Workshops							
Upcoming but unconfirmed projects														
Marton Streetscape Plan Rangitikei Tomorrow: Economic Strategy and Action Plan														

11 Discussion Items

11.1 Meet the Candidates

Author: Greg Smith, Chairman

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Chairman requested this item be included:
- 1.2 Do we wish to provide a Meet the Candidates for Southern wards? Date would be after registration closes and before voting begins, i.e., mostly during August. No \$\$ necessary, but organisational and physical support. It is appreciated that attendance at the byelection public event, while laudable, was a small percentage of the resultant voting turnout.
- 1.3 If no interest is shown, then Mr G Smith moves BCC to formally prepare a letter of request to Lions Marton to consider adding Southern Ward Candidates, as well as Central and Coastal Maori Ward candidates to their proposed meeting in Marton

Recommendation

If needed:

12 Closed Meeting