

### 8.1 Mayor's Report - September 2025

**Author:** **Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

Good afternoon

Usually my reports are very lengthy so I'm sure that some of you will breathe a sigh of relief at the brevity this time. However, there are some things that do need mentioning -

1. On 3 September the Working Group working with police met in Hunterville to discuss local policing options. All of the senior regional and district policing leaders were there in force. The meeting was constructive and the decision making will take many months but at least there is a genuine desire to engage.
2. The discussion regarding financing of the Gentle Annie roads with NZTA is difficult. NZTA's position is for our Council to reprioritise its existing funding which would leave us unable to do anything of any significance elsewhere on our network for the next two years! This will need to be a priority discussion for the next Council and probably a national level political approach.
3. On Friday 19 September there will be a meeting of forestry, roading, rail and port interests regarding a possible extension of the rail/train contract to alleviate the traffic on the Taihape-Napier Road. This will be pivotal for us – I am prepared to update further at the Council meeting.
4. Attached to this report is a response from NZTA in regard to the application for speed restrictions/signage on the Winiata straight just short of Taihape. These are discussions that are being led by Peter Hijazeen, Principal of St Joseph's School, Iwi and the Winiata Marae. We seem to have got what is a standard response, which is disappointing. The critical point will be where NZTA refers to signage – this needs to be signage at the Rauma Road junction and not just the prescribed signage outside of the school which will make very little difference to the safety and risk when turning from SH1 onto Rauma Road. I'm hoping that our roading team engages further with regards to this matter.
5. Also attached to this report is the standard reply from NZTA with regards to the Bulls intersection. It is a cop-out position where they say "...when the demand or safety concerns justify further investment". This is a rubbish position. The justification is there currently and I question whether it would take a fatality at this intersection for action to be taken. The intersection is regarded as a pinch-point officially in the network. Bulls is growing and the difficulty for people crossing the road is extreme. The bottom line is we need a response now.

### Elections

Firstly, this triennium has been tough, on both staff and councillors. The demands on staff time have been extreme and I know that I, and possibly others under pressure get frustrated around operational delays. I apologise, we are all tired and pushed. I thank staff on behalf of all councillors – we appreciate your diligence and attention to detail and the workloads you are facing.

Lastly, to councillors. To those not contesting this election, thank you to all of you for your time and sacrifice. At times it is a thankless job, you receive criticism and it is impossible to satisfy everyone. Please pass on my thanks to your families who have supported you. To those of you that are standing, good luck. Take the hiatus between terms to recharge.

## Mayor's Engagements

September 2025

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Climate Action Joint Committee Meeting Attended Mayoral Forum
2	Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
3	Attended Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting Attended Hunterville Policing Community Meeting
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended online meeting with NZTA/Hastings DC re Taihape-Napier Road
8	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended online meeting with Tower Insurance Attended Defence Force relationship meeting at Linton
9	Attended monthly governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended debrief with Aspiring Leaders Forum attendee Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
10	Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with governors and staff Attended Local Government Emergency Management Webinar
11	Attended fortnightly governance meeting on Marton Offices & Library project Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee meeting Attended Council Workshop Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting
12	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended LWDW Project Oversight Group Meeting – Mayors & CEs Attended Bulls & District Friendship Club meeting Attended Marton Friendship Club meeting
15	Attended monthly breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs online Governance Group meeting Attended Mayors Briefing before Council with Staff

16	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended McIntyre Reserve Meeting
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Elected Member LWDW Hui
18	Attended Maori Land Rate Remission Committee Meeting Attended St Matthews School for talk on being Mayor Attended BA5 function at Moomaa
19	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting Taihape-Napier Road meeting with stakeholders Attended Rangitikei College to judge Talent Quest
20	Attended Taihape Spring Festival
22	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Marton Christian Welfare AGM
23	Attended meeting with NZDF staff regarding housing in Bulls Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Defence Hub event at Ohakea
24	Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with governors and staff Attended BBQ and walkaround Tutaenui Dams Attended LWDW Project Oversight Group meeting with 3-Council Mayors/CEs
25	To attend fortnightly governance meeting on Marton Offices & Library project To attend Finance/Performance Committee Meeting To attend Council meeting
26	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend opening of Acute Mental Health Unit Nga Wai Ngaro at Palmerston North Hospital To attend monthly meeting with Police
29	To attend meeting with Sgt Major Sandy Paterson re Freedom of the Borough of Taihape To attend Manawatu-Whanganui Disaster Relief Fund Trust online AGM
30	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend Citizenship Ceremony To attend Business Rangitikei AGM To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor

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**Attachments:**

1. **NZTA Initial Response - SH1 Winiata Intersection - August 2025**
2. **NZTA Final Response - SH1/Winiata Mara - September 2025**
3. **NZTA Response - Bulls Intersection - September 2025**

**4. Elected Member Attendance**

**Recommendation**

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

22 August 2025

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Andy Watson  
Mayor  
Rangitīkei District Council  
[andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-10873

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your letter of 11 August 2025 regarding your request to reassess the speed limit and safety measures on State Highway 1 (SH1), south of Taihape.

I want to acknowledge the commitment you and the community have demonstrated in raising your safety needs with us. We recognise how important road safety is to everyone who travels, works, and lives along this stretch of highway, and we appreciate the time and advocacy invested in seeking improvements.

Under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024 (the Rule), NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) can carry out targeted speed reviews, including public consultation, in areas of high safety concern, provided they meet the Rule's requirements regarding speed limit ranges for different classifications of road. In this case, this stretch of state highway is classified as an interregional connector, which cannot have a permanent speed limit lower than 100km/h under the Rule.

While the Rule doesn't allow NZTA to review the 100km/h speed limit on this section of state highway due to its classification as an interregional connector, it does provide for the implementation of safety interventions. Such interventions can include consideration of variable speed limits (VSLs) outside of marae to protect vulnerable visitors and pedestrians.

Variable speed limits at marae would operate when there are large volumes of traffic turning out of the Marae, and in 15-minute periods when activated by the Marae to support the safety of pedestrians and vehicles associated with marae activity. With this in mind, and community feedback, NZTA have added a VSL for Winiata Marae to their list for review, subject to funding and resourcing.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with NZTA, you are welcome to contact me by email at [linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Linda Stewart**

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

5 September 2025

Andy Watson  
Mayor  
Rangitikei District Council  
[andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-10914

Dear Andy

Thank you for your letter of 11 August 2025 regarding your council's endorsement of Peter Hijazeen's submission to reassess speed limits on and around State Highway 1 (SH1) and Rauma Road.

Regarding the speed limit, our current immediate priority for speed management on state highways is implementing variable speed limits outside schools and delivering speed limit changes linked to specific projects, including intersection zones through to 1 July 2026. However, we recognise that community input is invaluable, and we continue to consider community-requested speed reviews, provided they align with the *Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024* (the Rule), the speed classifications outlined in Schedule 3 of the Rule, and funding is available.

I can confirm that SH1 south of Taihape is listed on our speed management register as a regional priority through to 2027. All community-requested speed limit changes, including requests for variable speed limits (VSLs) or intersection speed zones, recorded in our register are subject to a moderation and national prioritisation process. We are working towards reviewing the speed limit at this location by the end of this year, subject to funding and resourcing. We will keep the community informed as progress is made.

I assure you that safety remains a key priority for NZ Transport Agency waka Kotahi (NZTA), alongside the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, which requires that speed limits take into account economic impacts (including travel times) as well as community views. Stakeholders such as councils, schools, businesses, iwi, and the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on any proposed speed limit changes as part of the six-week public consultation required by the Rule.

Lastly, regarding your reference to the Rauma Road intersection, Mr Hijazeen queried the utility of a turning bay. However, the intersection does not currently meet the warrant criteria for a turning bay

following our analysis of the turning traffic volumes, crash data and future plans for the area. However, all feedback from local communities like yours is valued and helps inform our future decisions.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with NZTA, you are welcome to contact me by email to [linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Stewart".

**Linda Stewart**

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

5 September 2025

Andy Watson  
Mayor  
Rangitikei District Council  
[andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-10911

Dear Andy

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2025 regarding your concerns around traffic issues at the junction of State Highways 1 and 3 (SH1 and SH3).

Improvements to this intersection are included in the *Accessing Central New Zealand Programme Business Case* (PBC), which was completed in 2020. This programme outlines a preferred set of safety and access improvements across the transport network between Waiouru, Levin, and Ashhurst, connecting with Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway over the next 30 years. The PBC serves as a strategic guide for transport investment in the Manawatū region.

As you will be aware, transport investments must be included in the *National Land Transport Programme* (NLTP), which sets out how NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) works with partners and stakeholders to deliver a safer, more accessible, better connected, and more resilient land transport system.

The 2024–27 NLTP was confirmed last year and reflects the Government's strategic priorities for land transport, as outlined in the *Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024*. While improvements to the SH1/SH3 intersection in Bulls are not included in the 2024–27 NLTP, activities identified in the PBC will be considered in the development of future NLTPs.

I can also advise that the Bulls intersection is under ongoing monitoring, and improvements will be undertaken when demand or safety concerns justify further investment.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with NZTA, you are welcome to contact me by email to [linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Linda Stewart**

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
30-Jul-25	Youth Council	PR				PR								PR
31-Jul-25	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR				PR	AP	PR			PR
31-Jul-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR
7-Aug-25	Turakina CC	PR		PR										
11-Aug-25	Hunertville RWS	PR			PR			PR		PR				
11-Aug-25	Hunertville CC	CB			PR			PR						
12-Aug-25	TRAK	PR				PR	PR						AP	
13-Aug-25	Taihape CB	PR				PR								PR
13-Aug-25	Marton CC	CB	PR											
14-Aug-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
27-Aug-25	Santoft Domain	PR		PR										
28-Aug-25	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR				PR	PR	PR			PR
28-Aug-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
2-Sep-25	Erewhon RWS													
3-Sep-25	RA Meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR					
10-Sep-25	Bulls CC													
11-Sep-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP		AP	PR	AP	PR	AT	PR	
11-Sep-25	Council Workshop													
11-Sep-25	CGC Meeting	PR		PR	PR	AP			PR		PR		PR	
18-Sep-25	MLRR Meeting	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

Minutes not received

## 8.2 Mayor's Report - October 2025

**Author:** **Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

Good Morning all

After weeks of electioneering we finally had the provisional election results on 11 October. My congratulations go to everybody who stood for Council. It is a tough process where you are open to public scrutiny and essentially you are all standing to support your community. Further congratulations to those who won positions on Council or Community Boards - the hard work starts now. Suddenly over the next few days your diaries will be taken over with a huge number of briefing and professional training dates.

Council was formally inducted on 23 October so officially at the time of writing this report I am one day into the three year term. As part of that induction Councillors were officially "signed in" in front of many of their family, friends and supporters which was great to see. The other formal roles for me on the day were to announce that Dave Wilson will be the Deputy Mayor and to set in place Community Committees and some of the Council structure. Dave has been a huge support, he chairs the Assets/Infrastructure Committee and will fill in for me often. At times we beg to differ which is healthy. I have no hesitation in asking him to take on the role of Deputy Mayor.

The process for setting up Community Committees for Hunterville, Turakina, Marton and Bulls will start shortly with Council led nomination processes. Please, if you are interested in being on one of these community committees feel free to reach out to myself, Councillors or past committee members.

I recently attended "Mayor's School" – a two day session in Wellington on 20-21 October. All mayors new and returning were invited. This triennium there are 33 new mayors representing half of the districts in New Zealand. This level of turnover of mayors is unprecedented and will be a challenge nationally. The President of LGNZ (Local Government New Zealand) lost his position along with several National Board Members. As a consequence I have been asked to take on some added responsibilities. Mayor Bernie (Horowhenua) and I have agreed to co-Chair the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) until at least early next year when the Governance will be able to hold elections. Bernie and I already sit on the Governance Board for MTFJ so that is at least a natural progression. It will involve more ministerial meetings to administer what is a multi-million dollar contract to provide for employment of young people in New Zealand. The other national committee that I have been involved with is the Transport Focus Group that engages with NZTA on roading, something that I'm passionate about. That group will also need restructuring with Mayor Neil Holdom (New Plymouth) choosing not to stand for re-election.

"Back to School"

The Mayor's School was all about updating mayors on their responsibilities and providing peer support for new mayors. The standout sessions were –

- Leading Disaster Relief and Response - this was a briefing for mayors on their roles in Civil Defence. The session turned out to be fortuitous with many mayors returning to face declarations for wind and rain damage. The Tararua and Ruapehu Districts were particularly hard hit. The Rangitīkei once again "dodged a bullet" with little relative damage compared

to other areas. However, we are not over these events - as I write there are further forecasts for heavy wind and rain regionally throughout our areas and Horizons over Labour Weekend.

- The Day 1 presentation at Mayor's School on Getting to Grips with Government Reform and Shaping Local Government's Response was pertinent and current. I will attach the notes from this session as an appendix. The officials from LGNZ were right on point in their analysis of the work ahead that is needed.
- Equally compelling was a presentation session on Navigating Iwi Relationships which is also appended to my report. This is extremely topical with both Maori wards being dropped, the referendum for the Rangitīkei and the need to ascertain the engagement that is needed with Iwi under Local Water Done Well establishment of the Regional Water Entity with the Rangitīkei, Horowhenua and Palmerston North partnership.

Onto a couple of recent highlights and local briefings -

1. On 14 October Dave Wilson and I attended an in-depth briefing/site visit to the bore testing site at the Marton B&C Dams. We certainly increased our knowledge and appreciation of the nano filtration process and how microbes are being used to eat the manganese in the water. The visit increased my confidence that things are on track.
2. Recently the Argyle Hotel in Hunterville was put on the market. Hunterville, being the community it is, decided that "Hunterville" should buy it and as I understand, there were letters sent out to around about 50 local farmers, identities and residents asking to contribute to a shareholding. Those options were rapidly picked up and around \$1.3m has been spent on this project. The results are absolutely stunning with the availability of country flavoured world class cuisine, bar and meeting areas, along with new shops fronting the main road. Hunterville you need to be congratulated! I attended the shareholder's function/opening night and there were a huge number of people there who had been involved. A lot of the work in the building had been done by local tradespeople and people volunteering their time. If you get a chance when passing through Hunterville call in and have a drink and something to eat and admire what has been done by the local community.
3. On 14 October I attended the inaugural presentation of the New Zealand Animal Distinguished Service Award to Merenia Donne MNZM, founder of the Kotuku Foundation Assistance Animals Aotearoa, by Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro at Government House. The award recognised the courage and devotion of Merenia's dog Nikita who following a serious car accident subsequently acted as her assistance dog. Congratulations Merenia on your achievement in raising an assistance animal.

We all know that this triennium will be challenging, we know that the time demands on Councillors will be huge but it is also the opportunity for our district to be able to move forward with major projects that are nearing completion so it is an exciting time.

## Mayor's Engagements

October 2025

1	Attended meeting with Tangi Utikere
2	Attended Meet & Greet with Te Roopu Oranga in Taihape Attended Turakina Community Committee meeting
6	Attended exercise event at Marton Memorial Hall Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting
7	Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs' Matters (fortnightly catch-up) Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting Attended Ratana Community Board Meeting
8	Attended fortnightly update on Marton Water Strategy with staff Attended monthly Governor's Q&A with Executive Leadership Team Attended Emergency Management Leadership Group Webinar Attended Marton Community Committee Meeting
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Meet & Greet with new DIA Partnership Director Attended meeting with Ministry of Social Development staff in Whanganui Attended Nga Tawa School AGM Attended Argyle Hotel Shareholders Function
10	Attended LWDW CCO Project Oversight Group Meeting in Foxton Attended Hunterville School Jump Jam Practice Session Attended Taihape Grandstand Meeting
13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with Cr Dave Wilson Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council Meetings with staff Attended Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs online discussion
14	Attended site visit to Marton Trial Plant at Tutaenui Reservoir with staff Attended New Zealand Animal Distinguished Service Award presentation at Government House
15	Attended meeting regarding Risk & Assurance Committee Attended LWDW Poopu/Project Oversight Group Hui in Levin Attended meeting with Cr Fi Dalgety Attended October BA5 (GreenChem) at Three High Street
16	Attended Informal Chat/Induction with New Council Attended meeting with Cr Buckendahl Attended meeting with Cr Hainsworth

	Attended NZ Food Awards Gala Event in Palmerston North
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with Cr Field Attended Online Meeting re TUIA and Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Attended online meeting with Elected Member Retreat Facilitator Attended online Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group meeting
18	Attended Multi-Cultural Feast & Festival at Memorial Hall
20	Attended LGNZ Mayor's School in Wellington
21	Attended LGNZ Mayor's School in Wellington
22	Attended Fortnightly Meeting with Staff re Marton Water Strategy Attended RDC Scholarship Interviews at Taihape Area School Attended meeting with Cr Wong Attended meeting with Cr Hiroa Attended meeting with Cr O'Fee
23	Attended meeting with Cr Sharland Attended meeting with Cr Baird Attended Council Workshop Attended Whakatau and Inaugural Council Meeting Attended LWDW Project Oversight Group online Meeting
24	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended RDC Scholarship Interviews at Rangitikei College Attended Civil Defence Emergency Management Mayor's Online Briefing Attended meeting with Cr Raukawa
25	Attended OctoberFast event at Manfield
26	Attended Turakina Church 175 Years of the Grant Family celebration
28	Attended Erewhon Rural Water Supply Inspection Day Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
29	Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme online meeting Attended BA5 Event at Hautapu Rural Supplies in Taihape
30	To attend Induction for new Council/Workshop To attend First Ordinary Council Meeting
31	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend Elected Member Retreat in Bulls

**Attachments:**

- 1. Engagement with Iwi**
- 2. Getting to Grips with Government Reform**

**Recommendation**

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

# **Navigating Iwi relationships**

DINNIE MOEAHU



Workbook p21



# NAVIGATING IWİ RELATIONSHIPS

DINNIE MOEAHU

## INTENDED OUTCOMES



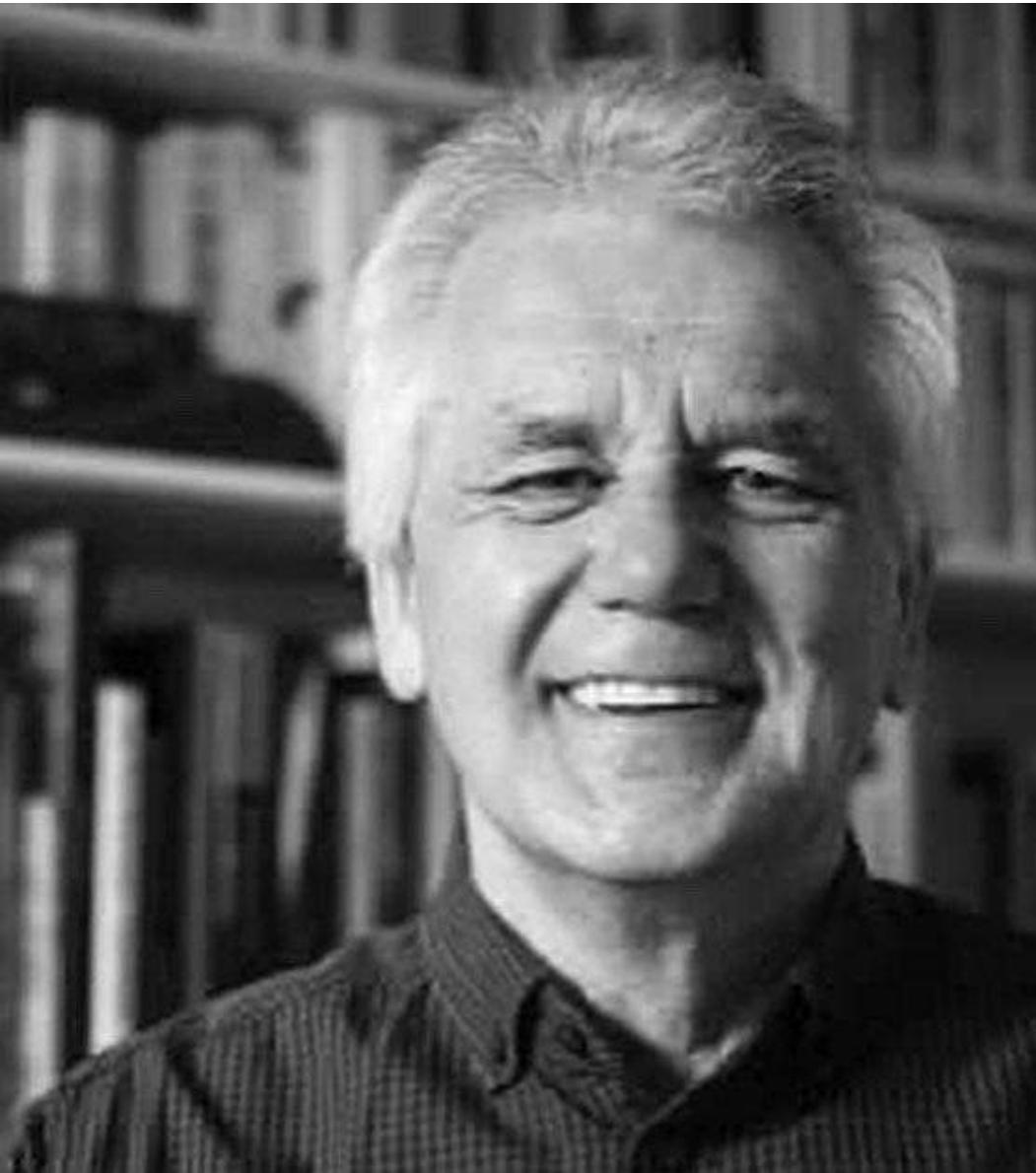
**Provide education and understanding**



**Improve overall cultural awareness**

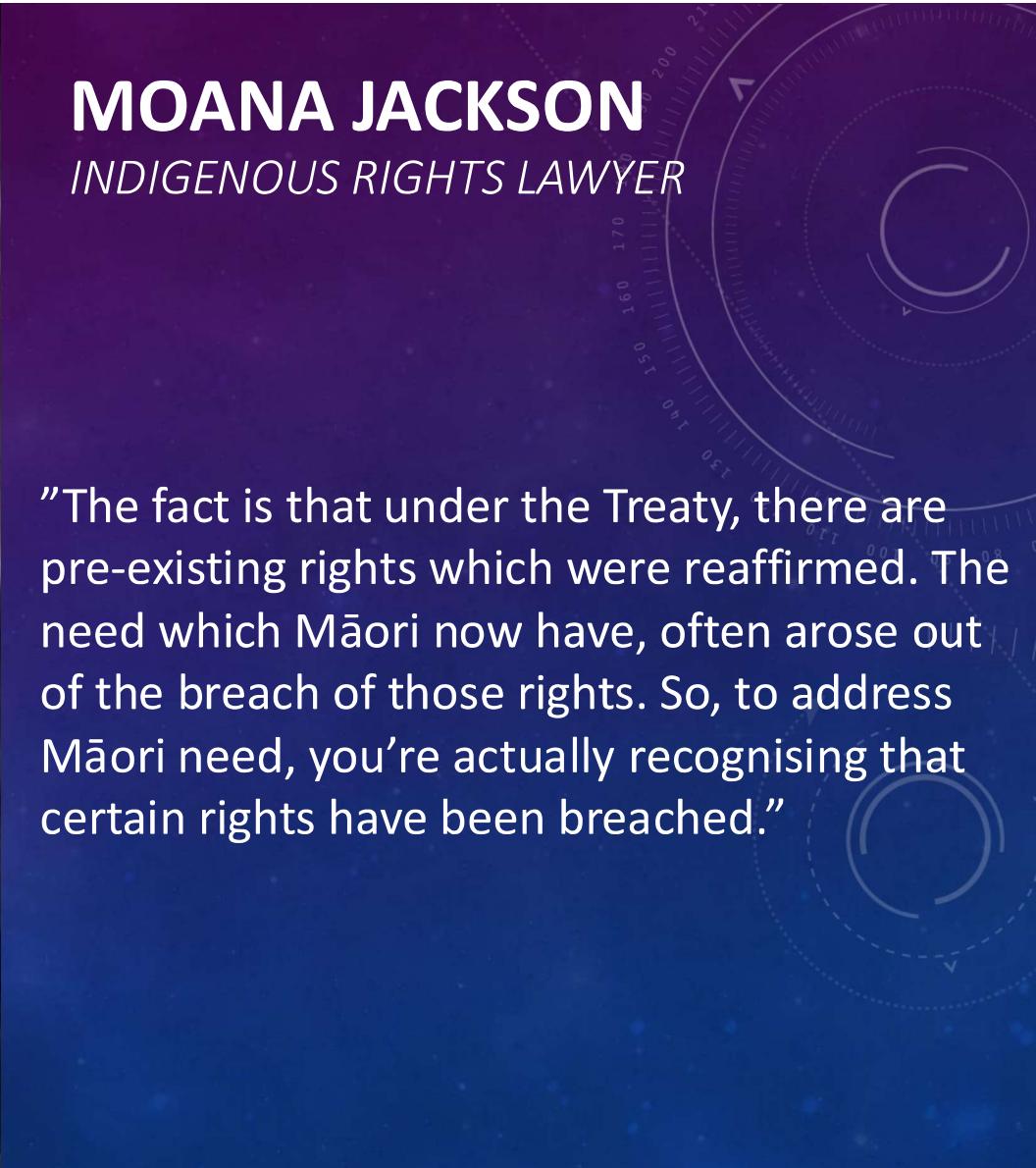


**Provide tools to assist in building  
stronger relationships with Hapū and  
Iwi**



## MOANA JACKSON

*INDIGENOUS RIGHTS LAWYER*

A circular graphic element in the background of the right-hand section. It consists of several concentric circles and arcs in a light purple color. Numerical values (100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220) are printed along the outer edge of the circles. Small arrows point outwards from the outer edge of the circles.

"The fact is that under the Treaty, there are pre-existing rights which were reaffirmed. The need which Māori now have, often arose out of the breach of those rights. So, to address Māori need, you're actually recognising that certain rights have been breached."

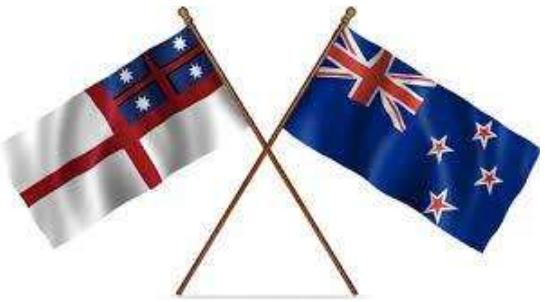
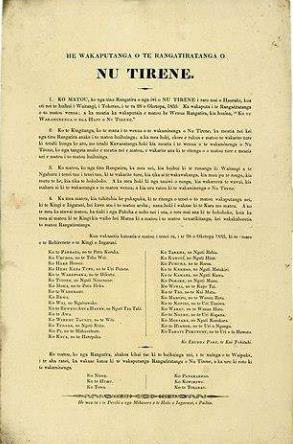
# HE WHAKAPUTANGA O TE RANGATIRATANGA O NU TIRENI

- Signed 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1835

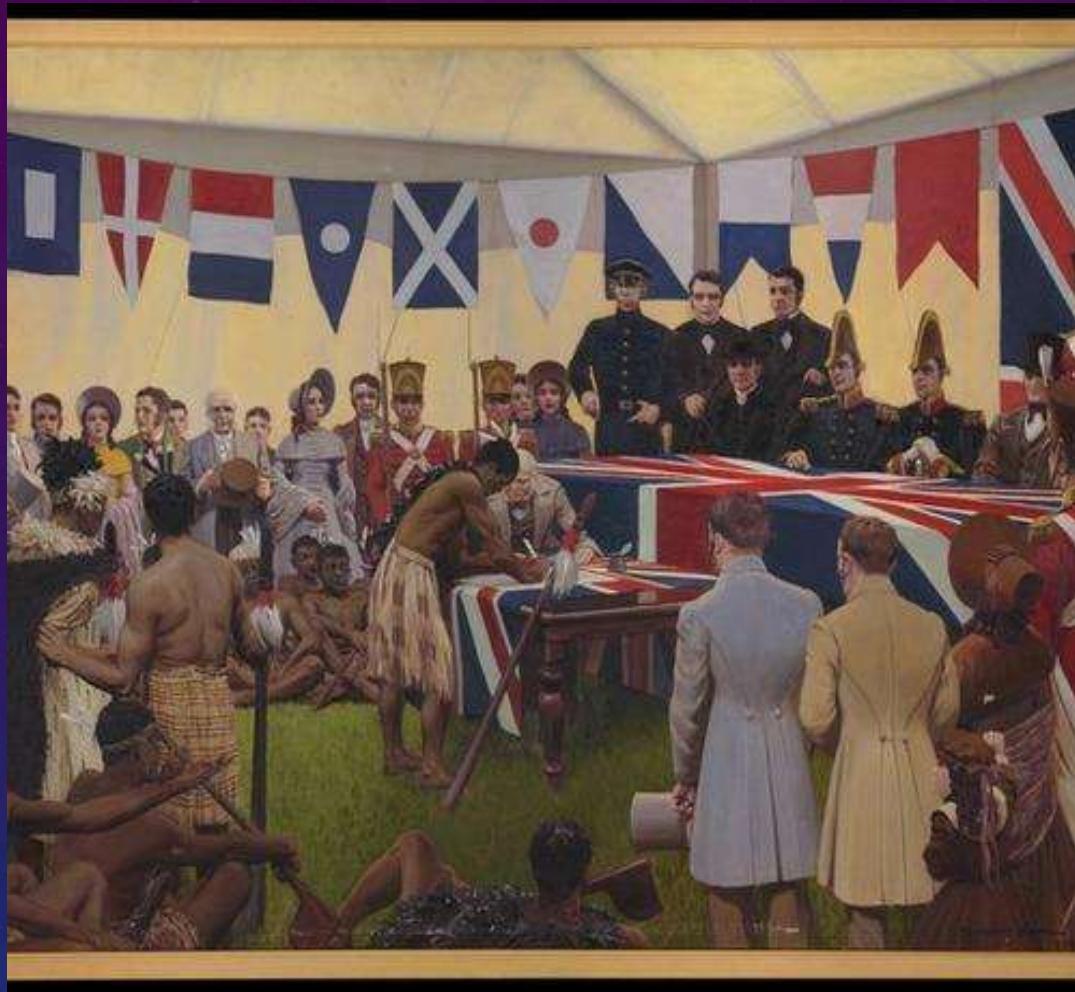
- 34 Rangatira initially signed

- Further 18 Rangatira signed over the next 3 and a half years

- Declared independence as a sovereign nation acknowledged by the British Crown (1836)



# WHAKAPAPA OF TE TIRITI O WAITANGI



February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1840



An agreement made between the Crown and Māori



There are two versions that are recognised by the Crown



49 Chiefs signed the English version



More than 500 Māori Chiefs signed the Te Reo version



Te Tiriti Principles

## ARTICLE 1: KĀWANATANGA

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** Gave Queen Victoria governance over the land.
- **The Treaty of Waitangi:** Gave Queen Victoria sovereignty over the land. Māori give Queen Victoria all the rights and powers of sovereignty over the land
- *The key differences are the words ‘tino rangatiratanga’ or ‘mana’ & ‘kāwanatanga’*

## ARTICLE 2: TINO RANGATIRATANGA

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** Guaranteed rangatira ‘te tino rangatiratanga’— **full rights of chieftainship** over their lands, villages and taonga. It also gave the Crown the right to deal with Māori in purchasing land.
- **The Treaty of Waitangi:** Rangatira are given ‘**exclusive and undisturbed possession**’ of lands, forests, fisheries and other property. The Crown was also given an exclusive right to deal with Māori in purchasing land.



## ARTICLE 3: ORITETANGA

- The Crown gave Māori the guarantee of full participation as equals to British subjects.



## CASE FINDINGS

- Te Paparahi o Te Raki Waitangi Tribunal report (2014) stated that the signatories did not cede sovereignty.
- Courts have long applied Treaty principles (not the literal text) in statute. NZ Māori Council v Attorney General lands case (1987).

The 1986 Royal Commission recognised the Treaty of Waitangi as New Zealand's founding document and affirmed that its principles should guide government practice.

## STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HAPŪ & IWI



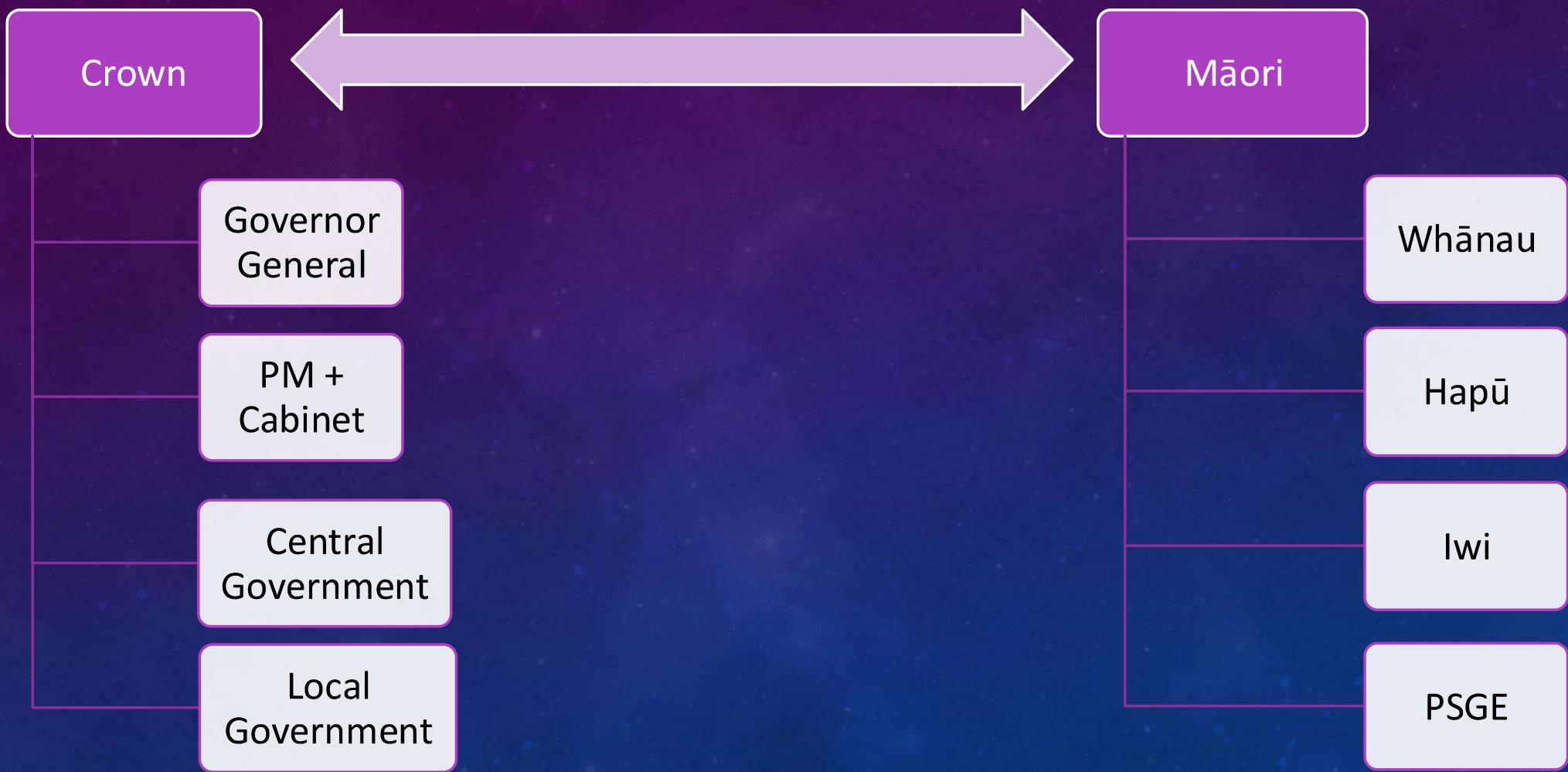
- The 1986 Royal Commission recognised the Treaty of Waitangi as New Zealand's founding document and affirmed that its principles should guide government practice.
- Acknowledges the Crown's obligation to protect Māori interests and uphold the spirit of partnership between Māori and the Crown.
- **WHY** do you want to engage?
- **WHO** do you engage with?
- **HOW** do you want to engage?

# IT'S THE LAW

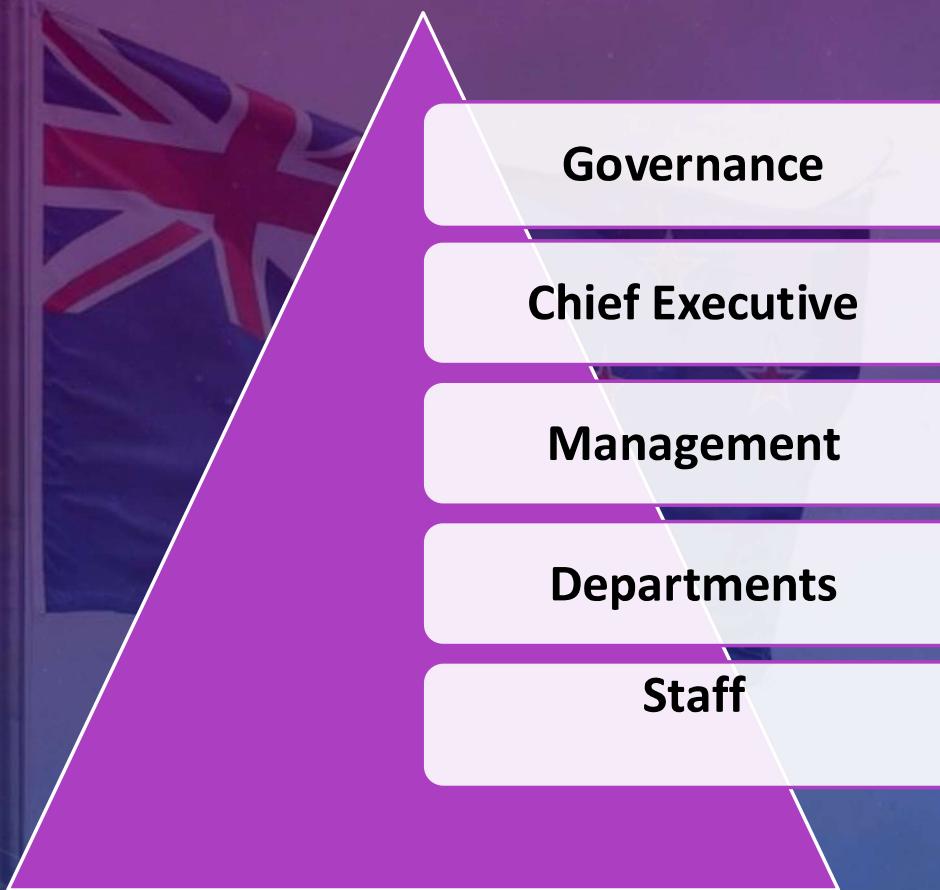
*Councils are bound by legislation.*

- *Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).*
- *s4 (Treaty principles), s14 (governance principles), s 81 (Māori participation), s 82 (consultation).*
- *Other legislation*
- *A variety of treaty settlement legislation*

# WHAKAPAPA



# KAWANATANGA & TINO RANGATIRATANGA



# RELATIONSHIPS & PARTNERSHIP

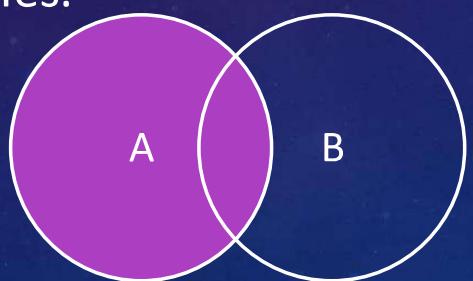
## INDEPENDENT

Partners working independent of each other.



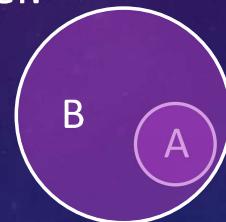
## CO-OPERATIVE

Partners working together on agreed priorities.



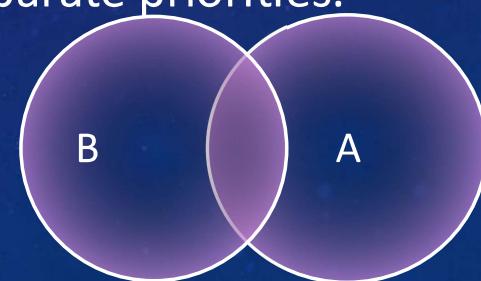
## DIRECTIVE

Dominant partner directs the work of the subordinate partner.



## COLLABORATIVE

Partners agree to work together on their joint and separate priorities.



# WHO: DO YOU KNOW YOUR HAPŪ & IWİ?

## Working with Tangata Whenua

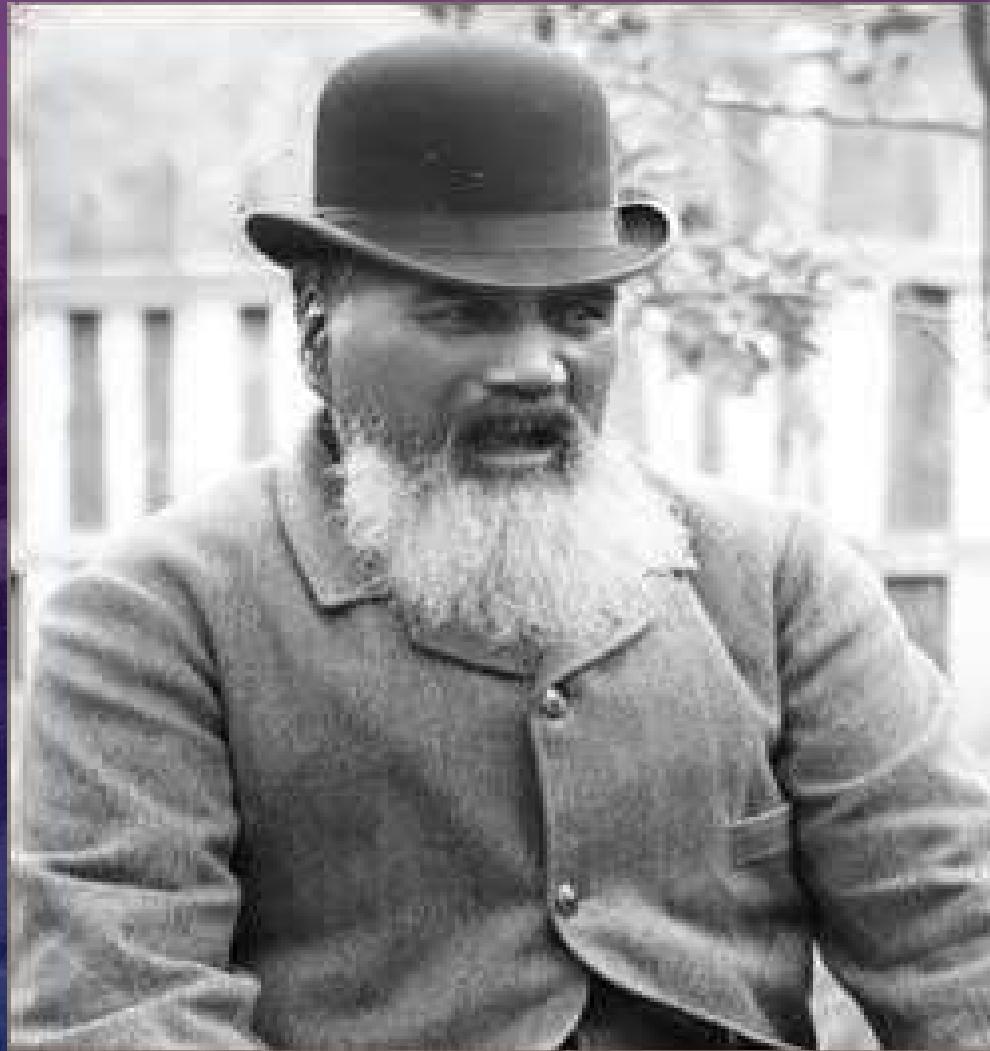
### Setting

#### Tangata Whenua

As tangata whenua, six iwi and their respective hapū exercise mana whenua over traditionally defined areas across the New Plymouth District.

Iwi	Population (Census 2013)	Hapū	Mandated Representative Body
Ngāti Maniapoto	35,358	Ngāti Rākei Ngāti Rungaterangi Ngāti Rora	Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
Ngāti Tama	1,338		Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama
Ngāti Mutunga	2,514	Ngāti Okiokinga Te Kekerewai Ngāti Aurutu Ngāti Hinetuhi	Te Runanga o Ngāti Mutunga
Ngāti Maru	852	Ngāti Hinemokai Ngāti Rongonui Ngāti Kopua, Ngāti Tamatapu	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru Taranaki Trust
Te Āti Awa	15,273	Otāraua Manukorihī Ngāti Tuparikino Ngāti Rahiri	Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa
Taranaki Iwi	6,087	Ngāti Tairi Ngā Mahanga	Ngāti Tairi Ngā Mahanga

The South Taranaki iwi of Ngāruahine, together with Ngāti Maniapoto also have overlapping Treaty of Waitangi Settlement interests within the southern and northern boundaries of the district.



## KŌRERO TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING

*ENGAGE MEANINGFULLY WITH YOUR HAPŪ  
& IWI LEADERS*

*HOW CAN WE STRENGTHEN OUR  
RELATIONSHIP?*

*HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER FOR THE  
BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY?*

# HOW: TO YOU GIVE EFFECT TO TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

*PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH BETTER UNDERSTANDING*

<b>Governance</b>	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Individual</b>
Cultural Induction	Legislation and Policy Review	Cultural Induction
Te Tiriti o Waitangi Induction	HR Policy Review	Te Tiriti Induction
Legislation Induction on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LGA (2002)</li><li>• RMA (1991)</li><li>• LTMA (2003)</li><li>• Professional development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comms</li><li>• Resources</li><li>• Processes</li><li>• Employment</li><li>• Professional development</li><li>• Cultural audit</li><li>• Committee structures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waiata practise</li><li>• Kōrero Māori</li><li>• Pepeha training</li><li>• Marae visits</li><li>• Wananga</li><li>• Te Reo classes</li><li>• Professional development</li></ul>



***“ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A SHARED PAST, WE ALSO HAVE A SHARED FUTURE”***

# **Getting to grips with government reforms, and how to shape LGNZ's advocacy**

SCOTT NECKLEN  
SIMON RANDALL



Workbook p11



# GETTING TO GRIPS WITH REFORMS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM



## Current and upcoming changes

- > Annual council profiles
- > System Improvements Bill
  - > Focused purpose statement and defined core services in the Local Government Act
  - > Requirements for elected members to be provided with necessary information
  - > Greater emphasis on freedom of expression and need to collaborate for elected members
  - > Uniform standard Standing Orders and Code of Conduct for all councils

## Impacts for councils

- > Greater scope for legal challenge, greater cost, or risk aversion when making decisions
- > No ability to adjust code of conduct or standing orders

# GETTING TO GRIPS WITH REFORMS: FUNDING AND FINANCE



## Current and upcoming changes

- > Rates capping
- > *Going for Housing Growth* changes
  - > Amendments to the Infrastructure Funding and Finance Act (IFF Act)
  - > Introduction of Development Levies
  - > Targeted rates set on date of subdivision
- > City and regional deals

## Impacts for councils

- > Greater funding pressures, greater borrowing costs
- > New and improved tools for debt constrained councils to fund and finance growth infrastructure
- > Increased cost and administrative burden from economic regulation over rates capping and development levies

# GETTING TO GRIPS WITH REFORMS: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



## Current and upcoming changes

- > A range of new and changed National Direction in the current RMA
- > Replacement of the RMA with a Planning Act and a Natural Environment Act
  - > A single regional plan with a spatial chapter, an environmental chapter, and a planning chapter per city and district
  - > More direction and consistency set at the national level
  - > Emphasis on protecting private property rights and enabling use and development

## Impacts for councils

- > High implementation costs and short timeframes
- > Reduced scope of decision making, and community input
- > Changed roles and responsibilities of local government

# GETTING TO GRIPS WITH REFORMS: WATER



## Current and upcoming changes

### > Local Water Done Well

- > Implementation of Water Service Delivery plans
- > Establishment of Water Organisations
- > Preliminary and final economic regulation requirements
- > Wastewater performance standards
- > New stormwater risk management provisions

## Impacts for councils

- > Costs and complexity of implementation and operation
- > Separation of water planning from other asset and financial planning
- > Costs and administrative burden from greater transparency and economic regulation

# **GETTING TO GRIPS WITH REFORMS:** **CLIMATE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**



## **Current and upcoming changes**

- > New Emergency Management legislation with minimum levels of service
- > Climate Adaptation Framework – requirements for planning and investment including adaptation planning in priority areas

## **Impacts for councils**

- > Role clarity – locally led planning and response
- > Costs from minimum levels of service for emergency management and regulation of adaptation decisions

## 8.1 Mayor's Report - November 2025

**Author:** **Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

**Good afternoon,**

So much is happening at the moment! Firstly, my congratulations again to Councillors elected to represent the district. All of the Councillors, new and old, are taking part in the series of workshops provided by Local Government as a “101” on their roles and responsibilities, attending the Local Water Done Well workshops and everyone is wanting to be on the northern and southern tours of our district. That is impressive! I apologise for the heavy workload at the start of the triennium, hopefully next year it will settle down a little and there will be the Christmas break to look forward to.

The most significant thing that has happened over the last month was the signing of the “Agreement in Principle” for the Mokai Patea treaty settlement process. While I am certainly no authority on this I will try and explain it, with apologies if I am found wanting.

Mōkai Patea represents the hapu and iwi of Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Tama Kōpiri, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāi Te Ohuake in the northern part of the Rangitīkei. The signing of the draft Agreement in Principle on 5 November at Parliament is part of the journey for redress, financial and land transfer accompanied by an apology from the Crown. This treaty claim was started many years ago – progressed under the then Minister Andrew Little (now Mayor of Wellington) and signed off by Minister Goldsmith. My understanding is that this is one step, a significant one, in the process of a draft position taken back by the negotiations to iwi/hapu of the region for approval.

This is a very complex settlement and at its heart is also the issue of landlocked iwi land. 70% of the Maori land in the north of our district is landlocked with no practical right or means of access. Addressing this issue will be partly by the settlement process and a separate process to be identified by the parties nationally but that must start in the lands around Taihape.

I acknowledge the huge amount of mahi undertaken by the Mokai Patea Waitangi Claims Trust and Iwi negotiators during this process.

### **Local Water Done Well (LWDW)**

To shorten the report I will use bullet points –

- In August, Horowhenua, Palmerston North City and Rangitīkei Councils submitted to Internal Affairs our Water Services Delivery Plan. This plan talked about how the delivery of wastewater, drinking water and storm water would be managed. It referred to capital projects known at this time and centered on financial matters such as revenue streams, financing and sustainability.
- That plan has now been signed off in Wellington so the entity is now live to be actioned, i.e. a decision made, something that by legislation cannot be undone.
- There is much to be done in a very short space of time. This includes setting up a shareholders governance committee comprised of the owners of the entity the three councils, supported hopefully by Iwi and possibly with an independent chair. This

governance board then appoints the entity board, the operational arm, and advises on strategies/direction.

- Our council staff are very active in supporting this process that comes at cost but which will be 'reimbursed' by the entity.
- The three councils have engaged Propero, a recruitment company to help establish the new entity board and chair.
- The new entity now has a name! Central Districts Water.
- We envisage that the number of councils in Central Districts Water will grow over time. We currently have in excess of 60,000 connections which is crucial to gain efficiency. I suspect in the long term future there will end up being about 10 entities in New Zealand, ironically the amended vision of the Labour Government.

### Rural & Provincial

Earlier this month "Rural and Provincial" councils met in Wellington. These are all the councils, with the exception of the large metro councils, i.e. Wellington, Auckland etc. I have attached a link to speaker slides to this report. Relevant points were –

- Meeting opened by **President Sam Broughton** from Selwyn District. Sam lost his position as Mayor and has signalled he will stand down as President of Local Government New Zealand after Christmas. This will mean an election of a new president of LGNZ at the annual general meeting next year. In the short term the President will be the Mayor of Gisborne, Rehette Stoltz.
- MC for the event was **Sanchia Jacobs**, working currently for BECA and previous CE of Central Otago. (I note Sanchia was not charging for her time and expertise).
- First session – Christine Maiden Sharp (Aspen Institute). This session was on "how to think not what to think" and key points were –
  - i) Take your time (slow down)
  - ii) Start with facts not assumptions
  - iii) Check the source of information
  - iv) Rely on data
  - v) Spot the traps early
  - vi) \*Avoid status quo bias, i.e. doing what you have always done.
- Ministerial Address – **Hon. Mark Patterson**, Associate Minister of Agriculture and an Otago sheep and beef farmer –
  - i) He wanted a "free and frank conversation".
  - ii) Pointed out that 82% of New Zealand exports are from the rural zone.
  - iii) Talked about the RIF (Regional Infrastructure Fund) which the metros are excluded from. (Note: Erewhon Rural Water Scheme have an application for assistance lodged/likely to be approved). Tranche 2 of the RIF has just been advised. The focus of the funds are to drive the iwi economy, employment, energy use (including deep geothermal) and aims to provide help for struggling districts. \$350m will be allocated before Christmas.
  - iv) The Minister talked about the relationship between Central Government and Local Government which is not great. His advice was to use local MPs well.

- v) "There is a tsunami of legislation changes coming to you before Christmas". Legislation will be around RMA changes certainly but will include many other areas. The RMA changes will be pragmatic and contentious and will be about protecting individual property rights. They will be signed to gain economic traction/growth and employment.
- vi) He talked about, or hinted about, Regional Council reform.
- vii) Rates capping will happen.
- viii) He asked Councils to please prioritise emergency preparedness.
- **Peter Dunne** (formally Head of United Future) –
  - i) Talked about the forces that shape policy and political insight and reflected that the 50% of mayors changed were predominantly from high rate increase councils and urged to live within your means!
  - ii) "The partnership between Central and Local Government is not equal. This needs careful navigation and Wayne Brown (Auckland) has managed to achieve thing these challenges".
- **Brad Olsen** (Infometrics Economist) –
  - i) Forecast is that inflation will sit around 2% through to 2030.
  - ii) Regional variations in New Zealand are significant with strengths in the bottom of the South Island.
  - iii) Huge risk going forward is the increasing number of days New Zealand is under civil defence status.
- Presentation from **Helmut Modlik** (Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira). Key messages –
  - i) Social and environmental insights
  - ii) "Be open to seeing more"
  - iii) "Have an open mind"
  - iv) "Listen before saying".
- **Chris Penk**
  - i) Talked about the reform of the Public Works Act
  - ii) Earthquake prone legislation
- **Rates capping conversation** –

Scott Phillips, CE Northen Beaches Council Sydney  
Sue Heins, Mayor Northern Beaches Council Sydney

  - i) Rates capping has been in place for 40 years?!
  - ii) State Enquiry recommended removal or rates capping – didn't happen.
  - iii) Last 4 years the rates cap has not met cost increases.
  - iv) They rely on a system of State/Federal grants.
  - v) There is a process for special variation to rates.
  - vi) Overall message – rates capping does not work!
- New representatives elected –
  - i) Rural Rep – Ben Bell (Gore Mayor)
  - ii) Rural Rep to National Council yet to be elected.
  - iii) Provincial Rep – Nigel Brown (Timaru)
  - iv) Provincial Rep to National Council – Tania Tapsell (Rotorua)

- Other Presentations –
  - i) **Richard Ward** introduced DIA partnership directors – referred to rates capping, codes of conduct etc.
  - ii) **Nadeine Dommisso**, Deputy Secretary of Ministry for the Environment – management of adaption – will look to circulate some of the presentations later.
  - iii) **John Prince** Director of Civil Defence, **Craig Little** Wairoa Mayor, **Will Foley** Mayor Central Hawkes Bay – their experiences of devastation/response Cyclone Gabrielle.

### **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs**

On 14 November I attended a meeting of the core group of Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs in Wellington. The core group is open to all Mayors in the MTFJ programme and 18 attended.

- Mayor Bernie (Horowhenua) and I are co-Chairs of the governance arm of MTFJ after the election loss of the Chair Alex Walker (Central Hawkes Bay).
- Neither Bernie or I want the chairmanship so we are setting up elections early in the new year and have been looking at succession options.
- Funding for MTFJ (\$9m this year) was through Viv Rickard (MSD) and he attended the meeting for an hour (after saying he could only spend 30 minutes). He praised the placement results and said the second tranche of funding would be put in place soon.
- Viv pointed out that one-third of all MSD contracts for funding are turned over each year and MTFJ is the exception to that statistic.
- New Zealand currently has 218,000 job seekers, i.e. 5.3% unemployment, which is high. Regional variation is huge – Moko Tepania (Far North Mayor) has an unemployment figure of 20%.
- Viv, in praise, said that “you can go into places where we (MSD) can't”.
- Viv mentioned the success of James and Louise McCoard in the Rangitīkei. Once again the Rangitīkei is leading the national statistics.
- However, there are challenges with MSD referrals to MTFJ and as a consequence some districts are not hitting KPI targets.

### **Zone Meetings**

- At the time of writing this report, the Zone 3 meeting to be hosted by Horizons in Palmerston North has not occurred but will happen later this week (20/21 November). I will provide a verbal update at the 27 November council meeting.
- Mayor Craig Little (Wairoa) and I co-Chair Zone 3, something that I expect to continue.
- I have put my name forward, as has Craig, to represent the Zone on the LGNZ Board so there will be an election.
- A number of Councillors from our Council have said they will attend the Zone 3 meeting and I thank them for their interest.
- Horizons has also had a change of Chair with Nikki Riley taking the leadership.
- I attach the agenda for the Zone 3 meeting.

## Nga Wai Tōtā

This month there have been three days spent on this committee –

- The first was a two day hui on the Whangaehu River with the first day a paddle down 20kms of the river and a series of site visits at Whangaehu and Whangaehu beach. The second day was a meeting day at Whangaehu Marae.
- On 17 November there was a hui at Te Poho o Tuariki (Hendersons Line Ngā Wairiki Ngati Apa) looking at setting visions and purpose.
- The Whangaehu River catchment - Te Waiū o Te Ika has been accorded special status as an awa by way of the Ngāti Rangi treaty settlement process and as legislated our Council supplies membership to Nga Wai Tōtā to be part of guardianship of the awa.

## A quick summary of important meetings, either held or coming up

- Armistice Day celebrations on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month were held across the district this month as a remembrance of the end of World War I. I thank the RSA for the ceremonies.
- Today, 18 November, there will be a public drop-in information session regarding the Marton Main Street upgrade plans. The important thing to note here is that this is a long term vision – a plan that can be referred to in the future with no funding decision attached to it at the moment. The consultancy plan was delivered courtesy of Government funding not rates!

## Community Volunteer Awards

The Inaugural Community Volunteer Awards were held in March 2023 to recognise the countless volunteers who have contributed significantly to the community service, welfare, sport and recreation, culture, arts and education sectors in our district. A budget of \$10,000 was approved through the LTP. Three elected members plus the Mayor formed a panel to assess nominations from the community to select 5 award recipients plus one award of the Mayor's choice. Approximately 100 guests gathered at Te Matapihi to honour the people who go above and beyond for our district in a stunning night of celebration that was also attended by local MPs and dignitaries. Each nomination was preceded by a 5 minute professional video and interview and recipients were awarded a glass engraved trophy by our Elected Members. Canape catering and refreshments were served during the ceremony. Professional photographs took place during and after the event. The total cost of the evening was \$16175. Approximately \$2000 of this can be re-used for future years events. Around 120 hours of staff time were involved including event planning, graphic design, managing nominations and co-ordination of the evening. The intention was to run the awards every second year but as 2025 was an election year it was agreed to wait until 2026 when they have been tentatively scheduled for April. The 2023 Panel agreed to reduce the number of awards following the Inaugural event and it is expected to be 3 recipients plus the Mayor's Award in 2026. The approximate cost to run a similar evening event at Te Matapihi would be around \$14000. Council is to decide whether to run the awards event for 2026 and if it should remain the same format as 2023 or be scaled back to a smaller event so less cost is involved.

## Mayor's Engagements

November 2025

1	Attended Shemozzle Attended TUIA 15 Year Celebration Function in Wellington
3	Attended Nga Wai Tōta Hui for two days – Whangaehu River
4	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
5	Attended fortnightly update on Marton Water Strategy with staff Attended monthly Governor's Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Zone 3 November meeting online planning hui Attended Palmerston North City Council Inauguration
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mōkai Patea Nui Tōnū: Agreement in Principle signing at Parliament Attended LWDW Meet & Greet with Palmerston North & Horowhenua Councillors
7	Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayors Smith & Wanden Attended Water Services-CCO Workshop
9	Attended Taihape Grandstand Users Meeting
10	Attended meetings with Water Services-CCO Board Recruitment Advisors
11	Attended meetings with Chief Executive Attended Armistice Day Commemoration at Marton Park Attended meetings with Councillors and Deputy Mayor
12	Attended NZTA/RDC Quarterly Regional Relationship online hui Attended LGNZ Event (ahead of Rural & Provincial meeting) in Wellington
13	Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Meeting
14	Attended Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group meeting in Wellington
15	Attended Bulls Rose & Flower Show Attended Taihape Musicians Club Open Mic Night
16	Attended MG Classic Motor Racing Event at Manfeild
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Nga Wai Tōta Strategy Hui
18	Attended WS-CCO Project Oversight Group online hui Attended Draft Marton Streetscape Plan Consultation Community Session in Marton Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting Attended meeting with Winstone Pulp International CEO Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
19	Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy update with staff Attended Northern Tour of District – Roading & Projects with Elected Members and staff

	Attended Mokai Patea Services Kaumatua Xmas Function Attended Taihape Community Board Inaugural Meeting
20	Attended LGNZ Zone 3 meeting in Palmerston North
21	Attended LGNZ Zone 3 meeting in Palmerston North Attended Multicultural Council Rangitikei/Whanganui End of Year Function
24	Attended meeting with Kiwi Rail in Auckland
25	Attended breakfast meeting with Mayor Michael Ford Attended JBS Dudding Trust 2025 Trustee & Advisory Board AGM Attended Ratana Community Board Inaugural Meeting
26	Attended Southern Tour of District – Roading & Projects with Elected Members and staff
27	To attended Finance/Performance 101 workshop with Elected Members To attended Council Workshop To attended Council Meeting To attend Merry Night in Marton
28	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend CDEM Joint Standing Committee Meeting To attend Accelerate35 Lead Team Meeting

**Attachments:**

1. **Zone 3 November 2025 Agenda**
2. **Slides from Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting (under separate cover)**
3. **Elected Member Attendance 2025-28**

**Recommendation 1**

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

**Recommendation 2**

That the Community Volunteer Awards 2026 DO/DO NOT take place in the SAME/SCALED BACK format as 2023.

## 7.1 Mayor's Report - December 2025

**Author:** **Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

Good afternoon

Council is starting to wind down a little towards Christmas, however there is still so much happening and crucial decisions to be made. The new Councillors' commitment to workshops, training and meetings throughout the district has been incredible and I thank them.

Government continues to make many significant changes with the promise of more to come before Christmas. Cynically, I would suggest that the changes made before Christmas, especially for those that need consultation, is a deliberate ploy to put them out now so that the consultation period includes the holiday break. There are a number of things I wish to comment on and hopefully I will know more as legislation is being drafted allowing me to expand on later.

**1. Changes to Regional Councils** – for some time several Government ministers and officials including the Prime Minister have hinted about the need to look at Regional Councils with indications of possible changes. This is what I think we know at this stage –

- Minister Bishop has announced that Regional Council Governorship will be replaced by the Mayors in some form of regional body.
- This is not law yet and we have yet to see detail.
- Timeframe – the Minister has said that recently elected councillors to Regional Councils may not serve their entire time, so this appears to be fast-tracked.
- Regional Councils are a regulatory body covering such things as compliance to matters involving the environment, flood control, pest control, public transport, Regional Civil Defence functions and many other roles. Presumably all of these functions will move to the "Mayors" to govern but will remain in place.
- There are a number of Regional Councils facing court action and possible claims arising from such things as flood events etc. It would be concerning to me if the responsibility for these passes to ours and other councils.
- Staffing should remain however the Government has also suggested some of the changes should remove duplication, gain efficiencies and enable a faster track to consenting.
- This comes at a time when Councils are facing changes to many other reforms.

## 2 Indications of other major reforms:

- Local Water Done Well (LWDW) and the supporting of new regional entities. As I have reported several times, we are one of the new regional entities to deliver waste water services, water and storm water with Palmerston North City and Horowhenua District Councils. That work is on track but has significant work ahead over the Christmas period. The shareholders committee should be put in place by the three Councils over the next

few days and is highlighted within this Council meeting. The search for Board membership is in place now and should be finalised early next year.

- The reform of the RMA (Resource Management Act) is a process that is known but as a reminder, “The Government is reforming the RMA to make it easier, faster and simpler to get projects approved. The goals are to remove complexity, improve environmental protection and support housing and infrastructural growth”. The RMA will be replaced by two new acts, which concern land use planning and natural resource management with a focus on the enjoyment of private property rights. These acts include the standardisation of consenting approaches throughout the country and new regulatory bodies. Essentially development should be easier but with an aim to reduce costs, fast track consents and drive GDP growth.
- Government has announced the Local Government Systems Improvement Act. This bill seeks to return Local Government to limit Councils’ spending and rates to core services. There is more to this bill and the description of what are core services is not complete. For example, does Council have a responsibility for employment? Perhaps not under the bill but at the same time Government has asked Local Government through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs to find work for those on unemployment registers. There will also be, as part of the bill, a naming and shaming of Councils that are not performing.
- The Government has also signalled changes needed in roading with a move to regional roading entities.
- Government has too signalled the introduction of a rates pegging legislation which will limit the ability of rate increases by authorities in the future. Key points are –
  - i) Legislation is yet to be passed but it is indicated that it will apply from 2027/2029 on.
  - ii) The Minister for Local Government has said that although legislation will be from 2027 his expectation, and public demand, is that Councils should comply with this immediately, i.e. the Annual Plan for next year.
  - iii) Some sections of Local Government rates will be exempt, such as delivery of Three Waters services, which will mean that the picture is not quite clear yet where it will apply and hence the average increase right across all Council rates.
  - iv) The legislation will support a range of rate increases permitted, at present looking to be a band between 2-4% increases.
  - v) There will be an appeal process, for example a significant event such as Cyclone Gabrielle, but the threshold for appeal will be extremely high.
  - vi) The 2-4% range was selected by reference to the CPI (Price Index) sitting around 3.5%. I will note that roading cost increases which are the significant cost to our Council are well beyond that in recent years.
  - vii) Councillors and staff will continue to look to make rates affordable and will certainly look to comply. Inevitably the consequence may be increased charges and lower levels of service. This will be incredibly challenging for all Councils.

All of these reforms, in particular the Regional Council reforms, Water reforms and RMA will drive Councils towards amalgamation. Government has said that talks of possible Council amalgamations are not being forced but that is the likely outcome. Amalgamation will undoubtedly gain efficiency and the argument often repeated by Government that we have about 80 authorities for a small population while Japan has about 13? is valid. However, the outcome from amalgamation is loss of local voice.

3. **Roading** - as part of the induction for new Councillors, Council roading staff, Downer contractors, the Chief Executive and Elected Members took part in a road trip to look at significant roading issues in our district. With reduced funding available, maintenance of our roads is a serious challenge. In particular the Gentle Annie Road running between Taihape and Hastings needs significant reinstatement and resealing work over the summer amounting to around \$3.5m. This needed expenditure will limit spend on other required roading issues in the district. Much of the damage is associated with forestry cartage and I am in discussions with commercial interests and rail to see if I can review the log train contract due to expire at the end of January. I will report back on this later in the new year.
4. In August I received an email from Sandy Paterson, Company Sergeant Major of 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company located in Linton, Palmerston North. Part of Sandy's job is taking care of the history of the unit and ensuring all traditions are carried out. Sandy informed me that the Corps of Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers currently hold the Freedom of the Borough for Taihape which allows them the honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough with drums beating, band playing, colours flying and swords drawn. It also imparts the honour of viewing and inspecting the Corps on the Mayor.

In 1997 the Royal New Zealand Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was disbanded, and all Maintenance Support trades were merged with those of Combat Drivers, Logistic Specialists, Movements Operators, and Caterers, forming the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Corps, RNZALR. The charter for the freedom of the borough of Taihape was not transferred to the RNZALR and the last parade was conducted in 1996 or 1997.

Sandy believes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company, as part of 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion and the RNZALR is the best unit to transfer this charter to. They have strong ties with the community of Taihape, parading at ANZAC Day commemorations and engaging with the community through the local RSA.

With the above in mind, Sandy has requested if Council would consider transferring the charter for the freedom of the borough of Taihape to 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company. This would formalise the relationship between us and allow the company to conduct a parade in Taihape either once a year or once every second-year dependant on the council's appetite for formal occasions.

I have attached a series of documents and photographs to this report.

5. **The Tornado** – earlier this month we had a localised tornado hit Dudding Lake. One caravan in particular was lifted into the air and dropped upside down with a person inside. He was very fortunate to escape with relatively minor issues. Other caravans were lifted, small buildings demolished and many trees uprooted or damaged. Power sources to the camp were also lost. Carol our Chief Executive has acted quickly and the camp was restored over a couple of days – many thanks go to staff, Lance and Tiff onsite and contractors who worked hard to reinstate. I have included some images to illustrate the damage.

## 6. Onto some great news –

- The Marton Op Shop is currently I think, at the time of writing this report, in the race to be called The Best Op Shop in the Country. Of course they are!! Voting will have closed on Saturday 13 December but I have looked at how I could promote this through Facebook before the deadline. The Op Shop is largely serviced by volunteers, donations and governed by church and service groups etc. The service the Op Shop provides is amazing, so please support them. Drop them a card to say Merry Christmas – it will be appreciated.
- The Tender Documents have been sent out for the roof replacement of the Marton Pool with expected decisions early in the new year. This is great news and a significant step forward. Yes, it will mean another summer without the pool and Council will see how we can support local Learn To Swim programmes etc.
- The next fortnight is full of local events such as Christmas Parades, Marton Market Day, school prizewinnings and wind-ups and myself and Councillors will be at as many as possible. I understand that the Op Shop is also looking to sell tickets to the Marton Christmas Community Lunch this year – I have yet to see details but of course I will look to support it this year.

Finally, in case I don't get a chance later – Councillors and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, travel safely.

## Mayor's Engagements

December 2025

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Joint Iwi Waste Water Standards Hui Attended 3-CL Mayors/CEs meeting with Waikato/Hawkes Bay Councils to discuss water entities Attended Regional Mayors/CEs meeting Attended Mayoral Forum
2	Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
3	Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff Attended Council Workshop
4	Attended Roading Control Authority Forum in Wellington
5	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended MTFJ meeting with James Towers and Louise McCoard

	Attended Standing Orders Training Workshop Attended meeting with Taihape Station Owners
6	Attended Marton Market Day Attended FENZ Gold Star Presentation to Chris Hope
7	Attended Otiwhiti Graduation Ceremony Attended RSA Christmas Lunch Attended Marton Christmas Parade
8	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting
9	Attended meeting with Robert Martin Attended MTFJ Mayor's Update online meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
10	Attended monthly Governor's Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Crown Response into Abuse in Care Team Webinar - Survivor Support and Recognition Fund for Unmarked Graves
11	Attended Council Induction and Workshop Attended Council Meeting
12	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend monthly meeting with Police To attend Marton School Prizegiving To attend Council End of Year Function
13	To attend Taihape Christmas Parade To attend Bulls Community Christmas at the Domain
15	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend MTFJ Governance Group online meeting
16	To attend Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs' fortnightly catch-up To attend Citizenship Ceremony To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor To attend Defence Hub End of Year Function
17	To attend fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff
18	To attend Council Workshop
19	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend CDW meeting in Palmerston North To attend staff End of Year function
22	To attend meeting with Chief Executive
23	To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
24	To attend Hunterville Christmas Parade

25	To attend Marton Community Christmas Lunch
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**Attachments:**

1. **Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - letter of request**
2. **Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - letter from Buckingham Palace**
3. **Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - historical photographs**
4. **Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - Charter**
5. **Dudding Lake Pic 1**
6. **Dudding Lake Pic 2**
7. **Dudding Lake Pic 3**
8. **Dudding Lake Pic 4**
9. **Dudding Lake Pic 5**
10. **Dudding Lake Pic 6**
11. **Dudding Lake Pic 7**
12. **Dudding Lake Pic 8**
13. **Dudding Lake Pic 9**
14. **Dudding Lake Pic 10**
15. **Dudding Lake Pic 11**
16. **Dudding Lake Pic 12**

**Recommendation 1**

THAT the Mayor's Report – December 2025 be received.

**Recommendation 2**

THAT in appreciation of the honourable traditions of the Second Workshop Company and recognition of its long and intimate association with the Borough of Taihape the Council confer upon the Second Workshop Company the rights, privilege and honour of marching through the streets of Taihape on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying and that the Corporate Seal will be affixed to the necessary Deed of Grant and that the name of the second Workshop Company be inscribed on a panel in the Town Hall.



Farrier Lines  
Building D76  
Linton Military Camp  
Palmerston north, 4830

From: Company Sergeant Major, 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company.

19 November 2025

Rangitikei District Council  
Private Bag 1102  
Marton, 4741

Dear Members of the Rangitikei District Council

### **Reconfirmation of the Freedom of the Borough Charter for Taihape**

In 1973, the Royal New Zealand Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RNZEME) was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Taihape, with the Corps first exercising this honour during a parade on 14 December 1973.

Following the amalgamation of RNZEME into the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment (RNZALR) and the restructuring of local governance—where Taihape Borough became part of the Rangitikei District Council—the charter has not been exercised since approximately 1996.

2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company (2 WKSP Coy), based in Linton, recently engaged with Rangitikei District Council to clarify the status of this historic charter. Having not been exercised for nearly 30 years, we see this as an opportunity to reaffirm the enduring relationship between the New Zealand Army and the Rangitikei District, and to honour the historical significance of this tradition.

Permission is being sought from the Chief of Army for approval to reconfirm the Freedom of the Borough of Taihape and this letters serves to request the same from Rangitikei District Council. On approval planning can begin on the formal ceremony and details of the charter.

With the council's permission, the suggested form of resolution to be passed by the council, as outlined in the NZ Army publication NZ P6A, NZ Army Ceremonial, would look like the below.

*"That in appreciation of the honourable traditions of the Second Workshop Company and recognition of its long and intimate association with the Borough of Taihape the Council confer upon the Second Workshop Company the rights, privilege, and honour of marching through the streets of Taihape on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating, and colours flying ; that the Corporate Seal be affixed to the necessary Deed of Grant and that the name of the second Workshop Company be inscribed on a panel in the Town Hall."*

This reference also contains the format for the Charter outlined below.

( Crest )

Community of Taihape  
Charter  
Second Workshop Company

WHEREAS the Mayor, Councillors, and Citizens of Taihape being sensible of the honourable record and traditions of the Second Workshop Company and being desirous of recognising, cementing, and fostering the intimate association which is now and has for so long been enjoyed between the City and the Company in which so many of its citizens have been proud to serve.

NOW THEREFORE the Mayor and Councillors of the Rangitikei District Council, on behalf of the borough of Taihape, do hereby confer upon the said Second Workshop Company the right and privilege, without further permission being obtained, of marching (when such processions are approved) with drums beating, band playing, colours flying, bayonets fixed, and swords drawn, through the streets of the Town of Taihape

AND

DO HEREBY accept the honour of viewing the Second Workshop Company or part thereof, when approved, for the purpose of an inspection by His/Her Worship the Mayor

AND

DO HEREBY accept the further honour of having an officer of the said Company in uniform in attendance upon His/Her Worship the Mayor on important official occasions in Taihape.

The Common Seal of the Body )

Corporate called the Mayor, )  
Councillors, and Citizens of )  
the *City of Blanktown* was ) ..... Mayor  
hereto affixed pursuant to a )  
resolution of the said ) ..... Town Clerk  
Council this ..... )  
day of ..... 20.....)  
in the presence of -

I attach at enclosure 1. A photo of the charter of Foxton as an example.

On approval from the Rangitikei District Council and the Chief of Army, 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company will engage with the council in order to begin planning of the formal ceremony to bestow the charter.

A rough outline would look like 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company marching through the main road of Taihape to the front of the town hall. Once in place the Company will give a general salute then be inspected by the Mayor and a senior representative of the NZ Army. On completion of the inspection the mayor will ask 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop to accept the charter conferring on it the honour of freedom of entry into the borough on ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating, and colours flying. The charter will then be read. The Company will once again give a general salute then march off. The ceremony will take less than half an hour.

On approval of the above 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop Company look forward to engaging with the council and members of the community of Taihape and reaffirming our relationship with the community.

Kind regards

**SANDY PATERSON**

Warrant Officer Class Two  
Company Sergeant Major



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I am delighted to hear that the relationships between the Corps and the citizens of Taihape are so good that they are to receive formal recognition in the offer of the Freedom of the Borough.

I send my warmest congratulations to the Corps of Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and I hope it will be a very happy occasion for the Corps and for the citizens of Taihape.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip', which is the name of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

1973.



FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH  
TAIHAPE  
6 December 1985



FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH  
TAIHAPE  
6 December 1985

PARADE COMMANDER: MAJ D.J. MOWAT  
2IC: CAPT H.P. SEBBORN  
RSM: WO1 A.R. BAKER

CHARTER BEARER: 2LT M.T. WILLIAMS  
ESCORTS: WO1 C.P. DAVIS  
WO1 M. ALTY

PLATOON COMMANDERS: 2LT A.E. COE  
2LT A.D. MCLEAN  
2LT F.J. RZOSKA

# BOROUGH OF CAIRLAPE



To the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, The Officers, Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and the Men of the

CORPS of ROYAL NEW ZEALAND  
ELECTRICAL and MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS

## greetings

At the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the  
Borough of Caithness

# The Crown of The Free Borough

**And thereby** the right, privilege, honour  
and distinction of marching  
through the streets of the Borough with drums beating,  
band playing, Colours flying, bayonets fixed, and swords  
drawn.

And hereby accept the honour of viewing the Corps of Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on parade once in each year for the purpose of an inspection by His Worship the Mayor.

And hereby accept the further honour of  
having two officers of the said ~~Corps~~  
Corps in uniform in attendance upon His Worship the  
Mayor on important official occasions.

**IN WITNESS** - whereof we have caused our Corporate Common Seal to be herewith affixed in pursuance of a resolution unanimously passed by the Borough Council on the Fourteenth day of December One thousand nine hundred and seventy-three.

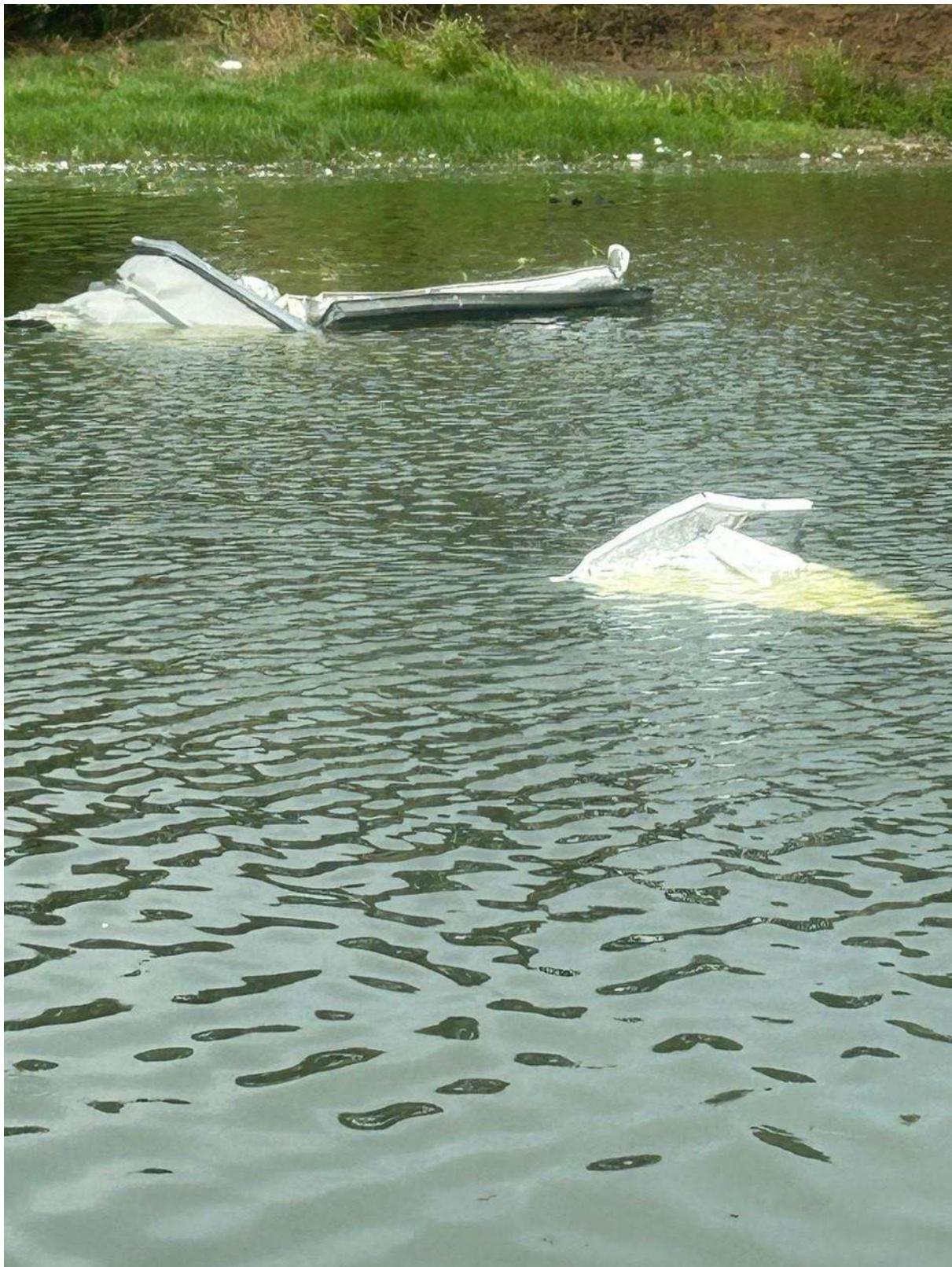
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**ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 5**



**ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 6**





## ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 8





**ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 10**





**ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 12**



**ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 13**



ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 14





**ITEM 7.1 ATTACHMENT 16**

