

ORDER PAPER

BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 17 June 2026
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi
Bulls Community Centre
4 Criterion Street
Bulls

Chair: Mr Alistair Stewart
Deputy Chair: Ms Sarah Howe
Membership: W/O Hutch Hutchinson
Ms Bronwyn Minty
Mr Wally Plank
Mr Te Arawa Ratana
Cr Graeme O'Fee
Cr Paul Sharland (Alternate)
HWTM Watson (Ex-Officio)

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 for "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 23 November 22) 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 Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi, Bulls Community Centre, 4 Criterion Street, Bulls on Wednesday, 17 June 2026 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 22 April 2026** are **attached**.

Attachments

1. **Bulls Community Committee Meeting - 22 April 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2026 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 22 April 2026
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi
Bulls Community Centre
4 Criterion Street
Bulls

Present

- Mr Alistair Stewart
- Ms Sarah Howe
- Mr Greg Smith
- Mr David Yates
- Ms Bronwyn Minty
- Cr Graeme O'Fee
- Cr Paul Sharland (Alternate)

In attendance

- Elaine Bishop, Scotts Ferry resident
- Matt Hynes, Scotts Ferry resident
- Peter Ginder, Scotts Ferry resident
- Justin Adams, Hunterville Community Committee
- Helen Cooper, Bulls resident
- David Christison, Marton Community Committee
- Brian Carter, CFO, Bulls Fire Service
- Mr Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor
- Ms Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

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8.3 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026..... 4

8.4 Community Response Plan - Bulls 4

8.5 Community Development Manager Report - April 2026..... 5

Unconfirmed

1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed everyone.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number **26/BCC/011**

That the apologies from HWTM Watson, Mr Te Arawa Ratana, and Mr Evan Plank be received.

Mr Stewart/Mr G Smith. Carried

3 Public Forum

Helen Cooper spoke in the public forum. She was very concerned about the Community Response Plan for Bulls. Her main concern around the plan was not having named persons in the plan for different roles. She felt very strongly that this should be the case so the community knew where to go and who to speak to in an emergency event. Her particular area of concern was around being able to set up a Welfare Centre for residents to go to if required. She felt the plan lacked clarity.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number **26/BCC/012**

That the minutes of Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026 [**without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr G O'Fee/Ms B Minty. Carried

7 Chair's Report

7.1 Chair's Report - April 2026

The Chair gave a verbal report. He also acknowledged the receipt of a resignation from the committee from Mr Graham Jenkins.

Resolved minute number 26/BCC/013

That the Chair's Report – April 2026 be received.

Mr Stewart/Ms S Howe. Carried

8 Reports for Information

8.1 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/BCC/014

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

8.2 Mayor's Report - March 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/BCC/015

That the Mayor's Report – March 2026 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

8.3 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026

There was discussion about spending the small projects fund. An idea was put forward to perhaps concrete around the new Lake Alice memorial to ensure it was kept clear of weeds and vegetation. Ms Bovey would follow up with the Property Team and report back to the next meeting.

Resolved minute number 26/BCC/016

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – April 2026 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

8.4 Community Response Plan - Bulls

Mr Paul Chaffe spoke to his report on the Bulls Community Response Plan. The plan had been discussed and signed off by the committee in 2025. The committee discussed how the plan had worked in the last weather event.

ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1

Resolved minute number 26/BCC/017

That the report Community Response Plan – Bulls be received.

Mr Stewart/Ms S Howe. Carried

8.5 Community Development Manager Report - April 2026

The report was taken as read. The committee would invite the Co-ordinator to speak to her report if this was possible in the future. Ms Bovey to follow up on this with the Co-ordinator.

Resolved minute number 26/BCC/018

That the Community Development Manager Report –April 2026 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

8.6 Resignations Received

Mr Greg Smith tendered his resignation from the committee.

Mr David Yates tendered his resignation from the committee.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Bulls Community Committee held on 19 August 2026.

.....
Chairperson

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** [↓](#)

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	22-Apr-26	The BCC would like to use some of their Small Projects Fund to concrete ar	Mel Bovey	The Property Team would like to thank the committee for their offer, however there is a maintenance plan in place for looking after the memorial that has been agreed with the Survivors Group.	Completed.
2	22-Apr-26	What happened to the Master Plan for Bulls Parks & Reserves	Mel Bovey	The Property Team have advised this is still happening and the draft plan will be presented to Council in the next couple of weeks.	In progress..
3	22-Apr-26	Questions for the BDCT - Can you tell us what the guideline are around getting an "a-bull" sign? Costs etc?	Mel Bovey	Ms Macaulay has advised that she is currently writing a new policy for the A-Bull signs after the A-Bulls logo refresh.	In progress.
4	22-Apr-26	BDCT - Would the coordinator be able to attend the BCC meetings to speak to their report, is a member of the BCC allowed to attend the BDCT meetings?	Mel Bovey	Ms Macaulay intends to regularly attend the BCC meetings to speak to her report going forward. The BDCT is a private entity so meetings aren't open to the public, however there is a Public Forum at the start of each meeting that anyone can use. The AGM's are open to the public so anyone can attend but they wouldn't have speaking rights.	Completed.

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2026

Author: Alistair Stewart, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Chair may provide a verbal or tabled report.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report – June 2026 be received.

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - June 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

NOTES ON RURAL & PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – WELLINGTON 14-15 MAY 2026

DAY 1

1. The meeting was opened by Chairs Nigel Bowen (Provincial Sector Representative) and Ben Bell (Rural Sector Representative) as joint-Chairs

- The immediate discussion was with the Mayors giving an “Around the Regions” view on the Local Government Review.
- Common themes were –
 - i) Councils are starting to talk with their communities around possible amalgamation options.
 - ii) The timeframe of 9 August will not allow genuine consultation i.e. the process is too rushed. There was a degree of anger regarding this.
 - iii) The majority of councils did not want to wait for the Backstop option where Government will decide.
 - iv) Some councils, particularly Manawatu, pledged to fight this, noting that the C4LD (Campaign for Local Democracy) was successful.
 - v) There is thought that for some councils there will be a split in the community, e.g. fragmentation of the district. This is possibly real for us.
 - vi) It should be noted that metro councils (which were not there) are generally supporting this amalgamation.
 - vii) Some of the larger provincial centres such as Whanganui see the potential benefits of amalgamation (noting that they will be destined to survive).

2. Session 2 – Fuel Crisis

Julian Hughes & Haley Mortimer from Z Energy.

Key messages -

- The supply chain is holding.
- Storage remains stable.
- The initial demand spike in May happened but now the demand has returned to normal i.e. no observable drop in demand now.
- Price of diesel has doubled since the start of the Ukraine War.
- Price at the pumps is based on replacement cost to the industry.
- Fuel theft is an issue and a safety risk.
- What we have is a diesel crisis. Diesel and jet fuel comes out of the Middle East. Petrol can be refined from other sources.
- This is the largest energy shock the world has ever seen.
- Prices will stay high until after Christmas even if the Strait opens tomorrow.
- Some fuel still flows out of the Strait because of the availability of pipelines.

3. Session 3 – Panel Discussion: Fuel Impact on Supply Chain and Business

Philippa Fourie – Fonterra

James Howard – Transit Group

Bridget Service - Foodstuffs

- This section was effectively an operational update on industry.
- Transit is a family owned bus company completely commercial non-subsidised. Fares have increased by about 20% with no service dropped. Monthly charges for diesel have increased by 125%. They have a small percentage of their fleet as electric buses.
- Fonterra have 500 tankers transporting 17b litres of milk a year. Cows continue to produce milk i.e. you can't reduce the service. Fonterra made the comment that hydrogen trucks are 2-2.5% more expensive and have a huge capital cost investment. They are currently licensing some electric tankers.
- Foodstuffs see themselves as an essential service for all of their product. They consume 400,000 litres of diesel per month and noted also that some of their stores are being upgraded with Starlink to increase civil defence capacity.

4. Session 4 – Deep Dive into Simplifying Local Government

Hemi Smiler and Paul James - DIA

In a number of these sessions I will use “quotation marks” to indicate direct comments and *italicised font is my personal comment to those quotations.*

- “Some councils want to move to amalgamation now”.
- “Some councils want to take time”.
- There are two timelines –
 - a) Head Start – 3 month proposals then 2028 activated. Proposals due 9 August.
 - b) Backstop – for those not in Head Start programme.
- DIA is working on a template to help provide detail for Head Start applications to provide clarity on criteria.
- Response to a question from Mayor Toby as to what is off the table. Answer - “a shared service model is off the table”.
- “Head Start is focused on amalgamating councils into unitary authorities”.
- “Regions are different”.
- “Councils should quantify costs” (how much less could councils spend if councils amalgamated, i.e. the process is focused on cost savings).
- Question from Mayor Moko Far North – What happens to councils with Māori Wards? Answer – “as part of the criteria there would need to be a community discussion”.
- “There needs to be sensible decisions around what programmes you should delay”.
- Question – in the Backstop can we seriously influence the decision? Answer – “the Government will recognize discussions made if amalgamation is not over the line but there will be change”.
- Question – what happens if the Government changes? Answer - “Opposition parties have been briefed”. (Government would follow direction here but opposition parties have been quiet on this). “The broad direction of Government is likely to be maintained”.
- “Some councils don't face the challenge that others do but 10 years out there is probably not a single council that doesn't need change”.
- Question – will you pause the LTP processes? No advice given is the answer, however “That is something you'll have to ask the Ministers”.

- Question from Manawatu District Council – could we form a CCO to deal with regional re-organisation? Here there was not a clear answer except for “Head Start is focused on amalgamation” (*note this is a question that I proposed to the previous Mayoral Forum*).
- Final quote from DIA staff - “lessons have been learned from the Three Waters discussion”.

My interpretation of that remark is to look at the stages of Water Reform.

- a) The initial view of Labour = 4 water entities for NZ*
- b) It was then increased to 10 entities*
- c) The further expectation from National was to have about 20-23 entities*
- d) We have ended up with about 40 entities.*

Here there is a clear message, in my opinion, that Government doesn't want to see a repeat of this creep.

My feeling at the end of this session was amalgamation is the endgame of Government. Officials did refer to bespoke arrangements but left the hard direction to the Minister in tomorrow's session.

5. Session 5 – Panel Discussion: Different Models within Unitaries

Dame Fran Wilde – Mayor South Wairarapa

Cr Andy Baker – Auckland Council

Jonathan Salter – Simpson Grierson

Andy Baker –

- “Auckland has still been a success in spite of a couple of areas”.

Fran Wilde –

- “Auckland could have been done better”.
- “Community Boards should have real power”.
- “Governing boards should be the board – leave councils as councils”.
- “Local boards need more money and more delegation”.
- “Don't use the Auckland model” (the inference/direction here is that even under amalgamation you can choose the model – *this is the principle I agree with completely*).

Jonathan Salter -

- “1989 reforms were very successful”.
- *Note: 1989 had a sufficient timeframe backed by a Commission – a 2-year process?*
- “Important that the new entities have management of the rivers, mountains to the sea”.
- “Numbers of unitary authorities in one catchment area bothers me”.
- *Note: I totally agree with the last two points!*
- ‘Unprecedented for cabinet (i.e. Government) to frame this reform”.

6. Session 6 – Jeremy Lightfoot, CE of MCERT (Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport)

- This was in essence an introductory session to the Ministry.
- The new ministry was set up in 2026.
- Exists now but not effective yet or in place until July.
- This session was really set up to illustrate that Government is looking to aggregate to also save money within the ministries.

DAY 2**1. Session 1 - LGNZ**

Dan Gordon Vice-President

Scott Necklen – CE

- LGNZ thanked the sector leaders.
- “Surprised by Government announcements”.
- “Whether we like it or not change is coming even without detail of these changes”.
- ‘We accept one model doesn’t suit all and there could be bespoke arrangements”.
- “Ideally we would like more time but the clock is ticking”.
- “Most of us accept that change is needed especially in the funding of Local Government”.
- “We need clarity from Government”.
- “It is very clear that direction is set by ministers not the officials”.

There was a survey taken at the start of Day 1 on where people stood in terms of these reforms

- a) 12% of the sector does not want reform.
- b) Just under 50% want to be part of the Head Start process.
- c) 36% not sure.

Note: 90% of councils in the survey said that the requirement to do a 10 Year LTP should be changed.

Scott Necklen -

- “We need clarity around the Backstop process”.
- “There is a political spin on reforms in an election year”.
- “LGNZ will provide a manifesto of wants before the election as a one-pager”.
- “The budget announcements will feed into that manifesto”.
- “A webinar series will start on Monday by LGNZ”” (*note – the first webinar was on understanding Unitary Authorities – something that I and Cr Baird and Dalgety sat it on – we will provide notes on that later.*)
- “LGNZ will engage with all parties in Wellington”.

2. Session 2 – Government Address

Chris Bishop on Head Start Reform

- “People get fixated on Regional Council reform, but we are fixated on combined territorial board reforms”.
- “Wellington has looked amalgamation for a very long time”.
- “Several areas say we are good to go”.
- “RMA reform is underway, along with the Development Contributions Reform so the Government decided to go with Local Government Reform in association with this”. *Note - this is justifying that he is the Minister of RMA reform and justified in taking the Local Government position.*
- “Head Start kicks in in 2028. We will accept proposals if they are a few days over 9 August”.
- “Amalgamation can be done in 3 ways –
 - a) By Royal Commission which takes too long and is too expensive
 - b) By way of Government decision
 - c) Clear Government expectation but locally lead”.
 The Minister believes that c) is the best option but goes on to say, “But will not be perfect”.

- “A carrot and stick approach here – the Backstop will be heavier on Central Government direction than community direction”.
- “Central Government is also sorting itself out with the new ministry”.
- “We have been partners with LGNZ in the past and we are wanting to correct this”.

3. Session 3 – Opposition Address

Tangi Utikere – Labour’s Local Government Spokesperson

- With regards to rates capping -
 - “We have still have not heard from the Government regarding this process”.
 - “My concerns are a loss of service etc.”
 - “Rates capping with Government’s support is more palatable”.
 - “There are no additional revenue streams”.
 - Question from floor – will Labour rule out rates capping? Answer – “we are still waiting on the details; we want a bipartisan approach also including Head Start”.
- Head Start – “Labour is not into forced amalgamation”.
- “We would support communities that want a change”.
- “We (Labour) want to see what happens over the next 90 days”.
- “National should have engaged well with us to allow for more time”.
- Question – when can we expect a Labour policy? Answer – “the remains of our policies will come out post-budget”.
- “The policy on Head Start will come out post the 90 days”.
- ‘I am not a fan of roads of national significance other than those signed up/started regarding the transport sector’. *Note - Tangi is also the Labour spokesperson for Roading.*

4. Session 4 – Regional Resilience in an Uncertain Economy

Phil O’Reilly ONZM – Managing Partner of Iron Duke

Phil has an incredibly strong background in finance matters, represents NZ offshore and is involved in many, many trade negotiations and financial analyses.

- “NZ can take advantage in the changes we see in the world; the global system was under extreme pressure before Trump came along but Trump effectively exploded it”.
- “It will need and will resettle to the new norm”.
- “Will need different thinking and councils will come into play for part of that”.
- “Latin America, India and Vietnam all want to do business with us.
- The average age of people in India will be under 30 for the next 30 years and India is over-stripping OECD growth
- Vietnam is in the same position.
- This was a fascinating presentation, and I have included his presentation notes. The final points in the presentation on the Do’s and Don’ts for Councils are worth considering.

5. Session 5 – Energy Resilience

John Carnegie – Chief Executive, Energy and Resources Aotearoa and James Kilty - Chief Executive, Transpower (note previous Head of Powerco)

John Carnegie -

- “In 1950 we (NZ) were ranked second on a per capita basis in the OECD countries. We are now second to last”.

- “Electricity grid capacity needs to double to satisfy electrification.” *Here the point is that NZ does not have the capacity in the grid to provide for the increase in electric cars etc.*
- “Between 2050 and 2060 the tax take will only cover super and health”. *This illustrates NZ’s financial trajectory coming from Treasury reports.*
- “NZ has suffered from poor energy governance”.
- He illustrated the number of quotes and papers saying that coal and gas are running out and questioned the facts around this. I am not sure if I have recorded this point exactly as it seems out of kilter.

James Kilty -

- “We are currently energy constrained but we have huge potential”.
- “Councils need to support the potential we have”. *This is a reference to the difficulty of consenting issues and the time delays.*
- “NZ is currently using 90% renewable energy while the world average is 30%. We are rapidly moving to fully 100% renewable energy”.
- “Please refer to Transpower Future Directions on our website with the 5 Potential Futures”. *I hold James Kilty in high regard for his knowledge and passion for electricity and energy so I did refer to the website. His points included the 5 scenarios and is worth referring to but a warning it is a highly technical report and takes a lot of time to understand.*

LGNZ ZOOM “HOW DO UNITARY AUTHORITIES WORK”

Presented by Mayor Nadine from Marlborough Council and Leonie Rae Chief Executive of Tasman District Council. I note that this Zoom call was also attended by Councillors Baird and Dalgety

Key messages -

- “Unitary Authorities work well”.
- “A Unitary Authority has one balance sheet not two”.
- “There is a saving on total rates paid by residents under a Unitary Authority”.
- “Unitary Authorities provide a co-ordinated approach on land use and consenting”.
- When questioned on whether river catchments should sit within one Council the reply was Yes that was important, as are communities of interest.
- Advice was also to avoid discarding Metros from the Unitary process because they intend to be the significant funders.
- The question was asked “How are tensions managed between Unitary and Council functions within one authority?” (note this was a great question). The reply –
 - a) “You need regulatory separation within Council;
 - b) In governance you must have Councillors sitting on different committees i.e. two distinct sides of Council. Councillors must choose and are unable to sit on both”.
- “Recruitment of staff for a small Unitary Authority will be challenging. These are specialised skills that come at a significant cost”.
- “There needs to be a solid/sizeable rating base and there needs to be partnerships with Iwi”.
- There was a comment made that “politics have no place in the regulatory function”.
- “Time demands on Councillors is high, but it is still not a full time position”.
- “There is a need for a balance of rural/urban voices on Council”.

SO WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE RANGITĪKEI?

ITEM 9.1

- On 22 May we saw the opening of the new Stables Motel in Bulls. What a fantastic resource it is – the theming and presentation is incredible, and I congratulate the Dalrymple and Turkington families and the partnership with Humphries Construction.
- Considerable time has been spent on Central Districts Water and progress has been huge. The new Board is in place. The Statement of Expectations (SOE) which is the significant document that represents the three Councils’ interests is near sign off. The relationship between Iwi and the Councils as representatives is solid. Our entity is being regarded as one of the new entities that is really making gains.
- Myself and the Chief Executive attended the Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa commemoration of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi on 21 May at the Tawhirihoē Monument.
- We have just been through the Annual Plan submission and decision-making process. I don’t expect to see any significant deviation from the 6.4% average rate increase that we have held across the district. I would like to take the time to thank those people who have submitted as part of the process and to staff and Councillors for their time.
- There are a number of solar farms going through consenting or consented within the Marton area. These are very significant developments. There is, by my count, nearly 900ha of land that could potentially convert to solar use surrounding Marton. We also have a number of wind farms going through proposals spread between our coastal and northern regions. Putting these in place will have a high labour demand in set-up, a labour demand that we would need to call on Whanganui and Palmerston North to be able to fulfil with literally hundreds of people being needed if it all happens. We are already in discussions around potential start dates for some of those solar farms. It’s interesting that the amount of power that will be generated from these will be significant nationally and far exceeds the power demand of the Rangitīkei.
- Recently a hui was held in Taihape at the old Taihape Hospital involving conversations between Te Whatu Ora Health NZ, Taihape Health and Mokai Patea Services. We seem to be closer to a solution, and it is now up to Te Whatu Ora Health NZ to come back with a definitive position in regard to potential land lease. I thank the attitude of Mokai Patea Services and Jude and Taihape Health for their long-term vision.
- Following an expression of interest I have used my powers under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 to appoint Councillor Alan Buckendahl to the Finance/Performance Committee.

Mayor’s Engagements

May 2026

8	Attended Mayoral Forum Workshop Attended Central Districts Water Chair/Mayors Meeting Attended LGNZ Briefing with DIA on Government’s Head Start process
9	Attended Presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Alan & Faye Giles
10	Attended Church at Ratana and meeting with Tumuaki Attended meeting with Suze Redmayne MP

11	Attended Youth Council Meeting
12	Attended meeting with Central Districts Water Shareholders Committee Chair Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Monthly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended RDC/Police monthly meeting Attended Online Local Government Sector Meeting with Ministers Attended Quarterly Regional Relationship Meeting with NZTA Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
13	Attended meeting with Taihape constituents Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor and staff regarding Minister's Announcement on Simplifying Local Government Attended meeting with Marton constituent
14	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Core Group Meeting in Wellington Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting in Wellington
15	Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting in Wellington Attended Head Start/Backstop Horizons Regional online Hui
16	Attended meeting with Central Ward Councillor Attended funeral service for Frances Wilson
18	Attended LGNZ Zoom on Unitary Authorities Attended meeting with Nestle Attended monthly meeting with Comms Staff Attended meeting with Mayor Michael Ford Attended Techweek – Regional Energy Outlook Event in Whanganui
19	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chief's Fortnightly Online Hui Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with Ngati Hauiti GM to initiate the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
20	Attended meeting with comms staff regarding media enquiries Attended Zone 3 online planning hui Attended meeting with Aquila Clean Energy Attended Hui with Health New Zealand at Taihape Hospital Attended Creative Communities Scheme Meeting
23	Attended presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Lowie Harrison
24	Attended Multicultural Council Rangitikei/Whanganui AGM
25	Attended meeting with comms staff to film video around Local Government Reform Attended meeting with Bulls Friendship Club

ITEM 9.1

26	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs catchup with staff</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
27	<p>Attended Central Districts Water Workshops</p> <p>Attended Meeting with Green Party Candidate for Rangitikei Bernard Long</p>
28	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Risk/Assurance Meeting</p> <p>Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee meeting</p>
29	<p>Attended Central Districts Water workshop</p> <p>Attended TUIA Wananga at Opatia Marae Rotorua</p>
30	<p>Attended meeting with Taihape Station Owners</p> <p>Attended celebration of Helen Cooper's KSM</p>

June 2026

2	<p>Attended CDW catchup with Shareholders Committee Chair</p> <p>Attended CDW Workshop with Nga Tapuwae o Hau</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
3	<p>Attended monthly Governor's Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended CDW Workshop with Horowhenua District Council Elected Members</p> <p>Attended meeting with Minister Patterson – Minister for Primary Industries</p> <p>Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council with staff</p> <p>Attended Hunterville Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting</p>
4	<p>Attended Ngati Apa Day Tour with Elected Members and Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended Livestream Public Meeting – Simplifying Local Government</p>
5	<p>Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs catchup with staff</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Online Briefing on Head Start</p> <p>Attended CDW Project Oversight Group meeting</p>
6	<p>To attend Open Day at Otiwhiti School of Agriculture</p>
8	<p>To attend catchup meeting with Suze Redmayne MP Rangitikei</p> <p>To attend meeting with Rangitikei Labour candidate Karl Severinsen</p> <p>To attend Mayoral Forum Meeting</p>
9	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p>

	<p>To attend LGNZ online briefing: What are Regional Council Functions</p> <p>To attend Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting</p> <p>To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> <p>To attend Ratana Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>To attend Ratana Community Board Meeting</p>
10	<p>To attend Taihape Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>To attend Taihape Community Boad meeting</p>
11	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend Council Meeting and Council Workshop</p> <p>To attend Turakina Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>To attend Turakina Community Committee Meeting</p>

Attachments:

1. **Regional Resilience in an Uncertain Economy - Phil O'Reilly presentation to Rural and Provincial Sector Meeting May 2026** [↓](#)
2. **Unconfirmed Minutes Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting - 22 May 2026** [↓](#)
3. **Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee recommendations for Councils' approval** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

That the Mayor’s Report – June 2026 be received.

ITEM 9.1
ATTACHMENT 1



Iron Duke
PARTNERS

Local Government New Zealand

Presented by Phil O'Reilly

15 May 2026

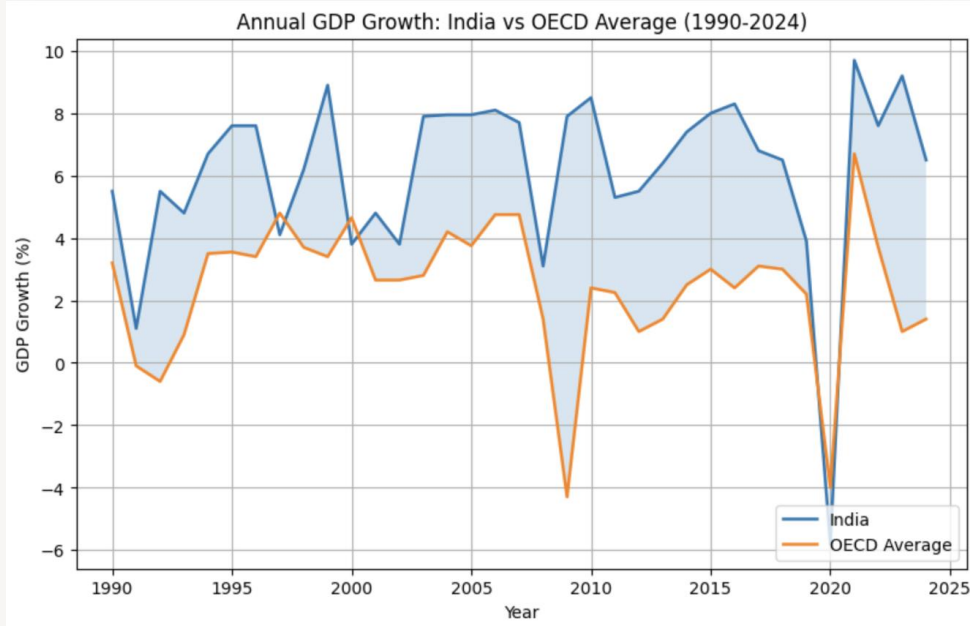


ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 1



The world we now see - reglobalising

New growth opportunities - India



World Bank Group: GDP growth (annual %), India vs OECD average



6.7% annual GDP growth last 20 years
vs ~2% for OECD



Median age of 28 (65% pop. under 35)
vs ~40 for OECD

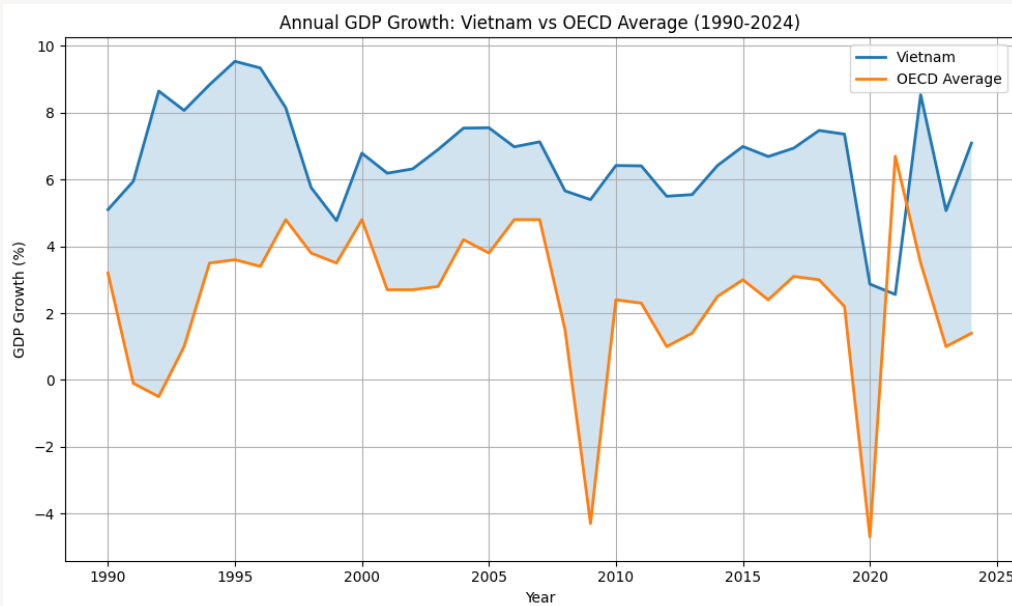


A rising middle class
A projected 580 million by 2030



3rd largest consumer market
Forecast by 2030

New growth opportunities - Vietnam



World Bank Group: GDP growth (annual %), Vietnam vs OECD average



6.3% annual GDP growth last 20 years
vs ~2% for OECD



Median age of 33
vs ~40 for OECD

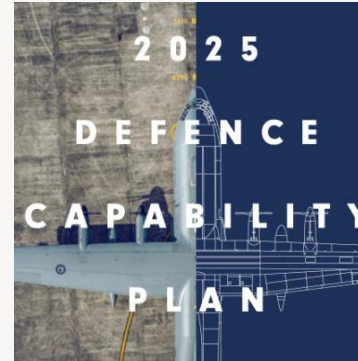


Young & expanding workforce
~53m - one of largest in SEA



Manufacturing powerhouse
Exports 85% of GDP

Resilience - the new fundamental

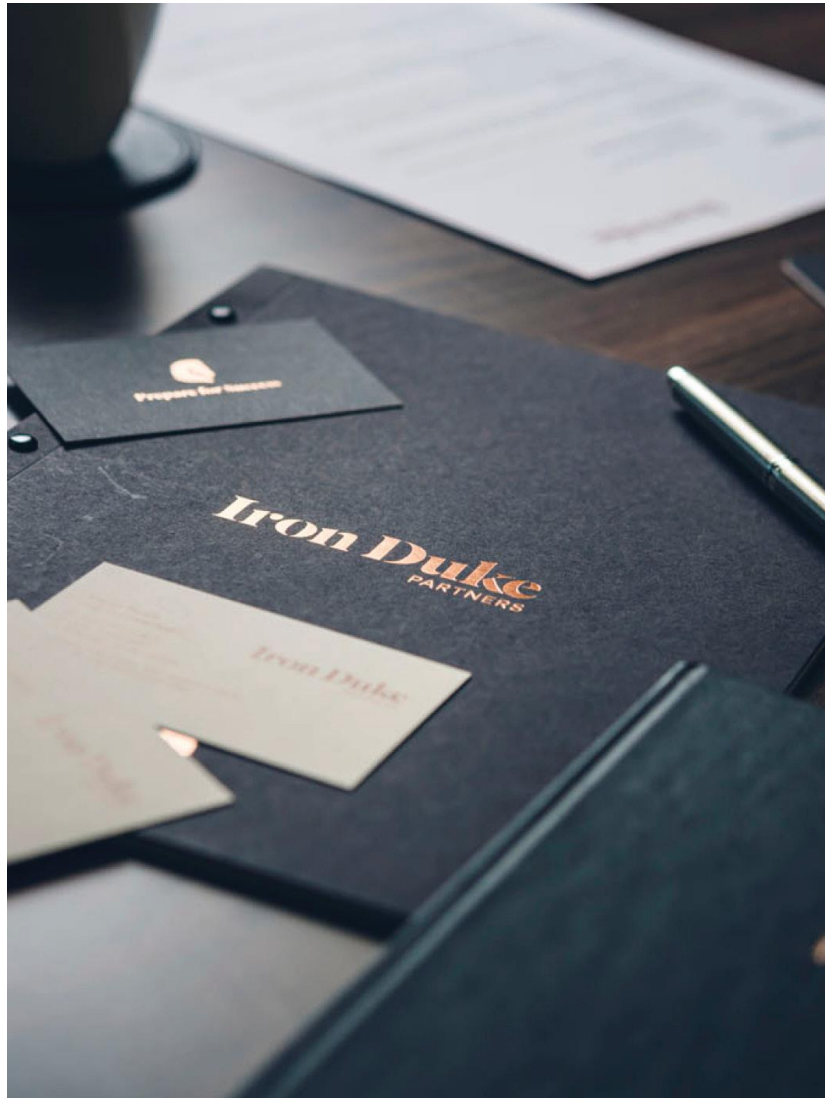


Iron Duke
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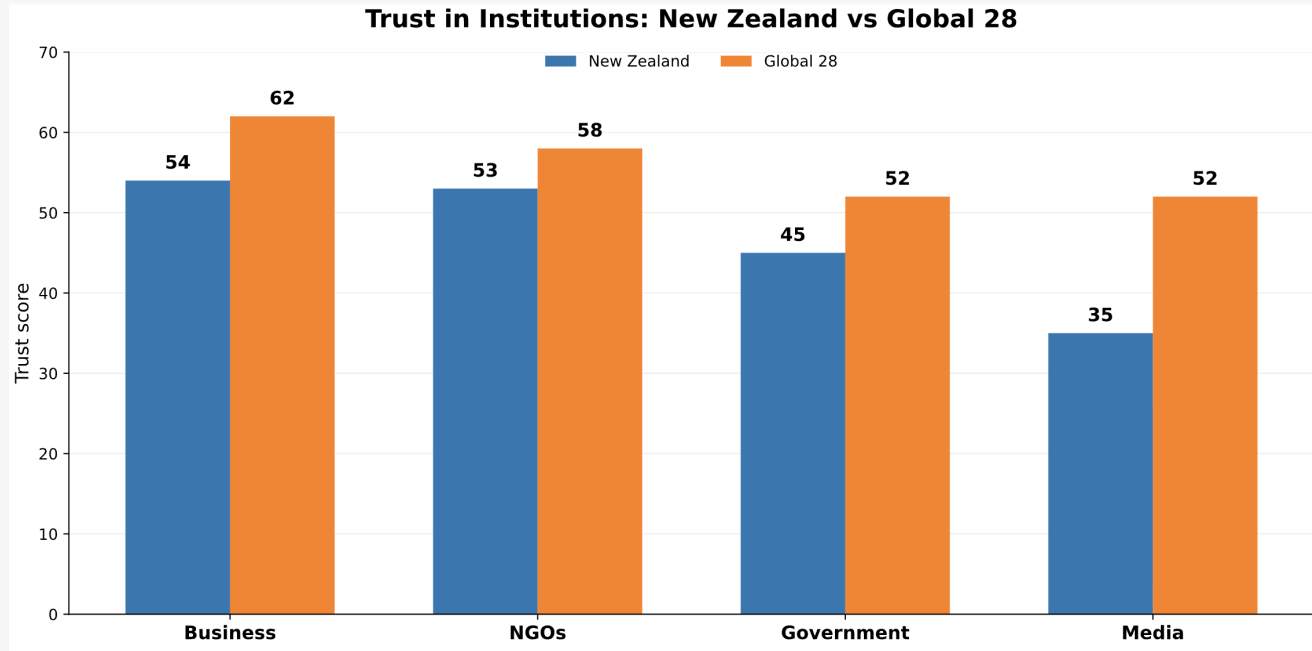
Trust - newfound importance



Iron Duke
PARTNERS



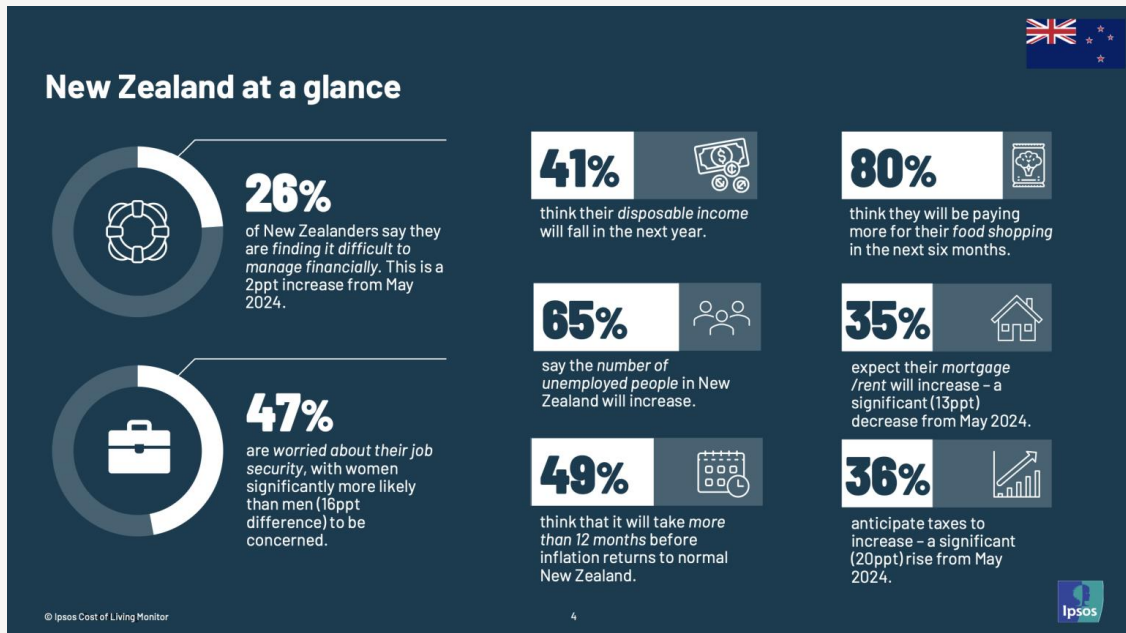
Trust in institutions



Acumen Edelman Trust Barometer 2025



We are feeling pessimistic



Ipsos Cost of Living Monitor 2025 (NZ)



NZ Herald
 'Saw the gold and ran for it': What is driving the Kiwi exodus to Australia
 Share this article ... The New Zealand job market has gone "tits up", says a young Kiwi from the Bay of Plenty who crossed the ditch to Australia.
 26 Feb 2026

The Spinoff
 I'm a 24-year-old NZ graduate. Here's why I'm moving to Australia
 I believed in the social contract: study, work hard, get ahead, build a life. Now I realise that deal no longer applies – at least not here.
 27 Jan 2026

RNZ
 'Painfully easy': Why more Kiwis are choosing to go to Australia
 "It makes me wonder who's left at home sometimes," says a 27-year-old who moved from Whangārei to Melbourne.
 14 Nov 2025

The Guardian
 As record numbers leave New Zealand, why are most people choosing Australia?
 A weak economy is pushing more New Zealanders across the 'ditch' in hope of a better life – and higher wages.
 2 Nov 2025

Particularly for our young people

What can councils - and only councils do?



Sense of place



Local communities



Local connections and infrastructure



Local convening power



Local consenting and permission



Local iwi relationships



Making connections with government locally relevant



Local advocacy

Do they really trust you?

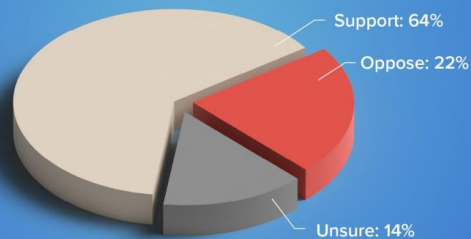
POLITICS / RNZ-REID RESEARCH POLL

RNZ-Reid Research poll: 75% of voters support a rates cap

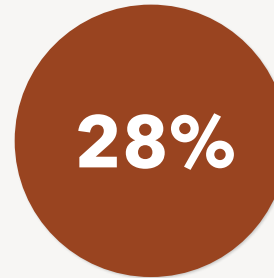
2:11 pm on 18 September 2025

Share this    

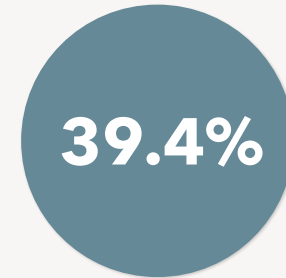
Do voters support a rates cap law?



Source: Taxpayers' Union-Curia August poll. Available at https://www.taxpayers.org.nz/poll_rates_cap0825



Council reputation
(LGNZ survey, 2017)



Local election voter turnout
(2025)

Do the people want amalgamation?

Leaked poll shows cautious backing for Wellington super-council

 **Andrea Vance** | The Post

May 9, 2026

 Share

ITEM 9.1
ATTACHMENT 1

Change is coming.





A better future



Do

- Represent your constituents
- Start working on what a good future could look like
- Be creative
- Work with like-minded others
- Propose alternatives
- Do the numbers
- Demonstrate what success could look like - economic and social
- Think long term

Don't

- Put your council at the centre
- Moan and complain
- Do nothing
- Tell everyone you are different
- Rely on your low rates
- Think short term



Minutes of the Joint Shareholders' Committee - Central Districts Water Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin on 22 May 2026, commencing at 10.05am.

Members Present: Mr Chris Gallavin (in the Chair)) and Councillors Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Mr Hayden Turoa and Ms Marj Heeney.

Members Present online: The Mayor (Grant Smith), Ms Danielle Harris

Non Members: Ms Di Rump

Karakia Timatanga

Mr Hayden Turoa opened the meeting with karakia.

14-26 Late Item

Moved Mr Chris Gallavin, seconded Mayor Andy Watson.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Committee agree the late item.

Reasons for lateness: Timing of Committee agenda did not align with Board agenda preparation.

Reasons for urgency: Progress will be out of date by the time the Committee next meets in August.

Clause 14-26 above was carried 9 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mr Chris Gallavin, Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Ms Danielle Harris, and Mr Hayden Turoa.

Ms Marj Heeney entered the meeting at 10.14am.

Draft Statement of Expectations

Memorandum, presented by Chris Gallavin, Committee Chair.

The Committee shared their thoughts on the revised draft.



JOINT SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE - CENTRAL DISTRICTS WATER - PART I - 22 MAY 2026

The Chair summarised that themes raised which had received the broad agreement of the room were:

- The document be written in a way that gives customers assurance- this may mean being more directive in the first year
- Sections referring to relationship to be strengthened
- References to affordability should be refined to reference the obligation committed to in the Water Services Delivery Plan
- The length of the initial Statement of Expectations to be a year in the establishment phase
- More refinement needed of local statements
- Improve clarity re: what the Company is to report on (including that reporting be forward looking)

15-26 Reporting protocols of Committee

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Mr Chris Gallavin, seconded Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee report the progress of its work to each of the Councils and Ngā Tapuwae o Hau, twice a year, and that the Chair of the Committee present those reports.
2. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee review its reporting frequency after 12 months.
3. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee minutes be circulated according to the process set out in Table 1.
4. That any Joint Shareholders' Committee recommendations be put to each of the Councils by the Joint Shareholders' Committee representatives for that Council.

Clause 15-26 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mr Chris Gallavin, Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Ms Danielle Harris, Mr Hayden Turoa and Ms Marj Heeney.

16-26 Confirmation of meeting schedule

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Mr Chris Gallavin, seconded Ms Marj Heeney.



JOINT SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE - CENTRAL DISTRICTS WATER - PART I - 22 MAY 2026

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee agree the schedule of meetings set out in section 2 of this memorandum, noting change of start time for 26 June 2026 and locations of all meetings.

Clause 16-26 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mr Chris Gallavin, Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Ms Danielle Harris, Mr Hayden Turoa and Ms Marj Heeney.

Transition update from Chief Executives

Memorandum, presented by Chris Dhyrberg, Executive Director.

The Committee received the update.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Mayor Wanden closed the meeting by leading the group in karakia.

The meeting finished at 12.02pm.

Confirmed 26 June 2026

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 24 June 2026

TITLE: Presentation of the Part I Public Joint Shareholders' Committee - Central Districts Water Recommendations from its 22 May 2026 Meeting

Set out below are the recommendations only from the Joint Shareholders' Committee - Central Districts Water meeting Part I Public held on 22 May 2026. The Council may resolve to adopt, amend, receive, note or not adopt any such recommendations. (SO 2.18.1)

15-26 Reporting protocols of Committee

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That the Joint Shareholders’ Committee report the progress of its work to each of the Councils and Ngā Tapuwāe o Hau, twice a year, and that the Chair of the Committee present those reports.
2. That the Joint Shareholders’ Committee review its reporting frequency after 12 months.
3. That the Joint Shareholders’ Committee minutes be circulated according to the process set out in Table 1.
4. That any Joint Shareholders’ Committee recommendations be put to each of the Councils by the Joint Shareholders’ Committee representatives for that Council.

9.2 Community Development Manager Report - June 2026

Author: Heidi Macaulay, Community Development Co-ordinator

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Community Development Manager Report is a standing item for this Committee, and is currently provided by Heidi Macaulay, Community Development Co-ordinator for the Bulls and District Community Trust.
- 1.2 The Community Development Manager will give a verbal or tabled report.

Recommendation

That the Community Development Manager Report – June 2026 be received.

9.3 Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government

Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

1. Reason for the report

- 1.1 To update the Bulls Community Committee on the Government's latest direction for simplifying local government, and to ask committee members to help encourage their communities to take part in Rangitikei District Council's June engagement.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Government's [November 2025 proposal to replace regional councillors with Combined Territories Boards](#) made up of mayors has changed.

- 2.2 Following consultation, the Government has moved to a staged approach:

- a voluntary Head Start pathway for councils ready to reorganise/amalgamate quickly; and
- a later backstop process for areas that do not progress through Head Start.

- 2.3 The Head Start pathway is focused on structural reform. In simple terms, this means councils can propose creating new unitary authorities. A unitary authority brings together the functions of a regional council, such as Horizons Regional Council, and a territorial authority, such as Rangitikei District Council, into one organisation.

- 2.4 Proposals can cover all or part of a region, and may include neighbouring councils from different regions where that makes sense. The Government has said Head Start proposals must be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday 9 August 2026.

- 2.5 You can read more about the May 2026 Government announcement, the Head Start pathway, and Mayor Andy's reaction below:

- [Mayor Andy Watson Rangitikei must have a say on simplifying local government](#)
- [Letter from Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts](#)
- [Information from DIA](#)

3. What could this mean for Rangitikei

- 3.1 The way local government is structured affects how decisions are made, how services are delivered, and how local communities are represented.

- 3.2 In his recent opinion piece, Mayor Andy Watson said the Government's direction is clear, and while the timeframe is very tight, Councillors have a responsibility to ensure Rangitikei voice is heard. Mayor Watson also noted that larger councils do not automatically mean lower rates, and that any proposed cost savings need to be understood alongside possible trade-offs.

4. June Community Engagement

- 4.1 Before Council decides what path to take, the Mayor and Councillors want to hear from the community.

- 4.2 From June, Council will be holding public meetings across the district and opening an online survey. This engagement will ask people what matters most to them, such as;
- keeping local decision-making close to rural communities,
 - protecting the local identity of Rangitikei,
 - improving council processes,
 - understanding possible costs and savings,
 - protecting local services,
 - strengthening the regional influence of Rangitikei.
- 4.3 The purpose of this engagement is to make sure people understand what is happening, why it matters, and how they can share what is important to them.
- 4.4 Public meeting dates <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/local-government-reforms/simplifying-local-government>
- 4.5 Requests for additional public meetings can be made to info@rangitikei.govt.nz.

5. Role of this committee

- 5.1 The Bulls Community Committee is a trusted local voice and an important link between Council and communities. Council is asking committee members to help spread the word and encourage people in their communities to have their say during the June engagement period.
- 5.2 This could include:
- sharing the material provided at this meeting
 - encouraging people to attend a public meeting
 - directing people to the online survey
 - helping people understand that this is about the future shape of local government and local voice.
- 5.3 This approach supports Rangitikei District Council's communications and engagement strategy, which recognises Community Committees and community groups as key partners who can help amplify Council initiatives and support meaningful two-way engagement with residents.

6. Supporting information

- 6.1 The Bulls Community Committee will be provided with additional communications material at the meeting to distribute through their communities. Should you require additional material to support your local conversations, please contact comms@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the report Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government be received.

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - June 2026

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 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 29 April 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:

- Friends of Taihape Charitable Society - \$10,000
- Brain Injury Association Whanganui - \$ 2,250
- People First New Zealand Inc - \$1,000
- Taihape Neighbourhood Support - \$2,250
- Bulls & District Community Trust - Bulls Hip Hop \$ 2,000
- Rangitikei Forest and Bird - \$989.30
- St Margarets Mobile Art Expo - \$1,000
- Bulls Toy Library - \$1,920
- Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble - \$1,297
- Sport Whanganui - \$1,934
- Taihape & District Museum & Historical Society - \$ 700

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 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 29 April 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:

- Bulls & District Community Trust - Wear-a-Bull Arts
- Bulls Junior Rugby Club
- Rangitikei Netball
- Bulls Rugby Football Club

4. Creative Communities Scheme

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 has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 4.3 Decisions for round one for 2025/26 were made on the 20 May 26 and below are the successful groups.
- Developpe Studio
 - Square Edge Community Arts
 - Mataroa School
 - Opaea Marae Trust
 - Gumboots Brass and Wind Ensemble
 - The Art of Seeing Academy

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.

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>

7. Rangitikei Grant Finder – Grant Guru

- 7.1 The Rangitikei District Council has joined forces with one of New Zealand and Australia’s most powerful grant search engine, GrantGuru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop grants portal.
[How it works](#)
- 7.2 The Funding Finder hand-picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants available. It also provides advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding.
- 7.3 GrantGuru is regularly updated with new information and grants. It features all council grants and initiatives. It replaces the Generosity NZ portal which previously was available through the Rangitikei Community Hubs.
- 7.4 Register via the website: <https://grantguru.com/nz/rangitikei>
- 7.5 Please reach out to our Funding Specialist if you require more information about Grant Guru, Charissa Lawlor, charissa.lawlor@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – June 2026 be received.

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - June 2026

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Allocation

- 1.1 The total 2025/26 allocation to the Committee’s Small Projects Fund is \$1,363.47 this includes the carry forward of \$63.47 from 2024/25 and \$200 for minor repairs.

Recommendation 1

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – June 2026 be received.

Recommendation 2

That the Bulls Community Committee [does/does not] recommend to Council to carry forward remaining funds \$_____and earmarked funds of \$_____

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Noticeboards in Bulls

Author: Alistair Stewart, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The committee has requested that the noticeboards in Bulls are discussed.

Recommendation

If needed.

11 Meeting Closed.