

Under Separate Cover

**LTP 2021-31
Deliberations Report**

Attachment 1

Analysis of Submissions to Framing Our Future Long Term Plan 2021-31

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an analysis of the written and oral submissions received by Council on "Framing Our Future Long Term Plan 2021-31".
- 1.2 The report initially provides an analysis of the five key choices:
 - Key Choice 1: Wifi Zones
 - Key Choice 2: Taihape Grandstand
 - Key Choice 3: Economic Development
 - Key Choice 4: Event Sponsorship
 - Key Choice 5: Joining the Local Government Funding Agency
- 1.3 Issues raised by group of activity are then provided and discussed.
- 1.4 Submissions which raised issues relevant to other simultaneous consultations are analysed in separate reports.
- 1.5 Following Council's decisions on submissions, the draft Long Term Plan will be amended for review by Audit New Zealand, and subsequent adoption by Council at their 24 June 2021 meeting.

2 Summary of Submissions

- 2.1 Consultation on "Framing Our Future Long Term Plan 2021-31" was conducted in accordance with the Special Consultative Procedure as required under the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.2 Submissions were open from 12 April to 10 May 2021.
- 2.3 The Mayor and Councillors hosted 17 public meetings across the District either directly prior to the engagement period or during the engagement period. Four live online meetings were also held covering the key aspects of the key choices.
- 2.4 Information about the consultation was promoted through Council's website, Facebook page, in local newspapers, and via the Rangitikei connect articles. Posters were also displayed in the areas where the public meetings were being held. Consultation documents were distributed widely, in Council's main offices, libraries and information centres as well as cafes, doctor surgeries, some local businesses and public meeting spaces.
- 2.5 Council received a total of 254 written submissions. This compares with 172 and 127 received respectfully for the 2018 and 2015 Long Term Plans. Of these, 25 submitters spoke to their submissions at the oral hearings held on 12 May 2021 in Taihape (8) and 13 May 2021 in Marton (17). Three submitters spoke to Council as a part of public forum at the 27 May 2021 Council meeting.
- 2.6 The location of the submissions is provided in [Figure 1](#) below. This figure shows that the most submissions came from residents of Marton (81) and Taihape (81). Not all submitters provided a response for their location or an address therefore the total area submitter numbers does not amount to the total number of submissions received.

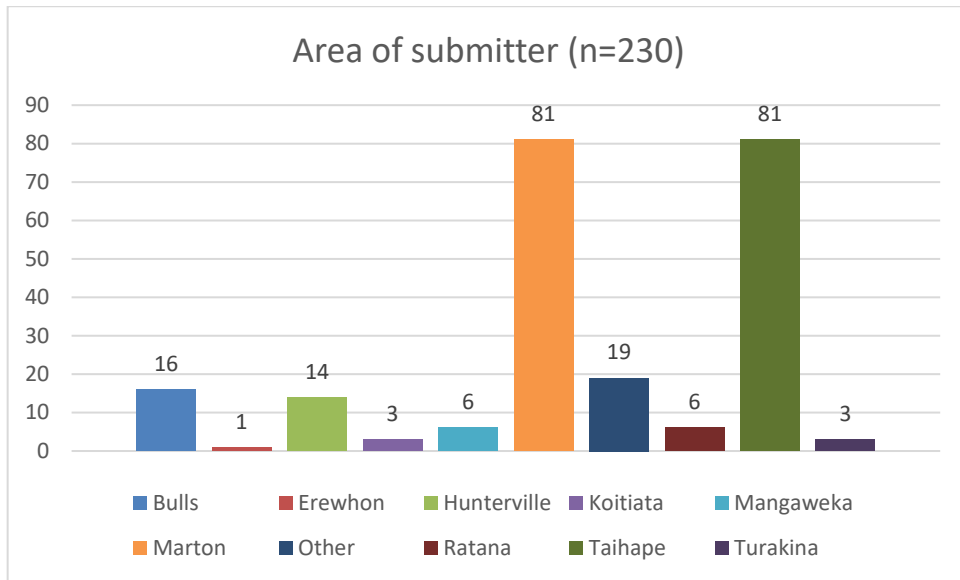


Figure 1. Location of submitters.

2.7 There were a wide range of organisations (61) that made a submission (Figure 2). The list of organisations that submitted is provided as [Appendix 1](#).

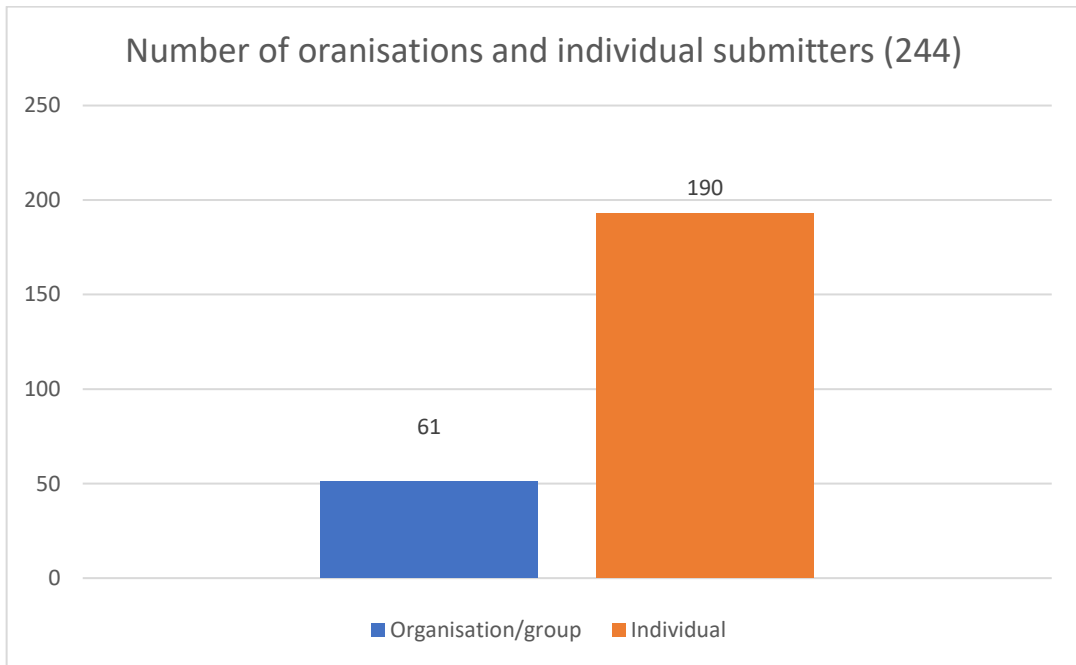


Figure 2. Organisation versus individual submitters.

3 Key Choice 1: Free Wifi Zones

- 3.1 The community was asked if Council should set up free wifi zones in our townships. Councils preferred option was to roll out wifi zones in Marton, Taihape and Bulls across 2021 and 2022 (Option 1). Councils second option was to also include Hunterville alongside the other townships and roll this out across 2021 to 2023 (Option 2). An option was also provided, that Council does not introduce free wifi zones in our townships (Option 3).
- 3.2 The overall results are provided as Figure 3. These figures show an overall breakdown of submitters responses. This shows the majority of submitters that responded to this question (55%) indicated a preference of Option 3, that Council does not introduce wifi zones in our townships.

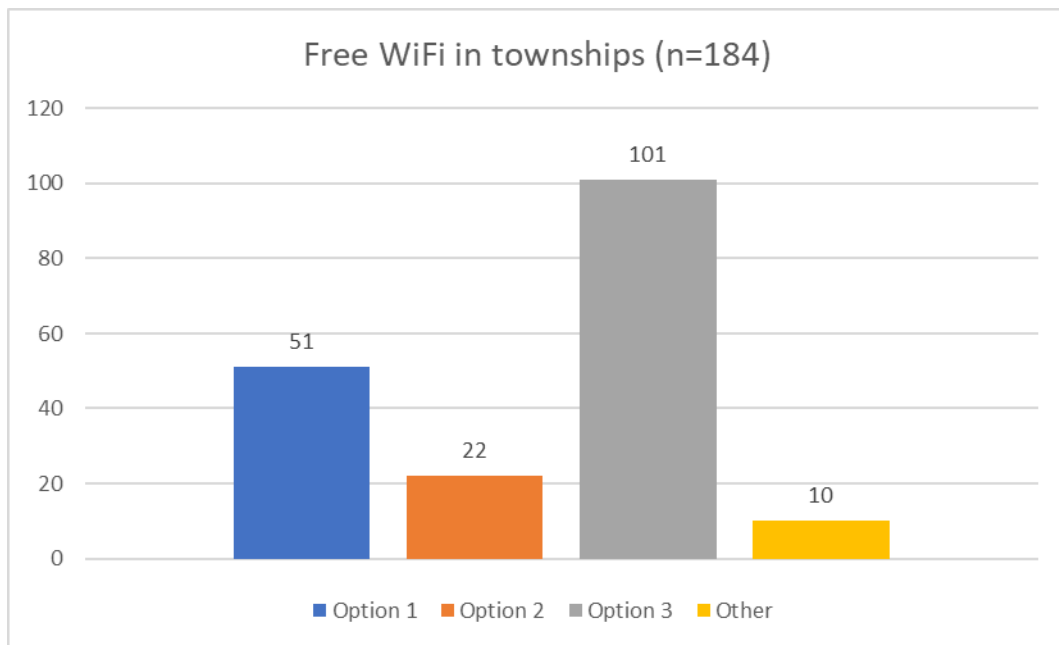


Figure 3. Key Choice 1: Free Wifi in Townships

- 3.3 Responses have been broken down into the townships of Option 1/Option 2 where, if approved by Council, wifi would be rolled out versus the rest of the submitters (Figure 4). The graph shows that submitters living in areas proposed for wifi (with the exception of Hunterville) were not supportive of the proposal.

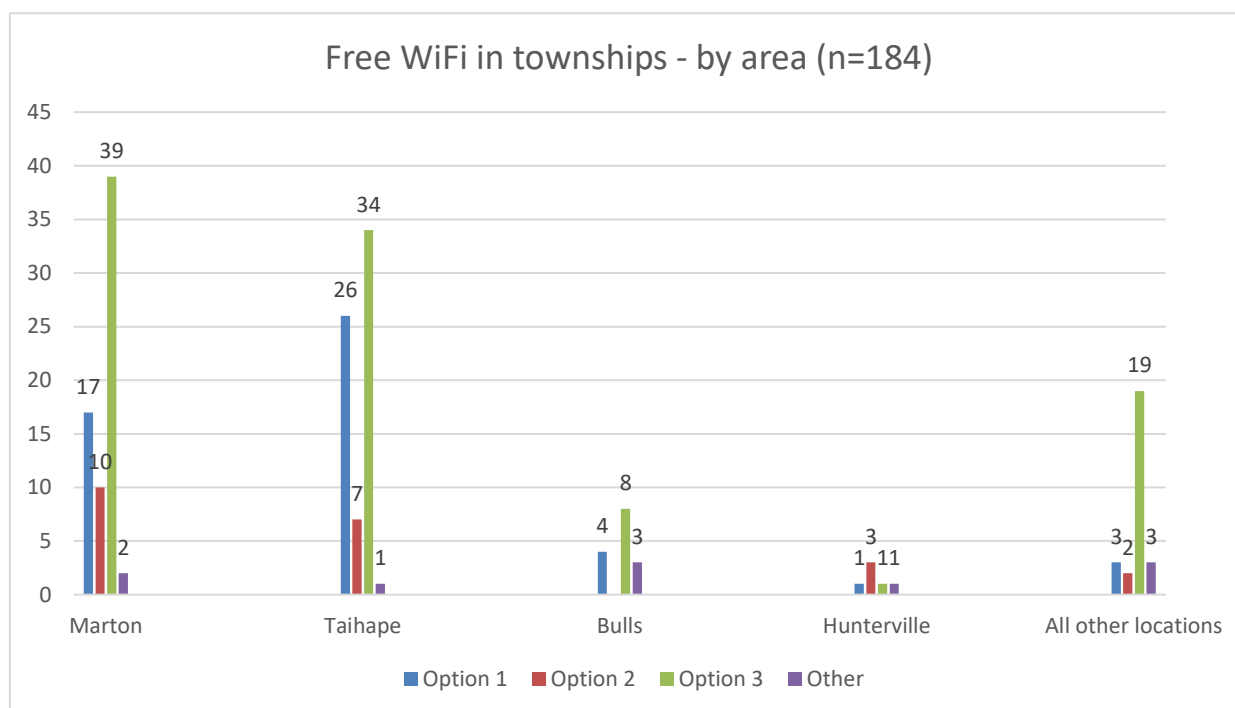


Figure 4. Free Wifi in Townships – Responses by Location.

- 3.4 Wifi is currently available at visitor information centres and libraries in Taihape, Marton and Bulls, however this is limited to the interior of each venue. The likely benefits of providing free wifi in townships are positive impacts for businesses and tourism, encouraging more people to stop in towns as they pass through, as well as bringing residents to town to use public spaces. Public wifi may also help address inequities around internet access in the district.
- 3.5 The cost of Option 1 is estimated to be \$64,000 for a one off installation and an ongoing cost of \$2,635 per month to maintain the service. Option 2 is estimated to cost \$80,000 for a one off installation and an ongoing cost of \$3,255 per month to maintain the service. There will be no cost if Council decides not to introduce free wifi zones. These costs are shown in the table below (including an additional Option 4).

	Operational Cost	Impact on rates (%)	Capital Cost / Debt
Option 1 – Marton, Bulls, Taihape	\$31,620 per year	0.13% per year	\$64,000 one off
Option 2 – Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Hunterville	\$39,060 per year	0.16% per year	\$80,000 one off
Option 3 – none	\$0	0%	\$0
Option 4 (new) – Hunterville only	\$7,440 per year	0.03%	\$16,500 one off

Topics Raised

3.6 Submitters raised a number of comments on the topic. These comments have been categorised into topics for analysis.

Topic 1	Internet Access for Rural Communities
Topic 2	Huntermville
Topic 3	Existing Wifi Services
Topic 4	Loitering
Topic 5	Council Priorities
Topic 6	Economic and Social Benefits

Topic 1: Internet Access for Rural Communities

Submissions

3.7 Laurine Stantiall (#056), Bevan Hobman (#058), Karl Allsop (#059), Kate Pearse (#072), Belinda Howard (#115), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #059 suggests putting more effort into improving internet connectivity in smaller communities.

Submitter #115 asked that council lobby for better connectivity in rural areas that only have access to ADSL.

Submitters #058, #059 and #152 suggested that the Council should work with telecommunications providers to increase mobile and broadband coverage instead.

Submitter #056 wanted investment from Council to extend any proposed wifi to cover more rural areas.

Officer Comment

3.8 A properly scoped and built public wifi network can deliver speeds roughly similar to ADSL, but this is dependent on conditions such as the number of connections, the strength of the signal, weather, and any obstacles between a user and the access point. The technology is not designed to replace a fixed internet connection.

3.9 Rural broadband is a service provided by telecommunications providers such as Vodafone and Spark. However, to improve rural mobile and broadband coverage, Central Government established the Rural Connectivity Group in 2017.

3.10 The aim of the group is to bring increased 4G mobile and wireless broadband coverage to rural New Zealand. While this project has increased access throughout the district to rural wireless broadband coverage there are still rural areas throughout our district without access.

Topic 2: Hunterville

Submissions

- 3.11 Charlotte Rowland (#050), Lucy Russell (#063), Helen Nielsen-Vold (#150), Kilmister Farms Ltd (#194), Kelsey Smith (#210).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #050, and #063, #194, all supported Option 2 and requested that Hunterville was included in the initial rollout.

Submitters #150 and #210 support wifi zones being established in all towns.

Officer Comment

- 3.12 The necessary fibre infrastructure is already available in Hunterville to support a public wifi network. However, it would be necessary to identify the optimal location for an access point and negotiate with the landowner as there is no appropriate Council owned property available. However, it would be feasible to include Hunterville in the rollout across 2021 and 2022 alongside the other townships.

Topic 3: Existing Wifi Services

Submissions

- 3.13 James Stuteley (#041), Tim Whitehouse (#042), Rodger Rangi (#044), Evelyn George (#049), Katerina Kupenga (#055), Stacey (#060) Kate Pearse (#072), Rosie Gilbert (#081), Rangi Krishnan (#085), Mary Freeman (#091), Peter Batley (#096), Sharleen Amai (#098), Turakina Community Committee (#104), Courtney Bartley (#110), Craig Whitton (#119), Jan Peacock (#129), Sonja Maraku (#138), Dave (#139), Hayley Cowx (#209), Michael O'Regan (#172), Steve Allen (#174), Laura Ayers (#176), Ruby Ralf (#168), Kim Duxfield (#179), Ruth Rainey (#184), JB & MF Pickford P/ship (#191), First Gas Ltd (#192), Ainsley O'Connell (#193), Fiona Moorhouse (#203), Bronwyn Ewens (#207), Charlie Mete (#212) Gretta Mills (#221), Frances Hodgson (#224), Susan Whale (#225), Lester Wright (#231), Jan Byford (#241), Taihape Community Development Trust (#244), Paul And Dianne Holloway (#247), Kloe Wong (#252).

Summary of submissions

All submitters identified above suggested that Council-provided public wifi is unnecessary as everyone should either have access to mobile data through their phone plan, home internet, or libraries/community centres in Taihape, Marton and Bulls. In addition, they felt there were already ample wifi offerings provided by cafes, service stations and other businesses in the district.

Submitter #042 suggests engaging with wifi providers for sponsorship.

Submitter #192 believes wifi should be a user pays service.

Submitter #241 raised concerns that public wifi could be detrimental to local businesses by providing an alternative to using the wifi at cafes and restaurants.

Officer Comment

- 3.14 The main benefit of public wifi is stimulating tourism, encouraging visitors and driving economic activity in the district. However, it may also play a role in addressing inequities in access to the internet, and therefore essential public services.
- 3.15 Although mobile data is relatively cheap, some lower-income families will still struggle to cover the costs involved – especially if they do not have an internet connection at home.
- 3.16 Offering public wifi would provide these people with the bare minimum of connectivity as a public service. This would help them avoid the barriers and social stigma of having to go to a business where they may not be able to purchase anything to get connected or rely on being able to go to a library or community centre.

Topic 4: Loitering

Submissions

- 3.17 Jiselle Rider (#083), Heather Gee-Taylor (#171)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #083 opposed public wifi on the grounds that it would encourage loitering by people who were unlikely to support local businesses. Submitter #171 also expressed concerns that providing public wifi would encourage undesirable people to loiter in public areas.

Officer Comment

- 3.18 A likely benefit of offering free wifi in the district's townships could be encouraging increased use of public areas. Increasing public use of our town centres has the potential to increase vibrancy of the areas and support Council's placemaking projects which have been implemented over the past few years. As a result, there could be increased demand for seating in the town centre areas.

Topic 5: Council Priorities

Submissions

- 3.19 P Galpin (#043), Taihape Playground Group (#046), Georgina Gibbs (#064), Makere (#065), Kendyl Davis (#082), Amanda Gardner (#101), Ingeri Fredriksson (#111), Lashana Bell (#124), Anglican Parish of the Rangitikei (#125), Save the Grandstand (#153), Robert Snijders (#161), Conn Rider (#168), Jacob Turner-Steele (#180), Isabell Mary Strange (#199), David Stuteley (#208), Vincent M (#248) Natasha M (#250).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters suggested that Council should invest money in other priorities:

- Submitter #101 argued that public wifi was a luxury at a time where rates were already too high and there were more pressing problems in the community – such as finding permanent GPs.

- Submitters #065, #082, #111, #125 and #168 would like to see drinkable water prioritised over wifi.
- Submitter #043 believes that public wifi is a waste of money and that council should focus on core responsibilities.
- Submitter #161 suggests that instead of providing public wifi council should use the money to keep council-owned swimming pools open all year round.
- Submitter #180 believes it is too late to install public wifi and that the money would be better spent on future proofing town centres for future technologies.
- Submitter #199 comments money should be spent on rural roads.

Submitter #064 notes that major cities do not supply people with free wifi and the Rangitikei is not a tourist destination, so there is no need for free wifi.

Submitter #124 sees the benefits of public wifi for visitors but doesn't believe it should come at a cost to ratepayers as rates are already too high.

Submitter #046 doesn't believe public wifi is worth the expense.

Submitters #086, #153, #250, and #248 don't believe public wifi is needed.

Submitter #208 does not believe this project would bring any benefit to rural ratepayers, who they feel already pays the most in rates for the least amount of service.

Officer Comment

- 3.20 These submissions should be read alongside the comments raised by submitters outlined in Topic 6.
- 3.21 The submitters comments are noted. Council will need to decide whether public wifi in the District's townships should be a priority.

Topic 6: Economic and Social Benefits

Submissions

- 3.22 Alan Ramsay (#089), Peter Kipling-Arthur (#118), Mason Te Huna (#128), Theresa King (#135), Richard and Robin Peirce (#143), Taihape Community Board (#145), Tania Byford (#167), Copeland Associates Architects (#183), Mokai Patea Services (#198), Hayley Cowx (#209).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #135, #167 and #183 believe that public wifi will be beneficial for visitors and residents.

Submitters #128, #143 and #145, #198 suggested that connectivity is now considered necessary and offering public wifi would help address inequities in access to the internet.

Submitter #089 believe that the costs to ratepayers is minimal.

Submitter #118 believes public wifi is a great idea.

Submitter #209 is supportive but suggests having it by the gumboot or town clock in Taihape.

Officer Comment

- 3.23 These submissions should be read alongside the objections and concerns submitters outlined in Topic 5.
- 3.24 The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced how necessary internet connectivity is for full participation in modern life. Central government has been slow to address inequities in internet access for lower-income families.
- 3.25 Free (at the point of use) public wifi may offer a social benefit by going a little way to addressing these inequities of access. It could also provide economic benefits of increased numbers of people stopping at our towns and encouraging our residents using and enjoying our public spaces.
- 3.26 The wifi area consulted on would reach the town clock in Taihape but not the Gumboot.

Recommendation

EITHER

That Council rolls out free wifi zones to the townships of Marton, Taihape and Bulls across 2021 and 2022.

OR

That Council rolls out free wifi zones to the townships of Marton, Taihape, Bulls and Hunterville across 2021 and 2022.

OR

That Council reduces the scope of the project and rolls out a free wifi zone in Hunterville only across 2021/2022.

OR

That Council does not roll out free wifi zones to townships in the District.

4 Key Choice Two: Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

- 4.1 The future of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand has been undecided while Council developed plans to provide facilities for the community and sports clubs in Taihape and simultaneously how to protect the heritage of the Grandstand. Council is undertaking assessments on the Grandstand to develop an understanding of the investment that would need to be made. The current high level estimate, yet to be shared with Council, is \$1.3 million to restore the building and strengthen from 25% NBS to 67% NBS. The draft long term plan budget has a provision for \$1 million to contribute to this project.
- 4.2 The community was asked if Council should continue to investigate the refurbishment and restoration of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand and how this could be funded in collaboration with the community; this was the preferred option (Option 1). The other option was for Council to not invest in the restoration of the Taihape Grandstand within the planned period (Option 2).
- 4.3 The overall results are provided as Figure 5. These figures show a breakdown of those who responded to the question. This shows the majority of submitters that responded to this question (67%) indicated their preference was Option one (preferred option).

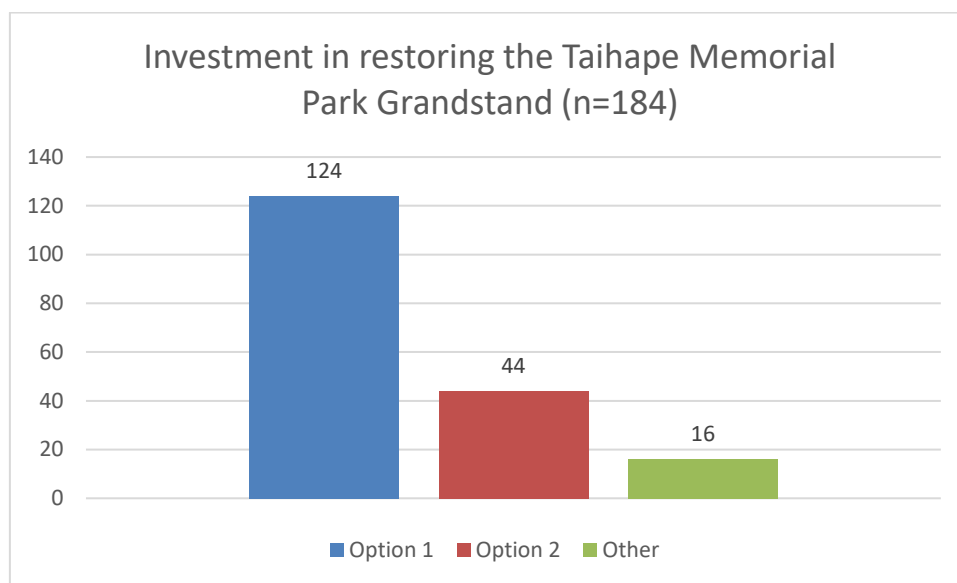


Figure 5. Key Choice 2: Investment in Restoring the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.

- 4.4 As this key choice has the most impact directly on Taihape the responses from Taihape submitters have been compared against all other submitters (Figure 6). Of those submitters who reside in Taihape (72) 86% selected Option 1. 55% of submitters from all other locations (112) selected Option 1.

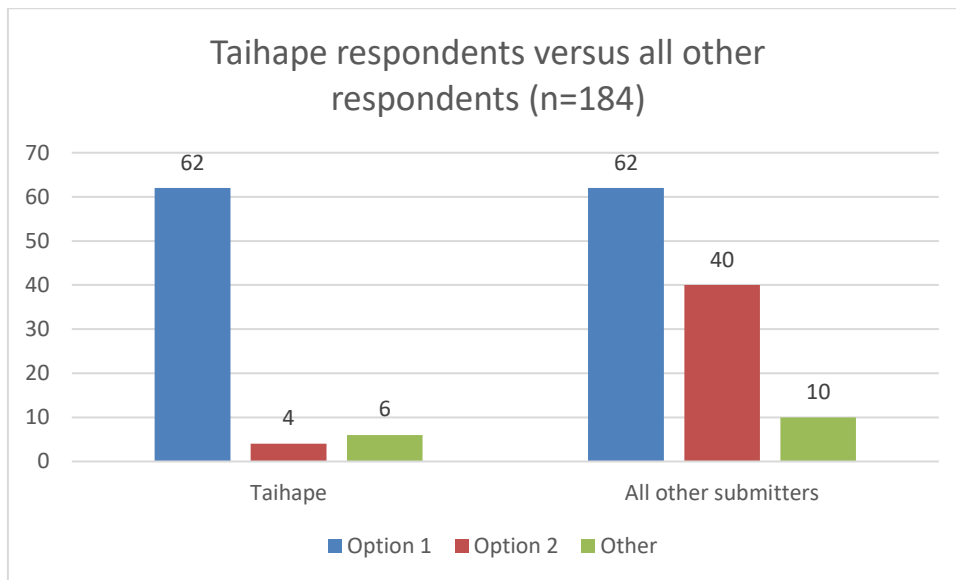


Figure 6. Taihape respondents versus other respondents.

4.5 If Council decide to go with the Preferred Option, provision of \$1 million would be made in the budget to contribute towards the project. If Council decided to choose Option 2, no funding will be allocated in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. The financial impact of both options is shown in the table below.

	Operational cost	Impact on rates %	Capital Cost (funded via cash reserves)
Option 1 – Continue investigations	Operational cost will not be known until further investigations have occurred.	0%	\$1 million
Option 2 – Do not invest during this planned period	\$0	0%	\$0

Topics Raised

Topic 1	Support the retention of the Grandstand
Topic 2	Do not invest in the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand
Topic 3	Submitters who suggested 'Something Else'
Topic 4	Do not invest in the new Amenities Building

Topic 1 – Support the Retention of the Grandstand

Submissions

- 4.6 Sport Manawatu (#088), Anne Fannin (#036), Raymond James Seymour (#040), Taihape Playground Group (#046), Evelyn George (#049), Bridget King (#067), Danny Logan (#075), John Cribb (#076), Rosie Gilbert (#081), Jiselle Rider (#083), Anne McAleece (#086), Alan Ramsay (#089), Mary Freeman (#091), Sharleen Amai (#098), Turakina Community Committee (#104), Rob Gordon (#105), John Thomas (#106), Sally Chambers (#112), Chanelle Theobald (#113), Belinda Howard (#115), Peter Kipling-Arthur (#118), Jan Peacock (#129), Taihape Community Board (#145), Helen Nielsen-Vold (#150), Treasuretrove (#151), Paul Marcroft (#155), Carolyn Bates (#165), Emily (#166), Tania Byford (#167), Heather Gee-Taylor (#171), Michael O'Regan (#172), David Anderson (#177), Ruby Ralph (#178), Bronwyn Troon (#181), Naumai Wipaki (#182), Barry Copeland (#183), Ruth Rainey (#184), Ainsley O'Connell (#193), James Kilmister (#194), Ringo Tahiri (#195), Mokai Patea Services (#198), Robbie Rae (#201), Laurence Abernethy (#202), Ann Abernethy (#204), Bronwyn Ewens (#207), Hayley Cowx (#209), Coralee Matena (#213), Gretta Mills (#221), Susan Whale (#225), Elizabeth Mortland (#227), Raymond Burrows (#233), Pania Winiata (#244), Leonie Rae (#245), Paul and Dianne Holloway (#247), Kloe Wong (#252).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #088, #098, #245 provided general statements noting support for the retention of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.

A number of submitters support the restoration due to the heritage or sentimental value of the building for the community:

- Submitter #118 supports the retention of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand and notes work is being done on getting it listed for heritage status but no timeframe for completion of this is known.
- Submitter #036 states that the Grandstand is an iconic building in Taihape and needs to be refurbished for the future. All sports clubs can use it and it is more centrally sited on the 'REC'. The submitter goes on to say that destruction of the Netball Courts etc. is not necessary and that the Grandstand is more central for the toilets. That submitter claims that most people in Taihape are in favour of retaining this iconic building and RDC needs to listen to their voices.
- Submitter #040 supports the restoration and regards the Grandstand as a community memorial to the 100s of Taihape men who gave their lives so that we can lead the life we do.
- Submitter #046 supports renovation of the Grandstand due to the sentimental and heritage value to the community. They consider the building to be a landmark.
- Submitter #049 notes that this is a difficult decision and think it is important to preserve old buildings as well as to provide suitable facilities for the sports clubs.
- Submitter #067 has no sentimental connection to the Grandstand and feels it is not inclusive due to accessibility restrictions, however, recognizes the importance of the building to the community and would rather see it refurbished than deteriorate further.
- Submitter #075 supports the restoration due to sentimental values associated with the building.
- Submitter #081 states it is an iconic building that needs to be preserved.

- Submitter #091 suggests that the subject of the Grandstand is very political and that RDC should listen to the folk of Taihape most of whom want this iconic building to be preserved.
- Submitter #104 feels that the Grandstand is a good heritage facility that needs to be preserved.
- Submitter #106 states that the Grandstand is an icon and sees no rationale for not restoring it.
- Submitter #112 notes the Grandstand is part of Taihape's heritage.
- Submitter #113 raises a concern that if the Grandstand is lost, the town will also lose a part of what makes Taihape unique.
- Submitter #118 thinks that the Grandstand is an iconic building with a great heritage value and the council should invest in preservation of the building for future generations.
- Submitter #129 feels that it is important to preserve our historic buildings wherever practical.
- Submitter #151 considers the Grandstand to be part of Taihape's character.
- Submitter #155 supports the restoration of The Grandstand due to its historical value and being a common place of gathering for all members of the community. They would like the council to undertake a comparison between the carbon footprint of the Grandstand restoration and the construction of the new amenities building.
- Submitter #181 would like to see the building restored as it has a heritage value.
- Submitter #182 considers The Grandstand to be a historic landmark.
- Submitter #183 supports the restoration due to the heritage value and its uniqueness. Considers restoration to be cheaper than constructing a new grandstand in place of the existing structure.
- Submitter #193 considers the building to have a heritage value.
- Submitter #198 supports the restoration as the wider community cares about The Grandstand and considers it to be of historical significance.
- Submitter #201 supports the restoration due to the building being iconic. They also expressed their support for the new amenities building.
- Submitter #202 considers the Grandstand to be important to the local community and have heritage qualities.
- Submitter #204 feels that the community values the significance of the building and its unique style.
- Submitter #209 considers the Grandstand to be an important part of the community and rugby history.
- Submitter #233 supports the restoration due to the building being part of the local heritage.
- Submitter #244 supports the restoration due to the building being part of the local heritage and because they know the community cares about the Grandstand.

A number of submitters noted the value of the building for sports:

- Submitter #083 supports the restoration as it encourages sporting events in rural communities which is paramount to the wellbeing of the citizens.
- Submitter #167 thinks it is important to preserve the building and refurbish it so that it can be used by local sports teams.
- Submitter #177 thinks that restoration of the Grandstand may attract more events and sports groups.

- Submitter #207 supports local sports amenities.

Other submitters made comments about the cost and source of funds:

- Submitter #089 supports the restoration and suggests that the extra cost per ratepayer is minimal.
- Submitter #184 suggests asking Taihape Heritage Trust to secure some funds for the renovations.
- Submitter #194 suggests that the cost of restoration should be shared between the council and the building users (clubs, societies, etc.), and volunteer labour should be used.

Two submitters commented about Council's responsibility to maintain assets:

- Submitter #115 feels that it is RDC's responsibility to maintain all its assets, including the Grandstand. They also feel that the council has not done an adequate job of maintaining its assets to date.
- Submitter #247 thinks it important that existing infrastructure is maintained, and new infrastructure built as required.

Two submitters identified support for both the Grandstand and Amenities building:

- Submitter #112 feels that both the Grandstand and the new amenities building are needed and supports restoration of the Grandstand.
- Submitter #195 would like to see the Grandstand fixed and the new building built.

Some submitters commented on the process:

- Submitter #105 supports the restoration but is concerned that the Council will not take any notice of his submission.
- Submitter #150 would like the council to get on with the restoration as they are concerned the building condition is getting worse.
- Submitter #165 expresses frustration at the lengthy investigations and consultation period before any decisions are made and actions taken.
- Submitter #171 would like to see some concept drawings and faster progress.
- Submitter #213 would like the council to defer till 2024 and seek funding from central government, as well as co-funding from users of the Grandstand.
- Submitter #221 expressed frustration at council's indecisiveness about the future of the Grandstand.
- Submitter #225 would like to see the Grandstand refurbished for its 100th birthday in 2024.
- Submitter #252 supports the restoration due to its significance for the community, expresses frustration at lack of progress, and suggests a significant increase in rates to enable prompt restoration.

Submitter #076 did not choose an option but suggests the work is long overdue and should have been done in the past.

Submitter #145 has been persuaded by the community to express their support for the restoration.

Submitter #166 would like to see the building being made more accessible to elderly members of the community.

Submitter #172 expresses concern that the building may deteriorate further.

Submitter #227 supports the restoration but only if the Grandstand provides new facilities post renovation and not only seating and changing rooms, as these will be in the new amenities building.

Officer Comment

- 4.7 A large number of the submitters who expressed their support for restoration of the Grandstand perceive the building as a local landmark of significant historical and sentimental value. They feel that the building plays an important part in bringing the locals and the neighbouring communities together and refers to the role of sports.
- 4.8 Several submitters indicated they would like the Grandstand to house changing rooms, toilets, and other usable spaces.
- 4.9 Some submitters expressed frustration at a lack of decision from the Council on the future of the Grandstand – they asked for a decision and for the restoration work to commence promptly to avoid further deterioration of the structure.
- 4.10 The building code requirements for safe egress cannot be met for facilities underneath the Grandstand without significant, costly amendments that would far exceed the cost of strengthening and restoration. Adequate heating could not be provided under the Grandstand to make the changing rooms and ablutions user-friendly. The amenities building will provide these. A carbon assessment is not planned on being completed for the amenities building or Grandstand.

Topic 2: Do Not Invest in the New Amenities Building

Submitters

- 4.11 Ian Drake (#028), Alysha Bennett (#030), Anne Fannin (#036), Rosie Gilbert (#081), Peter Batley (#096), Ken Bellamy (#153), Isabell Mary Strange (#199), Frances Hodgson (#224), Jan Byford (#241).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #028 and #199 support an investment in the Grandstand, but not in the new amenities block.

Submitter #030 suggests funding should go to the Taihape Grandstand, playground and toilets instead of the amenities building.

Submitter #036 supports restoration of the Grandstand and does not support netball courts being sacrificed for the new building.

Submitter #081 sees the Grandstand as a place that brings the communities together and would like the Councillors to attend a game to witness the community spirit. They also do not support the construction of new amenities building.

Submitter #096 claims that the community expressed a clear view that the preferred outcome would be to fully restore all facilities in the Grandstand, and as such, there is no need for the new amenities building.

Submitter #153 would like RDC is to stop any further expenses related to the development of the new amenities building. They support the Grandstand restoration.

Submitter #224 would like the amenities to be located under the Grandstand, not in a separate new building.

Submitter #241 would like the new amenities under the Grandstand, not in the new building.

Officer comment

- 4.12 A number of submitters who noted support for the grandstand specifically suggested Council should not invest in the amenities building.
- 4.13 All submitters who expressed their lack of support for the new amenities building support the restoration of the Grandstand. It appears that some submitters think that if the new amenities building is constructed, restoration of the Grandstand will no longer be pursued. Some submitters would like the Grandstand to house all amenities.
- 4.14 The reason for not including changing rooms and ablutions in the Grandstand is that current building code requirements for safe egress cannot be met for facilities underneath the Grandstand without significant, costly amendments that would far exceed the cost of strengthening and restoration. Adequate heating could not be provided under the Grandstand to make the changing rooms and ablutions user-friendly. The Amenities Building will provide these and the Amenities Building proceeding does not exclude the Grandstand restoration from being undertaken.

Topic 3: Do not Invest in the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand during the planned period

Submissions

- 4.15 Candice (#014), Micah Prideaux (#019), Laurine Stantiall (#056), Rangi Krishnan (#085), Amanda Gardner (#101), Craig Whitton (#119), Sonja Maraku (#138), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152), Robert Snijders (#161), Malcolm Leary (#164), Steve Allen (#174), Laura Ayers (#176), David Stuteley (#208), Charlie Mete (#212), , Ian Rae (#254).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #056 suggests each community should pay for their own facilities (based on the Bulls Community Centre).

Submitter #085 thinks this should not occur given the uncertainty around the future.

Submitter #101 suggests they do not consider the Grandstand will make Taihape flourish.

Submitter #119 thinks it is better to build a new one rather than restore the existing grandstand. The submitter considers restoration is cost prohibitive and will only benefit a few. The submitter suggests it is an unfair burden to the rest of the ratepayers, and the local community should fundraise if it is a priority for them.

Submitter #138 does not consider it a priority as it is not in their community.

Submitter #152 is concerned the Grandstand may become a 'white elephant' but supports the amenities block.

Submitter #161 raises concern about Council's record for overspending on capital projects and cites the Bulls Community Centre as an example. The submitter does not consider lessons have been learned despite the new focus on project management.

Submitter #174 does not think Council should be working on this project given the effect of Covid.

Submitter #176 thinks it is a waste of money.

Submitter #208 suggests it does not bring benefit to the ratepayers for the rest of the district. Does not think Council should be paying for it.

Submitter #212 notes lack of support for the project from the Ratana Community.

Officer Comment

- 4.16 All comments opposed to Council investing in the Taihape Grandstand were from ratepayers who do not live in Taihape.
- 4.17 It appears that the lack of support for restoration of the Grandstand is predominantly due to the associated expense and to the potential benefits of restoration being limited to the Taihape community, not the wider District.

Topic 4: Submitters who Suggested 'Something Else'.

Submissions

- 4.18 Sarah Jarvis (#017), Piamoana Penetiti (#039), James Stuteley (#041), P Galpin (#043), Karl Allsop (#059), Stacey (#060), Makere (#065), Ingeri Fredriksson (#111), Anglican Parish of the Rangitikei (#125), Ken Bellamy (#153), Paul Marcroft (#155), Kim Duxfield (#179).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters suggested Council should invest in other priorities:

- Submitter #017 states they consider the playground is used more by the community and do not support investment in the grandstand. Does not think it is acceptable for the community to fundraise for a new playground.
- Submitter #039 suggests a cycleway from Marton to Bulls.
- Submitter #059 suggests planting more native trees.

Submitter #041 suggests council continues to investigate but decrease allocated funding.

Submitter #043 states 'no'

Submitter #060 suggests Councillors and the Mayor take a pay cut.

Submitter #065 suggests rates are already high.

Submitter #111 did not select a response but suggested Council clean the water.

Submitter #125 did not select a response but suggested ratepayers should not fund the project and suggests the project is completed with community funding.

Submitter #153 suggests the options are misleading.

Submitter #155 suggests both options, (in their oral submission they commented that they would like the Grandstand restored). This submitter notes the importance of the architecture and provides commentary of its contribution to the community.

Submitter #179 suggests the Taihape community should fundraise instead of Council contributing.

Officer Comment

- 4.19 The submitters comments are noted. Various other community facilities and infrastructure have been suggested as an alternative to the Grandstand restoration.
- 4.20 Elected Members are unable to take a paycut as their remuneration is set by the Remuneration Authority.
- 4.21 If Council decides to proceed with the refurbishment, options for community funding will be considered.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] continue to investigate the refurbishment and restoration of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand and how it will be funded in collaboration with the community, and includes a provision of \$1 million in the budget to complete this work (from cash reserves), noting Council will need to make a final decision in the future on whether or not to complete this work.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] direct Officers to finalise investigations and provide a report back to Council on the strengthening and restoration costs of the Grandstand, without changing rooms and toilets, which will be provided by the new Amenities Building.

5 Key Choice 3: Economic Development

- 5.1 The community was asked how Council should fund its economic development. The preferred option (Option 1) was to increase funding for economic development, allowing Council to make greater strides in achieving our economic goals. Option 2 was that Council continue with the current budget and maintain the status quo.
- 5.2 The overall results are provided as Figure 7. These figures show an overall breakdown of submitters responses. This shows the majority of submitters that responded to this question (57%) indicated a preference of Option one.

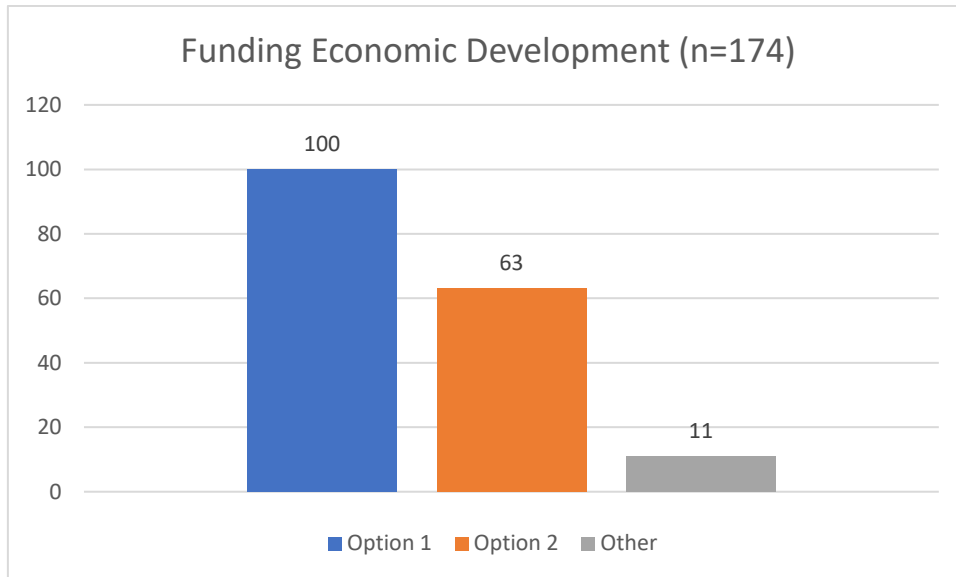


Figure 7. Key Choice 3: Economic Development

- 5.3 Council currently invests \$200,000 annually in economic development inclusive of salaries. The preferred option would increase this budget to \$372,500 for the first year of this plan then years 2-10 would have a budget of \$322,500, both inclusive of salaries. Option two would retain the status quo of \$200,000.

	Operational cost	Impact on rates %	Capital Cost/Debt
Option 1 – Increase funding	\$172,500 Year 1	0.69%	\$0
	\$122,500 Year 2 onwards	0.49%	
Option 2 – Do not increase funding	\$0	0%	\$0

Topics Raised

Topic 1	Priorities for Additional Economic Development Funding
Topic 2	Council Should Fund Other Priorities
Topic 3	Affordability / Cost
Topic 4	Information on Economic Development / Use of Existing Funding
Topic 5	Iwi / Cultural Diversity
Topic 6	General Support for Increased Funding
Topic 7	Other Comments
Topic 8	Economic Development Comments Raised Elsewhere
Topic 9	Relocation of Activities in Taihape

Topic 1: Priorities for Additional Economic Development Funding

Submissions

- 5.4 Taihape Playground Group (#046), Belinda Howard (#115), Christin Calkin (#126), Taihape Community Board (#145), Treasuretrove (#151), Ken Bellamy (#153), Kyle Baird (#185), Hayley Cowx (#209) Jan Byford (#241), Paul & Dianne Holloway (#247).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #046 identifies a need for housing, but doesn't consider funding from Council will be enough. The Submitter considered financing local businesses helps strengthen the future of the community.

Submitter #115 notes the importance of collaboration in economic development. The submitter is supportive of additional funding, however, considers focus should be on diversifying the economy and the primary sector rather than tourism. Submitter #115 identifies the need for a strong emphasis on housing, but also suggests the need to focus on banking, health, education which is important when attracting new residents.

Submitter #126 supports additional funding, and suggests focus should be on afterschool and holiday programmes for kids, retirement villages, apprenticeships, increased ability for subdivision, banking.

Submitter #209 comments programmes should be for younger kids as well.

Submitter #145 supports targeting social and community funding, supporting the Door of Hope Trust housing initiative.

Submitter #151 Supports business promotion and community housing.

Submitter #153 suggests investment in rental housing with joint partners, green space for the retail area on Hautapu Street, creation of a playground and recreation space in the green space and housing space. The submitter also suggests promoting tourism

opportunities for rural areas. The submitter suggests an industrial and service zone should be located towards the old saleyard area.

Submitter #185 suggests the residential zoning in Taihape needs to be increased to make growth and subdivision easier.

Submitter #241 suggests more support for visitor promotion in Bulls and Taihape.

Submitter #247 supports increased funding and supports public/private partnerships being developed.

Officer Comment

- 5.5 A number of submitters that supported additional funding made suggestions on how Council should spend the extra money. Many of the priorities raised such as housing, supporting business, diversification of the sector and visitor promotion are incorporated into the draft Economic Development Strategy and draft Housing Strategy. The draft Housing Strategy provides a framework that identifies housing needs and potential solutions, including for new privately-owned homes, community housing, retirement villages, emergency housing, group homes, rest homes and assisted living facilities, papakainga housing and rental housing stock.
- 5.6 Council is developing a Spatial Plan for the District during 2021/22 which will consider the area of land needed for future housing development. This will consider the need for additional residential land in Taihape and the appropriate zoning for the old sale yards site. The rules associated with subdivision will be reviewed during 2022/23 alongside the District Plan Review.
- 5.7 There is currently a small retirement village/rest home located in Marton. Council Officers will engage with potential retirement village operators around demand and opportunities for establishment in our District. Council supports access to apprenticeship programmes through the Mahi Tahī (employment) programme funded by the Mayors Task Force for Jobs. Officers are awaiting approval of this fund for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 5.8 Comments in relation to banking services in the district can be found in the other issues report under topic 5.
- 5.9 It is unclear where the exact location of an additional greenspace is requested on Hautapu Street, however, Officers note there are existing greenspaces such as the 'Taihape Triangle' and Mt Stewart Reserve.

Topic 2: Council Should Fund Other Priorities

Submissions

- 5.10 Karl Allsop (#059), Sharleen Amai (#098), Amanda Gardner (#101), Ingeri Fredriksson (#111), Craig Whitton (#119), Anglican Parish of the Rangitikei (#125), Mason Te Huna (#128), Jan Peacock (#129), Carolyn Bates (#165), Conn Rider (#168), Ruth Rainey (#184), David Stuteley (#208),

Summary of submissions

Submitter #059 selected 'other' and suggests diversifying into hemp and suggest using more environmentally friendly farming practices, planting more trees and getting a recycling plant up and running.

Submitter #098 questions Council's priorities and suggests spending should be focused on housing and not civic centre developments.

Submitter #101 suggests litter and rubbish dumping is a bigger concern.

Submitter #119 suggests other revenue sources are needed to support growth (such as development contributions). The submitter provides some suggestions on how such as development contributions policy could work.

Submitter #184 questions whether Council spend on economic development has improved the economy. The submitter suggests making the district an attractive place to live and do business to support the economy. The submitter suggests minimal regulations, good road, water infrastructure and helpful staff.

Submitter #208 specified 'other' and suggests a zero based budgeting approach; that government is not good at delivering economic development; and that Council should perform its core role better so that the district is an attractive place to invest.

A number of submitters raised infrastructure as a priority:

- Submitter #111 did not select an option and requested Council fix the water.
- Submitter #125 did not support additional funding and thinks economic development is important but raises concerns about infrastructure capacity.
- Submitter #128 did not select an option, but requested a pool for Bulls.
- Submitter #129 suggests the focus should be infrastructure.
- Submitter #165 notes that pressure on infrastructure will increase as a result of the expansion of Ohakea.
- Submitter #168 suggests fixing the drinking water instead.

Officer Comment

- 5.11 Officers note the range of additional priorities submitters have requested. In addition to funding economic development activities, Council has an extensive programme for the renewal and development of its infrastructure throughout the District. This includes the development of the Marton Water Strategy, which will map out the future of the Marton Water Supply.
- 5.12 Council's draft Economic Development Strategy, 2021-2031 highlights its support of improved and environmentally friendly farming. Officers note that the volume of recyclables generated in the District is not sufficient to justify the development of a recycling plant.

Topic 3: Affordability / Cost

Submissions

- 5.13 P Galpin (#043), Don and Vivienne Tantrum (#062), Rangī Krishnan (#085), Alan Ramsay (#089), Grace Joan Taiaroa (#141), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152), Michael O'Regan

(#172), Bronwyn Ewens (#207), Ratana Community Board (#212), Gretta Mills (#221), Raymond Burrows (#233) Vincent M (#248).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #043 considers economic development is not required.

Submitter #062 did not select an option but stated that as long as rates don't increase more than inflation.

Submitter #089 considers the extra cost is minimal.

Submitter #141 is concerned about rates increases.

Submitter #152 references the rates increases and questions how Council works collaboratively with other government organisations in this area to maximise outcomes.

Submitter #172 does not support the proposed rates increase. The submitter suggests an alternative of investing in opportunities as they arise where the benefit of development will feed back into Council finances.

Submitters #085, #207, #212 and #248 suggest the funding should remain where it is.

Submitter #221 does not support the increased funding.

Submitter #233 questions why there is an impact on rates and not on debt.

Officer Comment

- 5.14 The comments raised by submitters about affordability are noted. Council will need to consider the priority of economic development funding.
- 5.15 Council collaborates with a range of government entities and authorities, and businesses at the national, regional, district and local levels. Opportunities for increasing collaboration are sought regularly. This collaboration provides benefit in learning from others experience and the ability to cooperatively respond to common and shared issues.
- 5.16 The activities budgeted for under economic development are currently funded from rates rather than debt. The activities currently planned are operational activities which are generally funded by rates. Debt is usually used for the funding of capital projects (e.g. new infrastructure, strategic land purchase, etc.).

Topic 4: Information on Economic Development / Use of Existing Funding

Submissions

- 5.17 Jiselle Rider (#083), Anne McAleece (#086), Peter Batley (#096), Sharleen Amai (#098), Robert Snijders (#161), Carolyn Bates (#165), Conn Rider (#168), Heather Gee-Taylor (#171), Steve Allen (#174), Barry Copeland (#183), Gretta Mills (#221).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters provided comments about the information or performance information available to the community for economic development activities not being sufficient:

- Submitter #083 suggests it is too vague.

- Submitter #086 notes they do not know what the previous money has been spent on.
- Submitter #096 does not consider there has been a review of the existing investment and they have no information to base further investment on.
- Submitter #161 suggests Council has not demonstrated the benefit of economic development for the district. The submitter raises concern about the lack of performance measures for economic development.
- Submitter #174 identifies a lack of information.
- Submitter #183 notes they agree with additional funding, but suggests Council needs to provide more information to support the investment.

Three submitters raised concern about where support has been previously provided.

- Submitter #083 raises concerns about Council support provided for Hereford Heights.
- Submitter #098 raises concerns about Council providing for people who are already affluent rather than those who are most vulnerable.
- Submitter #168 raises concerns about Council support for private investors.

Submitter #165 questions the development of a 'District Management Plan' and suggests this work had been undertaken in the past. The submitter also suggests a survey to analyse information about the district had been completed in association with rangitikei.com.

Submitter #171 did not select an option but noted that they are hopeful Council is aware economic development can be hard to measure.

Submitter #221 questions why Council does not have up to date information about local businesses, town centres and primary producers. The submitter suggests this information has been collated before and questions how decision making is occurring without it.

Officer Comment

- 5.18 Officers note the comments raised by submitters on the perceived lack of information or performance information available to the community. Officers provide reporting on economic development activities to the Policy/Planning Committee. Information on business support is provided on Council's website. Officers will consider opportunities for increasing public awareness of economic development activities to ensure the community has easy access to be able to understand the work programme and outcomes.
- 5.19 At a time (2019) when population in the District was still forecast to decline, Council agreed to provide support for the development of Hereford Heights to secure the development and investment in the subdivision of the site and to encourage residential expansion and economic development. This approach led to the development of an 85 lot subdivision, providing much needed land for housing development, and associated jobs associated with the subdivision and construction of houses in the area.
- 5.20 Council is planning on developing a Destination Management Plan. Such a plan has not been developed in the past.
- 5.21 Council works with businesses on an ongoing basis and as new businesses develop Council needs to gather that information to help with promotion and economic development.

Action

Officers consider there are opportunities to implement increase communication around economic development activities for increasing public awareness of economic development activities to

ensure the community has easy access to be able to understand the work programme and outcomes.

Topic 5: Iwi / Cultural Diversity

Submissions

- 5.22 Living Hope Samoan AOG (#154), Carolyn Bates (#165), Paul & Dianne Holloway (#247).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #154 supports the funding and suggests partnering with Iwi.

Submitter #165 suggests employing an Iwi Liaison officer was Council's approach for partnering with Maori.

Submitter #247 notes support for additional funding and identifies that economic development should be inclusive of all cultures.

Officer Comment

- 5.23 Council is committed to both partnering with Iwi, but ensuring that economic development activities are inclusive of all cultures. The draft Economic Development Strategy identifies partnership with Iwi as a key priority. Council's Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua supports Council's engagement with Iwi and hapu throughout the District, while the economic development activity seeks to improve partnerships with Iwi on economic development activities.

Topic 6: General Support for Increased Funding

Submissions

- 5.24 Turakina Community Committee (#104), Helen Nielsen-Vold (#150), Jacob Turner-Steele (#180), Ainsley O'Connell (#193), Mokai Patea Services (#198), Hayley Cowx (#209), Manawatu District Council (#214), Susan Whale (#225), Taihape Community Development Trust (#244).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #104 identifies that a long term view is needed and supports additional funding.

Submitter #150 notes expanding diversity before saturation occurs.

Submitter #180 supports money going "into a good idea" but states there wasn't what Council's proposals were.

Submitter #193 notes the area needs economic growth to support growth.

Submitter #198 identifies that increased investment enables more to be achieved economically which will benefit the community.

Submitter #209 is supportive provided Taihape is included, and notes concerns about receiving their fair share of Council investment.

Submitter #214 notes support for increasing funding.

Submitter #225 indicates support for additional funding, but requests growth is spread more evenly across the District.

Submitter #244 indicated support for additional funding to enable benefits for the economy, community, social and community housing.

Officer Comment

- 5.25 Officers note the comments in support for increased funding. All communities throughout the district will be included in economic development initiatives.

Topic 7: Other Comments

Submissions

- 5.26 Stacey (#060), John Cribb (#076), Rosie Gilbert (#081), Sonja Maraku (#138), David Stutely (#208), Carl Knight (#253).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #060 selected 'other' and suggest Council asks the community. This submitter notes varying views on economic development.

Submitter #076 selected other, but stated 'always advance projects in this area'.

Submitter #081 is unsure.

Submitter #138 notes difficulty narrowing their comments down.

Submitter #208 commented Council should be consulting on the Marton Rail hub.

Submitter #158 supports the Marton Rail Hub.

Submitter #253 comments they are supportive that Rangitikei can grow and prosper.

Officer Comment

- 5.27 These comments are noted.
- 5.28 Council consulted with the community on the proposed change to the Rangitikei District Plan for the rezoning of industrial land during 2019/20. This is the location of the Marton Rail Hub.

Topic 8: Economic Develop Comments Raised Elsewhere

Submissions

- 5.29 Farina Brady (#008/031), Melissa Morris (#021), Douglas Kim (#027), A Pernthaner (#048), Jan Peacock (#129), Taihape Community Development Trust (#244).

Summary of submissions

A number of comments related to economic development were also raised as additional comments. These are summarised below:

- Submitter #008 / #031 asks Council to investigate more land for housing at Koitiata and investigate housing on the Domain. The Submitter raises a number of suggestions such as tiny homes, or creating a partnership with Iwi or a private developer.
- Submitter #021 suggests developing street side cafe seating to make it more attractive to locals and travellers to spend time in town. Encourage, incentives for private development in housing and business.
- Submitter #027 suggests investing in other towns (Taihape, Turakina).
- Submitter #048 suggests considering medium density housing to prevent urban sprawl.
- Submitter #129 notes there used to be an A-Z book and local street maps in public places would be great.
- Submitter #244 asks how Council is going to help Taihape with the empty shops, their look as well as accountability from the owners.

Officer Comment

- 5.30 Council is developing a Spatial Plan for the District during 2021/22 which will consider the area of land needed for future housing development, along with needs and locations. The potential future use of Council-owned land (the campground and domain) in Koitiata (submitters #8/#31) will need to be considered further. It is noted that submitter #152 has requested the domain area is retained for recreation purposes.
- 5.31 A number of actions have already been taken to understand the needs and facilitate the development of more houses in the district. One of these being to incentivise residential development with rates remissions on new builds and subdivisions. The rules around housing development, including medium density housing will be reviewed in 2022/23 alongside the District Plan Review.
- 5.32 Cafes are able to place seats on the footpath in Taihape if desired. Some cafes in the area already do this. Council's economic development function seeks to encourage new businesses establishing in town centres, however, Council has no rules around the appearance of buildings.
- 5.33 The A-Z book was previously published by Stuff. They have indicated they are no longer developing the book due to the level of investment required to produce it. Officers are developing township maps for Marton, Taihape, Bulls, Hunterville and Mangaweka that will be displayed in public areas such Council's community centres and as shops.

Topic 9: Relocation of Activities in Taihape

Submissions

- 5.34 Raema Mickleson (#004), Taihape Friendship Club (#093).

Summary of submissions

Two submitters suggested a number of changes in Taihape.

Submitter #004 suggested a number of changes for Taihape:

- Move the rubbish dump beyond Gibbs Road.
- Build a foot bridge from Manu Road to Weka Street.
- Move commercial trade businesses to the edge of town.

- Discuss moving Taihape Area School (TAS) to its original site and use the current TAS site for residential development.
- Consider relocating the Go Bus site and use it and the ex-Women’s Club for residential development.
- Install windmills on the southwest hills of Taihape.
- Utilise the back of the Taihape recreation/show grounds, Mataroa Road and Jones Road for development.

Submitter #093 suggests that the Taihape Go-Bus site be moved to the old Taihape sale yards.

Officer Comment

5.35 Officers appreciate the suggestions provided by the submitters. Council is developing a Spatial Plan for the District in 2021 that will guide future development. The future needs for residential and commercial land will be considered when developing the Spatial Plan 2050. Council has no ability to require private landowners or occupiers, or the Ministry of Education to move sites, however, Officers are open to having conversations with landowners around opportunities for site redevelopment.

Action

Council Officers will consider the needs for residential and commercial land in Taihape when developing the Rangitīkei Spatial Plan 2050.

Officers will have discussions with commercial landowners in Taihape where there are opportunities for site relocation or redevelopment.

Recommendation

That Council does /does not [delete one] increase funding for the Economic Development activity by \$172,500 in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan, and by \$122,500 for the following years.

6 Key Choice 4: Event Sponsorship

- 6.1 Council currently funds events throughout the district with an annual contestable fund of \$25,000 per year. This fund supports up to 50% of the cost of events which help develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth within the Rangitikei District.
- 6.2 The fund is open to events which take place in the District, apart from if they have no economic or community benefit to Rangitikei, are otherwise funded by Council, or are solely run for commercial or fundraising purposes are not eligible for funding.
- 6.3 Council asked the community if it should increase event sponsorship. Council's Preferred Option was to increase the annual Event Sponsorship Fund from \$25,000 to \$50,000 (Option 1). The other option was to not increase the annual event sponsorship fund (Option 2). Submitters were also given the opportunity to suggest something else (Option 3).
- 6.4 The overall results are provided as Figure 8. These figures show an overall breakdown of submitters responses. This shows the majority of submitters that responded to this question (63%) indicated a preference of Option 1, increase annual Event Sponsorship funding from \$25,000 to \$50,000 which was Councils preferred option in the consultation document.

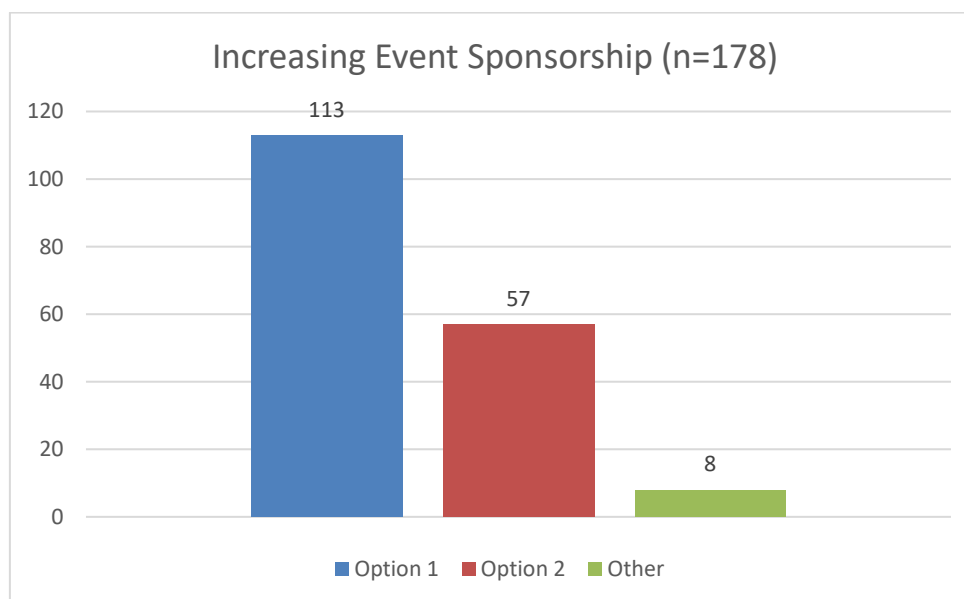


Figure 8. Key Choice 4 Event Sponsorship.

- 6.5 Responses have also been broken down into those who submitted as an organisation versus individuals (Figure 9). Of the 26 organisations that responded to this question 65% responded that Council should increase its Event Sponsorship Fund. The preferred option was selected by 63% of individual submitters.

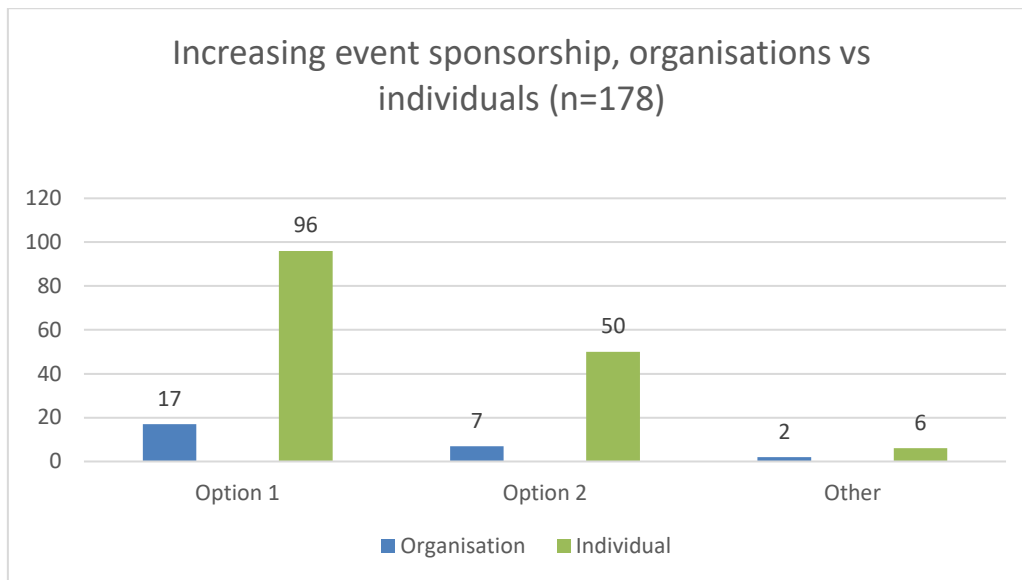


Figure 9. Responses from organisations versus individuals.

6.6 If Council decides to go with the Preferred Option it will mean an increase of \$25,000 to the Event Sponsorship Fund bringing the total to \$50,000 per annum. If Council retains the status quo the fund will remain at \$25,000 per annum. The financial impact of both options are shown in the table below.

	Operational cost	Impact on rates %	Capital Cost/Debt
Option 1 – Increase fund by \$25,000	\$25,000 per year	0.1% per year	\$0
Option 2 – Do not increase fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

Topics Raised

Topic 1	Visitor attraction & District/Town Promotion
Topic 2	Community Wellbeing
Topic 3	Fund Criteria
Topic 4	Other Funding Opportunities Outside of Events Sponsorship Scheme
Topic 5	Increase the Fund Further / Provide Other Support
Topic 6	Lack of Cultural Diversity
Topic 7	Financial Concerns
Topic 8	Spend the Money on Something Else

Topic 9	Maintain Status Quo
Topic 10	Other Comments

Topic 1: Visitor Attraction & Town/District Promotion

Submissions

- 6.7 Anne McAleece (#086), Alan Ramsay (#089), Turakina Community Committee (#104), Reverend Timothy Duxfield (#125), Jan Peacock (#129), Taihape Community Board (#145), Carolyn Bates #165, Emily (#166), Michael O'Regan (#172), Steve Allen (#174), Bronwyn Troon (#181), Ainsley O'Connell (#193), James Kilmister (#194), Laurence Abernethy (#202), Ann Abernethy (#204), Elizabeth Mortland (#227), Jan Byford (#241), Paul and Dianne Holloway (#247), Carl Knight (#253).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters provided comments supporting the proposal to increase funding as events bring people to the district:

- Submitter #086 can see where the money went to and it does bring in people as well as national TV coverage.
- Submitter #104 states these events can never be self-funding and they bring people and money to the district.
- Submitter #129 states big events do draw visitors to the area and are enjoyed by locals
- Submitter #172 states increased support for events will draw greater numbers and increase turnover for local businesses.
- Submitter #193 states that events bring outsiders to the region which is important.
- Submitter #204 states "events bring in the public and visitors which show-cases our town and community and gives business a boost."
- Submitter #241 states events attract out of Towner's and potential residents. Events provide entertainment for locals - support essential.
- Submitter #247 states that events bring visitors to the district which helps to improve the local economy.
- Submitted #253 identifies that Marton events are what gets friends from Palmerston North and Whanganui to Marton, otherwise they make few annual trips to see what we have to offer.

The submitters below identified benefits of events in promoting our district:

- Submitter #125 states they would support this initiative to promote our region.
- Submitter #145 suggest easing access to funding for events that showcase our community.
- Submitter #165 states it is a good way to showcase the District, but wonders if this should this be incorporated with the aspect of economic development.
- Submitter #181 states they agree to promote the whole of the Rangitikei to the rest of New Zealand.
- Submitter #194 is one of the organisers for The Hunterville Huntaway Festival and states that rising compliance costs and the growth of the event has added more cost

and financial pressure to the running of the event, more financial help will help ease the burden and states he is in support of the increase, not just for Hunterville, but the Rangitikei as a whole as it is money well spent to show case our district and attract people and investment.

Other submitters consider there is a need to promote the District more:

- Submitter #089 states we want Rangitikei to be more than SH 1 & 3 where you buy fuel and food.
- Submitter #166 comments that we should promote our town (Taihape) more.
- Submitter #174 agrees with the need to attract people in New Zealand to local events.
- Submitter #202 states "anything to put Taihape on the Map".
- Submitters #227 and #240 request that Council contribute financially to the NZ Rural Games when held in Palmerston North - this is a great opportunity to promote the Rangitikei and our outdoor/agricultural/horticultural enterprises - encourage people to live, work and play in the Rangitikei.

Officer Comment

- 6.8 There are eight key events currently running (Turakina Highland Games, Marton Country Music Festival, Marton Harvest Festival, Marton Market Day, Hunterville Huntaway Festival, Kiwiburn, Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge & The Mudder) that attract a significant number of out of district visitors and have a high promotion value. Three of these events access funds from the Events Sponsorship Fund (Turakina Highland Games, Hunterville Huntaway Festival & Marton Country Music Festival). The remainder are supported through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements (Marton Market day, Marton Harvest Festival), or are a commercial event (Kiwiburn, Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge) or the events are a fundraiser (The Mudder). There are also two emerging events such as the Taihape Spring Fling and Go Throw Show that have the potential to attract a significant number of out of district visitors.
- 6.9 Support for events as a means of increasing visitor numbers and the profile of our District is identified as an action in the draft Economic Development Strategy.
- 6.10 The request from submitters #227 and #240 to support the Rural Games when held in Palmerston North is noted. Officers will explore the benefit supporting the Rural Games could have for the District.

Action

Officers will explore options for supporting the rural games when held in Palmerston North and its alignment with ongoing district promotion, target visitor audience and the prospect of it attracting new residents in the district promotion work plan.

Topic 2: Community Wellbeing

Submissions

- 6.11 Rangi Krishnen (#085), Sharleen Amai (#098), Craig Whitton (#119), Barry Copeland (#183), David Stuteley (#208).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #085 supports giving our local events a bit more exposure as these events are a very visible aspect of community activity.

Submitter #098 states many events bring residents out to enjoy their public spaces, yes they hold events to fundraise but ultimately that money is injected back into the community which brings economic growth. Supporting events is a must to a strong united community, it gives them pride, it attracts people to an area, people get to know their community folk and form bonds, gives security and safety on knowing who lives within their townships.

Submitter #119 states events make people feel good and lead to a sense of community.

Submitter #183 states Option 1 for a modest cost offers a strong boost to events and social/economic outcomes.

Submitter #208 states this is one way the Council can make a difference to the quality of life in our district that can be shared by a large number of residents and ratepayers. It has a direct and measurable effect on the local economy as people come into the area to attend, spend money et cetera, and it generates free publicity through TV news coverage.

Officer Comment

- 6.12 The benefits identified by these submitters are noted and form part of the rationale for why Council proposed to increase funding for events. Community focused events in particular (held in a public space that are free) play a crucial role in the social well-being of its residents and community with opportunities to participate, develop skills, socialise and volunteer which aligns with council's vision for community outcomes.

Topic 3: Fund Criteria

Submissions

- 6.13 Jiselle Rider (#083), Stephanie Boerboom (#120), Helen Nielsen-Vold (#150).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #083 states as long as it is for open (free) events.

Submitter #120 selected other but states seeing how much \$\$\$ comes in from locals, local events could get more if possible, maybe see if there is the possibility of a criteria to meet for events to get more funding.

Submitter #145 requests the ease of access to funding is increased for events that would showcase our community.

Submitter #150 selected option 1 but states however, few events done well showcase better than many done half pie. Please have robust criteria.

Officer Comment

- 6.14 The fund seeks to support community and high profile events that promote our District. The criteria does not require events to be freely open to the public, however, events run solely for commercial or fundraising purposes are ineligible for funding. For the 2020/21

financial year 13 events received funding. A Destination Management Plan would be included in the 2021 work schedule, subject to an increased Economic Development budget. Such a plan might be useful for reviewing the criteria of the Events Sponsorship Fund to ensure alignment.

Topic 4: Other Funding Opportunities Outside of the Events Sponsorship Scheme

Submissions

- 6.15 Rochelle Baird (#095), Robert Snijders (#161), Bronwyn Ewens (#207), Susan Whale (#252).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #095 states there are already a lot of funding options out there e.g. pub charity, four regions etc.

Submitter #207 states community organisations need to not just rely on council funding for their event. I have run many successful events on a shoe-string budget. If an organisation is well planned, they will be looking to other likely funders or ask for sponsorship. There are several funders that would fund an event e.g. pub charity. I do not support an increase in rates, when organisations have other options.

Submitter #161 suggests it should be down to the 'events' to promote themselves better and engage with the community rather than Council. The submitter then states not only is there the money involved that is used for sponsorship but also council staff time and suggest organisations like Project Marton should take the lead on this, the submitter considers they are responsible for promoting the district.

Submitter #225 states these events need to be self-sufficient.

Officer Comment

- 6.16 Local funding opportunities have become harder to secure, the start of 2020 saw Lions Foundation no longer in the southern part of the District. Additionally, with an increased number of groups/organisations taking to fundraising and sponsorship opportunities it is becoming harder and more competitive to secure the funds required to deliver some events on the scale expected /needed/wanted. The Events Sponsorship criteria enables up to 50% funding of eligible costs per event, therefore, event providers are required to seek other funding avenues in addition to the support provided by Council.
- 6.17 Project Marton, Bulls and District Community Development Trust and Taihape Community Development Trust are contracted by Council to deliver key events within their communities, however, the district promotion function sits with Council.

Topic 5: Increase the Fund Further / Other Support

Submissions

- 6.18 Sharleen Amai (#098), Belinda Howard (#115), Ken Bellamy (#153), Heather Gee-Taylor (#171), Mokai Patea Services (#198), Isabell Mary Strange (#199), Greta Mills (#221).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters provided suggestions for increasing the fund further or that it should be a higher priority:

- Submitter #098 suggests increasing it to \$100,000 by reprioritising budgeted items.
- Submitter #153 selected other but states 'Yes... maximum PA \$50,000 for each district ward'.
- Submitter #171 states event funding should be a higher priority compared with funding other economic development activities. Event funding is just such a good "bang for your buck" way to spread funding throughout the district. It was noted that there was no event fund money left for the Hunterville Lions Club "Bike the Boulders" event which was rather disappointing given that close to \$15k was raised and is tagged to go directly towards the new St John building (in Hunterville).
- Submitter #199 state they think the increase should be bigger.
- Submitter #221 mentions events sponsorship used to be funded at a much higher level than \$25,000 and that the decrease deprived multiple community event groups from accessing this vital financial support!
- Submitter #198 states they think the increase should be bigger.

Submitter #115 states unless there are plans underway for new events they don't see the point of this and would prefer to see council offering practical support for event organisers, such as linking them with experts to help with designing new events, supporting event organisers within Council resources e.g. making the Council's graphic designer available to help with designing marketing and advertising material, and/or working with established events to help them become more self-sustaining, rather than continuing to hand out dollars to established events.

Officer comment

- 6.19 The submitter's comments are noted. Council needs to balance funding events alongside other priorities while considering affordability for the community.
- 6.20 Officers note in response to #115 sharing resources and knowledge is a cost effective way to help grow events and maintain continued alignment with community outcomes and goals, however while staff offer appropriate support when required not all requests would be possible within existing workloads.
- 6.21 In response to the comments raised by Submitter #171 about the "Bike the Boulders event", the Events Sponsorship Fund is not available for events for fundraising purposes. Council did not receive an application for the identified event. Further comment on the Hunterville Ambulance Station is provided in Section 17 of this report.

Topic 6: Lack of Cultural Diversity

Submissions

- 6.22 Mokai Patea Services (#198), Isabell Mary Strange (#199).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #198 requests that council reconsider current guideline benefits to include aspects of culture and Te Ao Maori.

Submitter #199 states funding for cultures other than Christian should be considered. Most importantly events for Matariki should be supported to get going and funded and I would be quite happy to see Christmas parades canned.

Officer comment

- 6.23 The current criteria enables funding for events from a range of cultures. Council note increased diversity is a desired outcome, however, is reliant on event organisers. Officers are currently engaged in conversations about an event to celebrate Matariki. Culturally diverse events run in line with the Welcoming Communities Programme that Council will join from 1 July 2021, supported with external funding.

Topic 7: Financial Concerns

Submissions

- 6.24 Mary Freeman (#091), Richard and Robin Peirce (#143), Leonie Rae (#245).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #143 states too many people are having a hard time, put this forward a year or two.

Submitter #091 states that people should be responsible for their own funding.

Submitter #245 says this is a good idea but farmers can't afford for their rates to be increased so much to have these 'nice to haves'.

Officer Comment

- 6.25 The submitters comments are noted. Council will need to balance affordability considerations when making decisions on the proposed funding.

Topic 8: Spend the Money on Something Else

Submission

- 6.26 Christin Calkin (#126), Colin Rider (#168), Renee Russel (#248).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #168 does not support additional funding and instead suggests funding should be put into finishing the reservoir track, investigating the environmental impact of Bonny Glenn and opening the pool all year.

Submitter #126 says most of these events are big enough to financially support themselves. The submitter suggests a new fund that assists current groups, clubs, not for profits with facility improvements, i.e. hot water zips, outdoor lighting, disability ramps, heaters etc. The submitter notes there are a number of these groups who are struggling to

accommodate their members who rely heavily on them for social interaction and mental health support.

Submitter #249 requests Council invest in a community owned and built ambulance Station in Hunterville.

Officer comment

- 6.27 Officers note the alternative priorities raised by submitters. Council will need to decide whether economic development should be a priority. It is noted that few of the larger events are in the position to turn an ongoing profit with the exception of the Marton Country Music Festival & Suzuki 4x4 event.
- 6.28 In addition to the Events Sponsorship Fund, Council offers the Community Initiatives Fund which provides up to \$2,500 to support community-based projects in the Rangitīkei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 6.29 Submitters #249's comments about the Hunterville Ambulance Station are addressed in the Other Issues section of this report.

Topic 9: Maintain Status Quo

Submission

- 6.30 Charlie Mete (#212), Raymond Burrows (#233), Renee Russel (#248).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #212 & #249 suggest the status quo is retained.

Officer Comment

- 6.31 Submitter's comments are noted.

Topic 10: Other Comments

Submissions

- 6.32 Piamoana Penetito (#039), Stacey (#060), John Cribb (#076), Sonja Maraku (#138), Grace Joan Taiaroa (#141), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152), Charlotte Oswald (#196), Isabell Mary Strange (#199), Pania Winiata (#244).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #039 thinks the current events are boring, not changing with society.

Submitter #060 thinks events do well currently and increasing the fund means organisers are less likely to ask the community for help.

Submitter #076 identifies sponsorship is important to community organisations that deliver events with limited funds and that other funding options such as those from the gaming industry are becoming more limited.

Submitter #138 does not support additional funding because they consider they get overlooked but pay the most.

Submitter #141 selected option 2 but asks if there is any funding that can be accessed to support events in Ratana.

Submitter #152 states that the community (Koitiata) agree that boosting funding for community events is important and will drive more collaborative opportunities.

Submitter #196 commented that we need to keep community events going.

Submitter #199 states that they would be quite happy to see Christmas parades canned and is appalled at the truly unhealthy practice of crowds encouraged to gather to pick up unhealthy lollies thrown at them off the street not to mention all the plastic wrappers left behind afterwards.

Submitter #244 states Option 1 as it would provide a strong boost to the support we can provide to events in our district.

Officer comment

- 6.33 Officers acknowledge the boost in funding for community events will enable a wider range of events to be supported. Events for Ratana can be funded through the Events Sponsorship fund provided the fund criteria are met. Council provides funding, but do not run events throughout the District and therefore are not able to provide direction on the types of events that are held. Environmentally friendly practices are encouraged.

Summary Officer Comments

- 6.34 Large events play a crucial role in promoting, attracting and driving visitors to our communities, continually providing a compelling reason to visit, and more importantly, returning. Local events also support community wellbeing.
- 6.35 In the 2020/21 financial year 13 events were supported by the Events Sponsorship Fund to a total of \$19,647. These events were a mix of high profile events, such as the Turakina Highland Games, through to local community events such as the Art 4 Arts Sake Exhibition in Bulls and the Taihape Christmas Parade.
- 6.36 The past 5 years the following support has been provided:
- 2020/21 \$19,647
 - 2019/20 \$23,275
 - 2018/19 \$24,966
 - 2017/18 \$21,925
 - 2016/17 \$20,850
- 6.37 While increasing the fund will enable Council supporting additional events, Council can also leverage the positive impact these events have on our communities and districts reputation by:
- Becoming a trusted advisor – for community and event organisers to help guide and facilitate the best options.
 - Being a partner – help boost the events within the Rangitikei to maximise/mitigate social, cultural, environmental and economic opportunities/impacts.
 - Being an investor – continue to invest (time, money, and/or resources) into events that align with council’s desired community outcomes and district reputation.

- Facilitate funding options (through external sources/database).
- Facilitate marketing and promotional opportunities through internal knowledge and resources.

6.38 The proposed development of a Destination Management Plan in 2021/22 outlined in the draft Economic Development Strategy will provide strategic direction on maximising visitors to the District. Events are one of our biggest tourism products, they will be a key priority in ongoing promotion and visitor attraction activities and developing an events strategic framework will help Council better understand the most effective way of supporting events. Large events play a crucial role in promoting, attracting and driving visitors to our communities, continually providing a compelling reason to visit, and more importantly, returning.

6.39 Once the proposed Events Strategy is developed Officers will provide a report to Council on ways the Event Sponsorship Fund can be delivered to maximise the outcomes identified in the Strategy. This could include using part of the contestable fund to provide a wider range of support for events as identified above.

Action

Following the development of a Destination Management Plan and subsequent Events Strategy during 2021/22, Officers will provide a report to Council on ways the Event Sponsorship Fund can be delivered to maximise the outcomes identified in the Strategy, this may include using part of the fund to provide a wider range of support for events.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] increase the Event Sponsorship Fund from \$25,000 per year to \$50,000 per year.

7 Key Choice 5: Local Government Funding Agency as a Guaranteeing Member

7.1 Council asked the community if we should join the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) as a guaranteeing member, the preferred option (Option 1) consulted on was to join as a guaranteeing member. Councils second option was not to join the LGFA as a guaranteeing member (Option 2).

7.2 The overall results are provided as Figure 10 below. These figures show an overall breakdown of submitter responses. This shows the majority of submitters that responded to this question (69%) indicated a preference of Option 1, joining the LGFA as a Guaranteeing Member.

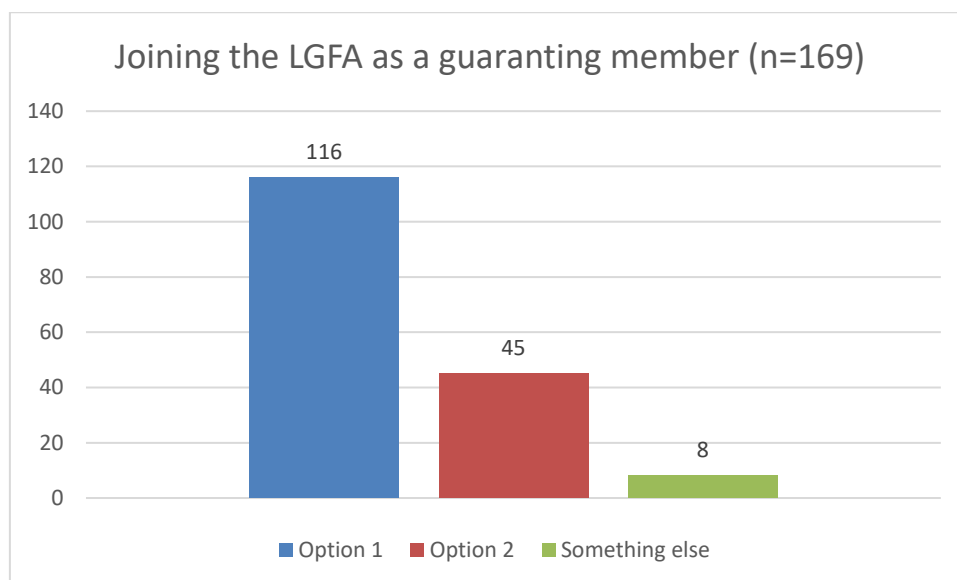


Figure 10. Key Choice 5: Local Government Funding Agency as a Guaranteeing Member.

7.3 Joining the LGFA as a Guarantor would give Council more borrowing options, which could mean being able to access better borrowing terms, such as lower interest rates. Council's current borrowing arrangements enable Council to borrow up to \$20 million from the LGFA. Council is required to become a guaranteeing member of the LGFA to borrow more than \$20 million from them. As part of becoming a guaranteeing member, Council would be required to cover the debts of the LGFA if required (alongside the other 60 councils who are currently guaranteeing members). Opening up additional sources of debt is important as Council intends to increase its borrowings over \$20 million during the Long Term Plan.

Topics Raised

Topic 1	Join the LGFA as a guaranteeing member
Topic 2	Do not join the LGFA as a guaranteeing member
Topic 3	Submitters who suggested 'Something Else'

Topic 1: Join the LGFA as a guaranteeing member

7.4 Of the 116 submitters who supported Option 1, eighteen chose to provide supporting comments.

Submissions

7.5 Evelyn George (#049), Jiselle Rider (#083), Stephanie Boerboom (#120), Richard and Robin Peirce (#143), Taihape Community Board (#145), Carolyn Bates (#165), Heather Gee-Taylor (#171), Michael O'Regan (#172), Barry Copeland (#183), James Kilmister (#194), Robbie Rae (#201), Ann Abernethy (#204), Bronwyn Ewens (#207), Hayley Cowx (#209), Manawatu District Council (#214), Susan Whale (#225), Jan Byford (#241), Hazel Gallagher (#251).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters considered the proposal was logical and sounded like a good option (Submitter #143, Submitter #171, Submitter #183, Submitter #194, Submitter #201, Submitter #207, Submitter #225).

Additional submitters noted the need to fund future infrastructure projects, despite some submitters expressing reservations (Submitter #145, Submitter #204, Submitter #214, Submitter #251)

Submitters #120 and #251 placed emphasis on the need to improve the water supply.

A range of other comments were also made:

- Submitter #049 noted they hoped that this does not mean the local peoples' voice is not taken notice of.
- Submitter #083 suggests that with Covid Council should be conservative and not overborrow.
- Submitter #165 referenced a past Council Officer.
- Submitter #172 wants Council to be sure the risks are fully understood, particularly as a number of other councils are at the limit of their borrowing.
- Submitter #209 is supportive as long as it helps Taihape, not just Marton.
- Submitter #241 is supportive as long as it does not have negative effects.

Officer Comment

7.6 These submitters recognise the benefits and reasons why Council has proposed to become a guaranteeing member with the LGFA:

- the need for Council to increase its levels of debt to pursue the projects within the LTP, and
- the benefits associated with having greater options from where to source this debt, and

- that the risks associated with the LGFA are generally recognised as being acceptable (as evidenced by:
 - the vast majority of councils in New Zealand being guaranteeing members of the LGFA and
 - auditors comfortable that the risks associated with the LGFA are not sufficiently significant to warrant disclosure/mention in annual financial statements or the annual report)

Topic 2: Do not join the LGFA as a guaranteeing member

7.7 Of the 45 submitters who selected Option 2, fourteen provided supporting comments.

Submissions

7.8 Stacey (#060), Rangi Krishnan (#085), Anne McAleece (#086), Peter Batley (#096), Sharleen Amai (#098), Jan Peacock (#129), Sonja Maraku (#138), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152), Robert Snijders (#161), Lauren Abernethy (#202), David Stuteley (#208), Gretta Mills (#221), Raymond Burrows (#233), Paul and Dianne Holloway (#247).

Summary of submissions

A number of submitters did not think Council should become a guarantor as they did not want Council to take on more debt (#233) as it will increase pressure on future ratepayers (Submitter #085), may cause Council to spend more than it can afford (Submitter #086), that \$20 million is a useful check on Council spending (Submitter #208),

Other submitters considered the risk was too high (#129), noting that better interest rates are not a valid reason (Submitter #096), the ratepayer base of the District is too small (Submitter #208, Submitter #221, #247).

Submitter #247 does not want to lose local control.

Two submitters raised concerns about the future of local government, suggesting that Council should wait until the reform processes are decided (Submitter #152, Submitter #202).

Other submitters in opposition to Council becoming a guarantor raised a range of comments:

- Submitter #060 raises concerns about education of Council officers.
- Submitter #098 suggests Council will become a part of the overall debt of the LGFA and considers that the changing nature of local government means that the next Council may have a different vision and priorities.
- Submitter #138 suggests Council has got this far without them so they are not needed.
- Submitter #161 suggests money should not be lent to a person or organisation that is fiscally incompetent.

Officer Comment

7.9 Some of the comments focussed on the levels of debt, not the source of the debt. Over the next 10 years Council has significant infrastructure investment required. Council needs to be proactive in planning for the future despite uncertainty in its future delivery of the Three Waters activity, or around wider local government reform.

- 7.10 Debt is used to pay for capital projects and enables them to be paid off over time meaning that future ratepayers also pay for the cost of these assets they will benefit from. Becoming a guaranteeing member does not change Council's debt level but provides more borrowing options. This means Council is able to borrow more from the LGFA and potentially access better borrowing terms, such as lower interest rates. It does not mean Council is required to access all of its debt from the LGFA. It does not mean Council loses control of its spending.
- 7.11 Some submitters perceive the risk associated with being a guaranteeing member of the LGFA as being too high. There is a risk that Council would need to cover debts of the LGFA in the event of a default. However, this risk is relatively low. There has never been a default by a New Zealand local authority and there is strong oversight of the sector. The lending undertaken by LGFA to local authorities is with a security charge over rates (meaning that in the event of a default by a local authority, a receiver can impose a special rate to recover the amount owing to LGFA). This would likely occur before the guarantors are called on. If the guarantee is called on, Council's share will be based on its rates income, so would be proportional to the other councils involved.

Topic 3: Submitters who suggested 'Something Else'

- 7.12 Of the eight submitters that selected 'Something else', two provided comments. One submitter did not select an option but provided comment.

Submissions

- 7.13 Taihape Playground Group (#046), Mary Freeman (#091), Conn Rider (#168).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #046 questions whether loan funding will benefit the District in the long term.

Submitter #091 raises concerns about the risk of becoming a guaranteeing member.

Submitter #168 suggested that Council should not be getting into further debt after the expenditure of the Bulls Community Centre.

Officer Comment

- 7.14 Two of the comments are focused on the levels of debt, not the source of the debt. Over the next 10 years Council has significant infrastructure investment required. Debt is used to pay for capital projects and enables them to be paid off over time meaning that future ratepayers also pay for the cost of these assets they will benefit from. Using debt to fund capital projects is widely used throughout local government to ensure intergenerational equity.
- 7.15 The comment from Submitter #091 is considered under Topic 2.

Recommendation

That Council becomes/does not become [delete one] a guaranteeing member of Local Government Funding Agency when necessary to meet Council's borrowing requirements.

8 Proposed Changes to the Rating System & Rates

- 8.1 In addition to the key choices, Council also asked about the proposed changes to the rating system. All answers to that question as well as all other comments made about rates are discussed in this section.
- 8.2 The proposed limit on rates increases outlined in the Consultation Document an average of 7.5% across years 1 and 2, dropping to an average of 5% for the rest of the LTP. Council also proposed a number of changes to the rating system in an effort to smooth rates increases follow the revaluation of properties throughout the District in 2020 where residential properties experienced significant increases in land and capital values. The proposed changes include:
- Introducing a rating differential of 1.2 for Commercial and Industrial sectors, and 1.5 for Utilities.
 - Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge from \$610.13 to \$500.

Topics Raised

Topic 1	Impact on Rural Properties
Topic 2	Rates Increases and Council Spending Priorities
Topic 3	Proposed Approach to the UAGC and differentials
Topic 4	Difficulty Understanding the Proposed Changes
Topic 5	Other Comments

Topic 1: Impact on Rural Properties

Submissions

- 8.3 Melissa Morris (#021), Craig Whitton (#119), Carlie van dijk (#127), Jeff Pickford (#191), James Kilmister (#194), Robbie Rae (#201), Fiona Moorhouse (#203), Simon Plimmer (#205), David Stuteley (#208), Federated Farmers (#213), Rangitikei District Council Western Residents Group (#216), Susan Whale (#225), Lester Wright (#231), Arthur and Wendy Bell (#243), Leone Rae (#245), Paul and Dianne Holloway (#247), Hamish Durrant (#255).

Summary of submissions

A number of rural ratepayers raised concerns about the proposed impact on rural properties. These submitters consider that rural properties pay a disproportionate share of the rates burden, and are experiencing significant proposed rates increases, particularly when they do not use all of the services available in urban areas:

- Concern about not receiving or accessing services, but paying the most (Submitter #021, Submitter #119, Submitter #127, Submitter #191, Submitter #201, Submitter

#203, Submitter #208, Submitter #225, Submitter #231, Submitter #243, Submitter #245, Submitter #247.

- Concern about large increase in rates, particularly in the north and requests for lower increases (Submitter #194, Submitter #201, Submitter #205, Submitter #208, Submitter #213, Submitter #216, Submitter #243, Submitter #245, Submitter #255).
- Comments about cashflow not increasing despite proposed rates increases (Submitter #127, Submitter #201, Submitter #216, Submitter #243, Submitter #245).
- Submitter #205 questions the fairness of the rates increases. They note their properties capital values increase between 50% and 56%, with rates by 23% – 28%, but questions why a residential property in Taihape that has a capital increase of 69% is only having a rate increase of 7%.
- Submitter #213 is concerned the examples provided minimise the extent of variation in rates increases.
- Submitter #216 requests Council provides more rating comparisons for each category of ratepayer prior to releasing the draft plan annually.

Officer Comment

8.4 The comments make three key assertions:

1. The rural sector, particularly in the northern rural area will receive significant rates increases which are not equitable,
2. that the rural sector will be negatively impacted by the change to the UAGC, and
3. they feel that the rural sector receives less services from Council than other sectors.

8.5 During 2020/21 the properties throughout the District were revalued. Overall, the capital values for the District increased by 38.6%, with residential values increasing the most (78%). Dairy and pastoral capital values increased by 28.3%. Hill country values have had the largest increase in the rural sector.

8.6 Revaluation does not increase the amount Council collects from rates (this is decided by Council independently of the valuation process), but if values do not increase consistently throughout the District, the share of rates paid between different properties or sectors may change. Properties with above average valuation increases, will have higher rates increases for 2021/22. In a revaluation year there is always going to be differences in the rate increases that apply to different properties, properties in different sectors and properties in different locations. The average Rural increases, based on the sample, is very close to the overall average increase of 6.95%.

8.7 Some ratepayers in the rural north of the District have been particularly affected by the revaluation, with some of their values increasing more in comparison to other rural properties. The changes in rural valuations are highly variable throughout the District (valuations are based on a range of factors such as local sales).

8.8 The changes to the rating system that are being proposed have a significant 'smoothing' effect. The average rate increases on the six sectors in our Consultation Document (based on sample properties) are:

1. Residential Taihape 4.75%
2. Residential Marton 8.3%
3. Residential Bulls 9.7%
4. Rural 7.01%
5. Commercial 5.4%

6. Utilities 2.74%

- 8.9 Without the proposed changes (introduction of differentials for Utilities and Commercial and Industrial properties and reduction to the UAGC) the differences in the figures would be significantly different, (e.g. the average increase within the Residential sector would be 16.9% and the average rates movement within the Utilities sector would be a decrease of 16.1%).
- 8.10 It is difficult to comment on the comparison referenced by Submitter #205 without specific details of the Taihape urban property being referenced.
- 8.11 When developing the rating system, Council considers for each activity to be funded, a range of factors such as the distribution of benefit, the period of benefit and the impact of allocation on the wellbeing of the community. The nature of the rating system means that rates are not a user pays system and there will always be variation between the rates paid and the individual benefit received. The urban activities referred to by submitters make up only a small portion of the rates needs. As indicated by pages 44 and 45 of the Consultation Document, 41% of the operational spend for the 10 year period is allocated to roading, an activity that rural ratepayers receive significant benefit from given the rural nature of our District.
- 8.12 In response to the query from submitter #216 requesting more rates comparisons prior to consultation, additional rating samples were provided (in addition to those shown in the Consultation Document) as supporting information. In addition, submitters were able to access proposed rates increases for individual properties via Council's website. This information in made available during the consultation period.

Topic 2: Rate Increases & Council Spending Priorities

Submissions

- 8.13 Cheryl Power (#025), Alysha Bennett (#030), James Stuteley (#041), P Galpin (#043), Rene Johnson (#045), Taihape Playground Group (#046), Koru Diagnostics Ltd (#048), Charlotte Oswald (#051), Stacey (#060), Brendon Hamblyn (#061), Makene (#65), Jiselle Rider (#083), Rangī Krishnan (#085), Anne McAleece (#086), Paul McAleece (#087), Mary Freeman (#091), Peter Batley (#096), Sharleen Amai (#098), Amanda Gardner (#101), Courtney Bartley (#110), Stephanie Boerboom (#120), Jess (#121), Amanda Rogers (#122), Lanasha Bell (#124), Anglican Parish of the Rangitikei (#125), Dave (#139), Robert Snijders (#161), Carolyn Bates (#165), Taihape Pharmacy (#166), Conn Rider (#168), Tiffany Allen (#169), Steve Allen (#174), Naumai Wipaki (#182), Nerolie Goddard (#186), Hayley Cowx (#209), Ratana Community Board (#212), Raymond Burrows (#233) Carl Knight (#253).

Summary of submissions

There were a number of general comments about not increasing rates, that the proposed increase is high and suggestions for a lower rate increase (Submitter #041, Submitter #045, Submitter #048, Submitter #085, Submitter #086, Submitter #096, Submitter #098, Submitter #120, Submitter #122, Submitter #139, Submitter #161, Submitter #233).

Submitter #041 suggests decreasing spending on civic centre developments, Submitter #122 identifies fixing the water should be the highest priority and that they do not get value

for money and Submitter #046 agrees that the top priorities should be roading, water and sewer, but considers painting of old buildings, signage, gardens, playgrounds, and promotions need to be considered as well.

A number of submitters identified concerns about the level of investment in Taihape in comparison to other areas such as Marton and Bulls and suggest that the rates in Taihape are the highest which is unfair (Submitter #030, Submitter #051, Submitter #166, Submitter #209).

A number of submitters questioned the proposed rates increase in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting income of the community has been affected and Council should keep rates increases to a minimum. Some suggestions of cost savings were provided (Submitter #043, Submitter #060, Submitter #174, Submitter #121).

A number of submitters requested Council increase financial transparency or save money, and release salary information for employees (Submitter #061, Submitter #083, Submitter #168). Submitters #060 and #065 commented that staff should have pay cuts and there is an overspend on wages. Submitter #233 comments that there are too many salaried personnel.

Three submitters questioned whether certain situations would result in a rates decrease, property crash (Submitter #101), growing population (Submitter #182), property value decrease (Submitter #253).

Submitter #169 notes they are happy to pay higher rates to increase the attraction of the District as a place to live and increase the population. Supports clean water and creating more opportunities for work and activities.

A number of submitters raised concerns about affordability, particularly for fixed or low income households, and that income is not rising as fast (Submitter #085, Submitter #087, Submitter #091, Submitter #125, Submitter #165, Submitter #186, Submitter #212 Ratana Community).

Submitter #025 requests Council increase eligibility of rates rebates. This submitter suggests Council is wasting money on projects such as the amenities block and with waste going into the Papakai River.

Submitter #125 suggests cutting councillor salaries to match living wage or forestry or meat workers.

Submitter #110 questions what they get for their rates and asks where a number of services are that they consider should be provided given the amount they pay for rates. Examples provided include playgrounds, 24/7 recycling centre, kerbside rubbish, the new community centre. Submitter #124 also suggests they don't get value for money for their rates, and notes issues with the Marton water supply, lack of kerbside recycling and lack of a dog exercise area.

Officer Comment

- 8.14 Seven comments were opposed to increasing rates. A key aspect of the rates increases is to obtain a balanced budget, with significant costs incurred from depreciation. Council has committed to an ongoing programme of funding operational efficiencies and will reduce operational spending by 2% in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan, with smaller efficiency gains in subsequent years.

- 8.15 Four submitters commented that Taihape rates are too high compared to other areas. The rating examples summarised in the Consultation Document appear to support this view. However, this is an anomaly because one of the Taihape properties included in the sample incurred 2 lots of UAGC and other public good rates. If this property is excluded, the average rates for Taihape residential properties for 2021/22 is \$2,870.
- 8.16 The Long Term Plan proposes a range of projects that will benefit Taihape such as new consents for the wastewater treatment plant, renewals and upgrades for wastewater and water pipes, the upgrade to the Town Hall site, the amenities building and upgrade to the grandstand.
- 8.17 Seven comments raised the impact of COVID-19 and cost effectiveness of Council. Council has recognised these factors by reducing last year's rates increase and including significant operating cost reductions in its Long Term Plan budgets. One of these submitters requested greater transparency around Council spending, especially wages. Such information is available in our audited annual financial statements in the Annual Report (Note 26). During the 2020/21 financial year there has been an overspend on wages caused by required positions not having been included in the budget. This has been addressed when developing future budgets. It is unclear whether the comment relating to 'salaried personnel' refers to:
- Staff being on a salary as opposed to being paid on an hourly rate; or
 - There being too many staff in general.
- 8.18 The level of staff is directly associated with the range and quality of services provided by Council. A reduction in staff numbers would therefore reduce the level of services provided by Council. The number of staff at Council operates through a lean but efficient philosophy, where efficiencies are maximised wherever possible.
- 8.19 Elected Member remuneration is set by the Remuneration Authority. The Authority sets remuneration of elected officials throughout the country. Individual councils are not able to change the remuneration set by the Authority.
- 8.20 Included within four other comments of note, were the following observations:
- Recognition that a growing population means that existing ratepayers do not incur (on average) the overall rate increase, and
 - they are happy to pay higher rates to increase the attraction of the District as a place to live and increase the population. Supports clean water and creating more opportunities for work and activities.
- 8.21 Nine comments related to rates affordability. Rates affordability is carefully considered by Council when proposing an increase and will need to be considered further by Elected Members during deliberations.
- 8.22 Rates rebates are a partial refund on rates for homeowners on low incomes. The rates rebates are set by Central Government and cannot be altered by local government.

Topic 3: Proposed Approach to the UAGC and differentials

Submissions

- 8.23 Farina Brady (#031), Barbara Atkinson (#069), Turakina Community Committee (#104), Jan Peacock (#129), Raewyn Turner (#156), Malcom Leary (#164), Kim Duxfield (#179), Copeland Associates Architects (#183), Ruth Rainey (#184), Ainsley O’Connell (#193), Federated Farmers (#213), Rangitikei District Council Western Residents Group (#216), Edith Leary (#223), Frances Hodgson (#224), Winiata Marae (#226), Vincent M (#248).

Summary of submissions

The following submitters provided comments supporting the proposed changes in relation to the equity of the rate burden and utilities paying more (Submitter #031, Submitter #069, Submitter #104, Submitter #164, Submitter #179, Submitter #183, Submitter #224, Submitter #248, Submitter #129, Submitter #156, Submitter #193, Submitter #223, Submitter #226)

A couple of submitters generally disagree with reducing the UAGC (Submitter #184, Submitter #223).

Submitter #213 considers the UAGC to be a fair way to rate for services that provide an equal benefit across all ratepayer groups. The submitter does not support the proposed reduction of the UAGC and raises concerns about the transparency in the financial information provided. The submitter does not consider the proposed differential appropriately smooth rates increases across properties. The submitter raises a number of questions about equity.

Submitter #216 requests the UAGC is increased to \$700 per SUIP and makes the consequential changes to the General Rate. The proposed changes to the UAGC are exacerbating rating increases for rural ratepayers.

Officer Comment

- 8.24 General support for the proposed changes was noted by 11 submitters. These comments are noted and reflect the rationale for proposing the changes. Four submitters are opposed to the reduction in the UAGC and two agree with the reduction.
- 8.25 The nature of the UAGC is that all ratepayers pay ‘the same for a range of services regardless of usage’. Some of the comments that disagree with the UAGC reduction focus on ‘affordability’, particularly for rural properties. Reducing the UAGC does have the effect of placing an increased rating burden on higher value properties. However, the changes proposed to the rating system (including the reduction in the UAGC) have been made to avoid extreme rate increases to many properties, particularly residential properties. These changes introduce a ‘smoothing’ of the rate increases across rating categories/properties.

Topic 4: Difficulty Understanding Proposed Changes

Submissions

- 8.26 Candice (#014), Katerina Kupenga (#055), Sonja Maraku (#138), Ruby Ralph (#178), Gretta Mills (#221)

Summary of submissions

The submitters identified above identify they found it difficult to understand the proposed changes (Submitter #014, Submitter #055, Submitter #138, Submitter #178).

Submitter #221 notes Council's rationale for the proposed differential is unclear. Why have Commercial, Industrial and Utilities been targeted?

Officer Comment

- 8.27 Five submitters commented that they did not really fully understand the proposed changes, or the reason for the changes, to the rating system. The rating system is complex, with significant work undertaken on the Consultation Document to make the proposed changes as easy to understand as possible. Council officers will continue to work on communicating proposed changes in the most easy to understand method possible.
- 8.28 Commercial, Industrial and Utilities were targeted to smooth the proposed rate changes associated with the revaluation of the District that occurred in 2020.

Topic 5: Other Comments

Submissions

- 8.29 Laurine Stantiall (#056), Makere (#065), Opaea Marae (#076), Alan Ramsay (#089), Richard and Robin Peirce (#143), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211), Federated Farmers (#213), Robert Snijders (#161), Carolyn Kipling-Arthur (#236), Rangitikei District Council Western Residents Group (#216), Raymond Burrows (#233).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #056 considers there is no need for change. Valuations fluctuate over time and the more residential housing there is the more money required for infrastructure, so residential rates should stay the same to enable these costs to be met.

Submitter #065 states people need houses and food.

Submitter #076 requests Council ensure those paying rates get equity support.

Submitter #089 states that fairness is the most important, with those that use the most paying the most.

Submitter #143 states it is important to ensure the system is fair. If it isn't fair to Koitiata residents and others like them who don't get many services for their rates, but pay town rates.

Submitter #161 suggests the rates increase and road maintenance is an indication Council is in fiscal trouble.

Submitter #211 is opposed to ratepayers paying 30% of road maintenance where roads are frequently used by heavy vehicles such as logging trucks.

Submitter #213 supports Council's proposal to introduce development contributions.

Submitter #236 states 'little steps'.

Submitter #216 suggest Council imposes a differential on the roading rate of 1.5 for forestry due to the impact forestry trucks are having on the roading network. This submitter also

suggests Council amends capital values on a 3 year rolling basis to reduce peaks and troughs. Submitter #194 raised concerns about damage to roads from forestry.

Submitter #233 comments that local bodies accumulate more debt every year.

Officer Comment

- 8.30 These comments cover a wide range of sundry matters. Council has considered the majority of these when developing the proposed changes to the rating system.
- 8.31 In response to the comments from Submitter #161, Council has a strong fiscal position, with low levels of debt enabling Council to invest in the District’s infrastructure. Rates increases are required to fund depreciation costs and achieve a balanced budget.
- 8.32 Council has not proposed the reintroduction of development contributions. Instead, Council intends on using developer agreements where necessary.
- 8.33 In response to the comments from submitter #211, Council is the road controlling authority for the Districts roads (excluding state highways). Council receives a Funding Assistance Rate from Waka Kotahi to assist with funding the network of 65% for 2021/22, 64% for 2022/23 and 63% from 2023/24.
- 8.34 Specific engagement with the forestry sector is needed to inform the potential implementation of a differential on forestry land.
- 8.35 In general, the debt levels of local authorities do increase each year. Council expects its current level of debt, which is currently at the same level it was at June 2019 and June 2020 (\$3m) to increase over the life of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. Debt is often associated with spending on ‘new assets’ in the local government sector and is useful for ensuring people who benefit from the asset pay for it.

Recommendation

EITHER

That Council makes the following changes to its rating system from 1 July 2021:

- Reduction in the UAGC to \$500
- Establishment of rating differentials of 1.2 for the Commercial and Industrial sectors and 1.5 for the Utilities sector.

OR

That Council makes the following changes to its rating system from 1 July 2021:

-
-

OR

That Council does not make any changes to its rating system from 1 July 2021.

Recommendation

That Council continues its approach to engage with the forestry sector during 2021/22 to discuss the potential implementation of a differential on forestry land.

9 Community and Leisure Assets

Topic 1	Libraries and Community Centres
Topic 2	Public Toilets
Topic 3	Swimming Pools
Topic 4	Koitiata Campground
Topic 5	Marton Civic Centre
Topic 6	Taihape Town Hall
Topic 7	Community Housing
Topic 8	Community and Leisure Project Delivery
Topic 9	Marton Memorial Hall

Topic 1: Libraries and Community Centres

Submissions

9.1 Lloryian Nordell (#011), Raewyn Turner (#156), Craig Whitton (#119) Robert Snijders (#161)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #011 commented that Te Matapihi was difficult for wheelchair users.

Submitter #119 raises concerns about the Te Matapihi build process and the ability of Council to complete future large scale projects.

Submitter #156 acknowledges the lessons learnt from the Te Matapihi build but feels like two important learnings have been missed that being; listening to stakeholders, the people and locals whilst informing them. The submitter also commented on the future proofing of the space. Submitter #156 would also rather have library money spent on water issues.

Submitter #161 commented that the Te Matapihi project went terribly with the cost a considerable overspend.

Submitter #207 Would like to see booking numbers and the amount of people coming through the door at Te Matapihi made public. Submitter #207 also questions why the old information centre hasn't gone on the market yet.

Officer Comment

9.2 It is important that Te Matapihi is accessible for the whole community. Officers have been investigating operational improvements for the building, including changes to make the space more accessible for wheelchair users. Officers will provide a report to Council (alongside further information on possible changing rooms) for consideration.

- 9.3 To better understand the issues being faced by Submitter #011, Officers will request to meet them on-site to discuss. Following this conversation, options for improving accessibility will be explored.
- 9.4 The comments from Submitters #156 and #161 are noted. Council commissioned an independent review of the Bulls Community Centre project, have established a Project Management Office to improve project performance and reporting, and have implemented Institute of Directors governance training for some elected members.
- 9.5 The booking numbers for Te Matapihi are reported bi-monthly to the Policy/Planning Committee. Council is unable to track the number of users of the building as there are multiple entrances and users.
- 9.6 The old information centre is not yet on the market as the site is still being used for buses but is planned on being disposed once no longer required.

Action

Officers will meet with Submitter #011 on-site to discuss required accessibility improvements for Te Matapihi.

Action

Officers will provide a report to Council on proposed operational improvements for Te Matapihi, including accessibility improvements (alongside further consideration around changing rooms for the site).

Topic 2: Public Toilets

Submissions

- 9.7 Charlotte Fulton (#071), Turakina Community Committee (#104), Isabell Mary Strange (#199), Charlie Mete (#212).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #071 commented that Bulls needs more toilets, specifically highlighting Walker Park as a location.

Submitter #104 requests new public toilets in Turakina.

Submitter #199 requests new 24/7 toilets in Taihape due to concerns about the existing toilets.

Submitter #212 would like Council to explore the possibility of building a toilet amenity block in Ratana.

Officer Comment

- 9.8 Walker Park is a playground park located on State Highway 3 in Bulls. The playground is suitable for young children and is well used by both locals and travelling visitors. There is a shelter that encourages visitors to stop and picnic but there is no toilet on-site. The closest public toilet, at Rangitikei Junction, is approximately 365 metres away across the state highway. The cost for the facility at Follett Street was approximately \$187,000 including connecting services. Operating costs, including water, power, consumables and

cleaning, would be in the vicinity of \$20,000 per year. If Council decides to invest in public toilets in this park, Officers recommend this work is scheduled for Year 2 of the Long Term Plan as there are a number of other public toilets scheduled for installation during Year 1.

- 9.9 New public toilets at Turakina are programmed for Year 1 of the Long Term Plan. A sum of \$85,000 has been included for a single, dry-vault facility.
- 9.10 There are public toilets available at Ratana. Ratana Pa Communal Trustees are the landowners. Council currently pays for these toilets to be maintained as part of the Ratana Town Contract Council has with the Ratana Communal Board. However, these facilities are not opened on a regular basis and users need to collect a key from one of the dairies. An agreement may be able to be reached about regular, opening hours.
- 9.11 The concerns raised by Submitter #119 are noted. The Tui Street toilets in Taihape are open 24/7. There are no plans to open new 24/7 toilets in Taihape. Officers will investigate the Submitter's concerns about the toilets seats.

Action

Officers will liaise with the Ratana Communal Board about regular opening hours of the public toilets in Ratana.

Action

Officers will investigate the concerns raised by Submitter #119 about the toilet seats at the Tui Street public toilets in Taihape.

Recommendations

That Council does/does not [delete one] include capital expenditure of \$200,000 capital costs to install public toilets at Walker Park, Bulls in Year 2 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, and operational expenditure of \$20,000 per annum from Year 2.

Topic 3: Swimming Pools

Submissions

- 9.12 Mason Te Huna (#128), Lauren (#130) Rober Snijders (#161), Hayley Cowx (#209).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #128 commented that we should build some mean as pools.

Submitter #130 suggests there should be a swimming pool in Bulls.

Submitter #161 commented that pools are not open all year round and wifi proposal funds for Taihape should go into having them open.

Submitter #209 commented the Pool in Taihape is only open in summer.

Officer Comment

- 9.13 A recent review of swim centres demonstrated that there are "multiple choices of aquatic facilities and profiles for residents in the southern part of the Rangitikei District all within a 30-minute drive." Funding has been incorporated into the Long Term Plan for required

renewals and funding to improve customer experience (e.g. signage, greenspaces and painting) for the facilities at Taihape and Marton.

- 9.14 The feasibility of opening the swim facilities all year round has been investigated in the past, but not progressed due to costs and usage statistics, which show that usage of the facility drops off as the weather cools down. Council will continue to monitor usage and re-consider the opening hours during Year 3.
- 9.15 The most likely to benefit from a swim centre facility in Bulls are school age swimmers and those without vehicle access. Bulls School currently uses the Marton Swim Centre (with Clifton School using the Marton Swim School once per year before swim champs). The funding required to build a new facility and the subsequent operational costs would be considerable compared with those who would receive the benefit.

Topic 4: Koitiata Campground

Submissions

- 9.16 Farina Brady (#008), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #008 requests Council relocate the campground, sell the land and put the money back into Koitiata (but keep the toilets). They note that the existing site is not large enough to meet increasing demand from visitors. They also request renovating the toilets in the campground and making them open to the public.

Submitter #152 requests the existing campground toilet facilities be increased to better cater for campers and visitors. The submitter identifies this project as a key priority for the Koitiata community.

Officer Comment

- 9.17 Available space at Koitiata Campground has exceeded demand on a regular basis during the two to three week Christmas/New Year summer holiday period. At this time the camping area extends across the road to the reserve.
- 9.18 If Council wished to sell the current site and establish a new campground the new campground would be required to meet the Camping Ground Regulations (unless established as a 'Remote' Campground) and this would include footpaths, lighting, etc. There would also be costs associated with subdividing the current site to allow the toilets to remain. It is not clear if there would be demand for a site with a 24-hour public toilet in close proximity. Officers do not consider there is a need to relocate the campground.
- 9.19 The toilets and shower at the campground are available for public use. Officers agree with the submitters that this facility would benefit from upgrading. Officers would need to engage in further discussions with the campground caretaker and community to better understand the demand for additional toilets in the area.

Actions

During 2021/22 Officers will investigate the requirements for the upgrading of the toilet and shower facility at the Koitiata Campground, including consideration of the need for additional toilets (in

discussion with the campground caretaker and Koitiata Residents Committee). Funding required for the upgrade will be considered through the Annual Plan 2022/23 process.

Topic 5: Marton Civic Centre

Submissions

- 9.20 Mary Freeman (#091), Robert Snijders (#161), Carolyn Bates (#165), David Stuteley (#208) Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #091 identifies the need for the Marton Civic Centre noting there is nothing wrong with the existing buildings.

Submitter #161 suggests Council should pause the proposal due to the reform of local government recently announced. The submitter suggests the sites could be better developed to incorporate housing at first floor level with alternative uses at ground floor level. The submitter references the need to look at other districts. The submitter also notes the existing Council building could be strengthened for much less than the proposed building in the town centre.

Submitter #165 notes that Council is proposing more consultation and questions how much longer it will take.

Submitter #208 comments that Council should be consulting on the Marton Civic Centre

Submitter #211 supports the development of Marton Civic Centre. They note little progress has been made on the project, it is important the costs are disclosed to the community and note their interest in participating in the further consultation process.

Officer Comment

- 9.21 The current Council office building in Marton does not comply with the New Building Standard (NBS) for a building of this purpose and doing nothing with this building is not an option for Council. All options for new, refurbished or strengthened buildings will be considered during the planning and consultation phases of the project. Council will be looking at the most cost-effective solution to achieve all the required outcomes with the new, refurbished or strengthened building. Community consultation on the Civic Centre is planned to begin in 2021.
- 9.22 Council is planning on undertaking separate consultation on the Marton Civic Centre during 2021.
- 9.23 The comments from submitter #211 are noted.

Topic 6: Taihape Town Hall

Submissions

- 9.24 Taihape Drama Club (#196), David Stuteley (#208), Kim Douglas Welch (#235), Ian Rae (#254).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #196 supports the retention of the town hall and notes that it is used by their drama club shows. The submitter requests the heating in the hall is investigated so that the space is usable throughout the whole year.

Submitter #208 comments that Council should be consulting on the Taihape Civic Centre.

Submitter #235 would like to see the Taihape Town Hall retained, with the upgrade of the backstage facilities.

Submitter #254 requests the development of the Taihape Civic Centre is brought forward to the 2021/22 to run in parallel with Marton. This submitter considers Taihape should have the same priority as Marton and notes that Taihape has a more urgent need.

Officer Comment

- 9.25 During the planning and consultation phase of the Taihape Town Hall project all possible future options will be considered, including retaining the current building. All communities in the District have the same priority with Council. Unfortunately, not enough resources are available to plan, consult and construct all the buildings at the same time. The only viable way is to program these projects one after the other.
- 9.26 Installation of heating in the Taihape Town Hall has been considered in the past, however, has not been progressed due to the cost (the cost was estimated to be over \$100,000). Officers would not recommend significant investment in the building until the planned redevelopment of the site occurs.

Topic 7: Community Housing

Submissions

- 9.27 Taihape Friendship Club (#093), Craig Whitton (#119), Debbie Bell (#136), Door of Hope Charitable Trust (Marton) (#148), , Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211), Frances Hodgson (#224), Door of Hope Charitable Trust (#237), Door of Hope Charitable Trust (#238), Taihape Community Development Trust (#244).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #136 notes that work needs to be done outside the pensioner flats to tidy them up and suggests the following; mark parking so that cars don't park over or near the entrance, fence from historic village to the bridge add judder bars and signs, chains by the entrance where the water is collected and lights and cameras on the park area.

Submitter #211 supports Council's proposal to upgrade community housing in 2021/22.

Submitter #148 requests that the Council consider whether a review, in collaboration with the submitter, is necessary for the outsourcing of the management of the community housing stock to them.

Submitter #119 suggests Council sells land to the private sector to building small apartments for community housing.

Submitter #093 would like Council to consider housing options for the elderly on a flat, sunny section close to the centre of town, with parking, in Taihape. The Submitter raises

concerns about extra demand for housing for the elderly if the Matua Flats are sold. They suggest the following suitable sites:

- The former Women's Club site on Tui St.
- The Go-Bus site.
- The Bowling Club grounds.
- The Croquet Club grounds.
- The dog run site.
- The old Kohanga Reo on Huia Street.
- Rebuilding TAS on its original site and using the present site for housing.
- If the Play Centre ceases to exist that site should be used for housing.

Submitter #237 requests that all suitable Council-administered land in Taihape be earmarked for social, community and retirement housing.

Submitter #238 requests that land considered surplus by Council be considered for social housing.

Submitter #224 wants Council to keep the old Women's Club land on Tui Street in Taihape and to build multiple housing units for senior citizens on it. Submitter #237 supports this request.

Officer Comment

- 9.28 Council acknowledges the community support and need for social and community housing throughout the district (Submitters #211 and #244).
- 9.29 In the past triennium expressions of interest were sought from trusts and community organisations to take over the management of Council's community housing, but no agreement was reached as Council wanted to retain ownership of the asset. Officers would be open to discussing the management of community housing with the Door of Hope Charitable Trust (Rangitikei) and other interested parties (Submitters #148).
- 9.30 Over the past eight months Council Officers have actively supported the growth of new social housing providers in the district and will continue this role.
- 9.31 Council's Assets/Infrastructure Committee have recommended staff investigate the potential for community housing units at the 22 Tui Street site, either by Council or another provider, as well as the potential for selling the site. Council has no plans to develop community housing at Taihape Memorial Park, as it is working with park users for the redevelopment of recreation facilities. The other site identified by Submitter #093 are not in Council ownership.
- 9.32 Submitter #136 raises a number of maintenance requests associated with the Wellington Road flats. Funding has been included in years 1- 3 of the Long Term Plan in the community housing budget to improve parking. This work will be undertaken alongside the sealing of Cobber Kain Avenue.
- 9.33 When disposing of surplus property, Council will consider a range of options for the most appropriate future use of the site, including the potential for housing development.

Action

Council Officers will discuss the potential management of its community housing with Door of Hope Charitable Trust (Rangitikei).

Topic 8: Community and Leisure Project Delivery

Submissions

- 9.34 Raewyn Turner (#156), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #156 suggests local resources should be used for new builds/strengthening with locals contributing ideas highlighting it would save money by not using companies outside the District. Submitter has offered their services to look over plans.

Submitter #211 notes Council's proposal to spend \$41.5m on Community and Leisure Assets over the next 10 years. The submitter suggests Council has a poor record of the management of these assets and questions Council's ability to deliver the proposed programme of works.

Officer Comment

- 9.35 In the majority of Council tenders from 2021, a weighted criteria is included for local businesses to assist in recognising the value of engaging locals.
- 9.36 A large portion of the proposed \$41.5 million in the Long Term Plan budget is for the construction of the Marton and Taihape Civic buildings. Council has a dedicated Project Management Office which has the skills to deliver these two projects.

Topic 9: Marton Memorial Hall

Submissions

- 9.37 Alan Buckendahl (#102).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #102 requests upgraded heating be provided in the main hall. The submitter notes the hall is very cold during winter.

Officer Comment

- 9.38 Stage 1 upgrades will be completed by September 2021, which included works funded by the Provincial Growth Fund. These works include; asbestos removal, painting inside the hall, some emergency egress improvements, a new roof and heating in the RSA room. Stage 2 scheduled for Year 1 of the Long Term Plan includes budgeted funding of \$750,000 of capital works for:
- detailed seismic assessment;
 - anticipated bracing to improve seismic resilience;
 - further upgrades to meet emergency egress standards;
 - installation of accessible toilets; and
 - heating in the main hall.

10 Community Wellbeing

Topic 1	Funding School Holiday Programmes
Topic 2	Active Communities
Topic 3	Swimming Safety
Topic 4	Support for Vulnerable Communities
Topic 5	Support for Community Groups
Topic 6	Impact Collective

Topic 1: Funding School Holiday Programmes

Submissions

- 10.1 Christin Calkin (#126), Susan Whale (#225).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #126 and #225 commented that there should be more Council funded holiday programmes.

Officer Comment

- 10.2 Council's libraries provide free holiday programmes and activities that are suitable for ages 5-13. In addition, the Youth Development Framework 2021-2024 aims to provide 'Year-Round Events and Holiday Programmes', however, the implementation of such is dependent on partnerships with external agencies and successful external funding applications.

Topic 2: Active Communities

Submissions

- 10.3 Sport Manawatu (#088).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #088 urges Council to give consideration through its numerous roles and services as to how Council can create playful communities. The Submitter acknowledges the opening of Te Āhuru Mōwai. The Submitter signals that there are opportunities for their sector to offset issues experienced by growth increases and final restrictions. The submitter comments there must continue to be investment in facilities to meet population growth. The Submitter comments that Sport Manawatu is well placed to support community activations in partnership with Council. The submitter would like Council to:

- Become a signatory to the proposed Implementation Plan MoU, which outlines key priority projects for the region.
- The submitter has would like financial support of \$3,339 annually for the leadership and coordination role.
- Continue to support Regional Sport Facility Plan outcomes by committing a representative on the steering group.

Officer Comment

- 10.4 Council to date has seen value in supporting the Regional Sport Facility Plan including financially, in development of the Strategy and Implementation Plan and with a representative on the steering group, currently the Community Development Manager. Council signed the MoU and contributed funding for the development of the Regional Sport Facilities Plan for the region in 2019.
- 10.5 With further community led development, of various scale, being expressed by the residents, it is the Officer's recommendation that Council continue to support both financially and with a representative on the steering group recognising Sport Manawatu as a key partner for successful projects.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] become a signatory on the proposed Regional Sport Facilities Implementation Plan Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] financially contribute \$3,339 annually for the Regional Sport Facility Plan leadership and coordination role.

Topic 3: Swimming safety

Submissions

- 10.6 Water Safety New Zealand (#218).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #218 highlighted the cost of preventable drownings in New Zealand and would like to draw Council's attention to water safety and the relevance of the well-beings in relation to the four well-beings, with the need of more awareness of Māori water safety issues. The submitter would like to work with Council to;

- Increase Council's approach for reducing drowning fatalities and improving water safety awareness.
- Ensure Council considers water safety as a key component of community wellbeing
- Continue investing in waste safety and drowning prevention activities
- Continue to work with Council on these issues and expanding awareness of Māori water safety issues.

Officer Comment

- 10.7 Council has contributed to addressing the need for drowning prevention through the Swim 4 All Programme since 2011. Currently, this programme provides children subsidised access to swimming lessons and experiences by:
- Waiving pool entry fees for ANY child /teen 5-18 years entering the pool for swimming lessons, whether part of the organised school programme or not.
 - Waiving pool entry fees for ANY child aged 0-5 years AND their carer, whether they are attending a swim lesson or not.
 - Officers also seek external funding to subsidise the transport costs our schools incur in getting the children poolside to access the waived entry of a Council owned pool in either Marton or Taihape.
- 10.8 To support the programme, current pool operators reduced the swim lesson to \$4 per child in both Marton and Taihape.

Actions

- 10.9 The Community Development Manager will make contact with the submitter and explore opportunities for collaboration on the Swim 4 All programme.

Topic 4: Support for Vulnerable Communities

Submissions

- 10.10 Randall Moorhouse (#246).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #246 suggests there is no focus on the most vulnerable people in our community and how we can help them.

Officer Comment

- 10.11 Council's Strategic Vision 2050 states the Council will actively help those who are vulnerable with supporting actions plan deliverables including:
- Partner with health and wellbeing agencies to work collaboratively and to leverage off group power.
 - Work with police and community groups to increase security in our towns.
 - Facilitate social service and health agencies to utilise community facilities for health and welfare checks.

Topic 5: Support for Community Groups

Submissions

- 10.12 Marton Community Patrol (#157), Taihape Drama Club (#196), Taihape Neighbourhood Support (#007/#215).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #157 is requesting \$2,500 for Marton Community Patrol to meet the needs of the community for times when there are minimal police (during court duties) and covering rural areas. They currently work in conjunction with police. They receive up to \$40 for petrol from local businesses. Other costs are uniforms, training and safety equipment.

Submitter #196 wants more support from Council through grants to keep the Taihape Drama Club running. The support Council gave during the pandemic was appreciated.

Submitter #007/#215 requests \$5,000 - \$10,000 to support the Taihape Neighbourhood Support Group. The money would be used for a part-time coordinator, mileage, conference fees, printing and phone. Taihape Police provide office space, postage and some copying. Their aim is to make streets, homes, neighbourhoods and communities safer. The groups current workplan focuses on awareness and distribution of information, including a promotion of neighbourly behaviour. Local neighbourhood support groups are financially supported by 39% of councils in New Zealand, including several in our region.

Officer Comment

- 10.13 Council does not currently provide direct funding to the Marton Community Patrol, Taihape Drama Club or Taihape Neighbourhood Support.
- 10.14 Taihape Neighbourhood Support applied for and received \$4,220.00 through Councils Round 2 of the Community Initiatives Fund in 2019/2020. The organisation has also received funding from the Small Project Grant to contribute towards purchasing a laptop (\$383.35). Whilst the organisation has received funding through these channels previously it does not mean that they are guaranteed to get this again or to this amount. Officers note that Taihape Neighbourhood Support are active participants in community resilience helping in Civil Defence Emergencies.
- 10.15 Council currently funds community organisations through the grants schemes such as Community Initiatives Fund, and through the Memorandum of Understanding Partner Organisations. The Community Initiatives Fund is a contestable fund that is intended to support community-based projects in the District that develop community cohesion and community resilience. The fund generally provides grants of up to a maximum of \$2,500 for any project in any one financial year. The MoU Partner Organisations are funded to deliver a range of projects, particularly events, welcome packs and community newsletters.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] contribute \$2,500 or \$_____ [delete one] to Marton Community Patrol.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] contribute \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 or \$_____ [delete two] to Taihape Neighbourhood Support.

Topic 6: Impact Collective

Submissions

10.16 Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui (#140).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #140 comments that the Impact Collectives purpose is to regenerate the economy within a thriving community that creates wellbeing and are working with organisations across the Region to achieve this. The submitter comments that an Impact Collective Operational Team are being formed to work with communities to baseline a rohe wide Community Well-being and Equity Profile. The submitter comments that Iwi would be involved at all levels. The submitter is seeking the following from Council:

- A commitment from Council to participate in the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.
- Through the commitment, Council provides a signatory to the Impact Collective who would participate as a trust board member on behalf of Council and as a member of the Impact Collective Governance Leadership Team.
- Consideration about a financial contribution towards operational costs. Annual costs are expected to be \$600,000 which is covered by the WDHB and MSD. Either direct funding of approximately \$50,000 per annum, or contributions through workforce, infrastructure or facilities are requested.

Officer Comment

10.17 The Council are committed to community well-being and support a number of different groups and organisations, with even more emphasis on partnering post COVID-19. Council's Chief Executive has contributed to the steering group of the initiative since inception, along with the Chief Executives and/or Senior Executives of Whanganui DHB, Ministry of Social Development, Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council, and NZ Police. This initiative complements Council's work on social well beings and improves commitment to prospering communities in our District.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] commit to participate in the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] provide a signatory to the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui who would participate on behalf of Council as a trust board member and as a member of the Impact Collective Governance Leadership Team.

Recommendation

EITHER

That Council does / does not [delete one] contribute \$50,000 or \$_____ [delete one] to the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.

OR

Officers investigate what non-financial contributions can be made to the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.

OR

That Council does / does not [delete one] contribute \$50,000 or \$_____ [delete one] and Officers investigate what non-financial contributions can be made to the Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui.

11 Regulatory

Topic 1	Bird Scarers
Topic 2	Stray Cats
Topic 3	Taihape West Slip zone
Topic 4	Subdivision
Topic 5	Protection of Old Buildings in Taihape

Topic 1: Bird Scarers

Submissions

- 11.1 Malcom Leary (#164).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #164 comments that Council needs more control on bird scarers. The submitter has experienced concerns with his neighbour using a bird scarer on their property which impacts on their wellbeing.

Officer Comment

- 11.2 Submitter #164 has been experiencing concerns associated with bird scarers on the neighbouring property for a number of years. In 2010 Council issued an abatement notice against the neighbouring property to cease the noise. This notice was appealed to the Environment Court, but the issue was never resolved.
- 11.3 The Operative Rangitikei District Plan sets out noise requirements which percussive bird scaring devices are required to comply with. There are issues measuring the noise under the current standards as the noise is intermittent which is best measured using a C weighting (rather than the A weighting provided for in the District Plan).
- 11.4 Council would need to go through a plan change or review process under the Resource Management Act 1991 to change any rules related to noise. The District Plan review is scheduled to occur in 2022/23 would be the most appropriate time under review the noise rules related to bird scarers. Plan change processes are timely and complex, therefore, changes are best made in groups or through the full review process.

Actions

The effectiveness of the noise rules related to bird scarers is considered through the District Plan review process which is scheduled to occur in 2022/23.

Topic 2: Stray Cats

Submissions

11.5 Karyn Araitī (#189), Ringo Tahī (#195, Vincent M (#248)

Summary of submissions

Three submitters raised concerns about stray cats:

- Submitter #189 commented that something needs to be done about stray cats.
- Submitter #195 commented on the issue of cats on Huia Street.
- Submitter #248 commented to introduce a cat bylaw to reduce cats in the community.

Officer Comment

11.6 At Council's December 2020 meeting Marton Moggies presented to Elected Members on the issue of cats in the District, specifically Marton, and the desire to have new provisions introduced to the Animal Control Bylaw. The main requirements would be to have cats de-sexed and microchipped.

11.7 An amendment to the Bylaw introducing mandatory micro-chipping and de-sexing (excluding cats who would be bred from) makes the Bylaw more restrictive. A more restrictive Bylaw often results in more complaints being made which Animal Control would need to respond to. This could result in an increased level of service.

11.8 Current Bylaw has the following provisions on cats.

7.1. No person shall keep more than three cats over three months of age on any household unit in any urban area, unless given a written dispensation by an enforcement officer.

7.2. Clause 7.1 shall not apply to any veterinary clinic, SPCA shelter, or registered breeder as accredited under the Cattery Accreditation Scheme operated by the New Zealand Cat Fancy.

Note: Boarding or breeding establishments for more than 15 cats require resource consent under the operative District Plan.

11.9 This issue has previously been brought to Council with the following recommendations made during the 2019 Annual Plan Deliberations.

Resolved minute number *19/RDC/145* *File Ref*

That Council does not provide \$5,000 funding for the de-sexing and micro-chipping of cats (not including unwanted) for a period of three weeks following extensive public notification.

Cr Ash / Cr Rainey. Carried

Helping with euthanising cats

It was noted that dumping of unwanted cats is a problem in the rural areas, and was raised at a number of the public meetings in the rural communities.

Resolved minute number *19/RDC/146* *File Ref*

That Council approves a trial period of four weeks up to \$1,600 covering the full cost of euthanising unwanted cats trapped in Council traps following extensive publicity and officers report back.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr McManaway. Carried

- 11.10 Council resolved (19/RDC/145) not to fund the de-sexing and micro-chipping of cats therefore no budget was set for this or action undertaken.
- 11.11 Further investigation was carried out on the euthanising of cats after the resolution (19/RDC146) was passed and it was determined to be a complex issue. Vets within the District were not in favour of people presenting them with 'unwanted cats' for euthanising.
- 11.12 There are a number of provisions within the Animal Welfare Act 1999 on the disposal of animals, directly in relation to cats, it must be held for seven days before a veterinarian may be approached to have the cat euthanised. More detail of the provisions required under this Act will be provided in the report back to the Policy/Planning Committee as noted below.
- 11.13 A report on stray cats is going to be presented at an upcoming Policy/Planning Committee meeting outlining potential options for addressing issues with stray cats. However, the enforcement of bylaw provisions related to cats and addressing issues is difficult due to the mobile nature of cats.
- 11.14 In 2018 the Council advocated to Central Government to facilitate a New Zealand wide solution to stray cat issues.

Action

A report will be provided to the Policy/Planning Committee outlining potential options for addressing issues associated with stray cats.

Topic 3: Taihape West Slip Zone

Submissions

- 11.15 Gumtree Motorhome Park (#132).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #132 requests the restrictions on the Taihape West Slip zone are removed or loosened. The submitter owns the Old St Joseph's School Site at 6 Wren Street, Taihape. The submitter identifies that there are no longer monitoring devices in the area and notes that when movement occurred was at a time that trees on the property had been cut and there was a flood. The submitter also notes that drainage has been improved in the area. The submitter notes there is no sign with their building or the land of any movement.

Officer Comment

- 11.16 The property at 6 Wren Street, Taihape is located within the Taihape West Slip Zone overlay under the Rangitikei District Plan. The submitter purchased the property following St Joseph's School moving from the site.
- 11.17 The West Taihape Slip zone overlay restricts development in the area, seeking to avoid new habitable buildings or a significant increase in the floor area of existing habitable buildings. The current provisions were implemented through the district plan review, operative in 2013 and went through minor amendments in the 2019 plan change process. Council would need to go through a plan change or review process under the Resource Management Act 1991 to change any rules related to this area. To remove or loosen the requirements under the District Plan, supporting technical evidence from a geotechnical

specialist would be required. Officers consider that technical evidence would be unlikely to support the loosening of restrictions in the area.

- 11.18 The latest technical report on the landslide is a 2009 report by GNS Science and Tonkin and Taylor. The aim of the report was to assess the hazard posed by the landslide on residential property and Council infrastructure. The report identifies the landslide initiated prehistorically, sometime between 11,000 and 1,800 years ago, probably triggered by a major seismic and/or rainfall event, following removal of lateral/toe support resulting from the incision of Otaihape Valley Stream. The last major phase of movement identified started in April 2004, noted as possibly being in response to the 2004 flood event. Movement of the landslide can be affected by the presence of water, the incision of the toe of the landslip by the Otaihape Stream or seismic events.
- 11.19 There is currently no monitoring data to understand current movement in the area. However, the area remains a natural hazard, where movement could be accelerated in response to seismic or heavy rainfall events.

Topic 4: Subdivision

Submissions

- 11.20 Brian Megaw (#103), Christin Calkin (#126), Kyle Baird (#185).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #103 suggests that the rule for a minimum of 2 hectares only apply within a fixed travel distance of the nearest urban centre of over 200 people. Once the fixed travel distance is over 25kms from town, then the size of the block can be smaller – possibly 1 hectare or even under that. The submitter suggests this approach could increase the willingness of many farmers to sell small blocks. The submitter notes more and more farms in their area are amalgamating, with a commensurate decline of the owner/farmer living on the farm. The increase in absentee owners, whether corporate or larger family businesses leads to a decline in community as transient farm staff do not have a long-term stake in the health of that community.

Submitter #126 feels that more ability to subdivide land is needed.

Submitter #185 suggests relaxing subdivision requirements so that people can subdivide what they want from their own land.

Officer Comment

- 11.21 The Rangitikei District Plan outlines the objectives, policies and rules associated with rural subdivision. The restrictions around rural subdivision seek to protect land for primary production activities, avoiding fragmentation and potential reverse sensitivity effects.
- 11.22 The rule submitter #103 refers to is Rule B11.6-3c) Minimum Lot Size which specifies the minimum lot size for lots not containing Class 1 or 2 to enable the activity to be considered as a 'restricted discretionary' activity. Applications outside of this rule can be made and are assessed on a case-by-case basis as a 'discretionary' activity.

- c) For lots not containing Class 1 or 2 land:
 - (i) For existing titles of 10 hectares or less, no additional titles can be created, but boundary alterations between existing titles can occur;
 - (ii) For existing titles of more than 10 hectares, but less than 20 hectares, one additional title of 2 hectares can be created.
 - (iii) For existing titles of more than 20 hectares, two additional titles of 2 hectares can be created.

11.23 For the rule in the District Plan to be changed, Council either needs to go through a plan change or review process. This process needs to be undertaken in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. The effectiveness of the rural subdivision planning framework (including the rule questioned by the submitter) will be assessed through the District Plan review which is scheduled to occur in 2022/23. During 2021/22 Council will be developing a spatial plan for the district which will set the 30 year vision, objectives and projects. The outcomes identified from the spatial plan will be considered when undertaking the District Plan review during 2022/23.

Actions

The effectiveness of the rural subdivision planning framework (including rule B11.6-3 raised by submitter #103) will be assessed through the District Plan review process which is scheduled to occur in 2022/23.

Topic 5: Protection of Old Buildings in Taihape

Submissions

11.24 Dianne Stevens (#006)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #006 requests that all old buildings in Taihape remain.

Officer Comment

- 11.25 The Rangitikei District Plan identifies heritage buildings which have restriction on their modification due to their heritage significance. The demolition of identified heritage buildings requires resource consent. The buildings listed as heritage in the District Plan currently mirrors the list of buildings identified on the New Zealand Heritage List which is managed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. In the Taihape town centre there is only one building listed for protection: H49: Taihape Majestic Theatre. Note that St Mary's Church (H52) and St Margaret's Church (H8) are also identified. This means that there are no restrictions, based on heritage, restricting the demolition of old buildings within the Taihape town centre.
- 11.26 Setting high level objectives and projects for the Taihape town centre may be included in the development of a spatial plan for the district which is being developed during 2021/22. The most suitable time to consider the appropriateness of further protection of buildings for Taihape is when the District Plan is reviewed, in particular, the heritage section of the Plan. This is scheduled to occur in 2022/23.

11.27 One factor which may influence the retention of old buildings in Taihape where they are not protected by the District Plan is the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 which requires the strengthening of earthquake-prone buildings. Towns in the Rangitikei are located in a high seismic risk area, which means that owners of earthquake-prone buildings have 15 years to undertake earthquake strengthening (or demolition) from the date they receive an EPB notice. The cost of strengthening buildings is a significant factor. There is a risk that some building owners may simply abandon earthquake-prone buildings which means the burden of addressing earthquake strengthening requirements (or demolition) would fall to Council.

Actions

The consideration of the appropriateness of further protection of buildings for Taihape is undertaken when the heritage section of the District Plan is reviewed in 2022/23.

12 Roding

Topic 1	Sealing of Roads
Topic 2	Rangitikei College / Marton School Safety
Topic 3	Footpaths / Shared Pathways
Topic 4	Trees at 726 Torere Road
Topic 5	Road Maintenance
Topic 6	Resealing Frequency
Topic 7	Structure on the Footpath in Taihape
Topic 8	Speed Limits
Topic 9	Main Street Taihape
Topic 10	Effluent Disposal Site
Topic 11	Parking
Topic 12	Passenger Rail Service

Topic 1: Sealing of Roads

Submissions

- 12.1 Lucy Russell (#063), Jocelyn Hunt (#099), Rathmoy Investments Ltd (#142), Murray Donald and Sarah Bell (#159).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #063 requests the sealing of Mt Curl Road.

Submitter #099 requested that Council seal and create parking on Cobber Kain Avenue. The submitter identified issues with dust in summer and congestion for parking.

Submitter (#142) requested that Council investigates the safety of the gradient of Watershed Road, 50m south of the Te Kumu Road turnoff approximately 400m down to and including the corner below the Te Kumu Road.

Submitter #159 requested that Council chipseal 400m of Turakina Valley Road that runs past 3 houses at Rangiwaea Junction. The submitter identified health concerns associated with the dust created and an increase in traffic exacerbating the problem.

Officer Comment

- 12.2 Part of Mt Curl Road and the sealing of Cobber Kain Avenue are already programmed to be undertaken in Years 1-3 of the Long Term Plan.

- 12.3 Rangiwaea Junction is programmed for a seal extension in Years 4-7 of the LTP. The estimated cost for this work is \$100,000. \$50,000 of this work would be non-subsidised (seal preparation and chip seal). If Council would like to move this programme forward, other unsubsidised projects would need to be reprioritised, or additional funding for unsubsidised work would be required. The subsidised portion (the extra metal required) would be reprioritised from other projects, unless Council decided to fund the whole project as unsubsidised.
- 12.4 An option for addressing the issue on Watershed Road raised by Submitter #142 is to traction seal the piece of road. Traction seal is the construction of a sealed pavement with a chipseal surfacing. It is applied on short stretches of unsealed road where the alignment is steep and winding and there is difficulty in maintaining a trafficable gravel surface. For a traction seal to be constructed in the 2021-24 work programme other projects would need to be re-prioritised or additional funding included in budgets. A traction seal is estimated to cost \$240,000. \$35,000 of this cost would be unsubsidised. The remaining cost (metal) would be subsidised but would require the reprioritisation of the metal from other projects.
- 12.5 The indicative programme of seal extensions for Years 1 – 3 is provided below. This budget is indicative and subject to approval by Waka Kotahi.

Road Name	Route Position (km)			2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Start	End	Length			
Mt Curl Road	5.087	6.001	0.914	120,000	0	0
Mt Curl Road	4.173	5.087	0.914	0	125,782	0
Tennants Road	1.219	2.039	0.820	0	0	113,527
Turakina Valley Road 2	27.269	27.419	0.150	0	0	21,220
Non-subsidised Mitigation Sealing Totals				120,000	125,782	134,747

- 12.6 The two projects with sufficient value able to be reprioritised for Rangiwaea Junction are:
- Mt Curl Road scheduled to occur in 2021/22. *Although it is noted that Submitter #63 requested the sealing of Mt Curl Road.*
 - Tennants Road scheduled to occur in 2023/24.
- 12.7 To enable the traction seal of Watershed Road under existing budgets, \$35,000 of unsubsidised work is required to be reprioritised. This would include either Tennants Road or one of the sections of Mt Curl Road.

Recommendation

That Council includes \$100,000 of additional budget for the sealing of the Rangiwaea Junction identified by Submitter #159 as a seal extension in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, noting that the project will be fully funded as unsubsidised.

OR

That Council includes \$50,000 of additional budget for the sealing of the Rangiwaea Junction identified by Submitter #159 as a seal extension in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, noting that the \$50,000 is unsubsidised and the \$50,000 for metal preparation requires reprioritisation from the unsealed road metalling budget.

OR

That Council reprioritises the unsubsidised budget for the sealing of [insert project] and instead includes the sealing of the Rangiwaea Junction identified by Submitter #159 instead in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, noting that the \$50,000 for metal preparation requires reprioritisation from the unsealed road metalling budget.

OR

That Council reprioritises the unsubsidised budget for the sealing of [insert project] and instead includes the sealing of the Rangiwaea Junction identified by Submitter #159 instead in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, and includes \$50,000 of unsubsidised budget for metal preparation.

OR

That Council does not include additional budget or reprioritise the existing seal extension work programme, and that the sealing of Rangiwaea Junction occurs in Years 4-7 of the Long Term Plan.

OR

That Council directs the Group Manager Infrastructure to negotiate a cost-share of the sealing of the Rangiwaea Junction with the affected landowners and reports back to Council on the outcome, for budget to be considered through the 2022/23 Annual Plan process.

Recommendation

That Council includes \$240,000 of additional budget for the traction sealing of Watershed Road in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, noting the project will be fully funded as unsubsidised.

OR

That Council includes \$240,000 of additional budget for the traction sealing of Watershed Road in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, noting that the \$35,000 is unsubsidised and the \$205,000 for metal preparation requires reprioritisation from the unsealed road metalling budget.

OR

That Council reprioritises the unsubsidised sealing of [insert project] and instead includes the traction sealing of part of Watershed Road Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, noting that the \$205,000 for metal prep requires reprioritisation from the unsealed road metalling budget.

OR

That Council reprioritises the unsubsidised sealing of [insert project] instead includes the traction sealing of part of Watershed Road Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan, and funds the whole project as unsubsidised.

OR

That Council does not include additional budget or reprioritise the existing seal extension work programme, and that the traction sealing of Watershed Road is scheduled for Years 4-7 of the Long Term Plan.

Topic 2: Rangitikei College / Marton School Safety

Submissions

12.8 Rangitikei College Principal and Marton School Principal (#217).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #217 commented on concerns about student safety on footpaths along Bredins Line and Hereford Street. The submitter requests the following:

- Continuous pedestrian access along the eastern side of Bredins Line and southern side of Hereford Street, requiring additional paving for a footpath to connect between the new entrance to Hereford Heights, and across Tutaenui Stream to the path outside Marton School.
- A pedestrian crossing and traffic calming across the entrance to Hereford Heights.
- A permanent 30km/h speed limit outside and between the two schools to 30km/h.

Officer Comment

- 12.9 A traffic study of the Bredins Line and Hereford Street intersection is being carried out which will be finalised by November 2021. Part of this study includes consideration of appropriate traffic calming for the area and the need for a pedestrian crossing. Any recommendations of the study will implemented in Years 1-3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.
- 12.10 The footpath extension along the east side of Bredins Line has already been programmed and is included in existing budgets. The work is scheduled to be carried out in Years 1-3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.
- 12.11 Speed management work in the area is included in the safety improvement programme (Road to Zero) which is currently being considered by Waka Kotahi. The active signage planned, including speed restriction, is programmed to be carried out in Years 1-3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. Waka Kotahi is currently consulting on changes to the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2021. One of the proposed changes is requiring road controlling authorities (including Council) to reduce speed limits around urban schools to

30km/h (variable or permanent speed limits), with the option of implementing 40km/h speed limits if appropriate; and rural schools to a maximum of 60km/h (variable or permanent). Council will make a submission on the proposed changes.

Actions

The results of the traffic study, including proposed traffic calming, for the Bredins Line and Hereford Street intersection will be provided to and discussed with the principals of Rangitikei College and Marton School.

Topic 3: Footpaths / Shared Pathways

Submissions

12.12 Karen Addenbrooke (#001), Kevin Wheelan (#070), Grace Joan Taiaroa (#141), Horizons Regional Council (#158), Louise Andrews (#197), Ratana Community Board (#212), Winiata Marae (#226).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #001 requests the provision of a walkway on Nga Tawa Road, Marton.

Submitter #070 request Council provides more walkways/cycleways. The submitter suggests they could be 1.5m wide or done by widening the existing carriageway. The submitter suggests a footpath along the west side of Nga Tawa Road, linking the existing walk/cycle path on Calico Line to Main Street which would complete a circuit. The submitter identifies this road gets a lot of pedestrian traffic. The Submitter also identified unformed roads in the Lake Alice area that could become walk/cycle ways. They noted the roadworks recently completed on Pukepapa Road increased the seal by 0.5m which is helpful for cyclists and suggests rural road upgrades should be done this way.

Submitter #128 encourages the provision of active transport when upgrading or building road networks.

Submitter #197 requests Council install a footpath down the other side of Mill Street to increase safety for children. The Submitter identifies the difficulty crossing the corner of Mill Street and Pukepapa Road and notes if there was a footpath children could cross at the pedestrian crossing near James Cook School.

Submitters #141 and #212 request a footpath/walkway be established from the Ratana community to the Ratana Junction(turnoff). They considered it will contribute considerably to the health and wellbeing of the community and provide residents with a safe walking path and will provide a walk way to the Urupa/cemetery.

Submitter #226 requests the footpaths in Taihape are upgraded, especially where the elderly are using them daily.

Officer Comment

12.13 A number of walking and cycling improvements are programmed for Years 1-3 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. These would receive a subsidy subject to approval from Waka Kotahi. These improvements include Nga Tawa Road as raised by Submitters #001 and #070 and Mill Street raised by Submitter #197.

- 12.14 A footpath to the Ratana junction (#141 and #212) or footpaths around Taihape (#226) have not been programmed for construction or improvement. These footpaths have not been assessed as a priority for the first three years of the LTP. Maintenance repairs will be carried out in Taihape as required. Recent upgrades have occurred to the footpaths on Kuku Street and Outback Road.

Topic 4: Trees at 726 Torere Road

Submissions

- 12.15 Ken Bellamy (#153).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #153 requests the removal of trees that are overhanging fences or are growing in the road reserve along the boundary of 726 Torere Road, Taihape. They request that any tree over 50 years old that was planted by the Catchment Board is removed due to safety reasons and replaced with Manuka or other indigenous species.

Officer Comment

- 12.16 The tree removal for 726 Torere Road is programmed in 2021/22, however there are no plans to replant the area.

Topic 5: Road Maintenance

Submissions

- 12.17 Makere (#065), Craig Whitton (#119), Robert Snijders (#161), Heather Gee-Taylor (#171), Ratana Community Board (#212), Rangitikei District Western Residents (#216).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #065 and #119 commented that roads need redoing.

Submitter #161 raises concerns about Council's road maintenance and questions the relationship with Waka Kotahi.

Submitter #212 requests installing curb and channelling along the field-side of Seamer Street and Rangatahi Road. They suggest it will greatly improve water flow that currently drains into the Rugby field and help to ease water congestion to the grass area during winter and after heavy rain the playing field becomes inaccessible and rugby games are moved out of Ratana due to the playing surface not being up to playing standards.

Submitter #216 request Council's Roading Managers review the performance of contractors for maintenance, particularly of water tables and culverts, with a view to improve performance.

Submitter #171 suggests Council should drive up Turakina Valley Road before making decisions on the roading projects. The submitter notes the importance of this road for the economy and raises concerns about the state of the road.

Officer Comment

- 12.18 Council recognises there are a number of problems/challenges with the roading activity that we are actively planning to address. The problems include; legacy network, low network resilience, safety, population growth. Council has developed a strategic response and priority for each of the problems identified than have been planned into the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.
- 12.19 Council measures road condition through the use of the smooth travel exposure. The results of this measure are reported annual through Council's Annual Report. The rating for 2019/20 is 94%.
- 12.20 Response times to address clearing culverts and water channels became longer in the current contract compared with the previous contract. This was due to historic evidence suggesting Council was over inspecting. The contractor is working to the current specification and there has been no detrimental effects to the network identified by Council Officers. Performance of contractors is checked regularly, with the audit regime not identifying any substandard water table and culvert work.
- 12.21 Seamer Street and Rangatahi Road kerb and channel installation would cost \$35,000. This was not previously planned but can be accommodated under the existing Drainage Renewals programme in Years 1-3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (still subject to approval from Waka Kotahi).
- 12.22 A 1.7km section of the Turakina Valley Rd is scheduled in Years 1-3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan as a Road Improvement and subject to approval from Waka Kotahi. This section is north of Braemore Junction at the intersection with Ongo Rd and finishes in the vicinity of Otairi.

Action

Seamer Street and Rangatahi Road kerb and channel installation will be completed in Years 1-3 of the 2012-2031 Long Term Plan (subject to approval from Waka Kotahi).

Topic 6: Resealing Frequency

Submissions

- 12.23 Federated Farmers (#213), Rangitikei District Western Residents (#216), Paul and Dianne Holloway (#247).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #213, #216 and #247 oppose reducing the reseal of roads from 12/13 years to 16.7 years due to concerns about the deterioration of the roading surface caused by increased trucks meeting HPV standards, particularly forestry trucks. Submitter #213 raises concerns that this will affect rural residents the most and requests that Council advocates for better rural roads than the One Network Road Classification provides for.

Officer Comment

- 12.24 The sections of road that have been identified for sealing in Years 1-3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan are on average 14 years old. This is on par with Council's peer group, which is assessed nationally by Waka Kotahi. There are two components to a seal coat:
1. the bitumen which provides a waterproof coat
 2. the stone chip which provides traction for vehicles
- 12.25 The process for deciding when a section of road needs to be sealed involves checking that the bitumen has not become brittle and cracked, and that the chip still provides the required traction. A reseal is programmed on its need not necessarily by its age.

Topic 7: Structure on the footpath in Taihape

Submissions

- 12.26 Frances Hodgson (#224), Jan Byford (#241), Taihape Community Development Trust (#244).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #224, #241 and #244 query the future of the structure on the footpath outside of the former Laura's Café.

Officer Comment

- 12.27 The structure was installed for safety reasons while construction was undertaken on the building. This was put in place to protect workers and or members of the public where there is an interface. Officers have contacted the landowner and requested the removal of the structure. The property owner has agreed that the structure will be removed by mid-June.

Topic 8: Speed Limits & Bumps

Submissions

- 12.28 Lisa O'Leary (#109), Jodene (#114), Richard and Robin Pearce (#143).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #109 requests the slowing of Taumaihi Street and suggests putting in speed bumps and improving access to driveways.

Submitter #114 requests speed bumps on all crossings, especially the one by New World and BJW.

Submitter #143 commented that with more cars and vehicles on the road speed restrictions should be factored in for residential streets with better signage.

Officer Comment

- 12.29 A prioritised network speed management programme has been developed (Road to Zero), which is currently being considered by Waka Kotahi. Many of the locations programmed for improvement are outside of local schools. Road to Zero works include speed

management and roadside barriers. Waka Kotahi is currently consulting on changes to the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2021. One of the proposed changes is requiring road controlling authorities (including Council) to reduce speed limits around urban schools to 30km/h (variable or permanent speed limits), with the option of implementing 40km/h speed limits if appropriate; and rural schools to a maximum of 60km/h (variable or permanent). Council will make a submission on the proposed changes.

- 12.30 A speed limit of 40km/h outside of Clifton School is being considered under the speed management programme. Once this work progresses consideration will be given to the merits of extending the zone along Taumaihi Street.
- 12.31 There are no plans to improve access to driveways along Taumaihi Street, the issues raised by the Submitter are present along the whole of the block.
- 12.32 Speed bumps are not recommended due to the noise and vibration they create.

Topic 9: Main Street Taihape

Submissions

- 12.33 Melissa Morris (#021).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #021 requests upgrading of the verandas and footpath area, including lighting, development of street side café seating.

Officer Comment

- 12.34 Maintenance of footpaths and under veranda lighting will be carried out in Years 1-10 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan as required. Cleaning of lighting is undertaken every two years. Maintenance of the verandas are the property owner's responsibility.

Topic 10: Effluent Disposal Site

Submissions

- 12.35 CR Grace and Glen Oroua Livestock (#131), Maher Transport (#222), Michael Coles Ray Coles Transport (#239)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #131 supports the development of an effluent and truck wash site in Bulls. The submitter identified there is no effluent dump site anywhere in the Rangitikei District that can be accessed by their fleet (54 tonnes). The closest sites are in Waverly and Napier-Taupo. The submitter suggests Bulls would be a more appropriate location than Taihape as it is more central to the transport activity.

Submitter #222 identifies there is an urgent need to develop an effluent dump facility for the Taihape region. The submitter notes there is no dump station between Feilding, Taupo, Waverly and Woodville. The submitter notes the importance of dump stations to the industry in the district and notes that many trucks do not pass an effluent dump station on their journey and holding tanks can fill quickly. The submitter requests the following:

- Effluent Dump - That the RDC support the establishment of an Effluent Dump in the Taihape Region through advocacy with Horizon's Regional Council, Waka Kotahi and their own consenting processes. If there is a requirement for rezoning, we would ask that this is put into the RDC's District Plan rolling review.
- Wash Down Facility and Effluent Dump - That the RDC support the establishment of a Wash-Down Facility and Effluent Dump in the Taihape Region through advocacy with Horizon's Regional Council, Waka Kotahi and their own consenting processes.

Submitter #239 comments that there is an urgent need for an effluent dump facility for the wider Taihape region. The submitter wants Council to support the establishment of an effluent dump and wash down station in the Taihape area through advocacy with Horizons and Waka Kotahi.

Officer Comment

- 12.36 Stock effluent facilities are routinely located on State Highways. These facilities are very expensive to construct and maintain. Waka Kotahi has a nationally prioritised programme for stock effluent disposal facilities.

Actions

Council Officers will forward the request for stock effluent facilities to Waka Kotahi for its consideration.

Topic 11: Parking and Crossings

Submissions

- 12.37 Jodene (#114), Richard and Robin Pearce (#143), Mokai Patea Services (#198).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #114 requests a crossing near the new park in Marton.

Submitter #143 commented that as a result of increased number of vehicles associated with population expansion there needs to be more off-street parking and further rules put into place e.g. for parking of boats on narrow streets.

Submitter #198 requests that a no parking sign for trucks be installed on lower Hautapu Street.

Officer Comment

- 12.38 Council Officers have not received many complaints about parking either in the retail areas of the District towns or throughout residential streets. The most common area for complaints is outside of the post boxes on Follett Street, Marton.
- 12.39 Provided vehicles and trailers are registered and warranted they are able to park on the road. The Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017 identifies vehicles without a current warrant or registration are not able to be left on a road for longer than consecutive 7 days.
- 12.40 The Rangitikei District Plan sets rules for on-site parking requirements for different activities throughout the district.

- 12.41 Additional, signage around Te Āhuru Mōwai is under development. Park users are encouraged to park behind the playground.

Topic 12: Passenger Rail Service

Submissions

- 12.42 Richard and Robin Pearce (#143)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #143 commented that Council should get passenger rail service due to population expansion.

Officer Comment

- 12.43 Horizons Regional Council administers passenger transport. Council submitted to the Horizons Regional Council long term plan process and made the following comments related to public transport for the District:
- Requested a commuter bus service is established to travel through Marton and other small towns.
 - Request Horizons continue to advocate for passenger rail services.

13 Three Waters

Topic 1	Marton Water Supply
Topic 2	Three Waters Reform
Topic 3	Water Tanks
Topic 4	Wastewater
Topic 5	Water Tower in Bulls
Topic 6	Rural Water Schemes
Topic 7	Environmental Impacts of Stormwater and Wastewater

Topic 1: Marton Water Supply

Submissions

13.1 Petra Coetzee (#009) Rene Johnson (#045), Paul McAleece (#087), Jodene (#114), Amanda Rogers (#122), Robert Snijders (#161), Kim Duxfield (#179), Kelsey Smith (#210) Hazel Gallagher (#251).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #009 is in opposition to fluoridation chemicals being added to water.

Submitters #045, #087, #113, #122, #179, #210 and #251 identify that water supply, particularly for Marton should be a key priority for Council:

- Submitter #045 suggests Council's focus should be on fixing the water in Marton as there is no point having visitors to the district if all they remember is the taste of the water.
- Submitter #087 suggests using the proposed wifi money to fix the water quality.
- Submitter #161 comments on the poor quality of Marton water and residents having to spend money for their own water.
- Submitter #113 asks Council to fix the water as the top priority.
- Submitter #122 asks Council to fix the water.
- Submitter #179 notes that Marton water should be a priority. It has been an issue for a long time and as more houses are built and more businesses open the issue will get worse. The submitter noted a surprise this was not in the consultation.
- Submitter #251 questions where water quality and supply feature in the consultation. The submitter notes the need for changes and considers this has not been made a priority. The submitter suggests if water isn't an issue for Council, they would like Council to subsidise the purchase of water tanks which would provide people with better water quality and take the pressure off the water supply in summer.

Officer Comment

- 13.2 The current Marton water supply scheme has been challenged by odour and taste problems for many years cause by the high levels of manganese and organics in the water source. The future of the Marton water supply is subject to the development of the Marton Water Supply Strategy. The purpose of the Water Supply Strategy is to consistently deliver good quality, affordable, safe drinking water at volumes for today and the future. Strategic direction was finalised by Council in May 2021. \$11 million has been budgeted in Years 1-3 of the 2021/31 Long Term Plan.

Topic 2: Three Waters Reform

Submissions

- 13.3 Mervyn Smith (#092), Sharleen Amai (#098), Raewyn Turner (#156), David Stuteley (#208), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211); Federated Farmers (#213).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #092 and #098 suggest three waters should be retained by Council:

- Submitter #092 suggests Council should retain control of the water systems, but have Central Government funding the major works. This Submitter notes the Government will have to pay for the start-up costs and running costs of the three waters entities which would be money better sent on infrastructure by councils. The Submitter also raises concerns that people without a reticulated supply will pay a similar amount for water as urban ratepayers without receiving the benefit or that water supplies will be sold to overseas.
- Submitter #098 suggests that the three waters should stay with Council. This Submitter notes that no one owns water and suggests Government thinks they can profit from the scheme.

Submitter #156 comments that we need more people/businesses to help maintain and improve our water issues and at present we need the three water initiative.

Submitter #208 comments that we should be consulting the community on this.

Submitter #211 does not support Council's ongoing management of the three waters. The submitter does not consider Council has managed the three waters well and noted their interest in being involved in the three waters reform consultation process.

Submitter #213 raises concerns that if three waters are centralised that an increased funding burden may be placed on those not connected to services due to less understanding of who benefits from spending.

Officer Comment

- 13.4 The Three Waters Reform is a Central Government initiative focused on reforming local government's three waters services into publicly owned multi-regional entities. There are many uncertainties about the final structures and delivery models that will be proposed by Central Government. Government have indicated they will consult with the community on a proposed model in late 2021. After this time Council will need to decide on whether to

remain in the new entity or opt out of the reform. The new entity would be operational from 1 July 2024.

Topic 3: Water Tanks

Submissions

- 13.5 Sharleen Amai (#098), Raewyn Turner (#156), Randall Moorhouse (#246).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #098 suggests that Councils should be incentivising tanks onto properties to alleviate pressure on the awa.

Submitter #246 suggests there is nothing that thinks about the future generations or environment such as encouraging residents to install water tanks if they are unhappy with the water which can also provide resilience in times of drought.

Submitter #156 commented that water tanks would ease pressure on the system. The submitter commented that new builds should be required to install water tanks, subsidised by Council.

Officer Comment

- 13.6 Council does not currently require the installation of water tanks for new dwellings built throughout the district. The requirement for water tanks to be installed would require a change to the Rangitikei District Plan. The potential requirement for water tanks to be installed in urban areas for new dwellings will be considered during the District Plan Review in 2022/23. However, substantial research has been done in NZ on the benefits of rain tanks. The results show that rain tanks only work well during the wet rain seasons but struggle in the dry summer months. Most properties with rain tanks revert back to network supply in the summer. The tanks are full when water is not needed for gardens and are dry when homeowners need the water during the dry end of summer.

Topic 4: Wastewater

Submissions

- 13.7 Cheryl Power (#025), Horizons Regional Council (#158), Robert Snijders (#161), Kyle Baird (#185), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211), Federated Farmers (#213), Manawatu District Council (#214)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #025 commented that Council is flushing human waste down Papakai River.

Submitter #158 raises concern that a number of the District's wastewater treatment plants are operating on existing use rights or have regular breaches of their consent conditions. The Submitter urges the Council to make progress on gaining consents for the wastewater treatment plans and to operate them in accordance with consent conditions and to ensure sufficient provision has been made in the Long Term Plan to do so. The Submitter highlighted the increasing environmental standards that will come from the

implementation of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the need for Council to invest in their three waters infrastructure to ensure compliance.

Submitter #161 suggests the Marton to Bulls Wastewater project is another example of Council failing to deal with the three waters property. The Submitter suggests a combined scheme covering water and wastewater should be developed.

Submitter #185 notes that upgrades to the Taihape sewer system should be a priority.

Submitter #211 supports the proposed Marton to Bulls wastewater project. The Submitter raises concerns about Bonny Glen landfill noting that the 2018 Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services show the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plan is non-compliant due to ammoniacal nitrogen resulting from the acceptance of leachate from Bonny Glen.

Submitter #213 notes the need for Council to find land for the discharge of wastewater. The Submitter suggests Council needs to be cautious about the effectiveness of land-based discharge without first understanding all of the short- and long-term consequences, including the cost of the loss of productive land. The Submitter will be asking PNCC to consider an approach that supports surrounding districts and ask Council to consider a regional solution.

Submitter #214 notes their support for the Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project as being the most cost-effective solution for the management of wastewater from these areas and the benefits to the Tutaenui Stream. The Submitter requests the following decision *“That RDC progress the development of the detailed business case for the Marton to Bulls wastewater transfer pipeline project to ensure the economic and environmental benefits of this project are realised”*.

Officer Comment

- 13.8 Moving away from treatment plants being operated on existing use rights is one of Council’s top priorities. We are working with Horizons Regional Council and iwi to find suitable solutions for the future treatment, disposal and consenting of these treatment plants and to improve the consenting and compliance of all the treatment plants in the District. Council has appointed a consultant to deliver a regional treatment plant consenting programme over Years 1-4 of the Long Term Plan. Their focus is to bring all treatment plants to a stage where they have a current resource consent, with conditions that can be complied with.
- 13.9 All the treatment plants currently being operated under existing use rights will be changing to the disposal of treated wastewater to land. The land disposal options provide good environmental and cultural outcomes but are complex and dependent on finding suitable land. All the details regarding the effects of the discharge of treated wastewater to land will be investigated and reported during the consenting process. This investigation work will cover all aspects of land discharge and will give effect to changing requirements resulting from the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.
- 13.10 An upgrade of the Taihape wastewater system is a priority for Council with work to improve the network, treatment plant performance and consenting currently in progress. A new pump station will be constructed in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan, as will the pipeline from the pump station to the treatment plant. The regional treatment plant consenting consultant will progress work to apply for a new resource consent. The current consent expires in 2027, however, the conditions are currently difficult to comply with.

- 13.11 The Marton wastewater treatment plant has not accepted any leachate from Bonnie Glenn landfill since early 2018. The Marton to Bulls centralisation project is progressing. The next milestone project is the construction of the pipeline between Marton and Bulls expected to start by October 2021.

Topic 5: Water Tower in Bulls

Submissions

- 13.12 Colin Bartlett (#192).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #192 raises concern about that during the recent public consultation process about the water tower in Bulls there was no mention that a new reservoir was to be built in front of the old tower. The submitter notes the old tower will be difficult to maintain due to the close proximity to the reservoir. The submitter raises concern about it becoming a burden to ratepayers and an eyesore.

Officer Comment

- 13.13 In October / November 2020 Council consulted with the Bulls community on whether to retain or demolish the Bulls water tower (the mushroom tower). This was needed to be done at this time as the new Bulls reservoir was due to be constructed and if the tower was to be removed it would be cheaper and easier to do this prior to construction of the new reservoir. The consultation information noted that the new reservoir was being constructed next to the tower.
- 13.14 Consultation was done via a hardcopy submission form which was available at the Te Matapihi open day then at Te Matapihi for a few weeks following the open day. It was also available online via Council's website. Notices were put in the Bulls Bulletin and District Monitor during the consultation period. There were two options presented for consultation:
- Demolish the tower at a cost of an estimated \$250,000; or
 - Strengthen the tower at the cost of an estimated \$250,000 – noting that in around 35 years' time the tower will need to be demolished at an additional cost.
- 13.15 131 votes were received with 37% voting to demolish the tower and 63% asking for the tower to be strengthened.

Topic 6: Rural Water Schemes

Submissions

- 13.16 Federated Farmers (#213).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #213 identifies the benefit of the stock water driven rural water schemes throughout the District and suggests that rural water schemes should be retained in their

present form as long as possible. Request that Council ensure their members are engaged early in any future proposals to change the schemes.

Officer Comment

13.17 Council current has no plans to change the way rural water schemes operate.

Topic 7: Environment Impacts of Stormwater and Wastewater

Submissions

13.18 Makere (#065), Wellington Fish and Game NZ (#162), Conn Rider (#168), Water Safety New Zealand (#218).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #065 commented that Council is destroying and contaminating rivers with too much farming pollution.

Submitter #162 asks Council to implement initiatives that ensure all principal water contaminants are managed and water quality is improves for the Rangitikei Catchment. They specifically request Council:

- Provide more substantial expenditure on existing stormwater management system and include an objective in reducing contaminants – especially sediment and E. coli entering the rivers. The current focus of expenditure for the 3 Water Projects does not put enough emphasis on stormwater discharge improvements.
- That Council be an active participant in developing and promoting sustainable land management to reduce land use effects on the river water quality. This should be done by partnering with landowners, catchment groups, regional Council, Iwi partners and community partners.

Submitter #168 comments on the damages of washing trucks and water ending up in the rivers and suggests having iwi representatives for waterways.

Submitter #218 suggests Council needs invest in the on-going maintenance of waste and storm water infrastructure to ensure water quality (swimmability and manoeuvrability) in the Council aquatic environments.

Officer Comment

13.19 Council included substantial capital investment in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan to achieve improved environmental outcomes. Stormwater management systems for the treatment and removal of contaminants are prohibitively costly and not required at the moment. The long-term future for storm water management and possible treatment options is unknown at this time and will be driven by the 3 waters reform program.

13.20 Council is in active partnership with Horizons Regional Council, iwi, landowners and catchment groups to promote better outcomes for the environment and for the Rangitikei River. Council does not manage or control runoff from farms which is the responsibility of Horizons Regional Council.

14 Parks & Reserves

Topic 1	Requested Investment in Parks
Topic 2	Mt Stewart, Taihape
Topic 3	Taihape Outback
Topic 4	Footpath Cleaning in Taihape
Topic 5	Marton Reservoir
Topic 6	Ratana Playground
Topic 7	Cemeteries
Topic 8	Rubbish Bins for Taihape
Topic 9	Maintenance
Topic 10	Weed Control

Topic 1: Requested Investment in Parks

Submissions

- 14.1 Taihape Playground Group (#002 & #046), Bruce Dear (#005), Taihape Squash Club (#010), Llorian Nordell (#011), Cheryl Power (#025), Evelyn George (#049), Jennifer Turner (#057), Charlotte Oswald (#051), Rosie Gilbert (#081), Sport Manawatu (#088), Mary Freeman (#091), Alan Buckendahl (#102), Courtney Bartley (#110), Chanelle Theobald (#113), Jodene (#114), Taihape Tennis (#160), Taihape Community Board (#145), Koitiata Residents Committee (#152), Wilson Park Development Group (#163), Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group (#219), Bronwyn Troon (#181), Rangi Tahiri (#195), Mokai Patea Services (#198).

Summary of Submissions

Bulls Domain

Submitter #011 raises a number of concerns about Bulls Domain; lack of dog poo bins, wandering dew at the pines.

Submitter #219 proposes a conceptual plan for the upgrade of the Domain in Bulls. The Submitter wishes to have a fit for purpose space to accommodate a wide range of uses. The plan includes building a multi-sports facility, children's playground, youth park, area for dogs, circuit training track, sporting activities, picnic areas and carparks. Request permission to investigate a proposal for this space.

Haylock Park & Walker Park, Bulls

Submitter #005 requests Council consult, plan and construct a playground and park area for Haylock Park. The Submitter identifies that new development means more children will be living in the area and will need a local and safe green space.

Submitter #110 requests Council upgrades the children's playground, particularly the one in Walker Park.

Memorial Park, Taihape

Submitter #002/#046 is working on plans for upgrading the playground at Taihape Memorial Park. The Submitter provided information on the community consultation undertaken to date, the site location and designs, state of the existing playground, and fundraising undertaken already. The submitter requests support from Council for the project. The group has requested support for the project of \$50,000.

Submitter #010 seeks Council support for the redevelopment of the Taihape Squash Club. Major points of note being the expansion to a four-court Squash complex, retention of the green space in front of the Kokako St Hall, parking, resurfacing of the existing courts and the provision for an additional tennis/netball surface if required. The Submitter would appreciate financial support and support for the consenting process.

Submitter #025 commented that Council is wasting their money on the amenities block and Submitter #091 suggests the public were not asked about the new amenities building.

Submitter #049 notes the playground area in Taihape is pretty basic, but the playcentre is an attraction. The submitter suggests this part of town needs to be improved to cater for families moving to the area and visitors.

Submitter #051 supports the development of a new playground in Taihape. The Submitter is part of the Taihape Playground Group and is committed to raising funds.

Submitter #057 identifies the Taihape playground needs to be upgraded and is supportive of the community group planning this project. The Submitter requests Council support the project with funding to help the project progress.

Submitter #081 identifies the Taihape playground needs to be upgraded and raises concern about the location. The Submitter notes the importance of the playground as a social hub. The submitter is concerned about the state of the toilets. Signage and new toilets would benefit travellers passing through.

Submitter #088 supports the new amenities block.

Submitter #113 supports the upgrading of the Taihape playground and suggests a range of activities.

Submitter #145 requested the following;

- Removal of the old green storage shed on Memorial Park as it is in a shabby state and situated adjacent to one of the main entrances.
- Provision of angled parking on the grassed area adjacent to the main driveway into the swimming facilities. The submitter noted that when busy, the parking on both sides of the driveway may hinder access by emergency services.
- Upgrade of the Kokako Street Pavilion 2. Is in a good location, but underused due to inadequate facilities. Submitter #198 recommends a refurbished kitchen which aligns to submitter #145 request.
- Request Council supports the residents' groups working towards the upgrade of the playground and squash facilities.

Submitter #160 requests support for Taihape Tennis' proposal to upgrade the Kokako Street Hall and construct two new tennis courts on the bowling green/croquet area outside

of the hall. The Submitter proposes joint funding and co-management and administration of the hall, but are open to working with Council on the proposal. The existing courts require resurfacing which is the top priority followed by the upgrade of the hall as the second priority. Request Council support of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Submitter #181 requests that Council fix the Taihape Playground.

Submitter #195 wants powered motorhome sites, working off of a prepaid card system, to be provided in the area in Taihape where motorhomes currently park (in front of the A&E Grounds).

Marton Park

Submitter #102 noted the use of Marton Park by the whole community. They noted the recent addition of toilets on Follett Street and recommend the addition of the following facilities; permanent lighting of some of the trees, two self-contained BBQ's and shelter.

Wilson Park, Marton

Submitter #114 suggests a fenced dog park.

Submitter #163 requests funding and staff support for their plans for the development of Wilson Park. The objectives of the group are to both enhance the existing facilities and implement a three stage plan to provide new facilities to benefit the whole community. They have requested funding early in the process to help the project get established. Request Council fund the project to the value of \$50,000.

Koitiata Reserves

Submitter #152 requests the development of a Reserve Management Plan for the Koitiata Domain. The submitter proposes it is developed jointly with the residents, Nga Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Horizons and Ernslaw and considers: excess groundwater from the lagoon, secure reserve status for the adjacent 'Domain', review the placement and capability of the sewer system, freedom camping bylaw. The submitter also requests the children's play area is upgraded, reviewing the health and safety of the equipment.

Officer Comment

- 14.2 Council is planning on creating a Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy for the District in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan. The objective of this strategy is to determine what the district needs for the future provision of parks, open spaces and sporting facilities. It is important that future significant investment in the District's parks is aligned with future needs and is affordable for the community, including for ongoing maintenance. Officers are also preparing a Community Partnership Policy in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan to guide community-led development of Council owned facilities.

Bulls Domain

- 14.3 Officers acknowledge the strong community interest in developing the Bulls Domain. In addition to developing the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified above, Council will also review the Bulls Domain Reserve Management Plan in Year 1 of the Long Term plan. The Reserve Management Plan for the Bulls Domain will provide a more detailed plan for the development of the area, implementing the strategic direction from the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified. Officers will initiate the review of the Reserve Management Plan to run simultaneously with the development of

the wider Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy to provide strategic direction for community-led development of the site. The Bulls Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group will be included in the consultation on the review of the Reserve Management Plan. The development of an alternative plan for the Bulls Domain by the Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group is not recommended. Officers will work with the Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group to ensure that community-led upgrades to be park are aligned with the Bulls Domain Reserve Management Plan & Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy.

Haylock Park & Walker Park, Bulls

- 14.4 Officers recognise the interest from the submitter in the development of Haylock Park. It is important that future development of this area is aligned with the future parks needs for the District and is not invested in until the completion of the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy.

Memorial Park, Taihape

- 14.5 Officers acknowledge the strong community interest in developing different areas of Taihape Memorial Park. In addition to developing the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified above, Council will review its Reserve Management Plan for Memorial Park, Taihape. Given the range of users and facilities with competing interests in developing areas at Taihape Memorial Park, Officers will also create a detailed Urban Design Plan during Year 1 of the Long Term Plan. The Urban Design Plan will create an overarching future plan of how to make this common space work better and to connect all these facilities and users in a way that will allow better use of existing assets and a common goal for the future of the Park. The document will not replicate the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plan, but provide a higher level of detail on how the Park will develop and function.
- 14.6 The location of any new play areas and facilities, the Squash Club development and Tennis Club development, will need to align with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy, Reserve Management Plan and Urban Design Plan. No commitment to the development of these areas can be given until these documents have been completed.
- 14.7 Council consulted with the Taihape community about the construction and design of the new amenities building at numerous occasions over many years and considers this consultation to be substantial and thorough.
- 14.8 The existing play area will continue be maintained, which will include the supply of adequate wood chips and the upkeep of the play equipment until such time as a decision can be made about the future of this area.

Marton Park

- 14.9 Officers recognise the interest from the Submitter in the development of Marton Park. It is important that future development of this area is aligned with the future parks needs for the District. The Reserve Management Plan for Marton Park will be reviewed by Year 3 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. Therefore, Officers suggest that Council funding is not committed for this proposal until the completion of the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified above and the review of the Marton Park Reserve Management Plan.

Wilson Park, Marton

- 14.10 Officers acknowledge the strong community interest in developing Wilson Park in Marton. In addition to developing the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified above, Council will review its Reserve Management Plan for Wilson Park during Year 1 of the Long Term Plan. The Reserve Management Plan for Wilson Park will provide a more detailed plan for the development of the area, implementing the strategic direction from the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified. Officers will initiate the review of the Reserve Management Plan to run simultaneously with the development of the wider Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy to provide strategic direction for community-led development of the site. The Wilson Park Development Group will be included in the consultation on the review of the Reserve Management Plan. The development of an alternative plan for the Wilson Park by the Wilson Park Development Group is not recommended. Officers will work with the Wilson Park Development Group to ensure that community-led upgrades to be park are aligned with the resulting Reserve Management Plan & Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy.

Koitiata Reserves

- 14.11 Officers recognise the interest from the submitter in the development of the reserves in Koitiata. It is important that future development of this area is aligned with the future parks needs for the District, and that any future proposal for this area is not explored until the completion of the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy identified above in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] endorse;

- the development of the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy in Year 1 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan; and
- agrees that for Taihape Memorial Park, Wilson Park, Marton and Bulls Domain the relevant Reserve Management Plans will be reviewed simultaneously; and
- that any community-led upgrades to these parks will be in accordance with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and relevant Reserve Management Plan (and for Taihape Memorial Park the Urban Design Plan).

The recommendations below are only required if Council does not endorse the approach identified in the recommendation above.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] provide \$50,000 or \$_____ [delete one] to the Wilson Park Development Group for the upgrading of Wilson Park.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] provide \$100,000 or \$150,000 or \$_____ [delete two] to the Taihape Tennis Club for the upgrading of the Kokako Street Hall and construction of two new tennis courts.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] provide approval for the Bulls Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group to investigate a proposal for the Bulls Domain.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] provides financial support of \$_____ ; supports / does not support [delete one] the proposed concept; and provides / does not provide [delete one] support with the consenting process to the Taihape Squash Club.

Recommendation

That Council does / does not [delete one] support the Taihape Playground Group in upgrading the Taihape Memorial Park Playground AND provides / does not provide [delete one] \$50,000 or \$_____ [delete one] to the Taihape Playground group for the upgrading of Taihape Memorial Park Playground.

Topic 2: Mt Stewart, Taihape**Submissions**

14.12 Kuia Byford (#173).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #173 requests Council is more proactive at Mt Stewart in Taihape. The maintenance of tracks, spraying, old man's beard is currently done by volunteers which will not always be the case so Council should be involved and take more responsibility.

Officer Comment

14.13 Council do not currently undertake maintenance at Mt Stewart Reserve. It is undertaken by Rangitikei Environmental Group (REG) and volunteers. If Council were to start undertaking this maintenance it would be an increase in level of service. More resources would be required to undertake the works, which unless budgets increased, would mean a decreased level of service for other maintenance of parks and reserves in the District.

14.14 Rangitikei River Collective Catchment Group (RRCCG) have received funding from Central Government over the next three years. Rangitikei River Collective Catchment Group are currently engaging the Rangitikei Environmental Group to undertake work but this would only be for use on public land.

Topic 3: Taihape Outback**Submissions**

14.15 Taihape Community Board (#145), Jan Byford (#241).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #145 requests Council undertakes discussions with property owners to formalise public parking in the area and provide appropriate signage. The upgrade requires further planting and artwork enabling tangata whenua to tell their stories of land and history.

Submitter #241 notes the Outback gardens require work and collaboration between the Parks & Reserves Team Leader, TCB Chair, KTB and TCDT staff.

Officer Comment

- 14.16 Discussions have been had with Keep Taihape Beautiful in the past but engagement is not ongoing at this stage. Budget has not been committed to this work. There is budget allocated for maintenance of the garden, but a full upgrade of the area would require capital expenditure.
- 14.17 Officers do not have precise figures but as an estimate could be \$30,000, however this would need to be confirmed once designs and expectations have been set as Officers do not currently have an understanding of what is precisely wanted.

Action

Officers will liaise with Taihape Community Board, Keep Taihape Beautiful and Taihape Community Development Trust to develop a plan for the Taihape Outback area and obtain quotes of how much the works would cost for consideration through the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

Topic 4: Footpath Cleaning in Taihape

Submissions

- 14.18 Treasuretrove (#151), Taihape Pharmacy (#166), Tania Byford (#167), Taihape Community Development Trust (#244), Jan Byford (#241).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #151 raises concern about the effectiveness of the street cleaning in Taihape. Concerns raised about the cleanliness of the drains and footpaths. Suggested that a local resident is employed to clean the area.

Submitter #166 and #167 requests the cleaning of footpaths (Taihape).

Submitter #244 raises concern about the cleanliness of the footpaths and gutters in Taihape. This Submitter requests they are cleaned at least twice per year.

Submitter #241 suggests the footpaths in town (Taihape) need an urgent clean and to be cleaned more regularly.

Officer Comment

- 14.19 Officers have a work programme to undertake footpath cleaning, however recent gaps in staffing for the Parks and Reserves Team in Taihape has created a gap in this service. Officers acknowledge they have been unable to provide a reliable and presentable level of service. Council is currently recruiting to fill the vacant role and anticipates the issue will be addressed at the start of the 2021/22 financial year.

Topic 5: Marton Reservoir

Submissions

- 14.20 Jiselle Rider (#083), Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society (#003/#147).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #003/#147 requests funding of \$10,000 per annum towards the maintenance of the Tutaenui Reservoir. They are also seeking the development of a formal MoU between the Council and the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society, Council support for funding applications, support from marketing and community teams to increase the use and enjoyment of the site, development of a working group to trial modest return of flows to the Tutaenui Stream, and a commitment to include the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society in discussions on the use of water from the Tutaenui Stream and waste management options to avoid impacts to the Tutaenui Stream.

Submitter #083 requests the walk should be opened as a moto-x park or resurfaced with limestone to make it more user friendly. The submitter noted concern about the existing gravel.

Officer Comment

- 14.21 The Tutaenui Reservoir is a Council owned asset with the main purpose of supplying the Marton Township with its drinking water. In 2019 Council confirmed the fast tracking of the development staging outlined in the Boffa Miskell 'Tutaenui Reservoir 20-year Management Plan', with the Reservoir being opened to the public on 10 October 2020.
- 14.22 Council does not currently have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society. Any future MoU would include the use of the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society volunteer services and any agreed Council commitments into the Tutaenui Reservoir Management Plan. The Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society will be included in discussions about the use of water and waste management that impacts on the Tutaenui Stream when these projects are discussed with community stakeholders and/or the wider community.
- 14.23 Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society has requested funding of circa \$10,000 per annum which their community team would then work to increase through funding applications. The requested contribution to the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society activities at the Tutaenui Reservoirs can be funded from current operational budgets for the Marton Reservoir. There is currently \$50,000 in the budget for Years 1-3 of the Long Term Plan. Providing funding to the Tutaenui Restoration Society from this budget would reduce it to \$40,000 per year for Years 1-3 of the Long Term Plan. This partnership with the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society group of volunteers will increase the amount of work that can be completed for this small investment in any financial year compared to any other procurement option.
- 14.24 In the past year Council has contributed the following:
- \$13,000 of shell rock for tracks in the 2020/21 financial year which Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society spread via volunteer work.

- Staff have been working with Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society to have four support workers complete their grow safe spray course so that they can assist with this.
- 10 kill traps have been provided, with more planned to be provided in the next financial year. In this instance Council provide the asset and Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society do the work.
- Staff are currently investigating the installation of wasp stations.
- Funded materials for information kiosk at the entry of the Reserve.

14.25 Council have in the past promoted the reservoir through its website and Facebook page such as the opening day. Council also created and installed the signage and mapping for the Reservoir. Officers will continue to provide type of support in collaboration with the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society.

14.26 Currently the main purpose of the reservoirs is the supply of a raw water source for the production of drinking water for Marton residents. Until this primary function changes, Council will not be able to commit to the supply of water to the Tutaenui stream all year round. If the primary function of the reservoir is raw water supply, the water levels in the reservoirs will have to managed to comply with this functionality.

14.27 Council decided in September 2020 that motorised vehicles would be a prohibited activity for users of the Tutaenui Reservoir.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society.

Recommendation

That Council does/does [delete one] not commit an annual contribution of \$10,000 or \$_____ [delete one] to Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society from EITHER existing operational budgets for the Marton Reservoir OR the General Rate [delete one].

Topic 6: Ratana Playground

Submissions

14.28 Ratana Playground & Whanau Space (#134), Ratana Community Board (#212).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #134 thanked Council for establishing the park and support for the project. The project is worth \$417,325:

- Secured \$152,103
- Current application NZ Lotteries \$165,222
- Whanganui Community Foundation \$100,000

The Submitter requests the ongoing maintenance is completed by Council once the project is completed.

Submitter #212 requests Council to continue supporting the Ratana Pa Playground & Whanau Space redevelopment project and request Council consideration of contributing financially to enable the project to be completed.

Officer Comment

- 14.29 The existing and upgraded playground will be maintained by Council on completion of the project. This has been confirmed to the Chair of the Rātana Communal Board. Council will continue to support the project but do not have any additional budget currently identified for further financial support over and above what has already been committed.

Topic 7: Cemeteries

Submissions

- 14.30 Rangitikei Heritage Committee (#012), Kataraina Rourangi (#107).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #012 raises concerns about the following at Mangaweka Cemetery; numbering system and water and requests that:

- A number system or plan is displayed at Mangaweka Cemetery so that graves can be easily located.
- Water be available at the entrance for culture purposes
- A stocktake be completed of all cemeteries to establish if they have the same needs.
- Uniform signage be implemented in all cemeteries in accordance with the new signage at Turakina.

Submitter #107 requests a sealed road from the main road to the top urupa (Ratana).

Officer Comment

- 14.31 Installing maps indicating rows and plots throughout all our cemeteries is a complex activity. Currently, the majority of rows and plots throughout Council's cemeteries are unmarked. Where this activity has occurred, there is an array of different number and letter styles. Consideration would need to be given to whether Council remove all existing numbers/letters and replace with a single style, or whether an additional style is added as and where required. Once numbering has been undertaken throughout a given cemetery, a map could be installed. Estimated costs for this would be \$25,000-\$30,000 per annum and would need to be spread over 5 years as a capital renewal programme.
- 14.32 Officers are currently working towards having consistent naming signage of all cemeteries in the District which is intended to be complete by June 2022.
- 14.33 Most cemeteries do not have a water source therefore the best approach could be to have small kiosks at cemeteries with a holding tank to capture water off the roof. This could offer seating to provide a multipurpose asset as well as be a shelter. Officers do not currently have costings on how much would need to be allocated to capital expenditure for this work. There is a risk that some of the visitors to the cemeteries might drink this untreated water that could cause health issues. No budget has been included in the current 2021-31 Long Term Plan for this.

- 14.34 Staff have met the Ratana Community Board Chairman and concerns have been expressed that it would be used for a race track. The road up to the urupa was re-metalled in April with potholes filled in.

Action

Officers will investigate the risks and costings of installing kiosks for shelter, seating and water, as well as signage row and plot numbering at all cemeteries in the District during 2021/22.

Topic 8: Rubbish Bins for Taihape

Submissions

- 14.35 Ringo Tahī (#195) Mokai Patea Services (#198).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #195 requests more rubbish bins in Taihape as follows; behind the rec where trucks and motorhomes park, down Hautapu Street by Hautapu Pine or Mokai Patea Services, outside the laundromat.

Submitter #198 also supports bins on Hautapu Street.

Officer Comment

- 14.36 There are currently rubbish bins 210 metres and 280 metres away from the corner of Weka and Kokako Street. Officers are concerned that installing bins behind the bowls club would result in them being used for the dumping of household rubbish and therefore is not recommended.
- 14.37 Mokai Patea Services and Hautapu Pine both have rubbish bins within 100 metres. The bins on Hautapu Street are located outside the retail shops on this street.

Topic 9: Maintenance

Submissions

- 14.38 Melissa Morris (#021), Karl Allsop (#059), Taihape Pharmacy (#166), Jan Byford (#241), Randall Moorhouse (#246)

Summary of submissions

Submitter #021 requests regular maintenance of Papakai, Mt Stewart Reserve and the rear of the recreation grounds e.g. mowing, weed and pest control (including wasps). Submitter #021 and #059 commented that weed control needs to be stepped up in rivers.

Submitter #166 would like to see the gardens be made more inviting.

Submitter #241 notes concerns that the streets, signage, lighting and gardens are starting to look neglected. The submitter suggests improvements in a number of areas:

- CBD gardens weed free - plants tidied on a regular basis
- Gutters swept & washed regularly
- Rubbish around the rubbish tins picked up by rubbish staff

- The deck at the town hall swept & the 3 planters updated (wish they were removed). Previous plans need to be implemented as it is a very dead space and needs better utilization,
- The sumps need cleaning out before heavier rains of winter, particularly the ones near the 50km sign.
- Rubbish & dirt needs cleaning out under the road crossings over the gutters
- The gardens in the Triangle are in particular need of a makeover and the light in the garden needs refocusing on the clocktower. It was most disappointing to find no tidy up was done before ANZAC Day - it was requested - it was promised by the Parks and Reserves staff but nothing happened.
- The signage boards at each end of town need upgrading urgently.

Submitter #246 requests more trees are planted in parks to replace those that are ageing.

Officer Comment

- 14.39 The Parks and Reserves Team have a regular work programme that covers all points highlighted. Often maintenance is affected by staffing and budgets that are available, Council is currently recruiting to fill a vacant role in the Taihape area at the start of the 2021/22 financial year. When staff are made aware of issues (through the request for service system) they are addressed.
- 14.40 Weed control in rivers is a service undertaken by Horizons Regional Council.
- 14.41 The town signage in Taihape has recently been installed and with consultation of the community.

Topic 10: Weed Control

Submissions

- 14.42 Rangitikei Environment Group (#220).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #220 commented on the work Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) has done in regards to weed control in the Rangitikei specifically with Old Mans Beard. The Submitter noted that they had received \$95,000 per annum from Horizons Regional Council via a targeted rate and \$20,000 grant from Council. Horizons are proposing to discontinue this targeted rate meaning the financial mechanisms that Council has relied on in the past to manage its reserves is in effect over. Without funding streams the Rangitikei Environment Group will be unable to operate. Rangitikei Environment Group has indicated that they will not be able to commit to any work within the reserves space without confirmed funding. The Submitter commented that it is not after funding for weed control.

Officer Comment

- 14.43 Council have in the past supported the Rangitikei Environment Group with \$20,000 of funding and also a pool vehicle for their six months of operation. Since this submission was received, Horizons have decided to continue funding the Rangitikei Environment Group at \$95,000 per annum.

14.44 If Council were to fund the Rangitikei Environment Group \$20,000 and a vehicle they could continue to undertake the weed spraying of road reserves for Council. The \$20,000 is in the current budget.

Recommendation

That Council confirms / does not confirm [delete one] funding of \$20,000 per annum and use of a Council vehicle for the Rangitikei Environment Group.

15 Rubbish & Recycling

Topic 1	Rubbish & Recycling Collection
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Topic 1: Rubbish & Recycling Collection

Submissions

- 15.1 Steve Flaws (#068), Mary Freeman (#091), Amanda Gardner (#101), Lisa O’Leary (#109) Randall Moorhouse (#246), Kloe Wong (#252).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #068 questions why Council haven’t gone to wheelie bins, noting an increase in rates would cover it and would align with other district councils.

Submitter #091 raises concern that they are unable to have rubbish bags collected and so has to pay for a bin (Taihape).

Submitter #109 wants recycling bins.

Submitter #101 wants recycling centre charges to be made free to stop illegal dumping of rubbish and large items in the Rangitikei.

Submitter #252 raises concerns about the amount of rubbish being taken to landfill and a lack of recycling. The submitter notes a need to move toward zero waste and suggested Council should have kerbside recycling.

Submitter #246 requests recycling bins in the main streets of all the towns and a greater focus on waste reduction for all businesses.

Officer Comment

- 15.2 Council’s Waste Transfer Stations provide for free disposal of recyclables. Other rubbish and large items are charged for, including household refuse, green waste, old appliances, furniture, tyres and electronic waste.
- 15.3 Council did consider the provision of kerbside rubbish and/or recycling services through the 2018-28 Long Term Plan process and then undertook a targeted engagement campaign in late 2018. The result of this was a split vote with 56% in favour of Council implementing a kerbside rubbish and recycling service.
- 15.4 During this time Council was made aware that it was getting more difficult for New Zealand, as a country, to dispose of its recyclables and that other countries were now not accepting any recycling. With that in mind Council put a pause on its action around implementing a recycling service. It has submitted to Central Government that this is a national issue that needs some direction from Government on. Council also is looking at alternatives, where appropriate, of other options for disposing of recycling. If something permanent can be done it will relook at introducing kerbside recycling in the future.

16 Community Leadership

Topic 1	Council's Core Functions
Topic 2	Pasifika Liaison
Topic 3	Future of Māori
Topic 4	Scholarships
Topic 5	Pasifika Community Hub
Topic 6	Consultation
Topic 7	Community Wellbeing Activities

Topic 1: Council's Core Functions and Effectiveness

Submissions

16.1 Candice (#014), Anglican Parish of the Rangitikei (#125).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #014 would like to see more information and opportunity to consult Council's core functions and plans to improve them.

Submitter #125 states 'there is wide ranging public dissatisfaction with and distrust of the council, what are you doing to address this?'

Officer Comment

- 16.2 There are a number of ways residents can engage with Council on planned activities. The Long Term Plan process has been a good opportunity for the community to have their say on the planned services and projects planned for the next 10 years and how Council intends on funding them. Specific projects of interest or key policy documents are consulted on with the community. Over the past few years Council undertook Annual Residents Surveys and the results of these formed improvement plans. From July 2021 Council is now moving to targeted user surveys to gain this information.
- 16.3 Council has set up an "opt in" email service whereby people who choose to opt in receive direct emails on topics Council is consulting on.
- 16.4 Previous surveys of the community have not shown a high level of dissatisfaction or mistrust. Council has acknowledged it can do better in some areas and has, and is, implementing new systems and processes for our residents to contact us and to be kept up to date with any issues.

Topic 2: Pasifika Liaison

Submissions

16.5 Farani Vaa (#052).

Summary of submissions

Submitter number #052 commented that Council should have a Pasifika Liaison as currently their voice is not being heard.

Officer Comment

16.6 Councils Strategic Advisor for Mana Whenua has been engaging with the Pasifika Community with some support also coming from Councils Advisor for Economic Development. This engagement has helped with information gathering and guidance for housing.

Actions

Council will use existing staff resources to continue to build a closer relationship with the Pasifika community.

Topic 3: Future of Māori

Submissions

16.7 John Cribb (#076), Sharleen Amai (#098).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #076 is concerned about the future of Māori. Highlighting a lack of plans for Māori wards, no funding for Marae development, no funding for Marae Urupa, concern that the plan towards Māori Kaupapa does not become a tokenism gesture.

Submitter #098 says that we should listen to what Tangata Whenua have been trying to teach. The Submitter is concerned about environmental degradation.

Officer Comment

16.8 Council is continuously working on their relationship with Māori to ensure a collective working partnership. Council has an Iwi standing Komiti, Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, and representatives on Council Committees. Recently, Council has decided to establish Māori Wards in the District. Council also has formal relationships with some Iwi in the District which is further building capacity and capability with Māori.

16.9 Conversations are currently being held with hapū and marae on marae development and there is \$4,500 in the budget for financial support. Conversations are also being held with the governance agency Te Puni Kōkiri. Marae Urupa are a private cemetery which Council do not fund.

Topic 4: Scholarships

Submissions

16.10 Amanda Gardner (#101).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #101 comments that the District is struggling with medical professionals therefore Council should create a medical scholarship for a Rangitikei student and require them to work here once they've completed their studies.

Officer Comment

16.11 Council currently provides funding to Taihape Area School and Rangitikei College for scholarships. The schools decide the criteria and recipients of the scholarship funds. Currently schools may select up to three recipients with a maximum of \$1,000 each. There are no restrictions on the study they undertake or requirement to come back and work in the District.

Topic 5: Pasifika Community Hub

Submissions

16.12 Living Hope Samoan OAG (#154).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #154 is seeking support, resourcing and funding for a Pasifika Community Hub. The building to be made into a hub is the community bowling building. The Hub would deliver services and support Pasifika communities in the District through programmes, training and various classes, it would also be used for church services. The Hub would be managed and facilitated by The Living Hope Samoan AOG. The funding to date is roughly \$100,000. The submitter commented that the building being looked at has a value of \$300,000. The congregation is over 100 people. The submitter commented that they would consider a loan from Council but are requesting \$200,000 of funding support from Council towards the purchase of the property.

Officer Comment

16.13 ~~The new capital value of 378 Wellington Road (the indoor bowling club) is \$225,000 (2020 valuation). The previous valuation was \$170,000. The current capital value of 3 Hereford Street (Marton Bowling Club) is \$315,000, the properties new capital value is \$520,000 which will come into place upon the new financial year.~~ The Submitter comments on the benefits of having such facilities and the positive impact it would have on the community. Council has the ability to go through a process which would provide a loan to go towards the purchase of the bowling club, however this would take time and further in depth discussions would need to be held with the borrowing party. Considerations need to be given to how this would work with equity ratios, ability to service debt etc. Standard practice for a loan towards purchasing a property would be to go through a normal lender e.g a bank.

Recommendation

EITHER

That Council approves/ does not approve [delete one] \$200,000 or \$_____ [delete one] of funding to the Living Hope Samoan OAG for the purchase of 3 Hereford Street, Marton as the final funder for the development of a Pasifika Community Hub.

OR

Council does / does not [delete one] provide a \$200,000 or \$_____ loan [delete one] to the Living Hope Samoan OAG after going through the full formal process of proving a loan¹.

OR

Council does / does not [delete one] authorise Officers to engage in further discussions with Living Hope Samoan OAG to see what non-financial assistance can be provided.

Topic 6: Consultation

Submissions

- 16.14 Raewyn Turner (#156) Carolyn Bates (#165), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #156 suggests Council should ask people how they would like to be informed, the submitter mentioned the use of the Bull-it-in.

Submitter #165 commented Council regularly fails to communicate well.

Submitter #211 commented that the submission process was too short and they would like to participate in future consultations.

Officer Comment

- 16.15 When undertaking consultation, a number of different methods are used to reach the community, including both print and online. The extent of community engagement is guided by Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and is adapted depending on the topic being consulted. Officers are constantly reviewing how to best engage with the community and how our engagement can be improved.
- 16.16 Council met the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002 in regards to the Consultation of the Long Term Plan. Council has a data base that people can sign up to and they will receive an email when Council is undertaking consultation.

Action

Officers have sent an email to Submitter #211 inviting them to join Council's database that receives an email when undertaking consultation.

¹Providing a loan would be subject to all criteria of a loan being met.

Topic 7: Community Wellbeing Activities

Submissions

16.17 Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (#211).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #211 is concerned about the lack of detail about community wellbeing activities in the draft LTP, particularly for economic development. The submitter considers that large economic developments need to be clearly and separately identified, especially collaborations with other districts and businesses.

Officer Comment

16.18 As part of the draft Long Term Plan an overview document of the proposed economic development activities was provided as supporting information, which included the five key focus areas and major programmes planned over the life of the Long Term Plan. Further information on Council's proposed economic development activities was also provided in the draft Economic Development Strategy.

17 Other Issues

Topic 1	Shared Services
Topic 2	1080 Drops
Topic 3	Climate Change
Topic 4	Hunterville St Johns Ambulance Station
Topic 5	Banking Services
Topic 6	Medical Coverage
Topic 7	Location of Residence of Council Staff
Topic 8	Power
Topic 9	Environmental Education

Topic 1: Shared Services

Submissions

- 17.1 Manawatu District Council (#214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #214 references the Shared Services agreement currently in place with MDC and notes that in light of the uncertainty associated with the Three Waters Reform, there is an even greater need for RDC and MDC to work together in a cooperative and open manner. The decision they seek is: *That RDC work with MDC to ensure that the Shared Services agreement for the provision of Infrastructure Services continues to achieve mutual benefits and efficiencies.*

Officer Comment

- 17.2 Council currently has a Shared Services Agreement with Manawatu District Council for infrastructure services. The agreement is open ended, but this is currently reviewed annually.
- 17.3 Council also has a shared services agreement for Animal Control services.

Actions

The comments from Submitter #214 will form part of the annual review for the Shared Services agreement for the provision of Infrastructure Services.

Topic 2: 1080 drops

Submissions

- 17.4 Melissa Morris (#021), Karl Allsop (#059).

Summary of submissions

Submitters #021 and #059 commented that Council should stop 1080 drops, with Submitter #021 adding that it should be trap lines instead.

Officer Comment

- 17.5 Council is not responsible for the administration of 1080, this is done by the Department of Conservation.

Topic 3: Climate Change

Submissions

- 17.6 A Pernthaner (#048), Horizons Regional Council (#158), Fiona Moorhouse (#203), Randall Moorhouse (#246).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #048 commented that in regards to climate change decisions made now should not burden future generations.

Submitter #246 asks where the policies are that will shape what will be needed in 10 years time to combat climate change and waste. Submitter #203 similarly asks where the environmental policies in the Long Term Plan are.

Submitter #158 notes their support for Council recognising climate change as a key issue for the District. They note the recent formation of a joint committee to coordinate climate action across our region positions us well to perform that role. They encourage Council to consider the provision made through the Long Term Plan for activities like iwi and community engagement, plan review, infrastructure upgrades, and active transport that will contribute to mitigation and adaptation in your area. Submitter #203 supports plans for short distance travel other than cars.

Officer Comment

- 17.7 Council has considered climate change during the development of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. Council's community outcomes identify that planning for the impacts of climate change will occur. The Significance and Engagement Policy includes a criteria for considering the degree of significance include the potential effects of climate change.
- 17.8 Council is also developing a Spatial Plan in 2021 that will consider climate change.
- 17.9 Consultation with iwi will occur on significant decisions, including those related to climate change discussions.

Topic 4: Hunterville St Johns Ambulance Station

Submissions

17.10 Hunterville Community Committee (#053), Sam Weston (#133), Claire Bruce (#146), Helen Nielson-Vold (#150) Heather Gee-Taylor (#171), Janice Hatrick (#190), James Kilmister (194), Kelsey Smith, (#210) Lynette Thompson (#228), Renea Leoy (#229), Mellissa Brown (#230), Idelyn McManaway (#232), Shirley R Russell (#242), Renee Russell (#249).

Summary of submissions

A number of people from the Hunterville community requested Council provide \$50,000 in funding for the Hunterville Ambulance Station:

- Submitter #053 wants Council to consider funding \$50,000 towards the Hunterville St Johns Ambulance Station rebuild.
- Submitter #133 states they have permission from St John to drive the project locally, with St John leasing the building from the. The Submitter has indicated they will use the Hunterville Sport and Recreation Trust. The preferred location is the old Scouts Hall on Paraekaretu Street that has already been proposed for St John. The Submitter asks Council to replace the resolution already passed, that Council contribute financially and that Council waives all consent and regulatory fees for the proposal.
- Submitter #146 Comments that the Hunterville ambulance is in need of a base so it can serve the wider community. The submitter would like Council to invest \$50,000 towards the establishment of a community owned ambulance station.
- Submitter #150 wants a suitable building site for the St Johns Ambulance in Hunterville.
- Submitter #171 would like to see Council contribute towards the new St Johns build in Hunterville.
- Submitter #190 commented that they would like to see Council get rid of the derelict hall and replace it with an ambulance station. Money has been pledged towards a new station.
- Submitter #194 would like Council to financially help with a new structure for the St Johns Ambulance. The submitter highlighted the importance of first responders.
- Submitter #210 would like Council to support the St Johns Hunterville ambulance station.
- Submitter #228 recommended that Council invest at least \$50,000 towards the new community owned St Johns Ambulance Facilities
- Submitter #229 would like to see Council contribute to the St Johns Hunterville Ambulance Station and has recommended a sum of \$50,000.
- Submitter #230 wants Council to consider an investment of \$50,000 towards the St Johns Ambulance Station.
- Submitter #232 has asked Council to invest \$50,000 towards the development of a community owned ambulance station in Hunterville.
- Submitter #242 Comments that there needs to be an ambulance station in Hunterville.
- Submitter #249 that \$50,000 should be invested into the community owned and built ambulance station in Hunterville. The submitter commented that the Hunterville and Taihape Ambulances cover a lot of area and are of importance to the District.

Officer Comment

- 17.11 Within the Rangitikei District, there are Ambulance Stations in Marton, Hunterville and Taihape. The Marton and Taihape Ambulance Stations house career paramedics. The Hunterville Ambulance Station houses volunteers.
- 17.12 Officers note the strong support for the proposed ambulance station. Having refurbished Ambulance Station facilities would enhance community resilience within Hunterville. Council has committed to making land available at the Hunterville Domain (Submissions #150 & #190).
- 17.13 The latest advice Council received from St John in February 2021 is that while St John is still interested in using the site on Paraekaretu Street, it is unlikely the project would be approved to begin for another 18 months. Action is deferred until St John commits to the proposal. All action lies with St John regional office at present.
- 17.14 It is noted that Council did not receive a submission from St John in support of this request.
- 17.15 There are a number of ways Council could choose to provide support, including, but not limited to, funding, project management or locating a suitable building / building site. Council could offer tangible support by committing a contribution on an “if and when” basis.
- 17.16 For Elected Members information, Council provided \$50,000 as the final funder to the St Johns Ambulance Station in Taihape.
- 17.17 Note: Further review is required, and it is unlikely any commitment will be made from St Johns for at least 18 months.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] contribute \$50,000 or \$_____ [delete one] towards the St John Ambulance Station in Hunterville, as the final funder.

OR

That Council defer any decision until St John commits to the St John Ambulance Station in Hunterville.

OR

Council publicly consults on providing financial support for the Hunterville St Johns Ambulance Station as part of the consultation on the 2022/2023 Annual Plan.

Topic 5: Banking Services

Submissions

- 17.18 Jean Peacock (#129).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #129 commented Council should do something about banking services.

Officer Comment

- 17.19 Post COVID-19 lockdown, banks have provided feedback that there has been a decline in foot traffic and an increase in online activity which has led to closing and proposed closure of banks nationwide. South Wairarapa Mayor recently presented a petition to Parliament on behalf of 33 mayors asking for banks to reinstate rural branches. The Mayor of Rangitikei was involved in initial discussions and indicated verbal support but never received a document for signing.
- 17.20 Central Government is working with the Bankers Association to have banks come together to have regional hubs providing basic services. Council has limited ability to ensure banking services remain within the District, however Council can continue to lobby to government along with other territorial authorities to retain rural branches.
- 17.21 The Mayor has also been in touch with senior officials from Westpac and ANZ and suggested they provide a banking hub. It is ongoing work trying to retain the banking services.

Action

That where appropriate, Council and Officers lobby to Central Government to help support the retention of rural banking branches and support other territorial authorities seeking the same for their areas.

Topic 6: Medical Coverage

Submissions

- 17.22 Jean Peacock (#129) Hayley Cowx (#209).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #129 commented Council should do something about medical coverage in the District indicating the implementation of an incentive to draw General Practitioners.

Submitter #209 also commented on practices retaining doctors.

Officer Comment

- 17.23 Nationwide many small towns and districts are struggling to retain and attract medical practitioners. Whanganui District Health Board has general practitioners in the Rangitikei listed for Taihape, Marton and Bulls. Central Government has acknowledged the importance of this and maintaining a sufficient supply of GPs but have not proposed any actions to date. Council is in a position where it has limited ability to specifically draw GPs to the District outside of incentivising a move to the Rangitikei in general.

Topic 7: Location of Residence of Council Staff

Submissions

- 17.24 Colin Bartlett (#192).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #192 commented that Council staff should reside within the District and preferably close to their source of employment. The submitter also commented that there are staff travelling from North of Whanganui, Levin and probably other towns outside of Rangitikei.

Officer Comment

- 17.25 Council gives equal opportunity to those who apply for positions but in some instances the right candidate for the skillset a job required is not able to be found within the District.
- 17.26 Council currently employ 100 staff, of those 75 live in the District and 25 employees live outside the District. A small number of employees who live outside the District have a Council vehicle as they are sometimes required to be on-call. Three members of Councils 100 staff live outside of the District and drive a Council vehicle.

Topic 8: Power and Broadband

Submissions

- 17.27 Koitiata Residents Committee (#152).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #152 requests Council conduct a feasibility study for the undergrounding of remaining powerlines in Koitiata Village and requests improved cellphone / broadband coverage

Officer Comment

- 17.28 The provision of power throughout the District, including the undergrounding of existing powerlines, is provided by PowerCo. The provision of telecommunications are provided by private companies. To improve rural mobile and broadband coverage, Central Government established the Rural Connectivity Group in 2017. The aim of the group is to bring increased 4G mobile and wireless broadband coverage to rural New Zealand. While this project has increased access throughout the district to rural wireless broadband coverage there are still rural areas throughout our district without access.

Topic 9: Environmental Education

Submissions

- 17.29 Horizons Regional Council (#158).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #158 thanks Council for its ongoing support and funding of the Enviroschools Programme.

Officer Comment

- 17.30 The submitters comments are noted.

18 Appendix 1. List of Organisations that Submitted

The Taihape Playground Group
Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society
Taihape Neighbourhood Support Inc
Taihape Squash Club
Rangitikei Heritage Committee
Korean Society of Rangitikei
Treasury
Taihape Playground Group
koru diagnostics ltd
Samoan Methodist Church
Huntermville Community Committee
Opaea Marae
Retired
Rangi Krishnan
Sport Manawatu
Taihape Friendship Club
River Valley
Turakina Community Committee
Company name
Anglican Parish of the Rangitikei
CR Grace Limited and Glen Oroua Livestock Ltd
Gumtree Motorhome Park
Ratana Playground & Whanau Space
Impact Collective Rangitikei, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Whanganui
Rathmoy Investments Ltd (Farm Owner) / CR Grace Ltd (Livestock Truck Operator)
Taihape Community Board
Door of Hope Charitable Trust (Marton)
Treasuretrove
Koitiata Residents Committee
Save the Grandstand
Living Hope Samoan AOG
Marton Community Patrol
Taihape Tennis Clubs
Wellington Fish and Game NZ
Wilson Park Development Group
On behalf of Taihape Pharmacy
Taihape Museum
Copeland Associates Architects
Hautawa Catering
JB & MF Pickford P/ship
First Gas Ltd
Kilmister Farms Ltd
Taihape Drama Club inc
Mokai Patea Services
Plimmer & Co Farms Ltd

Ratana Community Board
Federated Farmers
Manawatu District Council
Taihape Neighbourhood Support
Rangitikei District Council Western Residents Group
Board of Trustees of Rangitikei College and Marton School
Water Safety New Zealand
Domain Upgrade Volunteers Group
Rangitikei Environment Group
Maher Transport
Winiata Marae
Ray Coles Transport Ltd
NZ Boot-throwing Association
Farm Sheep and Beef
Taihape Community Development Trust
Matuku Land Co Ltd