

MINUTES

ANNUAL PLAN 2022/23 SUBMISSION HEARINGS

Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Brian Carter
Cr Fi Dalgety [*via Zoom*]
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Angus Gordon
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Waru Panapa
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Cath Ash [*via Zoom*]

In attendance

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture
Ms Georgia Etheridge, Corporate Planning Advisor
Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

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**MINUTES OF RANGITIKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL, 46 HIGH STREET, MARTON
ON THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022 AT 1.00 PM**

1 Welcome / Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting at 1.00 pm. Cr Lambert read the Council prayer. The Mayor reminded elected members of the rules for the hearing of submissions.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/148

That the apologies for Cr Hiroa and Cr Raukawa be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Gordon. Carried

3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

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

4 Reports for Decision

4.1 Annual Plan Submission Hearings

The meeting was adjourned at 3.14 pm and re-convened at 3.26 pm.

Cr Dalgety left the meeting at 3.44 pm and re-joined the meeting at 3.47 pm.

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/149

That the report 'Annual Plan Submission Hearings' be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 22/RDC/150

That Council hears submissions on the Consultation Document (Framing 2022/23), and if requested, hears submissions on simultaneous consultation relating to:

- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2022/23

- Draft Rates Remission Policy
- Draft Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land

Cr D Wilson/Cr W Panapa. Carried

The meeting closed at 4.06 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 30 June 2022.

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Chairperson

Submission Hearing held 19 May 2022 in Marton, on:

The Consultation Document “Framing 2022/23”, for the Annual Plan 2022/23, and simultaneous consultation documents:

- **Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2022/23**
- **Draft Rates Remission Policy**
- **Draft Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land**

Submission number and name	Submitter’s organisation	Time	Summary of topic and context	Summary of key questions posted by Elected Members and responses
(2) Constance Phua	Chinese Language Week	1.05 pm	<p><u>Chinese Language Week</u></p> <p>The submitter advised that they are making three requests of Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A video from His Worship the Mayor. 2. A liaison at Council to work collaboratively on the Chinese Language Week. 3. A financial contribution of \$2,000. 	<p>The Mayor: Regarding a financial contribution from Council, is there a specific project that this would be put towards?</p> <p>Answer: It would contribute to the organisations general pool of money.</p>
(19) Jocelyn Hunt		1.15 pm	<p><u>Cobber Kain Avenue</u></p> <p>The submitter would like the road at Cobber Kain Avenue to be paved.</p>	<p>The Mayor: Have you been contacted by staff about whether this will be completed as part of the Long Term Plan 2021-31?</p> <p>Answer: No.</p>
(17) Lynette Baish & Linda Waddell	Ernslaw One Ltd	1.20 pm	<p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p> <p>The status quo should be retained and alternative rating mechanisms should be explored during the next Annual Plan.</p> <p>Any forestry differential should apply to small-forestry owners as well.</p>	<p>Cr Wilson: Are there two more rotations to come out of Hunterville?</p> <p>Answer: We always intend to replant.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: You mentioned that there was 13.6 km of average road network per forest, what is the make up this in terms of sealed vs unsealed?</p> <p>Answer: Unsealed is 4 km, and the rest is sealed.</p>

Annual Plan (and simultaneous consultations) Submission Hearings, 19 May 2022

Submission number and name	Submitter's organisation	Time	Summary of topic and context	Summary of key questions posted by Elected Members and responses
			Ernslaw One Ltd supports the Marton Rail Hub, and the establishment of a Council-Controlled Organisation.	
(44) Kerin Ratima	Hunterville Community Sports Complex	1.30 pm	<p><u>Sports Complex</u></p> <p>The Sports Complex is 20 years old and needs replacing. We are asking for \$20,000 for hardware – tennis nets and frames.</p>	<p>Cr Wilson: Is it on Ministry of Education property? Answer: Yes, but it is funded by the Hunterville Community Sports Complex.</p> <p>Cr Wilson: Is there any Ministry of Education funding towards it? Answer: No.</p> <p>The Mayor: Would funding be prior to the surfacing work? Answer: Unsure, but we could do it either before or after the surfacing work.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Are the current nets movable? Answer: Yes, they are on wheels. The new ones will be an improvement on this.</p> <p>The Mayor: Do you have approval from the Ministry of Education to undertake this work? Answer: Yes, we assume so.</p>
(51) Robert Snijders		1.38 pm	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p>The Long Term Plans and Annual Plans are lacking substance, and should not include Council's preferred option.</p> <p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p>	<p>The Mayor: Are you aware that Council is legislatively required to lay out preferred options during Long Term Plan and Annual Plan consultations? Answer: Well that should be changed.</p>

Annual Plan (and simultaneous consultations) Submission Hearings, 19 May 2022

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			<p>Unsure if Council will be checking if road structures and bridges are damaged via logging trucks. Horizons Regional Council should be involved in this.</p> <p><u>Marton Rail Hub</u></p> <p>Do not support this, as Council's spending record is poor. It should be independently run outside of Council.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>Council staff should not be driving Council vehicles to work, especially when single occupancy.</p> <p><u>Development Contributions Policy</u></p> <p>This should be obsoleted.</p>	
(9) Glen Mackie	Forest Owners Association	1.50 pm	<p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p> <p>Do not support a forestry differential. We would be happy to work alongside Council to explore alternative options, such as the Equitable Funding Guidelines model, or Log Transport Route Calculator process.</p> <p>If the differential goes ahead, we would request that it is ringfenced and applied to the appropriate places.</p>	<p>Cr Gordon: How many other council's use the Equitable Funding Guidelines model and Log Transport Route Calculator process? Answer: The Equitable Funding Guidelines model is not currently being used by any councils, and the Log Transport Route Calculator process has been used 8 or 9 times.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: How many councils in our region use the Log Transport Route Calculator? Answer: Unsure, Gisborne and Wairoa have used it.</p>

Annual Plan (and simultaneous consultations) Submission Hearings, 19 May 2022

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			<p><u>Maraton Rail Hub</u></p> <p>Support the establishment of a Council-Controlled Organisation.</p>	<p>The Mayor: Regarding a ringfence on the differential – you would only want this applied to the roading rate? Answer: Yes.</p> <p>The Mayor: Regarding the councils that have used the Log Transport Route Calculator, have they then used this information to determine a rating position, or is it a database on their asset condition? Answer: It has been used for the maintenance of their roads.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: A previous submitter suggested a targeted rate on specific roads – do you have any experience of this? Answer: No.</p>
(54) Graeme Munro & Diance Brown		2.02 pm	<p><u>Koitiata Campground</u></p> <p>The building is over 30 years old. When it floods, the toilets overflow.</p> <p>Another concern is the open drain which divides the powered and non-powered sites. It is unsafe for children and floods in heavy rain.</p>	<p>Cr Wilson: How did you arrive at the figure of \$50,000? Answer: It is an estimate.</p> <p>Cr Wilson: What is the capacity at the campground? Answer: 8 powered sites, and the non-powered area varies depending on how people lay out their tents.</p> <p>Cr Lambert: Are you asking that the drain be fenced off? Answer: The flooding in the drain has no outlet and so water sits in it all summer. Regarding the bridge, Parks and Reserves have visited on several occasions but they have advised that there is no money available for this.</p> <p>The Mayor: Is the ground water issue related to the issues surrounding the lagoon?</p>

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				<p>Answer: Yes.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Is the ablutions block subject to a long-term asset management plan, for replacement?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, the Koitiata Residents Committee have done this.</p>
(55) Daryl O'Hara & Tyson Burrows	Taihape Squash Club	2.15 pm	<p><u>Taihape Squash Club Expansion Plans</u></p> <p>An architect has indicated that we are 60 square metres short, and that we will not be able to obtain a resource consent unless we have more space.</p> <p>We have added a covered decking around the tennis and netball side, which will provide a good viewing platform for those groups.</p>	<p>The Mayor: So your request is for more land, and a streamlined process around consenting?</p> <p>Answer: Yes.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Is the area of land you need currently being utilised by anyone?</p> <p>Answer: No, it is just mowed grass.</p> <p>Cr Duncan: Is the decking at the front absolutely essential?</p> <p>Answer: Not for squash, but tennis and netball would appreciate it.</p> <p>The Mayor: What is the club's membership?</p> <p>Answer: Around 150.</p> <p>The Mayor: To confirm, you are only asking for the land and a streamlined process – not funding?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, correct.</p>
(6) Les Clarke & Pania Winiata	Taihape Community Development Trust	2.25 pm	<p><u>CCTV Cameras</u></p> <p>We have replaced the Taihape, Bulls and Hunterville cameras for a total of \$42,000. This was less than it would normally cost, as we had</p>	<p>The Mayor: To confirm, are you requesting that we would be the final funder for CCTV cameras if other funding cannot be attained, up to \$100,000?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, it could be as much as \$100,000.</p>

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			<p>assistance from a community member who is an expert in this field.</p> <p>We are asking Council to consider a financial contribution in the event that we are unable to secure external funding.</p> <p><u>Housing</u></p> <p>We support creating shared accommodation for seniors in Taihape. If Council created this, they should consider gifting it to a charity for ongoing management.</p> <p><u>Subdivision</u></p> <p>We suggest that funding be provided by Council to purchase land in Taihape for development and housing.</p>	<p>Cr Duncan: Will the new CCTV cameras be an improvement on the existing ones? Answer: Yes.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Regarding your request around housing, do you have any examples of where this could be assigned to other targeted groups for single accommodation? Answer: I am not sure that Council would be the right agency to consider accommodation for businesses, whereas accommodation for seniors would fall more naturally under Council's domain.</p>
(7) Heather Thorby		2.39 pm	<p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p> <p>Damage to rural roadings is caused by other heavy trucking, and only a small portion of this is due to forestry trucks.</p> <p>Central government increased the tonnage for forestry trucks and local councils should liaise with them to get a portion of the road user charges.</p> <p>It is unfair to tax forestry when the income is not realised for many years.</p>	<p>The Mayor: Have you filed an RFS (request for service) for Brandon Hall Road? Answer: No.</p> <p>Cr Carter: Has the seal on Brandon Hall Road split? Answer: No, the surface itself is okay but it moves when heavy vehicles drive over it.</p> <p>Cr Carter: The stock trucks that use Brandon Hall Road – what are they for? Answer: They go into the quarantine unit.</p>

Annual Plan (and simultaneous consultations) Submission Hearings, 19 May 2022

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			<p>Brandon Hall Road is unsafe for heavy vehicles and the seal is moving. Council needs to straighten the road.</p>	
(27) Waru Panapa		2.52 pm	<p><u>Hydrogen Powered Vehicles and Hydroponics</u></p> <p>Council should refocus its approach to hydrogen powered vehicles and hydroponics. This has been done in other areas, such as Taupo.</p> <p>Electric vehicles have a high environmental cost.</p> <p>Council should include some research into a hydrogen fuel plant within the Marton Rail Hub initiative.</p>	<p>The Mayor: Are you asking for a collaboration with Taupo? Answer: Yes.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Are you suggesting that Council becomes an early adopter of hydrogen power? Answer: I am suggesting that Council initiates it.</p> <p>Cr Dalgety: Are there already hydrogen plants in Taupo and Taranaki? Answer: Yes.</p> <p>Cr Duncan: Who should fund this research? Answer: Central government.</p>
(13) Simon Loudon	Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei	3.02 pm	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p>The consultation documents did not have enough information.</p> <p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p> <p>We support the differential.</p> <p>It would be good if Waka Kotahi offered a higher amount to assist Council in maintaining rural roads.</p>	<p>Cr Wilson: Do you have any suggestions on a better management structure for the Marton Rail Hub? Answer: No comment.</p>

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			<p>Council should also look at other heavy vehicles that use our roads.</p> <p>Native forestry should be prioritised.</p> <p><u>Marton Rail Hub</u></p> <p>This should not be in the consultation document as it is currently before the Environment Court.</p> <p>Council-Controlled Organisations do not work well.</p> <p>Council should take a risk-averse approach to economic ventures.</p>	
(58) Sally Patrick		3.27 pm	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p>It would be useful to include more details around the proposed questions.</p> <p><u>Digital Development Plan</u></p> <p>We should introduce a Digital Development Plan with five key pillars: Connectivity, Work and Employment, Engagement, Inclusion, and Sustainability.</p> <p>Central government have released their budget today and this includes money for regional broadband initiatives.</p>	<p>The Mayor: Are you suggesting that Council fund fibre for rural connections? Answer: No, I think this would be too costly.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Have you got any examples of other councils that have begun initiatives around connectivity? Answer: The Whanganui District Council has done this.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: What are your thoughts on cell phone towers, and council's advocating for these rather than fibre? Answer: Fibre generally is not considered due to its expense, but cell phone towers are more fragile and will not work in all places.</p>

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				<p>Cr Dalgety: What have the Whanganui District Council done around addressing this rural inequity? Answer: I will provide some information to staff.</p>
(59) & (4 – Draft Rates Remission Policy) Tim Matthews & Adrienne Cook	Federated Farmers	3.40 pm	<p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p> <p>Forestry has other negative impacts on community wellbeing.</p> <p>The value from forestry land is more than that of farming.</p> <p>Forestry is worse for providing employment opportunities than farming.</p> <p>We wonder if the differential is too low. Other councils have implemented a forestry differential and then later discovered that it was not sufficient.</p> <p><u>Liquor Control</u></p> <p>We could not see the percentage of income was for liquor licensing and so have not submitted any opinion on that.</p>	<p>The Mayor: In your submission you have recommended that any costs for a Council-Controlled Organisation (Marton Rail Hub) are targeted to areas around it. Why would not consider that forestry should pay as a user? Answer: They still need to cart the logs to the rail hub. The benefits of the rail hub will be greater for Marton than the rest of the district.</p> <p>The Mayor: In your submission you have suggested that forestry access should be limited at certain times of the year. Do you have a specific time of year in mind? Answer: Mid-winter and spring, as the ground is wetter then.</p>
(8) Paul Geurtjens		3.53 pm	<p><u>Forestry Differential</u></p> <p>Council should focus on getting a portion of the road user charges from central government.</p> <p>The proposed differential is an unfair tax on future income that may never be realised by the current</p>	<p>The Mayor: Do you believe that there is a need for Council to formally advise property owners on whether they will be included in this rating? Answer: Yes.</p>

Annual Plan (and simultaneous consultations) Submission Hearings, 19 May 2022

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			landowner (e.g., if they sell the land before harvest).	
(2 – Draft Rates Remission Policy) Jordie Peters		4.00 pm	<p><u>Rates Remission Policy</u></p> <p>It is unfair for this policy to be introduced so soon, as people have purchased land in this area with this rating incentive in mind.</p>	<p>Cr Belsham: Are you aware that the proposed date for implementation has been pushed out to 2023 and 2024? Answer: The website lists the previous dates, but if it has since been extended then that is great.</p> <p>Cr Wilson: Are you submitting on behalf of anybody else? Answer: Just myself.</p>