

# ORDER PAPER

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 12 February 2026

**Time:** 10.00am

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Chair:** HWTM Andy Watson

**Deputy Chair:** Cr Dave Wilson

**Membership:** Cr Diana Baird  
Cr Alan Buckendahl  
Cr Fi Dalgety  
Cr Sandra Field  
Cr John Hainsworth  
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa  
Cr Graeme O'Fee  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
Cr Paul Sharland  
Cr Jeff Wong

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

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**Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitikei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 12 February 2026 at 10.00am.**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 Welcome / Prayer**

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 Public Forum**

No Public Forum

### **4 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

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

### **5 Confirmation of Order of Business**

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

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 December 2025 are attached.

#### Attachments

1. Ordinary Council Meeting - 11 December 2025

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 December 2025 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

# MINUTES



**RANGITIKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Making this place home.*

## UNCONFIRMED: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 11 December 2025

**Time:** 1.00pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

**Present**

- HWTM Andy Watson
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
- Cr Coral Raukawa
- Cr Jeff Wong
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr Paul Sharland
- Cr Alan Buckendahl
- Cr Diana Baird
- Cr John Hainsworth
- Cr Sandra Field
- Cr Graeme O'Fee

**In attendance**

- Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
- Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
- Mr Johan Cullis, Group Manager – Regulatory Manager
- Ms Crystal Johnston, Executive Assistant – Group Managers
- Mr Brent Manning, Transition Manager
- Mr Graeme Pointon, Executive Legal Advisor
- Mr Chris Dyhrberg, Executive Director Water Services CCO
- Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

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	<b>There was no public forum. ....</b>	<b>3</b>
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## 1 Welcome / Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

## 2 Apologies

There were no apologies received.

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

Amendments: At item 10.1 Taihape Grandstand – Update and Proposed Next Steps that the Amendment became the substantive motion Resolved minute number 25/RDC/297.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/344**

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 November 2025 as amended be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr J Wong/Cr D Wilson. Carried

## 7 Mayor's Report

### 7.1 Mayor's Report - December 2025

The Mayor noted the announcement from Central Government regarding regional councillors and that further information is yet to be provided, making it challenging to comment further at this stage.

Officers responded to questions, advising that the geotechnical report for the Marton Swim Centre, near the Tutaenui Stream, will be circulated to elected members.



**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/345**

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

Cr D Wilson/HWTM Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/346**

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

Cr J Wong/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

## 8 Chief Executive's Report

### 8.1 Chief Executive's Report - December 2025

#### Santoft Domain Management Committee Fee Reimbursement Request

Mrs Gordon clarified for councillors that the process for the Santoft Domain Management Committee's reimbursement request, that usually requests are made prior to invoicing, and that this was a retrospective request.

Further information was provided by Cr O'Fee and a tabled document was provided. This item was deferred at the meeting so officers were able to confirm the amount of funds requested by the committee.

*Council moved back to this item after 9.2 Adoption of Meeting Schedule 2026.*

Mrs Gordon confirmed that the request that is in the order paper is that request that was received from the Santoft Domain Management Committee.

The Mayor highlighted the direction from Central Government and the financial pressures on the community and that this should be considered when determining the value of the funds requested.

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/347**

That the report Chief Executive's Report – December 2025 be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr S Field. Carried

**Motion**

That the Council agrees to reimburse the Santoft Domain Management Committee to the value of \$5,426.54.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa.

## Amendment

That the Council agrees to reimburse the Santoft Domain Management Committee to the value of \$2,500

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

### Resolved minute number 25/RDC/348

That the Council agrees to reimburse the Santoft Domain Management Committee to the value of \$2,500.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried Against Cr G O'Fee

### Resolved minute number 25/RDC/349

That Council authorises the Chief Executive to take the required actions to address the road status and provide legal road frontage to 1 Rapaki Street, Koitiata.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried

### Resolved minute number 25/RDC/350

That Council allocates \$292,316.41 which is the proceeds from the sale of land at Kensington Road to two Special and Restricted Reserves

As follows:

\$50,000 allocated to General Purpose (Capital Works) to replace the committed funding for the netball courts surface in accordance with resolution 25/RDC/304

AND

the balance of \$242,316.41 allocated to Aquatic Special Reserve for future funding towards the Swimming Pool project.

Cr J Wong/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Local Water Done Well - Foundation documents for the joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water

Mr Dyhrberg introduced the report, noting that it has been presented to both Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council, with both councils having approved the documents.

Councillors acknowledged the work undertaken by officers and elected members to reach this stage.

### Resolved minute number 25/RDC/351

That the report 'Local Water Done Well – Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement for the joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/352**

That the Rangitikei District Council, as shareholder of Central Districts Water, approves the attached Constitution for Central Districts Water, and delegates to the Chief Executive to sign any documents required to approve the Constitution on behalf of the Rangitikei District Council.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/353**

That the Rangitikei District Council, as shareholder of Central Districts Water, approves the attached Shareholders' Agreement for Central Districts Water, and delegates to the Chief Executive to sign the Shareholders' Agreement on behalf of the Rangitikei District Council.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Baird. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/354**

That the Rangitikei District Council delegates to the Chief Executive the ability to agree to any minor, non-material amendments to the Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement prior to final approval, and to report back to the Council on any changes made under this delegation.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr P Sharland. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/355**

That the Rangitikei District Council approves the establishment of a joint committee made up of representatives from across the Shareholding Councils and mana whenua partners, and endorses the terms of reference included in Schedule 3 of the Shareholders' Agreement.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/356**

That the Rangitikei District Council notes, as the next step in establishing Central Districts Water as a joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation, that it will be required to appoint its representative(s) to the Shareholders Committee and delegate the power to make the decisions recorded in Section 2 of Schedule 3 of the Shareholders' Agreement.

Cr D Baird/Cr D Wilson. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/357**

That the Rangitikei District Council delegates to the Chief Executive to proceed with the incorporation and registration of Central Districts Water with the Companies Office and all related formalities.

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr P Sharland. Carried

**9.2 Adoption of Meeting Schedule 2026**

Ms Gray provided some amendments and councillors acknowledged that there may be subsequent changes.

*Councillors moved back to item 8.1 Chief Executive's Report - December 2025 Santoft Domain Management Committee Request after this item.*

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/358**

That the report Adoption of Meeting Schedule 2026 is received.

HWTM/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/359**

That Council adopts the Meeting Schedule 2026 with amendment, and note subsequent changes.

HWTM/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

## 10 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session 2.06pm

### Resolution to Exclude the Public

**Resolved minute number 25/RDC/360**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

- 1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 27 November 2025
2. Tender Recommendation Report - Three Waters Capital Delivery

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<b>10.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 27 November 2025</b>	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 27 November meeting.	S48(1)(a)
<b>10.2 - Tender Recommendation Report - Three Waters Capital Delivery</b>	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations.  s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	s48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding or the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Hainsworth. Carried



**ITEM 7.1**  
**7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings****7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings****Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Council meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for each follow up, and a brief status comment.

**2. Decision Making Process**

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

**Attachments:**

1. **Follow-up Actions Register** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	29-May-25	Updated at the 27 Nov 25 meeting: Timeline of Marton Water Strategy be included in a projects update to the first Assets/Infrastructure meeting	Arno	The first Assets/Infrastructure workshop is scheduled for 5 March.	Closed.

## 8 Mayor's Report

### 8.1 Mayor's Report - February 2026

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

Good morning

With the Government introducing new legislation just prior to Christmas with submissions due now, the focus by Council staff has been to provide Councillors with draft submissions to consider. I thank staff for their time and the way they have worked with other councils to collaboratively prepare option reports. Council considered submissions at the Policy/Planning Committee working group session recently and they will be available through the Council website once lodged.

Council is also progressing work on its urban growth plan change, which will come to council at the end of February to adopt for public notification. The public notification process will mean everyone that has an interest can put in a submission on the proposal. This has been a huge volume of work for our Strategy Manager and I thank her for her outstanding work to date. The plan change sets the district up to future proof residential land supply to provide for long term growth in the south of the district. The process hasn't been without its challenges, with the project halted midway through the year due to the Government's plan stop, and then exempted to continue in December that year. This is just the beginning of the formal plan change process, with significant work to come with uncertainty around how many submissions we might receive and the ongoing challenge of RMA reform.

1. **The RMA (Resource Management Act)** is proposed to be replaced by two separate Acts – The Planning Act and The Natural Environment Act. The most telling is the Planning Act which will result over time in –
  - i) Fewer plans and regional spatial planning
  - ii) Standardised consents in many cases
  - iii) Limitations on appeals and Iwi involvement

Along with the proposal to Simplify Local Government, these Acts set the pathway for aggregation of councils, removing regional councils and a potential timeline for regional spatial planning, regional roading decisions and the loss of local voice for the Rangitikei.

So why would the Government progress this? There are several drivers for these changes -

- The existing RMA is flawed - decisions take too long and are too expensive to process.
  - The national crown debt of around \$180b is sitting now in excess of 40% of our GDP, so productivity and efficiency gains must be made.
2. Our submissions also cover the impending **Rates Capping legislation** and the relevant points are –
    - i) Government will impose a maximum rate increase based on the use of a formula of economic indicators. At this stage the Government is suggesting this range could be of



between 2 and 4%, starting in 2027 with full implementation in 2029. The range would be reviewed every three years.

- ii) There will be several exemptions to the proposal so parts of the rates covering new housing and three waters can be in excess of 4% and there is a variation process if your district is hit by dramatic weather events.
- iii) The Government wants councils to work towards the lowering of costs now and our council is doing that work now for the coming Annual Plan and the future Long Term Plan.
- iv) Our submission to Government opposes the Bill, while we absolutely focus on cost savings and our submission is based on -

- Rooding is 40% of our operational spend and rooding cost increase are well over 4% per year.
- Government has asked us to take on a number of other tasks and new structures and are charging us to do so by way of levies.
- Our cost for things like electricity and insurance are increasing far faster than 4% a year.
- The council will comply with the legislation when it is put in place – it will be law. But to do so there will be pressure to –
  - a) Charge higher fees
  - b) Reduce some services
  - c) Search council systems to reduce costs.

3. As has been reported earlier, Council has formed a new three waters entity called Central Districts Water (CDW) in collaboration with Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council. This new entity will provide drinking water, wastewater services and stormwater control starting 2027, replacing our council's function.

- Our council control will be having 3 representatives - 2 councillors (proposed to be Mayor and Deputy Mayor plus Councillor Dalgety as the alternate) and 1 Iwi representative (plus alternate) on the Shareholders Committee, a process mirrored by Palmerston North and Horowhenua.
- The role of the Shareholders Committee will be to –
  - a) Appoint directors of the new company
  - b) Have input into strategy/costings
  - c) Have an appraisal function.
- The transition to CDW is on track with appointments due soon and Council will work on our Long Term Plans to implement the changes needed.

## ITEM 8.1

I urge you to look at our full Council submissions to understand the changes and challenges we face.

4. As always the new year for Council is about events. We've recently hosted the Shearing Sports in Taihape, the Turakina Highland Games, Kiwiburn and the Marton Country Music Festival.

Upcoming events include -

- Taihape Show Jumping - 7-8 February
- Marton Shearing Sports - 7 February at Memorial Hall
- Fest a Bull at Te Matapihi/Bulls - 28 February

Over the weekend Suze Redmayne, MP for the Rangitikei, and I both attended the Highland Games in Turakina and the opening of the third bridge in the Hautapu River Park Project in Taihape (now completed courtesy of JBS Dudding Trust funding). I look forward to the completion of the last two bridges in the project and the chance to celebrate the achievements of the full team in Taihape.

Funding of these events and community initiatives is assisted by Council. The next round of future funding closes on 31 March and details are available on Council's website.

5. I would like to take this time to congratulate Helen Cooper, who received a King's Service Medal in the New Year Honours for her service to the Bulls community. Helen has called Bulls home for 43 years, and her belief that if you live in a community, you support it, is a wonderful example to us all. I also congratulate John Eaden on receiving a King's Service Medal for services to Art, particularly his more than 45 years of contribution to Creative Communities, along with his mentoring of young and emerging artists and people with disabilities. John has recently relocated to the Rangitikei and we look forward to getting to know him and his work more.
6. Negotiations over the Christmas break have seen the extension of the log train contract where up to 1000 tonne of logs per day will be transported by rail to the Ports of Napier. The saving of damage to our roads, particularly the "Gentle Annie" is immense and I thank the parties for this approach. The challenge will be to work with KiwiRail and NZTA to best understand the cost to NZ Inc with regards rail versus road. This discussion is not unique to us, regional rail is important and the costs are, in my opinion, poorly understood.

While on all things rail, the vandalism to the Marton Railway Station and elsewhere in our district is sad. Council cannot justify contributing to a rebuild of the Marton Railway Station and to be honest the decision by KiwiRail to demolish the building is justified. At present it is and has been a poor gateway to our district and an embarrassment and without a future need at any scale a rebuild would only continue to attract further graffiti. We can only hope that Marton can re-find its place as the Lower North Island Central Rail Hub for both passenger and freight.

7. Council has a Standing Committee called the Risk/Assurance Committee, a committee that has the ability to challenge Council on both practices and risk. As such there is the need for independent oversight by way of an Independent Chair. The Council went to market seeking applications for this role and the application process is now closed, resulting in 8 applications which will be reviewed, shortlisted and interviewed by myself the Group Manager of Council Corporate Services, with a goal to appoint at the next Council meeting.

This triennium Council has also established the Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee. I have used by delegation as Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act to appoint members of this committee as Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Cr John Hainsworth and Cr Fi Dalgety and myself as Mayor.

8. This year the JBS Dudding Trust has granted in excess of \$1m to recipients that either provide services to, or are based solely within the Rangitīkei. Without the Dudding Trust the Rangitīkei would be a much, much poorer place. These grants literally enable things to happen. Major recipients this year have been the Taihape Papakai Bridges Project, enabling the completion of the last 3 bridges, the Santoft Domain Committee, the Te Araroa Trail Walkway and the B&C Dam Restoration Projects in Marton. These effectively provide a great geographic spread of funding throughout the Rangitīkei. There were literally hundreds of other smaller grants made enabling services to continue to be provided throughout our district. I thank John Dudding for his foresight and the perpetual gift that he keeps on giving and the Public Trust for the administration of the service.
9. I want to express Council's sincere condolences to the whānau and loved ones of the road worker who was tragically killed on the Taihape-Napier Road last month. Any loss of life on our roads is felt deeply across our communities. Rangitīkei has some of the most challenging roads in the country and the safety of people working on and around them must always remain paramount.
10. Last month I was honoured to attend the Rātana celebrations at Rātana Pā. It was a privilege to stand on the paepae, to listen and to acknowledge the shared whakapapa and values that shape both our district and our country. I include a copy of my speech -

*"Matua, Tama,  
Wairua tapu  
me ngā  
Anahera pono  
me ta Māngai hei  
tautoko mai,  
aianei,  
ake nei,  
ae.*

*I acknowledge our CE Carol Gordon and Councillors with me today, we have five new Councillors, most of whom will not have been aware of the significance of the birthday of TW Ratana and the incredible deeds and legacy that he left. For them it is a learning experience and a journey that I started on many years ago. We will work with you to guide that journey.*

*Often our Church Ministers make reference "that we live in uncertain times". We surely do. Last year I thanked the paepae and Morehu for the respect and friendship I have been accorded at Ratana, believing it may have been my last opportunity to do so. That changed in October, so sorry you're stuck with me for another 3 years!*

*Equally with the Three Water reforms by Government, we were to be in marriage with Whanganui and Ruapehu as water buddies in a new entity. That changed and we now sit in the new entity of Central Districts Water with Palmerston North and Horowhenua. However we will continue to work closely with Whanganui in the future.*

**ITEM 8.1**

*As part of the water reforms Government has lowered the environmental thresholds for waste water disposal allowing an easier pathway in consenting which may return waste to our waterways. Yes, potentially those reforms will save the country millions but as decision-makers we must realise that disposal of waste to land was a decision to make because it was the right thing to do. Lake Waipu needs to be clean.*

*However, I congratulate the Government ministers Shayne Jones and Tama Potaka who have granted \$10m to do the urgent building work required on the Manuao. I understand the consents have been lodged and council will work with Ratana to make it happen.*

*At the last election we lost Māori Wards for the Rangitikei referendum. In my naivete I expected them to be retained – the value that Councillors Coral Raukawa and Piki Te Ora Hiroa bring to our Council is incredible. I feel that I have let them and you down. While I stated that I publicly supported Māori Wards I should have done more to outline why and push for their retention.*

*Ratana is an remarkable community and is continuing to grow - the Wharekura now has a roll of 60 students, primary and secondary and I look further to working further with Whaea Candace Hemi Mason.*

*Council appreciates the support and conversations we have with the Community Board chaired by Charlie Mete.*

*My associations and friendships with Ratana are extremely important to me and it is a privilege to serve here*

*Tēna koutou katoa”*

## Mayor's Engagements

Due to the new configuration of Council meetings that now fall in the middle of each month, the Mayor's Engagements will be listed following this cycle.

### January 2026

6	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
15	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with Taihape ratepayer
16	Attended monthly Economic Development meeting with staff Attended monthly meeting with Police Attended Change of Command Ceremony at NZDF Base Ohakea
20	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended site visit to Kiwiburn

	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
21	Attended monthly comms team meeting with staff
22	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
23	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
24	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
25	Attended Ratana 25 <sup>th</sup> celebrations
26	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
27	Attended Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
28	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Community Volunteer Awards Panel Meeting Attended January BA5 Event in Bulls
29	Attended Council Workshop
30	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group online meeting Attended CDW CCO online meeting regarding directorship Attended Project Oversight Group Central Districts Water online meeting
31	Attended the Turakina Caledonian Games

**February 2026**

2	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council with staff Attended meeting with Scotts Ferry Community members Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting
3	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Co-Chair meeting Attended Manfeild Park Trust Special General Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting
5	Attended Zone 3 Online Hui Attended meeting with Mokai Patea iwi re landlocked land CDW Independent Chair interviews
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee meeting Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting

**ITEM 8.1**

10	Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Ratana Community Board Meeting
11	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting
12	Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop

**Recommendation**

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

## 9 Chief Executive's Report

### 9.1 Chief Executive's Report - February 2026

**Author:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides Elected Members with an update on key activities across the organisation from December 2025 and January 2026.

#### 2. Events Held Across the District at Council's Parks and Reserves

- 2.1 The following events took place at Council Parks and Reserves across the Rangitikei District during December 2025:

- 5 December 2025 – Taihape Area School Big Day out - Memorial Park Taihape
- 5 December 2025 – Kids Market – Village Green, Marton
- 6 December 2025 – Marton Market Day 2025 – Broadway CBD and Marton Park
- 13 December 2025 – Rotary Marton – Sale of Christmas trees – Village Green, Marton
- 13 December 2025 – Bulls Christmas Celebration – Bulls Domain
- 19 – 21 December 2025 – Taihape Dressage – Memorial Park, Taihape

- 2.2 The following events took place at Council Parks and Reserves across the Rangitikei District during January 2026:

- 1 January 2026 – Taihape Vintage car club – Hunterville Domain
- 13 – 19 January 2026 – Marton Country Music Festival – Wilson Park, Marton
- 15, 16, 22 January 2026 – Sport Wanganui – Ki O Rahi Pop up Event – Bulls Domain; Marton Park; Memorial Park, Taihape
- 18 January 2026 – Wanganui Vintage Car Club – Marton Park
- 24 January 2026 – Gumboot Throwing Association – Gumboot Throwing Champs, Memorial Park, Taihape
- 26 January 2026 – 1 February 2026 – Turakina Caledonia Society - Turakina Highland Games – Turakina Domain
- 31 January 2026 – Lodge O' Taihape - Promote Hautapu River Parks tracks, Memorial Park, Taihape

#### 3. Staff Movements

- 3.1 In December 2025 there were no new staff entries and no staff exits.
- 3.2 In January 2026 we welcomed the following employees to Rangitikei District Council:
- Natasha Logan (Casual cleaner)
  - Sharlene Jamieson (Casual Cleaner)

**ITEM 9.1**

3.3 In January we farewelled the following employees from Rangitikei District Council:

- Angela Leggatt (Cleaner)
- Rebecca Wilkinson (Customer Experience Support Officer)

**4. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard**

4.1 The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboards for December 2025 and January 2026 are attached (Attachments 1 and 2).

**5. Submissions**

5.1 The updated list of current opportunities to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached (Attachment 3).

5.2 Consultations submitted on:

5.2.1 Council completed a joint submission with Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council, through Central Districts Water, to Taumata Arowai on the proposed changes to the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules for supplies serving 501 or more people.

5.2.2 Council submitted on the Rates Capping proposal.

5.3 Consultations for submission:

5.3.1 Submissions are planned on the Simplifying Local Government proposal (closing 20 February) and Planning and Natural and Built Environment bills (closing 13 February). A Policy/Planning Committee working group session was held on 29 January to develop the Council position for these submissions.

5.3.2 Council will also feed into the development of regional submissions where appropriate.

5.4 The submissions will be made available on Council's [website](#).

**6. CDEM Review**

6.1 An independent review of Council's Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) capability was completed in December 2025. This was undertaken to provide assurance on our readiness, statutory compliance, and identify areas for improvement. The review did not identify significant failure; it highlighted some areas Council is strong in and areas for improvement.

6.2 The Executive Leadership Team is now working through a practical, staged improvement programme over 2–3 years focused on:

6.2.1 Clear governance and Executive Leadership Team ownership of CDEM.

6.2.2 Strengthening staff capability through structured training and exercises.

6.2.3 Reducing reliance on single roles and improving on-call resilience.

6.2.4 Completing business continuity and significant-event planning.

6.2.5 Formalising partnerships with iwi, communities, emergency services, and neighbouring councils.



**7. Triennial Agreement**

- 7.1 The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) encourages local authorities to work collaboratively. One of the requirements of the Act is for all local authorities within a region, to produce a Triennial Agreement following each election. This Agreement must be in place no later than 1 March immediately after each triennial election (section 15(1) of the LGA).
- 7.2 Council has previously been part of and signed this Agreement.
- 7.3 The agreement sets out the purpose of the agreement, how councils will work together, sets out the terms of reference for the Mayoral forum, servicing and support; and terms of reference for the Climate Action Joint Committee.
- 7.4 The draft agreement is being considered by the Mayoral Forum at their February meeting. It is proposed, to ensure compliance with the statutory deadline of 1 March 2026, that Council delegates authority for signing of the agreement to His Worship the Mayor. Refer to Recommendation 2 below.

**8. Fatality – Taihape Napier Resealing Crew**

- 8.1 On 13 January 2026 Council was informed of a tragic workplace fatality of a Downer staff member while working on the Taihape Napier Road. Police, WorkSafe and Downer investigations are underway. A full report will be provided to a future Risk/Assurance Committee meeting.

**9. Streetlight Contract Extension**

- 9.1 Contract No. 1126 for Streetlight Maintenance with Horizon Networks is nearing the end of its initial three-year term and is eligible for the first of two available three-year extension periods. Each extension is subject to negotiation and mutual agreement between the parties.
- 9.2 Contractor performance has been acceptable over the initial contract term.
- 9.3 Performance and responsiveness to contract requirements have improved significantly over the past six months, following the appointment of a new Contract Manager and the establishment of a Palmerston North depot (previously resourced from Taumarunui).
- 9.4 Horizon Networks has proposed increases to some of the unit rates, offset by reductions to others. When compared against the original contract rates adjusted to 2026, the overall net change to the contract value is minimal, at \$2,180.
- 9.5 The current annual contract value is \$128,350.
- 9.6 Council approved Contract 1126 for a total term of nine years with two potential roll-overs after year 3 and year 6. The Contractor is eligible for the roll-overs if they complied with contract requirements.
- 9.7 This report is to notify Council that Contract 1126 with Horizon Networks will be extended for a further three-year period as allowed for in the contract, from 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2029. Refer to Recommendation 3.

## 10. Roothing Extra Funding

- 10.1 In December 2025, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) advised that surplus funding was available within the 2024–27 National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) funding pool. This surplus arose due to the scale of remedial works required across South Island road networks following recent adverse weather events. As a result, several affected councils indicated they would be unable to deliver their Pothole Prevention Programmes during the 2024–27 funding cycle.
- 10.2 NZTA made this surplus funding available to councils through an application process.
- 10.3 Rangitīkei District Council had a strong case for support, as the Council has been required to undertake a significant amount of unplanned repair work on Taihape–Napier Road. This work was driven by increased heavy traffic following the closure of the Ruapehu mills in 2024. Without additional funding, the only way to accommodate the unplanned works would have been to defer and reprioritise planned roading programmes.
- 10.4 These issues have been well communicated at multiple levels to both NZTA and Central Government.
- 10.5 Council applied for \$2,816,000 (local share \$957,440) to offset 2025/26 programme deferrals made to accommodate the unplanned work.
- 10.6 The application was successful, and NZTA has approved the full amount requested.
- 10.7 Acceptance of the additional funding will enable completion of the deferred works within the 2024–27 NLTP period.
- 10.8 The approved funding will be applied to the following categories:
  - Sealed Road Pavement Rehabilitation (CAPEX): \$2,000,000 (local share \$680,000)
  - Sealed Pavement Maintenance (OPEX): \$816,000 (local share \$277,440)
- 10.9 Officers confirm that the local share component of \$957,440 is available from Roothing Reserves and does not require an increase to rates.
- 10.10 This report recommends that Council accept NZTA's offer of additional funding. Refer to Recommendation 4.

## 11. Marton Community Committee Terms of Reference Update

- 11.1 During the recent nomination process for the establishment of community committees, interest was raised by the Marton Rotary and Marton Lions clubs regarding membership on the Marton Community Committee. Given the strong role these clubs play in the local Marton community, the terms of reference is proposed to be updated to enable their membership by appointment.
- 11.2 The updated Terms of Reference are attached (Attachment 4) for Council to consider for adoption. Refer to Recommendation 5 below.

## 12. District Licensing Committee

- 12.1 The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 requires territorial authorities (TAs) to establish a district licensing committee (DLC). The DLC considers applications for liquor licences, renewals, manager certificates and variations among other roles. The commissioner considers uncontested applications, while a DLC committee of three considers

contested applications. The committee is established from a list of DLC members. Meetings of the DLC committee are infrequent, with the last hearing held in mid-2025.

- 12.2 DLCs can be formed in various ways, with a mix of elected members, community members, and commissioners. Council in the past has established a DLC with a commissioner, community members and elected members. This approach is recommended to continue. Officers recommend that five members are appointed (with one to two elected members and the remaining community members), plus a commissioner. This provides sufficient numbers to pick from in the event a DLC committee meeting is required.
- 12.3 Section 193 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 allows the Chief Executive, on the recommendation of a territorial authority, to appoint a commissioner. It is noted that the commissioner also acts as Chair of the DLC. The commissioner must be of good standing in the community and have the necessary knowledge, skill and experience relating to matters that are likely to come before the committee. Officers recommend that Mr Stuart Hylton, the current commissioner be re-appointed for a term of 5 years. Refer to Recommendation 4 below.
- 12.4 It is proposed that the recruitment of community members for the DLC occur via a public advertising process, interviewed by the DLC Commissioner and Group Manager Regulatory and Emergency Management, with recommended appointments made back to a future Council meeting for final decision. At that meeting elected member representation would also be sought. It is noted that members of the DLC are paid in accordance with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. Refer to Recommendation 7 below.

### 13. Central Districts Water Update

- 13.1 This regular update provides progress on work on Central Districts Water (CDW).
- 13.2 The three phases of the Establishment Plan are:
  - i. Phase 1: Legal establishment of the entity – by 1 July 2026
  - ii. Phase 2: Operational establishment – by 1 July 2027
  - iii. Phase 3: Operational – from 1 July 2027
- 13.3 Progress on Phase 1 includes:
  - 13.3.1 CDW Foundation documents (Constitution, Shareholders Agreement) approved by Councils in December.
  - 13.3.2 Recruiting for CDW Board and Chair roles commenced December. A shortlist is now under consideration.
  - 13.3.3 Establishment planning by the CDW establishment team based out of Palmerston North City Council offices with draft workplans completed (per workstream) December. A workshop was held by CDW establishment team to bring those plans together on Wednesday 21 January.
  - 13.3.4 Reports for Councils' decision on establishment and nominations to the Shareholders Committee are on Council agendas for their February meetings (see report on this agenda). For Rangitikei District Council the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are nominated with Cr Fi Dalgety as a nominated alternate. Additionally, there is a recommendation for the three Councils to approve the three Iwi representatives (and alternates) nominated by Iwi.

ITEM 9.1

13.4 Key tasks and dates:

- 13.4.1 Shareholders Committee – will be set up by early 2026.
- 13.4.2 Commerce Commission's final determination on information disclosure for water and wastewater suppliers is due to be published by 26 February 2026.
- 13.4.3 WS-CCO Establishment CEO – to be appointed by mid 2026.
- 13.4.4 Financing arrangements – agreed to by mid 2026.
- 13.4.5 The *planned* transfer date is 1 July 2027.

**14. Financial Implications**

- 14.1 The extension of the Streetlight Maintenance with Horizon Networks has minimal financial impact.
- 14.2 The additional local share for the extra roading work can be met from roading reserves.
- 14.3 There are no other significant financial implications associated with this report.

**15. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 15.1 Failure to honour the commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
  - 15.1.1 The role of mana whenua on the Shareholder Committee upholds Te Tiriti commitments.
- 15.2 Legal and political environment requires excessive resources / changes to governmental legislation are transformational:
  - 15.2.1 Tracking external submissions ensures Council is aware of upcoming legislative changes which may require resources.
- 15.3 Obligations with health, safety and wellbeing are not met:
  - 15.3.1 The Health, Safety and Wellbeing dashboards are attached. There is a strong focus on Health, Safety and Wellbeing within the organisation.
  - 15.3.2 A future report will be provided to the Risk/Assurance Committee on the contractor fatality.
- 15.4 Business continuity is compromised
  - 15.4.1 The CDEM review supports Council in ensuring preparedness to respond to an emergency event.

**16. Strategic Alignment**

- 16.1 There are no strategic alignment impacts on the sections in this report.

**17. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 17.1 Members of the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti receive the submission list and, if time allows, asked for input into specific draft submissions.
- 17.2 Iwi play a key part in CDW, with advice being provided by Nga Tapūwae o Hau and representation on the Shareholders Committee.

**18. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 18.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

**19. Statutory Implications**

- 19.1 Local Water Done Well is a requirement under the Local Government (Water Services) Bill and the regular update is provided to keep Council informed.

**20. Decision Making Process**

- 20.1 There are no sections of this report that are considered to be a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

**Attachments:**

1. **Health, Safety & Wellbeing Dashboard - December 2025** [↓](#)
2. **Health, Safety & Wellbeing Dashboard - January 2026** [↓](#)
3. **Current & Upcoming Submissions - February 2026** [↓](#)
4. **Marton Community Committee - Revised Terms of Reference** [↓](#)

**Recommendation 1**

That the report Chief Executive's Report – February 2026 be received.

**Recommendation 2**

That, His Worship the Mayor be delegated authority to sign the 2026 Triennial Agreement for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region.

**Recommendation 3**

That Council notes the extension of Contract 1126 - Streetlight Maintenance with Horizon Networks for a further three-year period, from 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2029.

**Recommendation 4**

That Council accept NZTA's offer of additional NLTP funding of \$2,816,000 (local share \$957,440) to enable completion of deferred roading works within the 2024–27 period, noting that the local share will be funded from Roading Reserves with no impact on rates.

**Recommendation 5**

That the revised terms of reference for the Marton Community Committee are adopted, providing for membership from Marton Rotary and Marton Lions clubs.

**Recommendation 6**

That Council recommends that Mr Stuart Hylton be reappointed as commissioner for Council's District Licencing Committee in accordance with section 193 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 for a period of five years to 12 February 2031.

**Recommendation 7**

That Council endorse the advertising for community members for the District Licensing Committee in accordance with section 193 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, noting that Council will receive recommendations for membership at a subsequent Council meeting.

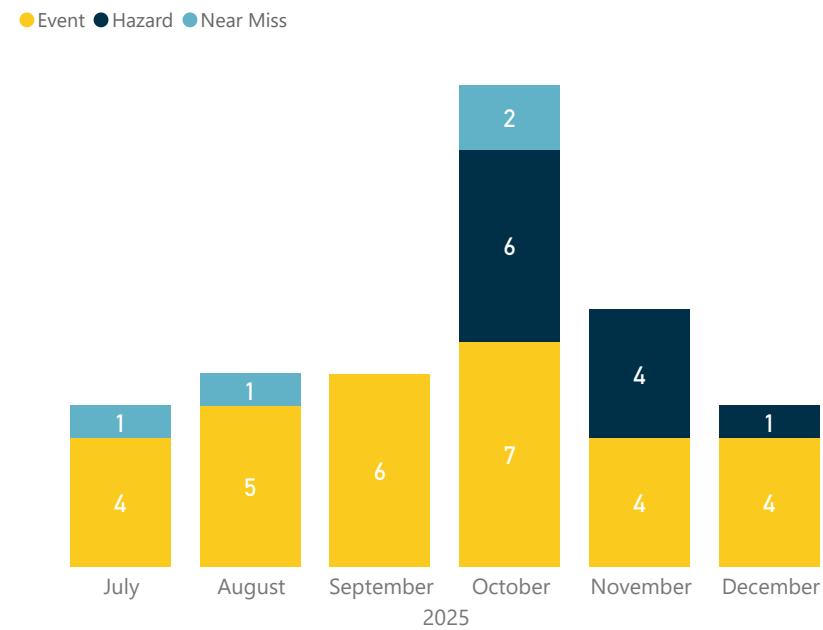


# RDC Health and Safety Dashboard December 2025

ITEM 9.1  
ATTACHMENT 1

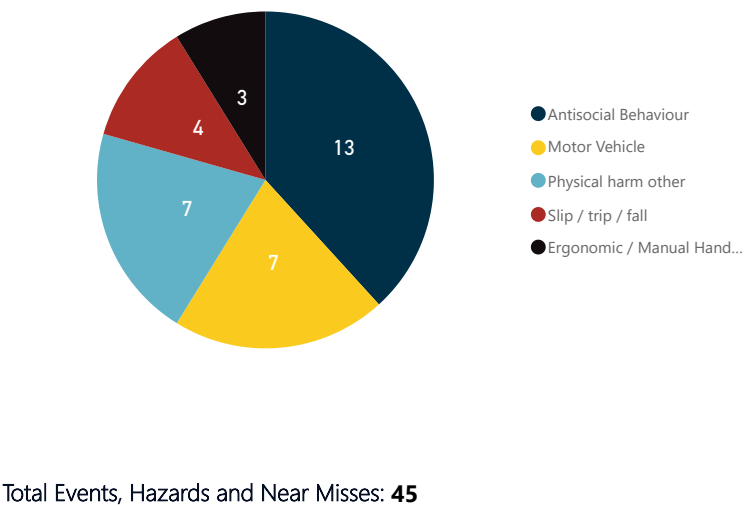
## Events, Hazards and Near Misses

01 July 2025 to date



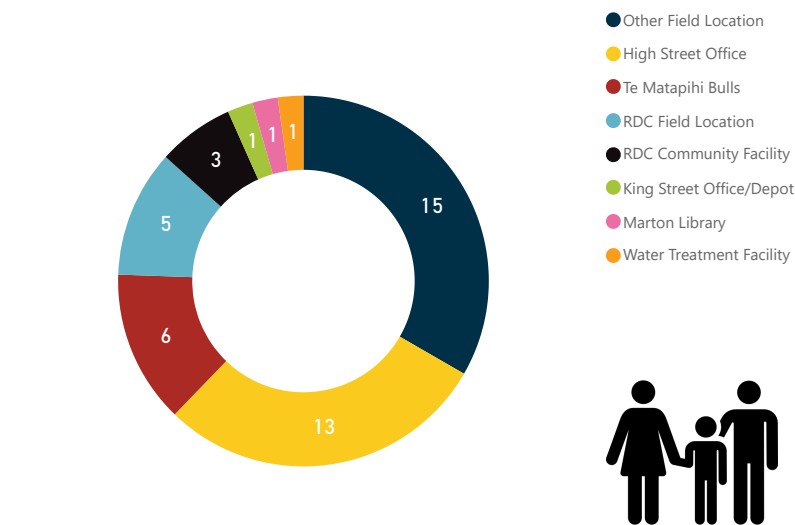
## Category

Events, Hazards and Near Misses  
01 July 2025 to date (Top 5 Categories)



## Location

Events, Hazards and Near Misses



## WorkSafe Notifications

### Notifiable Incidents

0 Month  
1 YTD

### Notifiable Injuries / Illnesses

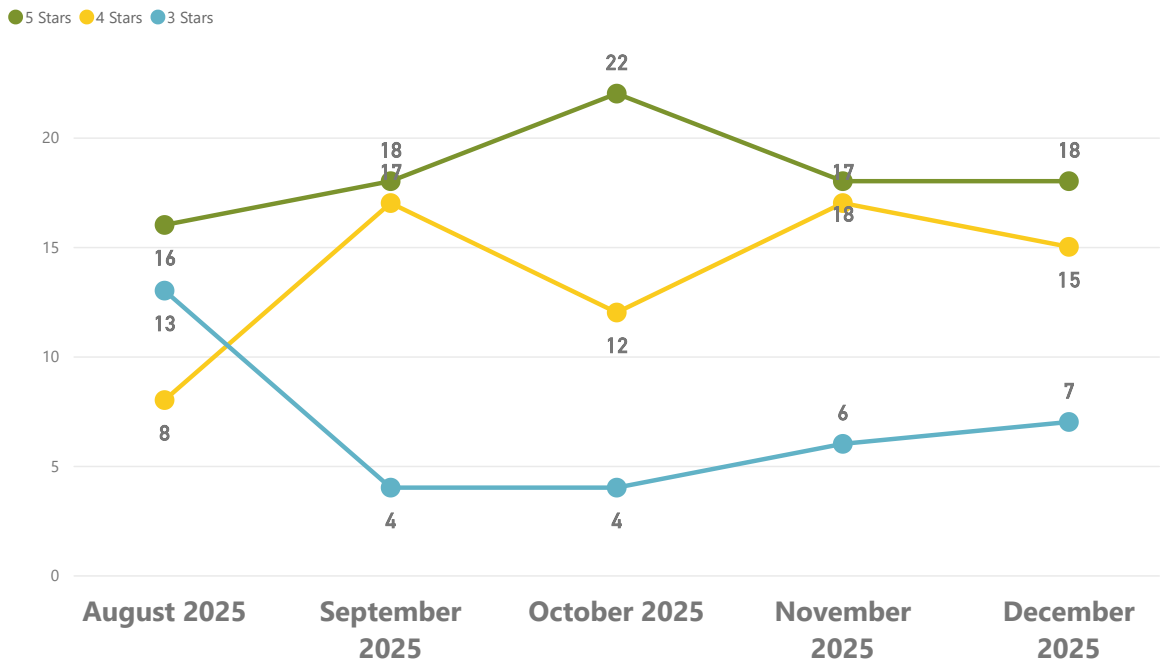
0 Month  
0 YTD

### Contractor Notifications

0 Month  
0 YTD

## Average Driver Ratings

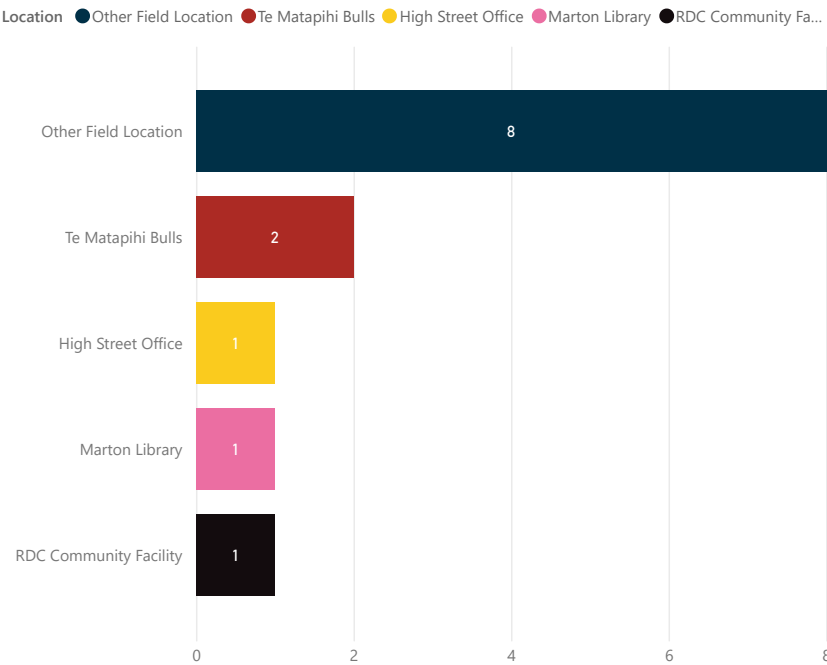
Ratings from E-Road Dashboard (Overspeed / Harsh Braking & Harsh Acceleration Events)



71% Completed Driver Safety Training

## Antisocial Behavior - per location

Year to date



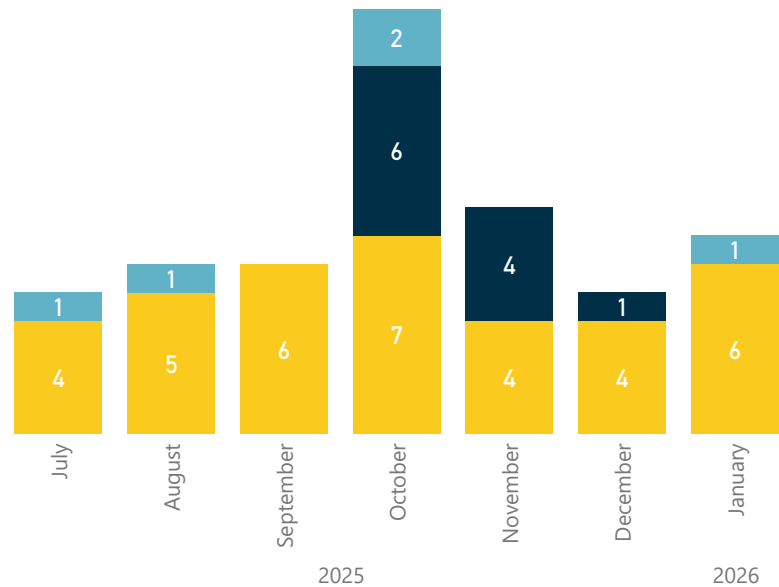


# RDC Health and Safety Dashboard January 2026

## Events, Hazards and Near Misses

01 July 2025 to date

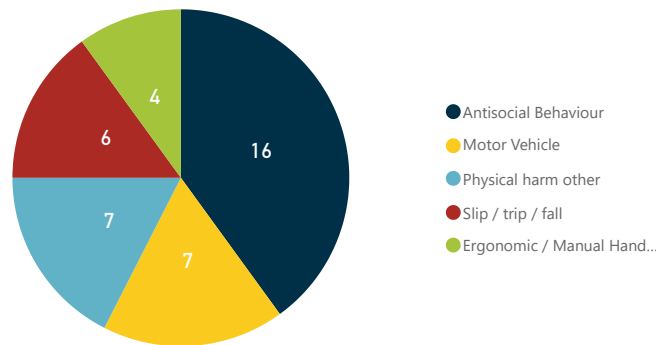
● Event ● Hazard ● Near Miss



## Category

Events, Hazards and Near Misses

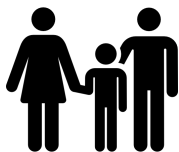
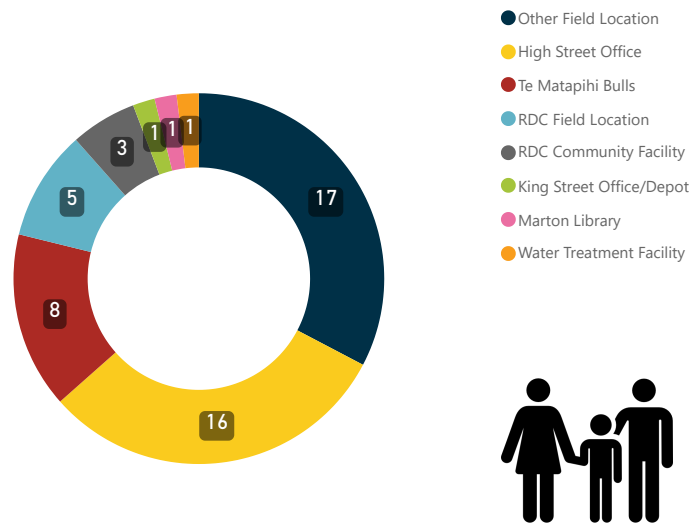
01 July 2025 to date (Top 5 Categories)



Total Events, Hazards and Near Misses: 52

## Location

Events, Hazards and Near Misses



## WorkSafe Notifications

Notifiable Incidents

0

Month

1

YTD

Notifiable Injuries / Illnesses

0

Month

0

YTD

Contractor Notifications

1

Month

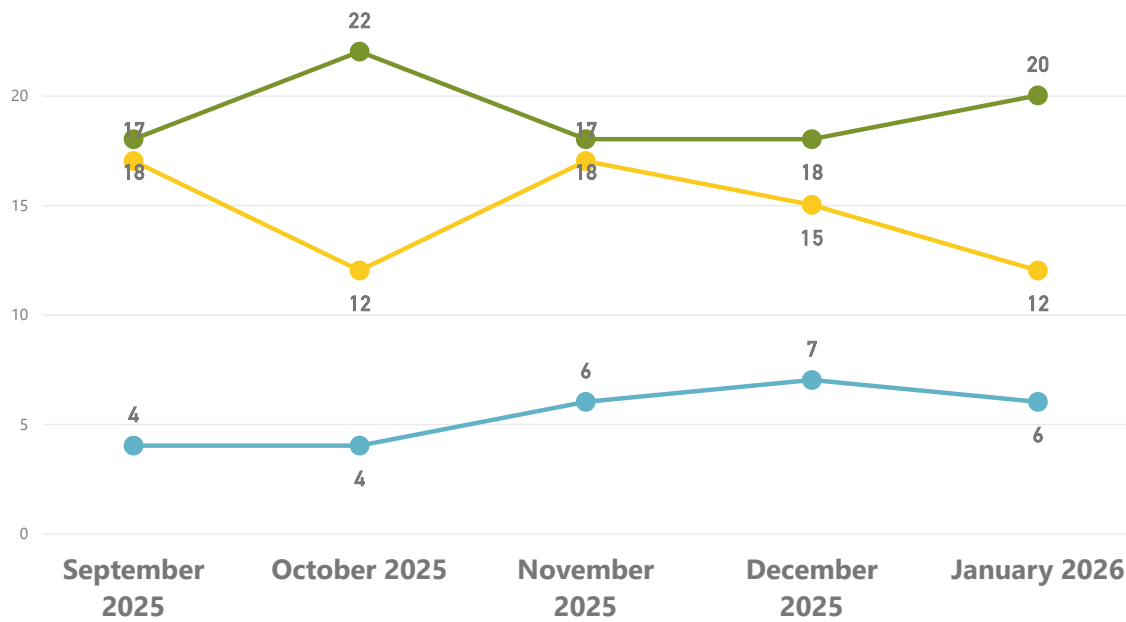
1

YTD

## Average Driver Ratings

Ratings from E-Road Dashboard (Overspeed / Harsh Braking & Harsh Acceleration Events)

● 5 Stars ● 4 Stars ● 3 Stars

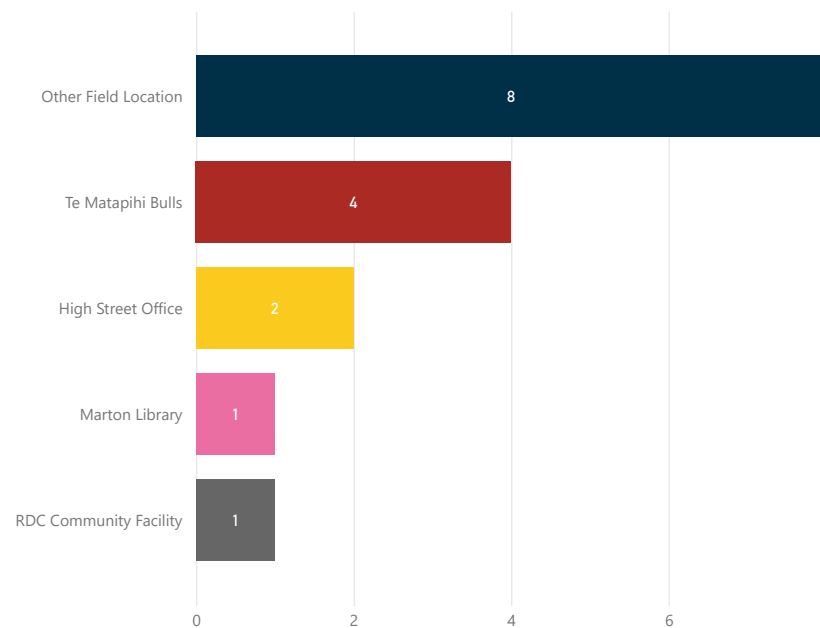


71% Completed Driver Safety Training

## Antisocial Behaviour - per location

Year to date

Location ● Other Field Location ● Te Matapihi Bulls ● High Street Office ● Marton Library ● RDC Community Fa...



## ITEM 9.1

## ATTACHMENT 3

Name of initiative	Agency engaging	Due date	Description	RDC Action
<b>Currently Open for submissions</b>				
<b>Consultation on first round of Acts proposed for repeal</b> <a href="https://pco.govt.nz/about-us/about-new-zealand-legislation/legislation-repeals-project/consultation-on-first-round-of-acts-proposed-for-repeal#content">https://pco.govt.nz/about-us/about-new-zealand-legislation/legislation-repeals-project/consultation-on-first-round-of-acts-proposed-for-repeal#content</a>	Parliamentary Counsel Office	10 February	The PCO, with the Department of Internal Affairs for local Acts, is seeking feedback on 50 New Zealand Acts (30 local, 5 public, 15 private) proposed for repeal. These Acts have been reviewed under the Legislation Repeals Project and are considered outdated and redundant. Repealing them helps keep laws up to date, easier to understand, and reduces unnecessary costs or confusion for legal users, local government, and the public. The PCO has consulted relevant agencies and authorities and submissions are now open.	None
<b>Planning Bill</b> <a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/ba467863-d6b0-4968-1027-08de369d9192?lang=en">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/ba467863-d6b0-4968-1027-08de369d9192?lang=en</a>	Parliament Environment Committee	13 February	This bill replaces the Resource Management Act 1991, working in tandem with the Natural Environment Bill. Its purpose is to establish a framework for planning and regulating the use, development, and enjoyment of land.	Submit
<b>Natural Environment Bill</b> <a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/394369fc-5ba2-4d8a-1026-08de369d9192?lang=en&amp;Tab=history">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/394369fc-5ba2-4d8a-1026-08de369d9192?lang=en&amp;Tab=history</a>	Parliament Environment Committee	13 February	This bill replaces the Resource Management Act 1991, working in tandem with the Natural Environment Bill. Its purpose is to establish a framework for planning and regulating the use, development, and enjoyment of land.	Submit
<b>Review of forestry in the Emissions Trading Scheme cost recovery settings</b> <a href="https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-forestry-in-the-emissions-trading-scheme-cost-recovery-settings">https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-forestry-in-the-emissions-trading-scheme-cost-recovery-settings</a>	Ministry for Primary Industries	13 February	Proposals to update cost recovery settings for forestry in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) include reducing the annual charge and hourly rate used to calculate service fees, updating the average hours used in these calculations, and introducing eight new service fees for services that directly benefit participants.	None
<b>Emergency Management Bill</b> <a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/cdf180bd-f6c9-4242-1024-08de369d9192?lang=en&amp;Tab=history">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/cdf180bd-f6c9-4242-1024-08de369d9192?lang=en&amp;Tab=history</a>	Parliament Governance and Administration Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> February	The Bill replaces the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and enables the improvements identified by the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events of early 2023	None
<b>Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill</b> <i>(Text of Bill yet to be published, 12.12.2025)</i>	Office of the Privacy Commissioner	16 <sup>th</sup> February	<p>The Privacy Commissioner is considering amendments to several codes of practice to implement IPP3A, the new information privacy principle that will be added to the Privacy Act from 1 May 2026. IPP3A changes agencies' obligations when collecting personal information indirectly, that is, from a source other than the individual concerned.</p> <p>The proposed amendments will incorporate information privacy principle 3A (collection of personal information</p>	None



			<p>other than from the individual concerned) into the relevant codes of practice.</p> <p>The consultation also includes a proposal not to incorporate IPP3A into the Civil Defence National Emergencies (Information Sharing) Code 2020 (the Civil Defence Code). In addition, a short technical amendment will address a formatting error introduced in an earlier amendment to that Code.</p>	
<b>Simplifying local government</b> <a href="https://www.dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government">https://www.dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government</a>	Department of Internal Affairs	20 February	<p>The Government is proposing a two-step approach to simplify local government.</p> <p><b>Step 1:</b> Mayors who have already been elected will form a Combined Territories Board (CTB) to lead regional issues and assume all current regional council functions. Feedback is also being sought on an alternative option of appointing one or more Crown Commissioners to join or lead the Board.</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> The CTB will develop a Regional Reorganisation Plan to improve collaboration and efficiency among councils. The plan will be prepared with public consultation, subjected to independent review, and approved by the Minister of Local Government.</p>	Submit
<b>Consultation on development levies</b> <a href="https://www.dia.govt.nz/Development-levies-consultation">https://www.dia.govt.nz/Development-levies-consultation</a>	Department of Internal Affairs	20 February	<p>The Government is proposing to replace development contributions with a development levies system. The Department of Internal Affairs is seeking feedback on a partial exposure draft of the Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill, which will implement the new system, as well as on the proposed regulations that will support its implementation.</p>	None
<b>Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill</b> <a href="https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCFIN_SCF_328F446A-D8F8-466A-BA46-08DE2C75A6E0/infrastructure-funding-and-financing-amendment-bill">https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCFIN_SCF_328F446A-D8F8-466A-BA46-08DE2C75A6E0/infrastructure-funding-and-financing-amendment-bill</a>	Finance and Expenditure Committee	20 <sup>th</sup> February	<p>The purpose of this bill is to improve infrastructure funding and financing tools to support urban development. The Bill proposes to remove certain discretions and mandatory considerations imposed on local authorities when approving infrastructure projects for funding under the Act. This is intended to facilitate faster decision making, introduce certainty and promote developer-led infrastructure projects being built.</p>	None
<b>Inquiry into the 2025 local elections</b> <a href="https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCJUT_ST_SCF_0073EC30-328F-4732-B45E-08DE17494B72/inquiry-into-the-2025-local-elections">https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCJUT_ST_SCF_0073EC30-328F-4732-B45E-08DE17494B72/inquiry-into-the-2025-local-elections</a>	Parliament Justice Committee	27 <sup>th</sup> February	<p>The inquiry will examine the law and administrative procedures for the conduct of the 2025 Local Elections, with a particular focus on voting processes, electoral integrity and the role of councils and their staff in determining voting arrangements, and their relationships with the electoral agencies responsible for conducting the election.</p>	None

## ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 3

<b>Proposed changes to the New Zealand Survey Control Standard</b> <a href="https://www.linz.govt.nz/consultations/seeking-feedback-proposed-changes-new-zealand-survey-control-standard">https://www.linz.govt.nz/consultations/seeking-feedback-proposed-changes-new-zealand-survey-control-standard</a>	Land Information New Zealand	27 <sup>th</sup> February	The proposed changes aim to provide a clearer and more consistent foundation for New Zealand's spatial referencing system, support the growing demand for 3D property rights and engineering applications, and enable more efficient maintenance of survey control networks.	None
<b>National rate cap framework</b> <a href="#">Getting rates under control for ratepayers   Beehive.govt.nz</a>		End February	Government has proposed a new national rates-cap framework, setting a target annual increase for council rates of 2–4% per capita. Consultation has started, and Government plans to introduce an interim framework in 2027 before moving to the full model in 2029.	Submit

## Marton Community Committee

Terms of Reference

As at ~~November 2025~~February 2026

<b>Elected Members</b>	One councillor determined by Council: His Worship the Mayor as ex officio
<b>External Members</b>	Minimum of four and maximum of ten people with an interest in the Marton Community (excluding the councillor <u>and service club representatives</u> ) <u>One member appointed by Marton Lions Club (optional)</u> <u>One member appointed by Marton Rotary Club (optional)</u>
<b>Chair</b>	To be elected by the members of the committee, <u>all members eligible</u>
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Every two months
<b>Reports to</b>	Council

**Commented [KG1]:** This gives a total of 14 maximum. 10 community, 2 service, Cr and Mayor.

### Purpose

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the Marton community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation of \$3,500 (Plus inflation from 2025/26 financial year) for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines.
- To help to ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure in the appropriate manner through promoting the use of the Request for Service procedure and advising community members on how to use the Request for Service procedure.

### Terms of Reference (delegations)

- Authority to approve expenditure of the Small Projects Fund.
- Provide recommendations to Council on matters of relevance to the Marton community.

**Process for appointment of external members**

The Council will call nominations to the Marton Community Committee following committee re-establishment after the triennial election.

The nomination period will be a minimum of 20 working days.

Where fewer than four nominations are received by the closing date, the Council will issue a further public notice to seek additional nominations for a period of a minimum of 10 working days. If there are insufficient nominations after the further public notice, the Marton Community Committee will be deemed as unformed until the time there is enough interest.

Where more than ten nominations are received, Council will conduct an election at a public meeting by secret ballot.

A minimum of ten eligible voters are required to be present at any public meeting called to elect members to form the Marton Community Committee. Those eligible to vote must be enrolled on the most recent electoral roll and live the Marton Community Committee area.

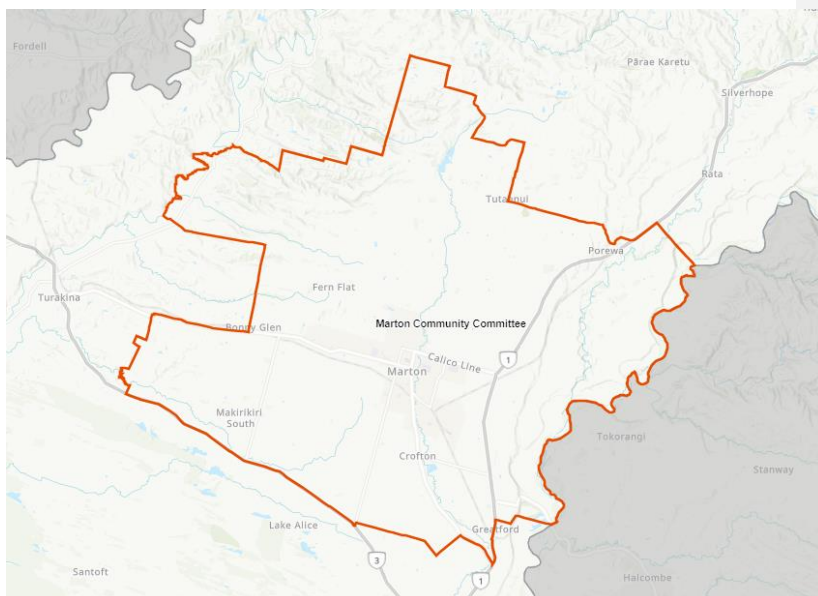
Nominators (and voters, should that prove necessary) for the Committee should reside within the Marton Community Committee Area.

Members are not required to reside within the Marton Community Committee area, but should have an interest in the area.

The membership will be notified on Council's website.

The Marton Community Committee will have power to co-opt other members, either from the public generally or representatives of specific community interest groups provide the maximum number of members is not exceeded.

In accordance with Schedule 7, Clause 30(7) of the Local Government Act 2002, the Committee will be discharged at the end of the triennium.



### Small Projects Fund

The Committee holds delegated authority to allocate the annual Small Projects Fund. Eligible uses may include minor improvements such as:

- Small beautification works.
- Minor repairs or enhancements to public spaces.
- Supporting community groups with events or projects

All decisions to allocate funds must be made through a formal Committee resolution, with a record of the purpose and amount allocated included in the minutes.

It is noted that while the majority of grants may be provided within the Committee's area, if there are projects of interest outside the Marton Community Committee area (but within the Rangitikei District boundaries), the Committee has discretion to approve funding.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Committee Members

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings and participate constructively.
- Represent the interests of the whole Marton community.
- Declare any conflicts of interest.
- Support and uphold the Committee's decisions.

### Chair

The Chair is responsible for:

- Chairing the Committee meeting in accordance with Standing Orders.
- Representing the Committee to a high standard.
- Promoting and supporting good governance of the Committee.
- Ensuring all members have the opportunity to contribute to the meeting.
- Providing leadership to the Committee in helping to form consensus that is representative of the Marton community.
- Acting as the primary point of contact for the Governance Advisor and the Committee Support Officer.

## Reporting and Accountability

In July each year, the Committee will provide Council with a short summary outlining:

- Highlights and achievements.
- Support provided for Council consultations and communication of local issues.
- Funding allocations for small works.
- Recommendations or priorities for the coming year.

The Governance Advisor and the Committee Support Officer will provide support to the Marton Community Committee to complete the accountability reporting.

## Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

Members must act in accordance with the Community Committee Code of Conduct

Any conflict of interest must be declared and recorded.

Members with a conflict must abstain from related decisions unless otherwise agreed by the Committee.

**Secretariat support**

Council will produce and distribute the Committee Order Paper. The Order Papers are uploaded to the Council website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) and are available for the public to read at all Council offices and libraries.

The Order Paper will be sent to each committee member by electronic means at least two clear working days before the day of the meeting (in accordance with standing orders).

If requested, Council will consider providing staff for secretarial support on the basis that frequency of meetings being normally not more than every second month, and that the meetings start time are negotiated with Council and finish formally within two hours.

## 10 Reports for Decision

### 10.1 Local Water Done Well – Initiating the Shareholders Committee for the joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water

**Author:** Chris Dyhrberg, Executive Director WSCCO Establishment

**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report proposes the appointments and delegations to the Shareholders Committee for the joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water. Once these appointments and delegations are confirmed, the Committee is able to meet and confirm the appointment of an Independent Chairperson and the Board of Directors.
- 1.2 These decisions mean the governance structure for Central Districts Water has been established.

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 At their December 2025 meetings, the Shareholding Councils approved the Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement the joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water. Clause 6.2 of the Shareholders' Agreement established the Shareholders Committee as a joint committee under clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002. This means that the Board of Directors will have their principal relationship with the Shareholding Councils through the Committee rather than with them individually.
- 2.2 Section 30A(2)(d) in Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Councils establishing a joint committee to specify what responsibilities (if any) are to be delegated to the joint committee by each local authority.
- 2.3 The Councils have undertaken a recruitment process managed by Propero for the appointment of the Directors. Such appointments must be made by the Shareholders Committee.
- 2.4 On 22 December 2025, Simpson Grierson provided advice on the role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee, and approach to appointments. That is included as Attachment 1.

#### 3. Role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee

- 3.1 The role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee are set out in the Terms of Reference in clause 2 of Schedule 3 of the approved Shareholders' Agreement (as noted above in para 2.1). They all relate to water services activities to be delivered by Central Districts Water, as an arms-length commercial entity. These roles and responsibilities include:
  - (a) the appointment of Directors, as well as monitoring those Directors and determining the Board skills matrix and appointment policy for any new Directors;
  - (b) developing a role description for any Independent Chair, and appointing that role;
  - (c) developing and adopting the statement of expectations on behalf of the Shareholders, and approving the significance and engagement policy developed by the Company;



(d) considering and providing comment on the Water Services Strategy developed by the Company; and

(e) undertaking all other performance monitoring, as well as providing recommendations on various matters to the Company.

3.2 Since the Councils intend that the Shareholders Committee will be a decision-making body (rather than merely advising each individual Council), it is necessary for each Council to delegate relevant responsibilities, duties and powers conferred on shareholding Councils by the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. This delegation is made in terms of clause 30A(2)(d) of Schedule 7 in the Local Government Act 2002, as noted above [section 2.2]

3.3 It is preferable that the Committee is not discharged following the triennial local elections (as is the case for most Council committees) so that there is no impediment to the operational effectiveness of Central Districts Water. This would have no impact on changing representatives. Clause 31(5) of Schedule 7 in the Local Government Act allows for this.

#### **4. Relationship between the Shareholders Committee and the Board of Directors**

4.1 Central Districts Water is a water organisation and company to be incorporated under the Companies Act 1993, as provided in sections 44-45 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. The Board of Directors, appointed by the Shareholders Committee, provides the governance for the company. Elected members of the Shareholder Councils may not be appointed to the Board.

4.2 However, the Shareholders Committee also has an important governance role – but it needs to respect the operational independence of the Board and the shared intentions of the Shareholders for the Company, which is that the Company deliver water services on behalf of the wider community in a way that satisfies not only the Shareholders' expectations.

4.3 The key document for the relationship between the Shareholders Committee and the Board is the Statement of Expectations, a statutory requirement for shareholders of a water organisation. Section 224 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 notes that the purpose of this Statement is 'to inform and guide the decisions and actions of the water organisation; and specifically, 'the water organisation's preparation of its water services strategy...including its strategic priorities'.

4.4 While section 226 of that Act requires water organisations like Central Districts Water to give effect to the Statement of Expectations, it is the role of the Board of Directors rather than the Shareholders Committee to make the water organisation's decisions. Central Districts Water is an arms-length commercial entity.

4.5 Clause 3.2 of the Constitution for Central Districts Water is explicit about the limited nature of Shareholder input.

The Shareholders are entitled to comment on the Company's draft Water Services Strategy and draft Water Services Annual Budget, and the Company must consider those comments. However, the Shareholders will not have the power to require changes or approve the final Water Services Strategy or final Water Services Annual Budget.

**ITEM 10.1**

- 4.6 Section 227(1) of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 Act specifies the mandatory content for the Statement of Expectations, including the shareholders' expected outcomes from the Board. In addition, Schedule 1 of the Shareholders Agreement provides that the Statement of Expectations will address the Board's relationship with 'Shareholders, the communities of each Shareholder, and customers'.
- 4.7 This relationship is emphasised in the statutory requirement for water organisations like Central Districts Water to adopt a significance and engagement policy. Section 35(3) of the Local Government (Water Services) Act specifies the purpose of this policy, including 'a flexible and locally appropriate approach to engagement which recognises and accommodates the preferences and expectations of its shareholders, its consumers and its shareholders' communities'. Section 37(3)(b) of that Act requires the Shareholders Committee to approve the proposed policy.

**5. Appointees to the Shareholders Committee**

- 5.1 Clause 6.2 of the Shareholders Agreement sets out the relevant requirements for appointing and replacing Shareholders Committee representatives:

Each Shareholder must appoint three members to the Shareholders Committee, of which one must be an elected member of that Shareholder, and one must be a representative for mana whenua. In addition, each Shareholder is to appoint two Alternates, one for its representative for mana whenua and one for the other Shareholder Committee members appointed by it. Each Shareholder's appointed Shareholders Committee Representative and/or Alternates may be replaced from time to time by that Shareholder providing written notice to the Shareholders Committee and the other Shareholders.

- 5.2 Each Council has conducted an Expression of Interest process for its two representatives and will confirm the appointments (including the alternate) at this meeting. Collectively, the intention is to ensure the Committee has the collective skills, knowledge and experience in relation to water services decision-making. (The mana whenua selection process is addressed below, in section 6.)
- 5.3 Given the delegation to the Committee (explained above, section 3.2), it is expected that the representatives will generally make decisions without reference back to the Council which appointed them. As a joint Committee, meetings are subject to the provisions of LGOIMA and will thus typically be open to public scrutiny, including by elected members who are not the Councils' representatives.
- 5.4 The report to the three Councils on adopting the Constitution and Shareholders' Agreement for Central Districts Water considered the question whether Shareholders Committee members should be required to consult with their respective Councils and gain their endorsement before approving the Statement of Expectations. The agreed position was that there would be no specific requirement: this is a matter for the delegation given by each Council to its appointed representatives on the Shareholders Committee (so could be an instruction in that delegation), along with a general expectation that the representatives would keep the Council informed of progress by the Committee. This principle applies to all proposals being considered by the Shareholders Committee.

**6. Appointment of Mana Whenua representatives to the Shareholders Committee**

- 6.1 Clause 6.2 of the Shareholders Agreement sets out the relevant requirements for appointing and replacing Shareholders Committee representatives, including that each Council must appoint a “representative for mana whenua” and an alternate. The collective effect of the provisions addressing the composition of the Shareholders Committee is that there must be three representatives for mana whenua appointed by the Shareholder Councils, and three alternates for those mana whenua representatives.
- 6.2 This provision reflects the legal position (in clause 31(3) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002), that membership of the Shareholders Committee must be determined by the Councils represented on that Committee. However, it does not preclude the three Councils making a collective decision: there is no reference or implication in clause 6.2 of the Shareholders Agreement that the mana whenua representatives are representatives for a particular Council or mana whenua for a particular area, district or rohe.
- 6.3 Nga Tapūwae o Hau, established last year by iwi across the three Council districts to liaise with the three Councils over the establishment of Central Districts Water, has proposed that it is allowed to provide its nominated representatives and alternates as a collective group and that the appointment be confirmed on that basis and that, as with the other representatives of the Councils, they are delegated the power to make decisions in accordance with the Committee’s terms of reference.
- 6.4 The letter from Nga Tapūwae o Hau containing the nominations is included as Attachment 2. The report recommends that this arrangement continues for any replacement iwi representatives, with the Council representatives being delegated the power to confirm such nominations, without reference back to the individual Councils
- 6.5 This approach makes explicit that the accountability of the iwi representatives is to Nga Tapūwae o Hau (and through that Roopū to the iwi and hapū across the area serviced by Central Districts Water) rather than to the Councils. This independence for iwi contributing their perspectives to the Committee’s decision-making reflects a partnership between the Councils and iwi under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 6.6 Discussion at Horowhenua District Council’s meeting on 4 February 2026 queried whether the proposed nominations of iwi representatives as a collective group was inconsistent with the requirements set out in clause 30A(2)(a) in Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. That requires the three Councils to have reached agreement on the number of members each of them would appoint to the Shareholders Committee. That ‘agreement’ is the Shareholders’ Agreement approved by all three Councils in December 2025. As noted above (section 5.1), clause 6.2 provides that ‘Each Shareholder must appoint three members to the Shareholders Committee, of which one must be an elected member of that Shareholder, and one must be a representative for mana whenua...’
- 6.7 Clause 6.2 means that the effect of resolutions by the three Councils is that there will be three iwi representatives (with alternates) on the Committee. The point of the question at Horowhenua’s meeting was not about the total number of iwi representatives: it is whether each Council may legally resolve to appoint the collective nomination by Nga Tapūwae o Hau of three iwi representatives.
- 6.8 As a result, Horowhenua moved an additional resolution to .....That Council notes it will, following conversations with Nga Tapūwae o Hau, need to retrospectively ensure Council has satisfied clause 30A(2)(a), Schedule 7 of the LGA requirements (technical

compliance) and resolve its specific appointee as per the terms of the Shareholding Agreement, further noting that at this time Council is not able to confirm its direct appointment as that relies on further conversations with Nga Tapūwae o Hau.

- 6.9 Accepting the collective nomination of the iwi representatives is a technical non-compliance with the Shareholders' Agreement. This can be remedied when the new version is prepared for when the Central Districts Water Board becomes a signatory.

## 7. Memorandum of Understanding

- 7.1 As noted in the report to Council in December, it is proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be negotiated and entered into between Nga Tapūwae o Hau, the three Councils and Central Districts Water that records the mechanism to make recommendations and any other relevant matters relating to the Shareholders Committee or the relationship between the four parties. This will include any specific expectation relating to the process that Nga Tapūwae o Hau will follow to make their recommendations on the appointment or replacement of Mana whenua representatives.
- 7.2 It is anticipated that the process for the replacement of Mana whenua representatives, over time, would include that the confirmation of the nominations from Nga Tapūwae o Hau would be made by the Council Members on the Shareholders' Committee on behalf of the Shareholding Councils. Recommendation 6 is the mechanism for the Shareholding Councils to formalise this process.
- 7.3 The MoU could also cover matters relating to the relationship between the Central Districts Water Board and the Shareholders Committee, the Shareholding Councils and Nga Tapūwae o Hau.

## 8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The costs of the Shareholders Committee will be shared evenly by the three Councils. These costs will include:
- the remuneration for the Independent Chairperson,
  - the reimbursements to the iwi representatives on the Committee (being an agreed meeting fee plus reimbursement for vehicle travel for representatives traveling more than 30 km to a meeting),
  - the secretarial costs incurred by the Council nominated to administer the Committee (for example its meetings, publications, and responding to LGOIMA queries)
  - any additional advice or reports commissioned by the Committee.

Until 1 July 2027, these costs will be treated as transition costs for establishing Central Districts Water and will be debt funded, for recovery from Central Districts Water.

- 8.2 Each Council will meet the costs of the representatives it individually appoints. This will include any representative who is not an elected member of the Council.
- 8.3 Clause 7.2 of Schedule 1 to the Shareholders' Agreement provides that the Shareholders agree that, at the required or desirable time before 'Day One' (i.e. 1 July 2027), each Shareholder will take all steps necessary, including providing any guarantee (in amounts proportionate to their shareholdings, or otherwise as may be agreed with the Local

Government Funding Agency), to enable the Company to access funding through the Local Government Funding Agency.

## 9. Decision-making process

- 9.1 This report is being considered by all three Shareholding Councils. Prior to its being included in the Council agendas, it has been reviewed by the Project Oversight Group (i.e. the three Mayors and Chief Executives) and the Mana whenua representative.
- 9.2 No further community consultation or engagement is required to make the decisions recommended in this report.

## 10. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson

- 10.1 The Shareholders Committee Terms of Reference sets out that there is to be an independent chairperson, who will be non-voting. It is the role of the Shareholders Committee to make the Independent Chairperson appointment and set their remuneration.
- 10.2 To expedite the Independent Chairperson's appointment, the Project Oversight Group has been running an Expression of Interest process to identify suitable candidates and make a recommendation to the Shareholders Committee. It is anticipated this process will be completed in time for a recommendation on the appointment to be considered at the Committee's inaugural meeting.

## 11. Next steps

- 11.1 The first meeting of the Shareholders Committee will be convened by the Chief Executive of Horowhenua District Council as the Lead Council as noted in the Collaboration Agreement signed by the three Councils on 17 September 2025.
- 11.2 The agenda for this first meeting will include
  - election of the Independent Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (in accordance with clause 25 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002),
  - approval of the remuneration for the Independent Chairperson,
  - approval of the reimbursement to iwi representatives on the Committee,
  - ratification of the skills matrix for the Directors,
  - update on the appointment of the Directors; and
  - determining the total sum available during 2026/27 for remuneration to the Directors.
- 11.3 The appointment of the Board of Directors allows the Board –
  - to be added as a party to the Constitution and the Shareholders' Agreement, and
  - to hold its first meeting, elect a Chair, and authorise their remuneration (in accordance with the overall sum agreed by the Shareholders Committee).

### Attachments:

1. **Roles and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee, and approach to appointments (Attachment 1)** [↓](#)
2. **Nga Tapuwae nominations for Shareholders Committee (29 January 2026)** [↓](#)

**Recommendation 1**

That the Rangitikei District Council receives the report 'Local Water Done Well – Initiating the Shareholders Committee for the joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation known as Central Districts Water.

**Recommendation 2**

That, subject to confirmation by the Horowhenua District and Palmerston North City Councils, the Rangitikei District Council initiates the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water under clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002, having regard to the terms of reference set out in the Shareholders Agreement approved by Council at its meeting on xx December 2025, and determines (in terms of clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002) that the Committee will not be discharged following the triennial local elections.

**Recommendation 3**

That Rangitikei District Council notes the roles and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee, as stated in Schedule 3 of the Shareholders' Agreement and, in terms of clause 30A(2)(d) of Schedule 7 in the Local Government Act 2002, delegates to the Shareholders Committee those roles and responsibilities.

**Recommendation 4**

That Rangitikei District Council appoints with the delegated power to make decisions in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference the following persons as the Council's representatives on the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water:

His Worship the Mayor Andy Watson  
Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson  
Cr Fiona Dalgety (alternate)

**Recommendation 5**

That, subject to confirmation of the Horowhenua District and Palmerston North City Councils, the Rangitikei District Council confirms the appointment of the following persons nominated by Nga Tapūwae o Hau as the iwi representatives on the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water with the delegated power to make decisions in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference:

Tainui Confederation: Hayden Turoa  
Alternate for Hayden Turoa: Tiwana Tibble  
Kurahaupo Confederation: Danielle Harris  
Alternate for Danielle Harris: Di Rump  
Iwi of the greater Rangitikei Region: Marj Heeney  
Alternate for Marj Heeney: Suze Hepi (alternate)

**Recommendation 6**

That, subject to confirmation of the Horowhenua District and Palmerston North City Councils, the Rangitikei District Council delegates to the Council's representatives on the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water the power to confirm any replacement iwi members nominated by Nga Tapūwae o Hau.



**To** Chris Dyhrberg, Executive Director Central Districts Water **22 December 2025**  
**From** Mike Wakefield and Jack Apperley  
**Subject** Role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee, and approach to appointments

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

#### Introduction

1. You have asked for advice in relation to the formation of the Shareholders Committee, the nature of its decision-making role and responsibilities (including the delegations that will need to be made to it), the skills or expertise that would likely be of utility to the Shareholders Committee, and an outline of the approach to its operation. We have addressed each of these matters below.
2. We have also outlined the approach to the appointment of Mana Whenua representatives, based on the terms of the Shareholders Agreement.

#### Formation of the Shareholders Committee, and relevant structural options

3. The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (**LGWSA**) provides little direction in relation to the governance and oversight arrangements that shareholders may adopt for water organisations, or jointly owned water organisations in particular.
4. The lack of direction in the LGWSA could be viewed as providing broad discretion for the Shareholding Councils to determine how they will provide oversight and direction to a water organisation. This could involve several options, including:
  - (a) Appointing a Shareholders Committee as a joint committee under the Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**);
  - (b) Appointing a Shareholders Committee as another type of subordinate decision-making body under the LGA;
  - (c) Establishing a Shareholders Committee as a governance body under the constitution of and the contractual arrangements (Shareholders Agreement) between the Shareholders, and potentially iwi, without reliance on LGA provisions; or
  - (a) Deciding to maintain direct governance and oversight of the water organisation at a Council (and iwi) level, without any subordinate structure in place to co-ordinate decision-making.
5. However, other than where specified,<sup>1</sup> the LGWSA does not displace the LGA. As a result, the Shareholder Councils when exercising any powers or responsibilities under the LGWSA (as shareholders, or as water service providers) will also need to comply with the requirements of

<sup>1</sup> For example, section 40(6) which disapplies sections 57 – 60 of the LGA relating to CCOs.



the LGA (as applicable). In practice, the continued application of the LGA is a constraint that impacts on the options set out above.

6. Without traversing all of the reasons at length, our recommendation has been to establish the Shareholders Committee as a joint committee. This is for the following key reasons:
  - (a) The Shareholder Councils are generally familiar with the structure of, and statutory provisions that govern, a joint committee. In contrast, there are no default rules or requirements for the other type of subordinate decision-making body contemplated by the LGA that is not a joint committee, so these would need to be drafted “from scratch” and agreed to by the Shareholder Councils (through Terms of Agreement, or other establishment documents);
  - (b) LGOIMA will apply to the meetings of, and information held by, the joint committee, which will ensure the Shareholders Committee operates with an appropriate degree of transparency while still allowing for commercially sensitive or other information potentially protected by LGOIMA to be withheld;
  - (c) The use of a joint committee provides for the appointment of other persons or parties to assist decision-making, ie. the appointment of non-council parties, iwi, and others.

**There is a requirement for delegations to be made to the Shareholders Committee**

7. If a subordinate body is established (which we consider makes sense for practical workability reasons, as opposed to retaining governance at a separate Council level), and it is intended that the body has a decision-making as opposed to merely advisory role, that will necessarily require the delegation of relevant responsibilities, duties or powers conferred on shareholders under the LGWSA.
8. The relevant power of delegation is found in the LGA, and is not displaced by the LGWSA.
9. The LGWSA recognises this, with certain provisions noting the need for a delegation<sup>2</sup> and by otherwise preventing a council from delegating its role as “shareholder” or its power of delegation under the LGA (s 11, LGWSA). The LGWSA does not provide any standalone power of delegation to shareholders of a water organisation.
10. What this means is that the Shareholders Committee will need formal delegations from each of the Partner Councils. These delegations will need to be confirmed by each Shareholder at a Council meeting and align with the role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee, as specified in the Shareholders’ Agreement.
11. For completeness, the delegation required will be to the Shareholders Committee, as the subordinate decision-making body, with the appointed members being responsible for voting to

2 See for example, s 350 WS Act, which expressly anticipates delegation by a territorial authority to a water organisation of “any of its functions or powers that relate to the administration or enforcement of a water services bylaw under the WS Act”.





make the decisions required of the Committee. In practice, each member will be voting for their relevant Council or stakeholder, but the decisions made will be on behalf of all Shareholders.

#### **Role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee**

12. The role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee are set out in the Terms of Reference in Schedule 3, clause 2 of the Shareholders' Agreement. For the purposes of this advice, the responsibilities cover:
  - (a) The appointment of Directors, as well as monitoring those Directors and determining the Board skills matrix and appointment policy for any new Directors;
  - (b) Developing a role description for any Independent Chair, and appointing that role;
  - (c) Developing and adopting the statement of expectations on behalf of the Shareholders, and approving the significance and engagement policy developed by the Company;
  - (d) Considering and providing comment on the Water Services Strategy developed by the Company; and
  - (e) Undertaking all other performance monitoring, as well as providing recommendations on various matters to the company.
13. As can be seen from the above, the responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee are broad-ranging and important, particularly in terms of their potential to shape the operations of the water organisation (in particular through the Statement of Expectations).
14. An obvious feature of the responsibilities is that they all relate to water services activities that will be delivered by the new water organisation, as an arms-length commercial entity.

#### **Appointees to the Shareholders Committee**

15. For these reasons it is critical that the Shareholders Committee is established and empowered in a way that will allow it to deliver on its role. This will involve three key features:
  - (a) First, as discussed above, the Shareholder Councils all delegating to the Shareholders Committee the substantive decision-making powers required to fulfil the identified responsibilities, which is anticipated to occur at the time the Shareholders all approve the entering into of the Shareholders Agreement;
  - (b) Second, an understanding, by the Shareholders Committee and its members, of its role as the subordinate body that will have a direct governance relationship with the new Company. This governance role is important, and will need to respect the operational independence of the Board and the shared intentions of the Shareholders for the Company, which is that the Company deliver water services on behalf of the wider community in a way that satisfies not only the Shareholders expectations, but also the relevant provisions of the new legislation and any economic or other regulation that will apply to the Company; and



- (c) Third, informed membership of the Shareholders Committee, that will ideally be well-placed to inform and have oversight of the operations of the Company.
    - (i) While the Board will be required to be independent and bring the requisite skills, knowledge and expertise in relation to water services, finance and other matters (as set out in the Board Skills Matrix at relevant times), it will be important for the members of the Shareholders Committee to be able to deliver on the role and responsibilities of the Shareholders Committee.
    - (ii) In practice, we would expect that members should be appointed by the Councils on the basis that they can provide the collective skills, knowledge and experience in relation to water services decision-making, and community / shareholder aspirations in relation to water services.
    - (iii) This balance of skills will support the Shareholders Committee to be able to provide clear strategic input into the Board's decision-making and activities, while respecting the governance vs operational role of the Shareholders Committee vs the Company.
- 16. In terms of how the Shareholders Committee members will be appointed, this will be governed by the Shareholders' Agreement. However, it is important to note that:
  - (a) For the Shareholders Committee to be a "joint committee", it must comprise members from each of the Shareholder Councils. For this reason, the Shareholders Agreement provides for such appointments, with the decisions on Council members to be made by each Council;
  - (b) The only other direct right of appointment is to "public bodies" under clause 30A of the LGA. As, in our view, iwi are not likely to be considered a "public body", they will not be able to be given an automatic right to appoint members.
- 17. Because of the constraint provided in relation to iwi, a workaround option has been developed, which provides for the appointment of iwi members to a joint committee. In practice, this involves the Shareholder Councils providing for iwi representation by appointing to the joint committee the person(s) put forward by their iwi partners.
- 18. This is clearly anticipated by clause 31(3), which provides that members of a committee need not be members of the local authority if, in the opinion of the local authority, that person has skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the committee. In relying on power, iwi members can be appointed to joint committees in the same way as non-elected members can be appointed to other committees.
- 19. We would generally expect a degree of collaboration between Shareholder Councils and iwi in relation to the nomination and appointment process, with iwi socialising in advance their intended appointments and alternates, and Council's then discussing that with iwi, before confirming the nominated representatives.
- 20. All appointments to the Shareholders Committee, whether Council members or iwi nominees, should be formalised by Council in some way, most likely by resolutions. The process for this should reflect the approach to the appointment of other council committees at the start of the



triennium, with resolutions that endorse the appointed members. In the case of iwi nominees, we would generally expect to see this confirmed by a simple resolution by the Shareholder Councils.

#### **Appointment of Mana Whenua representatives**

21. The Shareholders Agreement sets out the relevant requirements for appointing and replacing Shareholders Committee representatives, including (relevantly) that each Council must appoint an elected member to the Committee and a “representative for mana whenua”.<sup>3</sup> In addition to the representative for mana whenua, an alternate is to be appointed “for its representative for mana whenua”.
22. The collective effect of the provisions addressing the composition of the Shareholders Committee is that there must be three representatives for mana whenua appointed by the Shareholder Councils, and three alternates for those mana whenua representatives.
23. Although clause 6.2 contemplates that the representatives appointed by each Shareholder Council may be replaced by the relevant Shareholder Council at any time, by way of written notice, the approach to appointment can, in practice, be considered across the Shareholder Councils. This could involve mana whenua agreeing, between themselves, who their three representatives and alternates will be, and nominating them for approval by the Shareholders (which, once confirmed, will be the effective appointment anticipated by clause 6.2).
24. We note that the representatives are to be appointed “for mana whenua”, with no reference (implicit or otherwise) that they are to be representatives for a Shareholder Council or mana whenua within any particular area, district or rohe. It follows that the key requirement is that mana whenua representatives can speak for mana whenua on any issue, which diminishes the relevance of separate Council appointments.
25. We understand that mana whenua have been discussing how they will approach their governance role in relation to Central Districts Water, and have coalesced into a group, Nga Tapuwae o Hau. Nga Tapuwae has proposed to the Shareholder Councils that it be allowed to provide its nominated representatives and alternates as a collective group to the Shareholder Councils, and that the appointment be confirmed on that basis.
26. Based on the intention that the mana whenua representatives are to speak *for* mana whenua, and that they are only required to be appointed by the Shareholder Councils to ensure compliance with the requirements of the LGA relating to joint committees, we do not see any reason why the collective appointment process would not be an acceptable or valid option, with Council resolutions made on that basis.
27. In the event that any mana whenua representative or alternate need to be considered for removal and replacement, then the Shareholder Councils would necessarily need to engage with Nga Tapuwae, as any replacement would need to be nominated by Nga Tapuwae and confirmed in the same manner as outlined above.

3 Clause 6.2.

**Conduct of business by the Shareholders Committee**

28. In terms of the operation of the Shareholders Committee, it will generally operate as per council committees, with due process requirements that are directed by the LGA and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (**LGOIMA**).
29. This will involve, the preparation and notification of agendas and reports, and public (by default) meetings, albeit with the potential to discuss matters in a public excluded forum where grounds apply to justify that decision.
30. Decision-making by the Shareholders Committee will be as governed in the Shareholders' Agreement, but will generally be by majority voting of the Committee members present and voting.
31. In terms of how the members of the Shareholders Committee can present views on behalf of their Shareholder Council, or iwi (as the case may be), we expect that these issues will be determined by each Shareholder Council separately. However, it would undermine the workability of the Shareholder Committee if members were unable to participate without first reporting and receiving express permission from their Council. This would add potentially undesirable delays to decision-making and ultimately restrict the potential for the Shareholder Committee to make decisions (ie. it may lead to an inability to decide, due to the restrictive delegations / permissions provided by separate Councils).
32. In practice, we would generally expect that the more significant issues or decisions will be the subject of some advance discussions with the full Shareholder Councils, but that for the lesser significant, the members of the Shareholders Committee should be empowered and trusted to fulfil their responsibilities, and report back to their Councils at regular intervals.



29 January 2026

Central Districts Water

Attention: Chris Dhyberg

Tena koe

**RE: Shareholder Committee Appointments-Central Districts Water**

On behalf of Nga Tapūwae o Hau, please receive our confirmed iwi representative nominations to the Shareholders Committee for Central Districts Water:

- Kurahaupo Confederation: Danielle Harris
  - Alternate for Danielle Harris: Di Rump
- Tainui Confederation: Hayden Turoa
  - Alternate for Hayden Turoa: Tiwana Tibble
- Iwi of the greater Rangitikei Region: Marj Heeney
  - Alternate for Marj Heeney: Suzi Hepi

Ngā mihi



Danielle Harris O.N.Z.M,LLB  
Nga Tapūwae o Hau Coordinator

## 11 Reports for Information

### 11.1 Project Updates Report - January 2026

**Author:** Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council staff.

#### 2. Key Highlights from Current Projects

##### Wastewater Projects

#### 3. Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation (Project Manager – Steve Carne)

- 3.1 At a workshop in late September 2025 the Project Team refined the shortlist options down to the following. The 100% Land Disposal options (Options 1 and 2) were eliminated from the process due to affordability considerations.
- Option 3 - Combined discharge to land and river. - This is still ~\$40M more expensive than all other remaining options.
  - Option 4 - 100% Discharge to river – standards as per the draft Wastewater Discharge standards (moderate dilution environment).
  - Option 5 - 100% Discharge to river – discharge requirements as per the Horizon One Plan (i.e. the treatment assumptions in the long list options report).
  - Option 6 – Option 4 with an I/I reduction program.
  - Option 7 – a full new mechanical plant not requiring the existing oxidation ponds for treatment capability.
- 3.2 Options 4, 5, 6 and 7 all have similar capex estimates of just under \$50m. These are likely to be refined downwards given recent sampling of septage at the inlet of the Marton plant has confirmed that BOD loadings are significantly less than assumed from sampling done previously.
- 3.3 A Design Report on each of these Options has been presented to the project team in August and has been refined through an iterative process of value engineering.
- 3.4 The publication of the new Wastewater Discharge Standards by regulator Taumata Arowai was carried out in December. Remaining options are being refined incorporating the contents of the Regulations contained in these Standards.
- 3.5 The Regulations require RDC to undertake a risk assessment of algal growth in the river at the Bulls discharge site. This review is now underway and will be completed by the end of April.
- 3.6 Updated capital costs for the project are likely to be available by early June.
- 3.7 Based on the newly revised project program, identification of a preferred option is programmed for the end of June, to be ratified at the Council's meeting in July.

- 3.8 Consent lodgement is now targeted for the end of October/early November.
- 3.9 At a meeting with Horizons Regional Council (HRC) on 10/12/25 it was identified and acknowledged by HRC that the time limit of 30/06/26 for consent lodgement would need to be extended to meet the requirements of the new Regulations. At the next meeting with HRC now planned for February 9, they will be alerted to the new program and its planned consent lodgement date of early November.
- 3.10 Some additional investigative works are now also underway (including some monitoring bores to assess likely current pond leakage).

**4. Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 4.1 The project is in a holding pattern awaiting approval to proceed with track pricing and hard stand construction, needed to enable the pipe materials to be delivered. Work on designing the large dam that will store the treated wastewater, up to Building Consent status, continues with WSP and external experts.
- 4.2 A pre-hearing meeting with all three submitters to the new Ratana consent was held at Horizons Regional Council. A full hearing date has still not been set.
- 4.3 Investigation of the engineering feasibility of an alternative arrangement involving long distance pumping of Ratana effluent to the new Whanganui District Council / Kaitoke Prison wastewater connection has been completed but has now been parked given WDC is forming its own WSCCO.
- 4.4 The estimated cost of this alternative solution is \$4.6M which is approximately 60% of the estimate of the previously adopted solution.
- 4.5 A second alternative of reticulating Koitiata and receiving flows at Koitiata from Ratana and discharging these flows via a small ocean outfall at Koitiata is currently being investigated given provisions in the new Wastewater Regulations may make such new outfalls easier to consent.

**5. Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects (Project Manager - Steve Carne)**

- 5.1 To improve current plant operations and increase consent compliance outcomes, an investigation into possible short term operational improvements and longer-term capital works improvements (given new requirements in the Taumata Arowai Wastewater Discharge Standards) has been undertaken and reported on to Council.
- 5.2 A range of low-cost operational improvement opportunities have been identified for immediate implementation.
- 5.3 An assessment of plant infrastructure needs has been completed cognisant of the Wastewater Discharge Standards requirements. It has identified some relatively minor capital works improvements, cost estimates for which are currently being prepared.
- 5.4 Outcomes relating to both 5.2 and 5.3 above will be greatly improved if the extensive rainfall affected inflow and infiltration (I/I) in the network is reduced.
- 5.5 A strategy for network I/I reduction has been developed and investigative field work by consultants Taonga Water Advisory started in October with a major house-to-house and manhole inspection program completed in the last week of January.

**ITEM 11.1**

- 5.6 These works have identified a range of improper stormwater connections to the wastewater network which are the responsibility of the property owner to resolve. These repairs are scheduled for the coming months and the associated communications material for the community will need to be well planned and implemented for the success of this works program.
- 5.7 If successfully completed, these works should reduce wet weather flow at the wastewater treatment plant by 10-15%. This will significantly improve operational performance of the plant.
- 5.8 Other CCTV inspection works of sewers to identify 'easy to fix' sources of inflow and infiltration will be carried out in April-June when wetter conditions will make likely defects more visible.
- 5.9 At the conclusion of these works, an I/I Reduction Strategy will be developed.
- 5.10 At this point, the report submitted and discussed in 5.1 above will be enhanced to develop a full Improvement Works Plan. This will have a projected cashflow plan that will form part of the LTP budgeting process.

**Water Projects****6. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Gwilym van Hoffen)**

- 6.1 Testing of the pilot nanofiltration test plant at the Reservoir Bore site is now complete and the GFS test rig was demobilised from the reservoir site in mid-December. We have collected good data on the performance of the proposed pre-treatment rapid biological sand filter (RBDF), which will remove iron, manganese and ammonia from the bore water, and the direct nano-filtration (dNF) membrane unit, which will remove hardness (CaCO<sub>3</sub>).
- 6.2 A full analysis of the test results and findings of the trial investigations is being prepared by WSP engineers, as independent process engineers. A report summarizing the trial findings, updated cost estimates, and recommendations for next steps in the design process is expected towards the end of January.
- 6.3 The WSP report will enable RDC to objectively assess the efficacy and lifecycle costings of the proposed GFS treatment system, including further investigating the wash water disposal options, and reviewing the overall costs of producing water using the proposed GFS process (capital, operational, maintenance, and lifecycle renewal costs).
- 6.4 RDC staff are also investigating several short-medium term enhancements to improve the quality of Marton's drinking water in the meantime, whilst the design process is proceeding.
- 6.5 Staff are keeping the Marton community up to date with progress. Ongoing updates are being published to the council website and social media pages.

**Community Facilities****7. Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 7.1 Developed designs for the EOC have been completed and the Architects have proceeded onto detailed design works. These designs are expected to be completed by March 2026.
- 7.2 Resource consent application for the EOC has been lodged.



- 7.3 Maycroft is working closely with Team Architects with the view of being able to present a construction cost estimate as soon as the detail designs are completed.

**Marton offices:**

- 7.4 Maycroft finalised the soil contamination management strategy for the site. The soil from the existing car park area at the back of the site shall be removed off-site and replaced with contaminated soil excavated from the central concrete area.
- 7.5 Concept floor plans were approved in Dec 2025, and Maycroft have moved onto the preliminary design development works. These are expected to be completed by March 2026 along with a confirmation of the construction cost estimate.

**8. Taihape Grandstand (Community Led Project; Staff support – Gaylene Prince)**

- 8.1 At the 27 November 2025 Council meeting it was resolved that:
  - 8.1.1 Taihape Grandstand project be a Community Led, Council Owned Facilities upgrade, under the guidance of the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC).
  - 8.1.2 That the TGRC determine how the remaining Council funds are allocated toward refurbishment and restoration of the Grandstand, and that Council makes payments upon TGRC authorisation, subject to confirmation of final approval of the TGRC agreement which includes roles, responsibilities and procurement and payment processes.
  - 8.1.3 That Council is the final funder.
- 8.2 TGRC held a meeting in January and discussed scope options for the ground floor, compliance considerations, and potential funding opportunities.
- 8.3 Work has commenced on preparing an agreement between Council and TGRC for roles, responsibilities, and processes.
- 8.4 A further meeting is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**9. Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment (TBU Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 9.1 Maycroft completed the Preliminary designs in November 2025. However, since the construction budget was exceeded the design review has been put on hold until such time as Maycroft can make the necessary changes through Value Engineering solutions to bring the cost back within budget. A further meeting is scheduled with Maycroft and the Quantity Surveyor (QS) in early February week to review progress.
- 9.2 The heating system is the primary cause of the cost increase with the rest coming from stage and lighting support requests from the community.

**10. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation (TBU Project Manager – Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 10.1 A Request for Information (RFI) has been raised on the Consent application which is expected to be dealt with and closed off in early February, and the consent expected to be issued by mid-February 2026.
- 10.2 Staff engaged a QS to prepare a cost estimate for the work. The current cost estimate for the construction is \$4.9 million. The total project cost that includes all activities since the failure of the roof as well as items such as professional fees, site investigations,

**ITEM 11.1**

possible power supply upgrades, consents and on-site remedial works is estimated at \$6 million.

- 10.3 Tender submissions closed on Friday, 30 Jan 2026 with two compliant responses being received. The Tender Evaluation Team will complete their evaluations by early February with a final moderation session planned for mid-February 2026. A recommendation report is expected to be presented to Council at the 25 February Council meeting.

**11. Financial Implications**

- 11.1 The repair of the Marton Pool is an unexpected capital cost to RDC and is not currently included in the current LTP budgets. RDC will receive external funding to cover some of the costs of this project, but there is a funding shortfall that will have to be resolved before construction can start. Two funding applications have been lodged, one to Lotteries Community Facilities and one to New Zealand Community Trust, each for approximately \$260K.

**12. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 12.1 No impacts on strategic risks

**13. Strategic Alignment**

- 13.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

**14. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 14.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

**15. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 15.1 There is no climate change impact.

**16. Statutory Implications**

- 16.1 There are no statutory implications.

**Recommendation**

That the report Project Updates Report – January 2026 be received.

## 11.2 Finance Snapshot - December 2025

**Author:** Warren Pedley, Manager Finance and Partnerships

**Authoriser:** Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager - Corporate Services

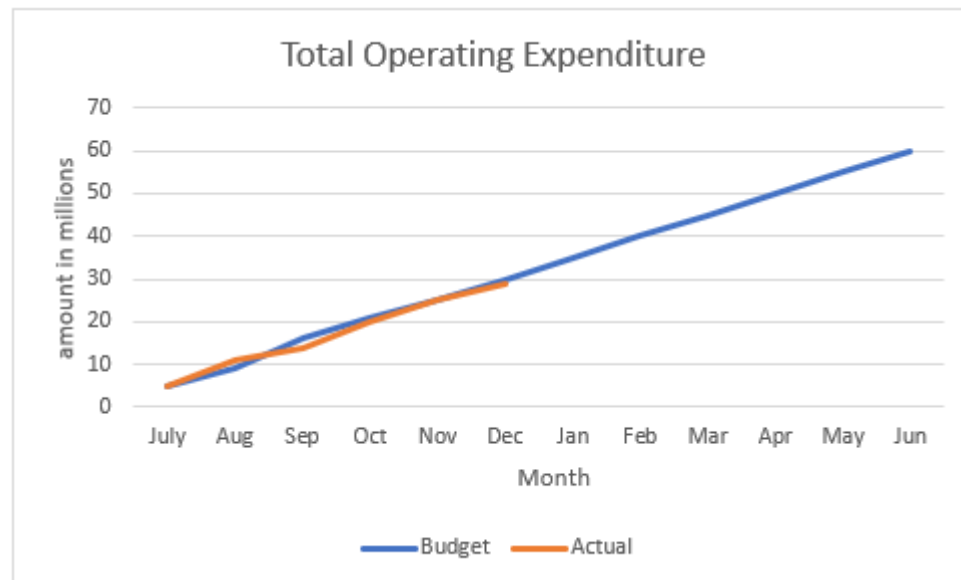
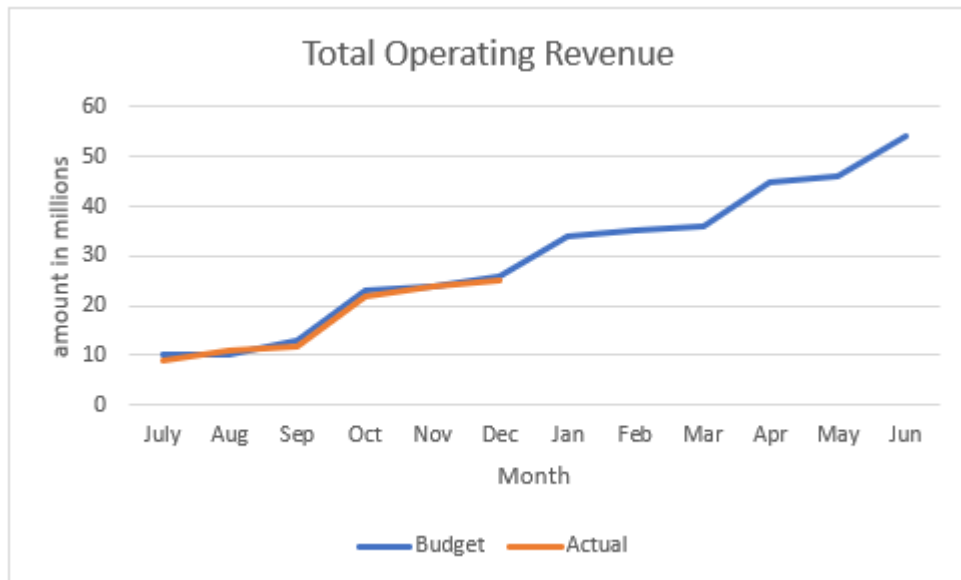
### 1. Reason for Report

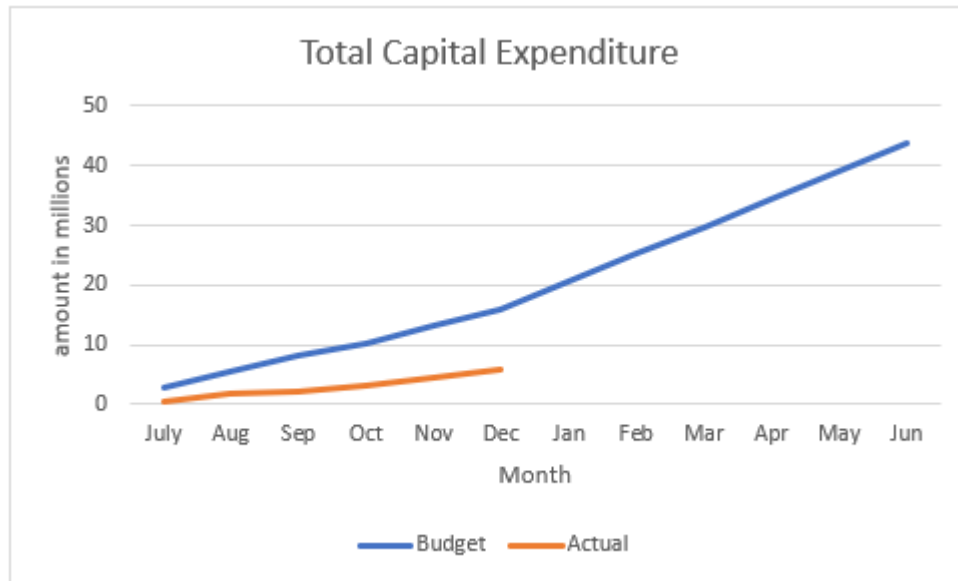
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the management accounts and related commentary as at 31 December 2025, for both the operational and capital activities against the 2025/26 Annual Plan.
- 1.2 Typically, this report would be presented to the Finance/Performance Committee. However, as the next meeting is not until early March, and this is Council's six-monthly report, a decision has been made to present this report to Council to ensure the timely transfer of information.

### 2. Whole of Council Financial Performance

- 2.1 The attached Whole of Council Performance Report highlights budget variances that are best considered 'at Group level' in the individual accompanying Group Financial Summary Reports.
- 2.2 As at 31 December 2025, the overall surplus is \$422k ahead of the expected budget for the same period. Total Operating Revenue is under budget by \$531k, this is offset by overall operating expenditure, which is also under budget by \$952k.
- 2.3 These results are largely in line with budget expectations and there are only two significant matters to highlight at the half year concerning personnel costs and capital spend.
- 2.4 As a result of the higher than planned use of overtime and allowances, particularly in Water, personnel costs are over marginally over budget at the half year. However, this is prior to an adjustment done in January 2026, recognising the use of council resources on the Local Water Done Well CCO transition. As these costs are to be reimbursed in the future, the subsequent adjustment brings personnel cost back into line with budget.
- 2.5 As highlighted in prior months, capital spend in 3 Waters and Roading remains well below budget at the half year, however this is forecast to increase considerably in the second half of the year.
- 2.6 The following trend line graphs for Operational Revenue, Operational Expenditure and Capital Expenditure.

ITEM 11.2





The attached Group Financial Summary Reports provide commentary on operational budget variances typically in excess of \$100k. Council will be able to see where the revenue and costs differ to budget through the activity detail.

### 3. Capital Expenditure

- 3.1 The attached summary shows capital budget variances split by cost centre with the larger budgets (>\$500k) being shown separately. The total value of the capital programme is \$43.2M. This note now includes council-approved carry forwards. YTD \$5.8M of expenditure has occurred reflecting 13.5% of the annual programme.
- 3.2 Commentary regarding the majority of these capital budgets is provided in the *Projects Update Report* that is reviewed at Council Meetings and previously at Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings.
- 3.3 Following the implementation of the business partnership programme between Finance, the Budget Managers, and Group Managers, ongoing conversations are held to update progress and for managers to identify any changes in timing or completion of the capital programmes of work. There were a number of capital programmes transferred across to the 2025/26 Annual Plan to reflect a change in the timing of capital projects. This was balanced by moving an equivalent value of the capital programme across to 2026/27.
- 3.4 As officers identify any permanent delays in capital projects, or any changes to the timing of projects, Council will be advised, and the programme of work will be adjusted accordingly.

**Investments**

3.5 Council's current liquidity position as at 31 December 2025 is as follows:

**3.5.1 Current Assets**

• Bank/Deposits	\$ 12.4m
• Receivables	\$0.7m
• Prepayments	\$1.1m
• <b>Total</b>	<b>\$14.2m</b>

**3.5.2 Current Liabilities**

• Payables	\$ 1.2m
------------	---------

**Net Current Treasury Position** **\$ 13.0m**

**4. Borrowing**

The following table shows the Council's external debt at \$54m (unchanged since 30 June 2025) for the period ended 31 December 2025. It also shows the interest rate along with the annual cost of interest, (noting that the annual cost is an estimate based on the current interest rate applicable to the short-term commercial papers council has borrowed against and this also excludes the impact of hedging).

**Total External Debt**

Amount Borrowed	Settled Date	Maturity Date	Fixed Rate of Interest	Annual Interest Cost
\$ 3m	10/05/2019	15/04/2029	3.12%	\$ 94k
\$ 5m	8/02/2022	14/04/2033	3.68%	\$184k
\$11m	14/04/2022	15/04/2027	4.17%	\$459k
\$ 5m	27/04/2023	15/05/2028	5.10%	\$255k
\$ 7m	12/06/2023	15/05/2028	5.30%	\$371k
\$ 9m	15/04/2024	15/04/2026	5.62%	\$506k
\$ 4m	4/06/2024	20/04/2029	5.55%	\$222k
\$ 5m	22/10/2025	19/02/2026	2.71%	\$136k
\$ 5m	27/11/2025	27/02/2026	2.61%	\$131k
<b>\$54m</b>				<b>\$2.36m</b>

4.1 Council's LTP reflected that debt is budgeted to remain within its Debt Ceiling and Debt Limit throughout the term of the LTP (the Debt Ceiling is Council's maximum debt it can access from LGFA; less a self-imposed amount of at least \$4m to \$5m lower than the Debt Ceiling, to allow for unforeseen costs).

4.2 Council's amendment of the capital projects along with the unbudgeted repairs to the swimming pool have an impact unknown at the time of the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

External debt for 2026 has been budgeted to end the year at \$80m with the debt limit being \$112m.

The above table also shows the annual cost of interest expense anticipated to be \$2.35m per annum (approx. \$196.6k per month), providing a current weighted average cost of funds of 4.35%. However, these costs are partially offset by the borrowed money earning interest income before it is used. Year to date (31 December 2025) this interest income amounted to \$169k.

- 4.3 The following table discloses Council's debt by activity. Council borrows to fund capital expenditure in accordance with the Revenue and Financing Policy.

**Total Loans By Activity**

Activity	Internal Loans as at 30/06/2025 \$000	External loans allocated as at 31/01/2026 \$000	Total Loans as at 31/12/2025 \$000
<b>Roading and Footpaths</b>	2,755	11,500	14,255
<b>Water Supplies</b>			
District Urban	13,540	5,000	18,540
<b>Total for Water Supplies</b>	13,540	5,000	18,540
<b>Wastewater/ Sewerage Disposal</b>	411	24,300	24,711
<b>Stormwater Drainage</b>	1,537	400	1,937
<b>Community and Leisure Assets</b>			
Real Estate	307		307
Swim Centres	641		641
Civil defence	8		8
Community Housing	161		161
Public Toilets	641		641
Cemeteries	272		272
Libraries	509		509
Halls	1,952	5,580	7,532
Domains	25	6,500	6,525
<b>Total Community &amp; Leisure Assets</b>	4,516	12,080	16,596
<b>Waste Transfer Stations</b>	49	320	369
<b>Other Activities</b>			
Community Leadership			-
Environment & Regulatory Services			-
Community Wellbeing			-
Forestry	4		4
Business Units	8	400	408
<b>Total other activities</b>	12	400	412
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,880</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>76,880</b>

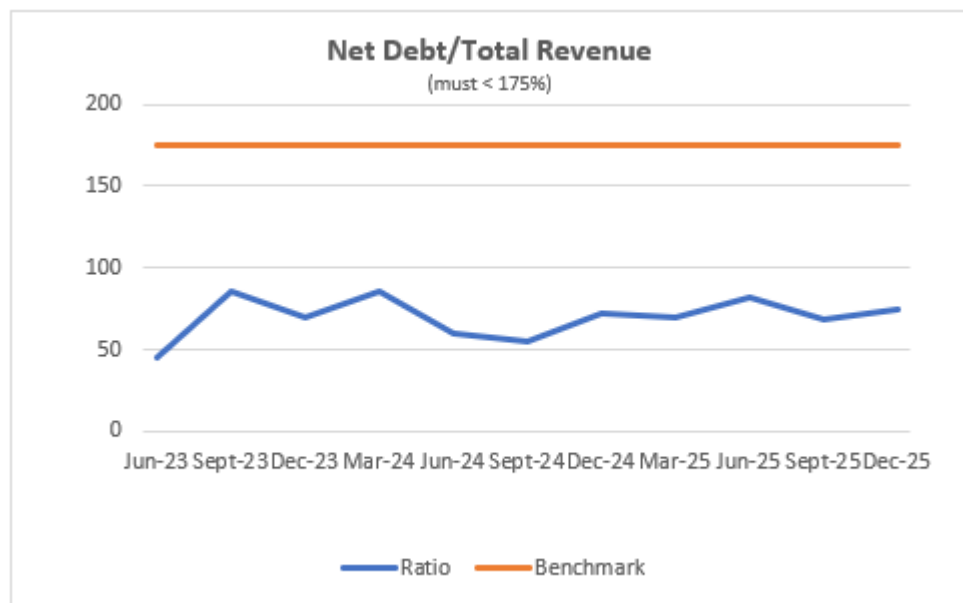
- 4.4 Internal borrowing has occurred over many years where surplus cash is used to fund these activities before resorting to borrowing externally. In essence Council's treasury function acts as an internal bank. The interest charged to the activities, becomes income to the Treasury, offsetting the external charge. This means that overall Council only discloses the external borrowing costs in the Comprehensive Revenue and Expenditure Statement.

## 5. Borrowing Ratios

5.1 Council's Long-Term Plan 2024-34 (pages 152 and 153) includes two Liquidity Ratio Benchmarks set by the LGFA. Incorporating the figures above, Council's YTD performance in relation to these benchmarks is as follows (note these ratios are currently included in a more detailed report that is provided to each Risk and Assurance Committee).

5.2 Net Debt/Total Revenue must not exceed 175%:

• Debt	\$54.0m
• Bank	\$12.4m
• Corporate Bonds	\$1.2m
• Notional Net Debt	\$40.4m
• YE Revenue	\$56.0m
<b>Net Debt/Total Revenue</b>	<b>72%</b>

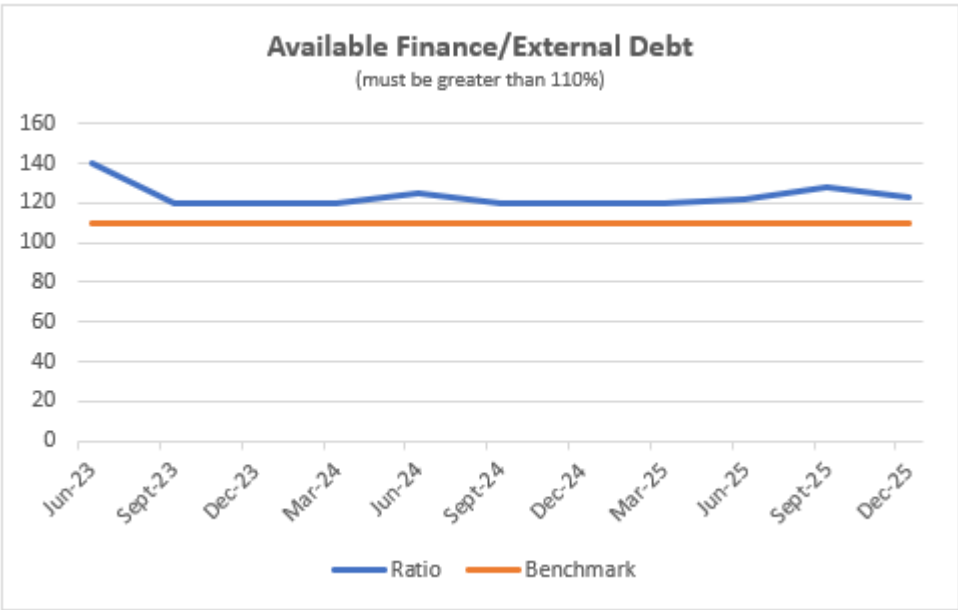




5.3 External debt plus committed facilities plus Liquid Assets (available finance) divided by external debt must be greater than 110%:

- External Debt \$54.0m
- Bank/Deposits \$ 12.4m
- Available Finance \$66.4m

**Available Finance divided by External Debt 123%**



Note: Council’s 2023/24 Annual Report includes similar trend analyses for the past 5 year-ends (Page 101).

## 5.4 Sustainability

Sustainability**Balance Budget Ratio** **85%**

Operating Revenue YTD \$25.0m

Operating Expenditure YTD \$29.5m

This a Prudential Benchmark reported under the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2019. Operating Revenue should be equal or more (i.e. over 100%) to meet this benchmark. Operating revenue is described above. Operating expenditure includes depreciation and excludes losses on revaluations, increases in landfill after care provisions and loss on derivatives if applicable.

**Net Debt to projected revenue (LGFA covenant)** **75%**

Total net borrowing \$42m

Total projected operating revenue \$56m

This is also a prudential benchmark set in our Treasury Policy and also a LGFA Covenant maximum of 175%. Net debt is defined as external borrowing less cash in the bank.

**Net Interest to rates revenue (LGFA covenant)** **5.7%**

Net Interest YTD \$ 1.0m

Rates Revenue \$ 17.6m

This is also a prudential benchmark set in our Treasury Policy. Our set limit is 25% of rates revenue. Net interest is Interest paid less interest received.

**Interest to operating revenue (LGFA covenant)** **4.0%**

Net Interest \$ 1.0m

Operating revenue \$25.0m

This is also a prudential benchmark set in our Treasury Policy. Our set limit is 20% of operating revenue.

**Liquidity benchmark (LGFA covenant)** **123%**

External Debt plus cash \$66.3m

External debt \$54.0m

This is also a prudential benchmark set in our Treasury Policy. Our set limit is greater than 110%. This benchmark is calculated by dividing external debt plus cash by external debt.

**Attachments:**

1. Finance Snapshot - December 2025 [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the Finance Snapshot - December 2025 Report be received by Council.

ITEM 11.2  
ATTACHMENT 1

Whole of Council

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(25,014)</b>	<b>(25,544)</b>	<b>(531)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>(56,285)</b>
Subsidies and Grants	(4,816)	(5,194)	(378)	-7%	(15,145)
Other Revenue	(2,310)	(2,534)	(225)	-9%	(5,055)
Finance Revenue	(169)	(253)	(84)	-33%	(459)
Gains	(47)	0	47	100%	(53)
Rates	(17,672)	(17,563)	109	1%	(35,573)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>29,497</b>	<b>30,450</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>61,154</b>
Other Expenses	12,204	12,436	232	2%	25,279
Personnel Costs	6,395	6,444	49	1%	12,728
Finance Costs	1,184	1,549	365	24%	3,100
Depreciation	9,705	10,020	315	3%	20,048
Losses	9	0	(9)	-100%	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,484</b>	<b>4,905</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4,870</b>

**Variances > \$100k: Comment**

Commentary provided in the following Group Summaries.

## Corporate Services and Support

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(466)</b>	<b>(357)</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>(691)</b>
Other Revenue	(81)	(7)	73	988%	(15)
Finance Revenue	(169)	(253)	(84)	-33%	(459)
Gains	(46)	0	46	100%	(53)
Rates	(5,656)	(5,582)	74	1%	(11,135)
Rate Apportionment	5,486	5,486	(0)	0%	10,972
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>(390)</b>	<b>(152)</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>-157%</b>	<b>(303)</b>
Other Expenses	1,280	1,762	482	27%	3,525
Personnel Costs	4,673	4,946	273	6%	9,766
Finance Costs	(410)	(182)	227	125%	(365)
Depreciation	505	372	(133)	-36%	744
Overhead Allocation	(6,448)	(7,048)	(601)	-9%	(13,973)
Losses	9	0	(9)	-100%	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(856)</b>	<b>(508)</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>(994)</b>

## Variances &gt; \$100k: Comment

- Other Expenses – under budget, reflecting timing differences in planned expenditure for both information services licence fees and contractor costs
- Personnel Costs – under budget, reflecting open vacancies yet to be filled and budget for some positions being paid directly from other council activities instead of through support overheads, (notably 3 Waters and Regulatory Services), with no impact at a total council level
- Finance Costs – under budget reflecting underspends in the capital programme reducing the requirement for borrowed funds along with more favourable interest rates than planned.
- Depreciation is over budget as it is offset by favourable budget variances across other council activities (historic fleet purchases are still showing against the fleet cost centre)
- Overhead allocation, under budget reflecting the lower than planned operational costs to date as mentioned above which get reallocated across the various council activities below

Community

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(3,339)</b>	<b>(3,503)</b>	<b>(163)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>(9,412)</b>
Subsidies and Grants	(463)	(530)	(67)	-13%	(3,460)
Other Revenue	(345)	(442)	(97)	-22%	(891)
Finance Revenue	0	0	0	0%	0
Gains	(1)	0	1	100%	0
Rate Apportionment	(2,531)	(2,531)	(0)	-0%	(5,061)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>4,364</b>	<b>4,201</b>	<b>(162)</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>8,442</b>
Other Expenses	1,583	1,590	7	0%	3,240
Personnel Costs	61	62	1	1%	122
Finance Costs	336	351	15	4%	702
Depreciation	1,262	1,178	(84)	-7%	2,358
Overhead Allocation	1,121	1,020	(101)	-10%	2,021
Losses	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>(326)</b>	<b>-47%</b>	<b>(970)</b>

Variances > \$100k: Comment

- Overhead allocation, over budget reflecting higher than planned personnel costs transferred from Corporate Support

Community Leadership

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(1,419)</b>	<b>(1,432)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>(2,867)</b>
Other Revenue	(1)	(14)	(13)	-93%	(32)
Rates	(34)	(34)	0	1%	(68)
Rate Apportionment	(1,384)	(1,384)	0	0%	(2,768)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2,869</b>
Other Expenses	593	612	18	3%	1,224
Depreciation	0	0	0	0%	0
Overhead Allocation	700	830	130	16%	1,645
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(126)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1398%</b>	<b>2</b>

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Variances > \$100k: Comment

- Overhead allocation is under budget reflecting the lower than planned operational costs to date.

Regulatory Services

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(1,844)</b>	<b>(2,006)</b>	<b>(162)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>(3,971)</b>
Other Revenue	(1,032)	(1,193)	(162)	-14%	(2,346)
Rate Apportionment	(813)	(813)	0	0%	(1,625)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3,965</b>
Other Expenses	217	334	117	35%	668
Personnel Costs	874	824	(50)	-6%	1,627
Depreciation	9	35	26	74%	71
Overhead Allocation	740	805	65	8%	1,598
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>-49%</b>	<b>(7)</b>

Variances > \$100k: Comment

Other Revenue is under budget with consent fee revenue being lower than planned to date.

Other Expenses is under budget reflecting timing differences in planned expenditure for both licence fees and contractor costs



**Roading and Footpaths**

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(9,623)</b>	<b>(9,941)</b>	<b>(318)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>(22,235)</b>
Subsidies and Grants	(4,195)	(4,546)	(351)	-8%	(11,442)
Other Revenue	(69)	(89)	(20)	-22%	(179)
Rates	(5,359)	(5,307)	52	1%	(10,613)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>12,988</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>26,889</b>
Other Expenses	4,845	4,550	(295)	-6%	9,442
Personnel Costs	(0)	0	0	100%	0
Finance Costs	294	279	(14)	-5%	559
Depreciation	5,757	6,011	254	4%	12,027
Overhead Allocation	2,092	2,451	359	15%	4,860
Losses	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>(14)</b>	<b>-0%</b>	<b>4,654</b>

**Variances > \$100k: Comment**

- Subsidies and Grants, under budget which is principally a timing issue caused by the straight-line profiling of the Roothing programme plan for budgeting purposes versus the actual completion of roading works. This is offset by an underspend in other expenses (where roading operational spend resides) and the roading capex spend to date.
- Other Expenses is over budget reflecting timing differences in planned expenditure.
- Depreciation- under budget due to the revaluation of roading assets being lower than planned which results in a lower level of depreciation
- Overhead allocation, under budget reflecting the lower than planned operational costs to date.

Rubbish and Recycling

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(1,499)</b>	<b>(1,639)</b>	<b>(141)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>(3,299)</b>
Subsidies and Grants	(156)	(117)	39	34%	(240)
Other Revenue	(517)	(713)	(196)	-27%	(1,440)
Rates	(726)	(711)	16	2%	(1,421)
Rate Apportionment	(99)	(99)	0	0%	(199)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3,367</b>
Other Expenses	1,115	1,210	95	8%	2,421
Finance Costs	8	1	(6)	-508%	2
Depreciation	44	41	(3)	-8%	81
Overhead Allocation	404	435	31	7%	862
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>68</b>

Variances > \$100k: Comment

- Other Revenue is under budget with Waste Transfer revenues being lower than planned to date. This is offset by other expenses being lower than planned reflecting the cost to council for disposal also being lower than planned. In addition December waste transfer charges were not received in time for the billing cut-off and will be caught up in January

**Parks and Reserves**

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(715)</b>	<b>(718)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>-0%</b>	<b>(1,417)</b>
Subsidies and Grants	(2)	(1)	1	62%	(3)
Other Revenue	(54)	(58)	(4)	-7%	(95)
Rate Apportionment	(660)	(660)	(0)	-0%	(1,319)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>1,250</b>
Other Expenses	169	212	44	21%	425
Finance Costs	6	5	(1)	-24%	9
Depreciation	13	97	84	86%	194
Overhead Allocation	310	314	5	2%	622
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(218)</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>142%</b>	<b>(167)</b>

**Variances > \$100k: Comment**

Nil

**Water, Sewerage & Stormwater**

Activity Report For the Period Ending 31 December 2025	YTD Actuals	YTD Budgets	YTD Variance	YTD Percentage Variance	2025/2026 Annual Plan
	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(6,107)</b>	<b>(5,948)</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>(12,393)</b>
Other Revenue	(211)	(18)	193	1060%	(58)
Finance Revenue	0	0	0	0%	0
Rates	(5,896)	(5,930)	(34)	-1%	(12,336)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>7,334</b>	<b>7,352</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>14,676</b>
Other Expenses	2,401	2,166	(235)	-11%	4,333
Personnel Costs	787	613	(175)	-28%	1,213
Finance Costs	951	1,096	145	13%	2,192
Depreciation	2,114	2,286	172	8%	4,573
Overhead Allocation	1,081	1,193	111	9%	2,364
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>2,283</b>

**Variances > \$100k: Comment**

- Other Revenue is over budget as rent has been received on the land bought for Marton to Bulls waste water project. Rent received covers the previous year and year to date.
- Other Expenses is over budget reflecting timing differences in planned expenditure
- Personnel Cost is over budget due to overtime and allowances paid, exceeding the savings from current vacancies. This is largely off set by savings in Corporate Services and Support for other water support overhead.
- Finance Costs – under budget reflecting underspends in the capital programme reducing the requirement for borrowed funds along with more favourable interest rates than planned
- Depreciation is under budget due to the revaluation of water assets being lower than planned which results in a lower level of depreciation
- Overhead allocation, under budget reflecting the lower than planned operational costs to date as mentioned above which get reallocated across the various council activities below

**Rangitikei District Council\***  
**Capital Activity**  
**For Period ending 31 December 2025**

Account	2025/26 YTD Actuals December	2025/26 YTD Budgets December	2025/26 YTD Percentage Variance December	2025/2026 Annual Plan
<b>Corporate Services and Support</b>	<b>768,206</b>	<b>1,041,306</b>	<b>51.17%</b>	<b>2,260,739</b>
Information Services	349,333	955,008	75.55%	1,910,000
<b>Community</b>	<b>819,704</b>	<b>1,770,324</b>	<b>37.00%</b>	<b>11,393,574</b>
Domains	111,075	495,606	77.59%	1,032,809
4410170630. Taihape Grandstand	33,664	340,104	90.10%	693,579
Halls	530,050	742,518	28.61%	7,113,396
4090174504. Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment	209,442	400,002	47.64%	3,998,584
4090174505. Marton Building Design & Construction	307,410	300,000	-2.47%	3,005,442
Swim Centres	385,067	349,110	-10.30%	2,875,989
4000170618. Swim Centres - New Roof	0	270,000	100.00%	2,700,000
<b>Roading and Footpaths</b>	<b>1,736,708</b>	<b>4,047,808</b>	<b>57.10%</b>	<b>9,498,699</b>
Non-Subsidised Roothing	7,445	334,032	97.77%	913,696
Subsidised Roothing	1,729,263	3,713,776	53.44%	8,585,003
70100780. Unsealed Road Metaling & Rehabilitation (211)	288,547	264,778	-8.98%	565,728
70100781. Sealed Road Pavement Rehabilitation (214)	434,988	942,538	53.85%	1,879,939
70100782. Drainage Renewals (213)	341,285	465,866	26.74%	878,468
70100783. Structures Components Replacements (215)	133,764	348,126	61.58%	775,009
70100787. Sealed Road Surfacing (212)	453,129	1,400,138	67.64%	3,037,652
<b>Water, Sewerage &amp; Stormwater</b>	<b>2,477,085</b>	<b>8,912,364</b>	<b>72.21%</b>	<b>19,826,918</b>
Stormwater	153,378	1,381,560	88.90%	3,394,242
6050177203. Bredins Line New Outfall	7,259	301,542	97.59%	602,850
6050177207. Hunterville Network Upgrade	0	255,498	100.00%	511,000
6050177208. Marton Skerman St Upgrade	61,833	459,900	86.56%	919,800
Waste Water - Sewerage	724,594	2,605,092	72.19%	6,349,462
6070176204. Wastewater Reticulation	115,012	383,250	69.99%	1,293,870
6070176206. Marton to Bulls Centralisation Project	390,026	720,246	45.85%	1,425,964
6070177108. Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Consen	13,552	450,528	96.99%	874,237
6070177111. Ratana Complete Upgrade	8,073	582,810	98.61%	1,130,675
Waste Water - District	1,576,801	4,653,996	66.12%	9,512,301
6060174503. Marton Water Strategy	622,510	3,725,004	83.29%	7,430,203
6060176401. Water Supply Renewals	682,942	375,000	-82.12%	797,160
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,841,403</b>	<b>15,893,320</b>	<b>63.02%</b>	<b>43,232,966</b>

**Business Unit Totals**

**Sub area Totals within Business Units**

Budget is as per Annual Plan, Carryforward budgets from last year (and approved by council in September 2025) are now reflected in full year budget. To date, only 13.5% of the annual planned capital program has been spent with Water Sewerage and Stormwater (namely the Marton Water Strategy) and the Roothing spending to date continuing to be the main areas where spend is significantly lower than planned year to date.

## 12 Public Excluded

### Resolution to Exclude the Public

The meeting went into public excluded session [enter time](#)

#### Recommendation

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

1. Public Excluded Council Meeting - 11 December 2025
2. Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
3. Extension Request - Sale and Purchase Agreement - 304-318 Broadway, Marton
4. Recommendation from Committee

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<b>12.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 11 December 2025</b>	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 11 December meeting.	S48(1)(a)
<b>12.2 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings</b>	To consider actions from previous public excluded meetings. s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>12.3 - Extension Request - Sale and Purchase Agreement - 304-318 Broadway, Marton</b>	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
<b>12.4 - Recommendation from Committee</b>	To consider recommendations from previous public excluded committee meetings. s7(2)(a) - Privacy	s48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding or the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

## **13 Meeting Closed.**