RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date:	**Thursday, 19 November 2026**
Time:	**10.00am**
Venue:	**Council Chamber** **Rangitīkei District Council** **46 High Street** **Marton**

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

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor, 0800 422 522 (ext. 4403), or via email petra.fleming@rangitikei.govt.nz

Contact:	0800 422 522 (06) 327 0099	info@rangitikei.govt.nz	www.rangitikei.govt.nz
Locations:	Marton Head Office 46 High Street Marton Taihape Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape		Bulls Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls
Postal Address:	Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741		
Fax:	(06) 327 6970		

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 19 November 2026 at 10.00am.

Order Of Business

1 Welcome / Prayer 4

2 Apologies 4

3 Public Forum 4

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations 4

5 Confirmation of Order of Business 4

6 Confirmation of Minutes 5

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes 5

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings 13

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings 13

8 Mayor's Report 15

8.1 Mayor's Report - November 2026 15

9 Chief Executive's Report 33

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - November 2026 33

10 Public Excluded 44

10.1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 29 October 2026 44

10.2 304-318 Broadway, Marton - Consideration of Tenders Received 44

11 Open Meeting 45

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

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: **Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor**

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The minutes from Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 October 2026 are attached.

Attachments

1. Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 October 2026

Recommendation

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 October 2026 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: **Thursday, 29 October 2026**

Time: **9.30am**

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

Present	HWTM Andy Watson
	Cr Dave Wilson
	Cr Diana Baird
	Cr Alan Buckendahl
	Cr Fi Dalgety
	Cr Sandra Field
	Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa (online)
	Cr Graeme O'Fee
	Cr Coral Raukawa
	Cr Paul Sharland
	Cr Jeff Wong
In attendance	Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
	Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive
	Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services
	Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
	Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager
	Mr Jarrod Calkin, Manager Community and Economy
	Mr Warren Pedley, Manager Finance and Partnerships
	Ms Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

1 Welcome / Prayer 3
2 Apologies 3
3 Public Forum 3
4 Conflict of Interest Declarations 3
5 Confirmation of Order of Business 3
6 Confirmation of Minutes 3
7 Reports for Decision 4
7.1 Adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Report 4
7.2 Rights of non-elected appointed members to Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water 4
7.3 Approval of the Chief Executive's 2026/27 Performance Measures 5
8 Public Excluded 5
9 Open Meeting 6
10 Public Excluded 6
11 Open Meeting 7

UNCONFIRMED

1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 9.31am and Cr Baird read the Council Prayer.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/269

That the apology from Cr John Hainsworth be received.

Cr P Sharland/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

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

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/270

That the Late Item regarding 22 Tui St – Offer to Purchase be dealt with as part of the Public Excluded Agenda for 29 October 2026 Council Meeting. The item is in relation to an offer Council has received to purchase the Council owned site at 22 Tui Street Taihape. It cannot be delayed until a future meeting giving time sensitivity for the offer and consultation requirements associated with the sale of the parcel of land.

HWTM/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

The meeting returned to Item 7.3 at 10.31am following Item 8.2.

The document 2026/27 Chief Executive Performance Measures was tabled in Item 7.3 .

The meeting then returned to Item 8.2.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/271

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 October 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

UNCONFIRMED

7 Reports for Decision

7.1 Adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Report

Fiona Elkington from Audit NZ attended this item to confirm Audit's unmodified opinion on pages 4 to 7 of the RDC 2025/26 Annual Report.

Cr Wong noted that he disagreed with the note on page 36 regarding the Marton Water Strategy.

Ms Macdonald highlighted the changes within Note 22 on page 102 of the RDC 2025/26 Annual Report, including casual employees, KiwiSaver contributions and a change to the salary bands.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/272

That the report Adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Report be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/273

That Council adopts the 2025/26 Annual Report subject to any amendments, final changes to the information, or grammatical corrections identified.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr D Baird. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/274

That Council authorises staff to make any late administrative changes, noted by elected members, staff or Audit NZ, post writing of this report, including copying the final written audit opinion from Audit NZ into the 2025/26 Annual Report ahead of publishing the Annual Report for circulation.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

7.2 Rights of non-elected appointed members to Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water

Mrs Gordon noted that Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council have already made the decision to apply for an exemption.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/275

That the report Rights of non-elected appointed members to Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water be received.

Cr C Raukawa/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/276

That Council agree to apply for an exemption (Option 1) to allow for mana whenua representatives on the Shareholders' Committee for Central Districts Water to continue to hold voting rights according to the Shareholders Agreement establishing the Company and the Committee.

AND

UNCONFIRMED

That if an exemption request is declined, that Council agree to change the Shareholders' Agreement to bring voting rights and quorum requirements in line with the Local Government (Systems Improvements) Act 2026, and that these changes be applied from 18 March 2027.

HWTM/Cr P Hiroa. Carried. Unanimous.

7.3 Approval of the Chief Executive's 2026/27 Performance Measures

Cr Wilson highlighted that these performance measures were designed as a forward-thinking, future-oriented approach considering the ongoing changes and future uncertainty due to Simplifying Local Government.

The meeting returned to Item 7.3 Approval of the Chief Executive's 2026/27 Performance Measures at 10.31am.

The document 2026/27 Chief Executive Performance Measures was tabled in Item 7.3 Approval of the Chief Executive's 2026/27 Performance Measures.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/277

That the report Approval of the Chief Executive's 2026/26 Performance Measures be received.

Cr D Baird/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/281

That the tabled document 2026/27 Chief Executive Performance Measures be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr P Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/282

That Council approves the Chief Executive's 2026/27 Performance Measures.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

8 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10.12am.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/278

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

1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 8 October 2026

2. 22 Tui Street, Taihape - Offer to purchase

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:

UNCONFIRMED

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
8.1 - Public Excluded Council Minutes	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 8 October meeting.	S48(1)(a)
8.2 - 22 Tui Street, Taihape - Offer to purchase	s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	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 S Field/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

9 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session at 10.31am.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/280

That the public excluded meeting move into an open meeting, and the below recommendations be confirmed in the open meeting:

22/RDC/279

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

The meeting returned to item 7.3 Approval of the Chief Executive's 2026/27 Performance Measures.

The meeting adjourned at 10.34am and returned at 11.48am.

10 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.48am.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/283

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

2. 22 Tui Street, Taihape - Offer to purchase

UNCONFIRMED

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
8.2 - 22 Tui Street, Taihape - Offer to purchase	s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	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 S Field/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

11 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 12.12pm.

Resolved minute number 26/RDC/286

That the public excluded meeting move into an open meeting, and the below recommendations be confirmed in the open meeting:

22/RDC/284 - 22/RDC/285

Cr D Baird/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

The meeting closed at 12.12pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 November 2026.

.....

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

Author: **Petra Fleming, 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 Action 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	8-Oct-26	Further information to be provided on the carryforward for new pool covers.	Gaylene	Confirmed that the pool covers were for the Taihape Swim Centre	Complete
2	27-Aug-26	Request that Council to consider delegations to committees for all Council committees	Katrina	This was requested at the 27 August 2026 Assets/Infrastructure Committee. Staff will work with HWTM regarding a process for this to be considered. Officers note that this work will occur following officer consideration of the implications of the changes to voting rights on Council committees enacted as part of the Local Government (System Improvements) Act 2026.	Not started
3	21-May-26	Memorandum of Understanding follow up discussion with Councillors the Bulls Community and District Trust	Katrina	A review will be completed for the 2027 LTP.	In progress

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - November 2026

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

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

Good morning

1. The elections for Central Government have been interesting, best summed up by Chris Hipkins' comment "the people have spoken, we just don't know what they've said". The reality now is that we wait on a process.

   - At this stage the National Coalition has a very small, potentially two-seat lead.
   - Special vote numbers will be known later this month which could possibly change which coalition party is in the best position to form a Government.
   - Coalition talks proceed – who knows what happens here. Is it possible that under negotiations NZ First, or any other party, could change alliances? The answer is yes.
   - The key date is I think about 14 January where the Governor General needs to be advised that a Government can be formed.
   - Following that key ministerial appointments need to be announced.
   - The end result is that we will probably not know who will lead us until late January.
   - There is also the question still yet to be resolved as to who will lead all of the parties, i.e. National and Labour going forward and will the Government seek to make significant changes to legislation that was proposed but not law that Local Government has to follow?

   This report includes, as appendices, my accounts on the Transport Forum and the Local Government Conferences that I have recently attended. They give a clear indication of what all parties proposed during electioneering, and they can be held accountable to that, but it doesn't mean that it can't be changed. History tells us that often a new leader of the Government will change direction, so the wait continues.

2. **Long Term Plan (LTP)** - Our Council continues to focus on what we know now as we work on the LTP planning. The LTP renewed every 3 years essentially covers what we do and who will pay for it over the next 10 years. We know that inflation on things such as roading, construction and fuel etc is challenging way beyond the rates pegging position proposed by Government. Essentially our options are increasing rates, reducing services or increasing charges. We will soon start conversations with many groups especially the users of our parks and reserves, pools, community facilities etc. Please attend them if you can.

3. **Otara Bridge** - we are still waiting on the engineering reports which will hopefully provide us with options for repairs. As soon as we have these reports I will ask for meetings of both Council and the affected community. NZTA are the principal funder through FAR rates and it may take some time for them to advise us of their position due to the uncertainty of Government.

4. **Central Districts Water (CDW)** – CDW is the new company formed by Horowhenua, Rangitīkei and Palmerston North Councils who are the shareholders to deliver wastewater, drinking water and stormwater services across the three districts. Relative points are –

- The organisation doesn't take over until 2027/28 and so Council's LTP will significantly change at that time.
- The new board is in place with key staff appointments being made now.
- I am impressed with the progress made and the relationships between the new board, the three Councils and our iwi representatives.
- As part of the process, senior staff from the entity have toured the Rangitīkei gaining an understanding of a rural region and multiple small towns each with their own water/wastewater treatment plants.
- Fixing our compliance issues and in particular Marton water has been talked about as a priority for the new company.
- We know that set-up costs for the new company will be high and the public will judge us on the combined rates bill and entity bill so every effort is focused on affordability. Over time I am convinced that the new entity will save us money, without this direction the future costs for the Rangitīkei will not be manageable.

5. **Calico Line Walkway** – the walkway completed a project necessary and a long time in the making. For too long walkers and in particular Nga Tawa students have faced what has been an unacceptable risk. Already I have received thanks from several quarters – the school, parents of the students our wider community.

6. **School Prizegivings** - we are in the season of school prizegivings and I have been invited to several but unfortunately there have been a couple I have been unable to attend due to timetable clashes – my congratulations to all of the students receiving prizes, completing studies and the incoming appointed prefects for 2027.

7. **Whangaehu River Bridge – Te Araroa Trail – Santoft Domain** - I attended the opening of the new swing bridge in October – the bridge is brilliant and effectively replaces about 30kms of high risk road walking. My intention this summer is to walk all of the Te Araroa Trail in our district and spend time in the new Santoft Domain buildings. My congratulations to the Santoft Domain Committee especially Heather Thorby and Paul Geurtjens who have driven this project. I encourage everyone to get out and walk the trail this summer (the bridge access is off the Whangaehu Beach Road) and to see the new buildings at Santoft Domain which have been funded outside of rates.

8. **JBS Dudding Trust –** The Dudding Trust met on 10 November and has allocated $1.2m to the community of the Rangitīkei! Recipients will be informed before Christmas. Without the Dudding Trust the Santoft Domain building project probably wouldn't have happened at the scale it has and many of our community organisations would have failed. Major projects such as Taihape Bridges etc just wouldn't have been possible without the generosity and support of the Trust.

9. **Marton Pool** - the inside of the pool area is incredible, work has been done to reinforce the walls and scaffolding is now in place to facilitate the lifting of the roof ahead of replacement. We are on track - the only delay has been waiting on shipping for the steel.

10. **Foundry Gym** - I will finish this part of my report with congratulations to the Foundry Gym in Bulls that operates out of the old Town Hall. Stu Pearce had invited me to the opening on 3 October, something that I could not unfortunately attend so recently I called in and was blown away by the fit-out, the equipment available and the enthusiasm. I understand membership has exceeded all expectations so they have my congratulations. If you get the chance call in there to take a look and sign up to prepare for the new year pledges that we all make.

11. **Jandals Band Festival & Gumboots Band Festival** - I recently had the pleasure of attending the 5th Birthday Festival and Concert held at Te Matapihi in Bulls and my congratulations go to the organiser, Kathy Clark for an incredible event. The Gumboots Band project provides accessible and affordable music opportunities for young people across rural parts of the Lower North Island and I was impressed by the caliber of some of our district's young musicians.

12. **Appointment to Bonny Glen Community Liaison Group** - as a requirement of Midwest Disposals' Resource Consent the Bonny Glen Community Liaison Group is being reconvened and requires a Rangitīkei District Council representative. Following expressions of interest, Cr Buckendahl has been appointed to the group.

13. I attended a Zoom on Labour's position pre-election hosted by Kieran McAnulty and Tangi Utikere and it was interesting to note their positions because it is still conceivable that they could form a Government -

    - They will slow down the amalgamation process but it will proceed.
    - They will amend the RMA reforms but they will continue (i.e. no real change).
    - Rates capping – Labour supported rates capping to the Select Committee but will not guarantee that it is put in place.
    - They will reinstate the four wellbeings.
    - With the Simplification of Local Government the change to remove voting rights and quorum for non-elected members will be removed.
    - Mana Whakahono agreements will be put back in place.

14. Following a decision by Horizons Regional Council in September not to fund the increase in bus services between Whanganui and Palmerston North as planned and budgeted in their Long Term Plan, Whanganui District Council noted their disappointment at the decision which was also discussed with Rangitīkei District Council in October. Horizons subsequently decided to investigate this to a greater extent and we were asked to submit a letter of request to participate in the trial for increased bus services between Whanganui and Palmerston North. A copy of our draft letter of request is appended to this report for your information.

Mayor's Engagements

October 2026

9	Attended monthly economic development meeting with staff Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting Attended LGNZ Zone 3 Sector Online Meeting
12	Attended meeting with Elected Member Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting

13	Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Function in Rotorua
14	Attended Local Government New Zealand SuperLocal 2026 Conference in Rotorua Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Meeting
15	Attended Local Government New Zealand SuperLocal 2026 Conference in Rotorua
16	Attended meeting with ratepayer in Taihape
17	Attended Mangaweka Gala
18	Attended Jandals Band Festival & Gumboots Band 5th Birthday Concert
19	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended LTP Fortnightly Update with Staff Attended Youth Council Workshop
20	Attended Regional Transport Matters | Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended NEMA Webinar – Emergency Management Act: Governance Roles Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended LGNZ online briefing on resource management Attended Bulls Community Committee Meeting
21	Attended Monthly Comms Meeting with Staff Attended visit to 100 year old resident Attended NEMA Civil Defence function Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting
22	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council workshop
23	Attended RDC/Police monthly meeting
27	Attended tri-weekly online meeting with CDW Shareholders Committee Chair Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
28	Attended Taihape Area School student scholarship interviews Attended Marton Players Theatre event
29	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Meeting to adopt Annual Report Attended Assets/Infrastructure Meeting Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting
30	Attended Rural Communities Chapter Online Hui Attended Infrastructure Reference Group online meeting
31	Attended Hunterville Shemozzle

	Attended Diwali – Festival of Lights in Whanganui

November 2026

2	Attending MTFJ meeting with Mayor Michael Ford Manawatu District Council Attended Rangitikei College Scholarship Interviews Attended meeting with Chief Executive
3	Attended Regional Transport Matters | Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting Attended site visit to Fulton Hogan Palmerston North Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended Governor's Q&A with Executive Leadership Team Attended LTP Fortnightly Update meeting with staff
5	Attended Central Districts Water Project Oversight Group Meeting Attended Policy/Planning Committee Hearings Attended Council Workshop
6	Attended LGNZ Zone 3 online meeting Attended Taihape Area School End of Year Prizegiving
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with ratepayer
10	Attended MTFJ catchup with staff Attended JBS Dudding Trust Annual Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
11	Attended Armistice Day event at Marton Cenotaph Attended Taihape Talking Table
12	Attended LGNZ Zone 3 Sector Meeting
13	Attended LGNZ Zone 3 Sector Meeting
14	Attended Reservoir Dog Endurance Challenge at Tutaenui Reservoir Attended Bulls Annual Rose & Flower Show Attended Multicultural Festival at Memorial Hall Marton
16	Attended Civil Defence Communications in Crisis training Attended LGNZ online meeting re Ratepayer Assistance Scheme
17	Attended tri-weekly online meeting with CDW Shareholders Committee Chair Attended Regional Transport Matters | Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended LGNZ Infrastructure Review Group meeting with NZTA staff in Wellington Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
18	Attended Monthly Comms Meeting with Staff
19	To attend Council Meeting

	To attend Policy/Planning Committee Deliberations followed by Council Workshop To attend BA5 event at Stewart Street Surgery Marton To attend Community Engagement with users of sports fields in Bulls

Attachments:

1. **Election 2026 Transport Priorities Panel** ⇩
2. **Mayor's Report - Super Local Conference** ⇩
3. **Dave Wilson Super Local Notes** ⇩
4. **Jeff Wong 20 October 26 Passenger Transport Committee Meeting Notes** ⇩
5. **Letter to Horizons - Trial for Increased Bus Services** ⇩

Recommendation

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

ELECTION 2026 TRANSPORT PRIORITIES PANEL
Wellington
8 October 2026

Mayor's Report

I made the tough decision to attend this Panel Meeting in Wellington which clashed with a Council meeting in the Rangitīkei. My reasoning on attending was based principally on the challenges that the Rangitīkei face in terms of roading and my responsibility as Chair of the LGNZ Infrastructure Committee with roading being probably our key focus. It was a decision supported by the knowledge that my Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson was more than capable in the role in my absence.

These are my key points from the Election 2026 Transport Priorities Panel -

- Charlotte Shipman chaired the meeting and the panel comprised of –
  - Chris Bishop National Party,
  - Julie Anne Genter Green Party,
  - Andy Foster NZ First,
  - Ben Wylie-van Eerd Opportunity Party,
  - Tangi Utikere Labour Party,
  - Cameron Luxton ACT.

  i.e. all the heavy hitters were there.

- Each panel member was given 2 minutes to list their key priorities for roading.

a) Ben Wylie-van Eerd (The Opportunity Party) -
   - EVs are a priority
   - New buildings/houses must be EV capable for charging
   - Public transport should be free
   - Infrastructure must have at least a 10 year pipeline of knowledge

b) Cameron Luxton (ACT) -
   - Infrastructure must be basic, i.e. affordable
   - There is a lack of accountability within the Government sector
   - A yes to congestion charging
   - Their priorities are maintenance on what we currently have versus new builds
   - Yes to tolling.

c) Andy Foster (NZ First) -
   - Maintain what we have
   - Wants cross-parties in Government support
   - "Growth should pay for growth" *(presumably a reference to tolling and development charges)*
   - "Stop promising the undeliverable".

d) Chris Bishop (National) -
   - Continue the priorities from the last three years
   - Congestion charging by way of tolling
   - Need to accelerate the shift in increasing Road User Charges (RUCs)
   - "Land transport reform is needed" – *in reference I think to promotion of rail and public transport?*
   - The need to reduce the cost of construction – "stuff takes too long to do and costs too much" – *I think this is also in reference to the need for lower consent charges.*

e) Julie Anne Genter (Green Party) -
   - Supports public transport – "avoid reliance on cars"
   - Reduce fares for public transport – capped at $2
   - Move to EVs
   - Maintain roads as a preference to new builds.

f) Tangi Utikere (Labour) -
   - Need for an integrated approach to transport in road/rail/coastal shipping
   - Where there is a contract in place for new roads, honour it but maintenance of what we have is the preference
   - $20 free fare per person per week in major metros for public transport, elsewhere in New Zealand $10 a week.

- Other relevant points as part of questions or panel discussion –

  - Labour asked National – why has National not released the GPS on Transport (i.e. Government Policy Statement)? Answer from Bishop –
    - Increased costs of fuel not understood for the future
    - "Three year cycle is nuts" – need consensus across all of Government.

  - NZ First questioned Greens – where is the funding coming from for free public transport and does the $2 fare have a cap? Answer from Julie Anne –
    - Yes there will be a cap and the cost is estimated at $4.214b over the next 4 years which will be paid for by the increased taxes on the super rich.
    - There will also be a relook at the priorities of roading including roads of national significance which should save money.
    - Cameron (ACT) proposes building an investment fund, but didn't say how that would be funded.

  - National asked Labour – Labour has promised to limit fuel tax rises – how will that be funded? Answer from Tangi –
    - The cost of affordability to householders right now is the biggest priority
    - "Labour will prioritise a review of the national land transport fund".

- Closing Comments

  - Greens to National – "Why are you funding things that have not been through the infrastructure review process?" *(this I think was in reference to Mill Road Auckland).* Answer from Bishop – "the Mayor (Auckland) doesn't like it but it was proposed by Auckland Council and partially funded by Labour".
    - It is a road of national significance
    - Supports growth in Drury
    - Part of a sequence pathway for Auckland.

  - Questions from the Chair to all panelists –

    i) Should maintenance of existing roads be top priority. All panelists agreed.
    ii) Is the planning/consenting process too slow, i.e. do you believe in Fast Track? All panelists except the Greens agreed.
    iii) Should there be congestion charges in large metros? All panelists agreed.

    Chris Bishop made a very important point – "NZTA having control of all aspects of the sector is poor – you can't receive money from Government, make decisions on allocation and also be the regulator".

My thoughts post script this event –

- The day did give a very clear position on National vs Labour coalition comparisons. Incredibly worthwhile attending.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPERLOCAL CONFERENCE – 14-15 OCTOBER 2026

This year's annual conference was attended by myself, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson and Councillors Coral Raukawa and Fi Dalgety together with Gill Duncan attending as Chair of the Taihape Community Board. I thank them for their reports which they are required to provide. Because of their reports, in doing mine there will be some replication but with occasional different interpretations of comments and notes of direct quotations made by speakers.

Day 1

Women In Local Government Breakfast – Andrea Vance was interviewed by Tracey Martin and I look to the reports from my female colleagues further on this event.

Address by LGNZ President and Gisborne Mayor Rehette Stoltz
The main points were -

- LGNZ has reset it's conversations with Central Government in a positive way.
- LGNZ has listened to its membership and are united.
- The reset/pause on amalgamation by Government does not mean that the knowledge has been wasted.
- LGNZ has posted some wins with the introduction of visitor levies a highlight.
- Rehette emphasised the need for localism and thanked staff and members for their efforts in what has been an incredibly demanding year.

Te Maruata Address (this is the national body for elected Maori members) and the address was by Gisborne's Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria and New Plymouth Councillor Dinnie Moeahu who are co-Chairs -

- Both spoke incredibly well and they talked about the cultural values for all people not just Maori.
- The talked about the need to monitor and maintain relationships and build on them in the same way that we maintain assets.

LGNZ Chief Executive Scott Necklen –

- Rates capping – "rates capping would not be necessary if LGNZ received better financing".
- Any Government reform must be locally lead.
- When surveyed, the public support for rates capping has proved popular but when the impacts of rates capping are understood, such as a drop in service levels and the inflationary figures, that percentage of support significantly drops.
- People believe that decisions should be made locally.

Sir Brian Roche – Head of all Public Services
He emphasised in several ways the need to reduce staff in both public service and Local Government.

- He values the shared services approach as well as amalgamation.
- "We are inefficient as a country, our productivity must increase".

- Here are a series of quotes from Sr Brian Roche which illustrate exactly this thinking
  - "If there is ever a time to remodel it is now".
  - "In public service we need to lower the number of employees, there is fragmentation, duplicity and too many pathways operating independently".
  - "Councils are facing exactly the same issue".
  - "The structure of councils is not the answer, outcomes are".
  - "The goal is better services for the people who rely on them".
  - "Future is greater collaboration".
  - AI and technology is inevitable".
  - "Trust is our most valuable assets, every interaction with the public either strengthens or decreases that trust".
  - "MCERT was designed as a one-stop-shop to lower costs".
  - "New Zealand has a history of operating in silos – we have refined the silos but they are no longer fit for purpose".

Kingmakers Political Panel – facilitated by Rebecca Wright.
Some of these points are by way of questions opposed to ACT, NZ First, The Opportunity Party, Te Pati Maori and the Green Party -

- Question to Simon Court, ACT – amalgamation, if it proceeds, has costs which may be very high? The response was "reform will absolutely need to proceed".
- The Opportunity Party would abolish a rates cap.
- Under the Green Party the rates cap would be gone.
- Simon Court supports a rates cap and he is the architect of the reform.
- Te Pati Maori stated Maori should not pay rates on Maori land.
- Andy Foster NZ First – there is a conflict between rates capping and maintenance of assets, but he didn't specifically say if NZ First would support a rates cap.
- The Green Party was questioned about how they would find 32,000 new jobs. Their answer was through the super wealthy tax.
- Te Pati Maori also supports wealth tax.
- Free public transport is supported by Te Pati Maori, Greens and Opportunity Party.
- Andy Foster NZ First, spoke about the 20,000 bridges most of which are Local Government, needing replacement. N.B. I note this is a huge issue for New Zealand.
- The Opportunity Party wants to take roading out of its political circle. N.B. I note that this is a very valid argument).

This session was about point scoring and I note in Deputy Mayor Wilson's report he is right when he says that they all want change but don't understand how to achieve it.

Mayor's Taskforce Meeting
I attended this meeting dealing largely with administration matters but it is worth noting that Mayor Bernie of Horowhenua was re-instated as a Trustee.

Breakout Session 1 – Building for Tomorrow by Ben Hayward Chief Executive of Fulton Hogan

- Geo-political challenges challenge infrastructural progress e.g. shipping costs/oil/bitumen prices are drivers here. He notes that we are such a small market we are forced into being price takers because of a lack of scale.
- Required engineering standards imposed on us continue to rise.
- Communities are now expecting far greater levels of service.
- The cost of consenting is driving project costs.

- Project costs are also being driven by procurement/audit scrutiny.
- The issues are that there are a series of trade-offs and examples are below –
  - Employment versus Efficiency – here the discussion is about wanting to employ local contractors versus large scale operators
  - Resilience versus Affordability – the question here is what level of resilience can we afford *(an example in the Rangitīkei is the cost of an IL4 construction building in Marton for Civil Defence)*.
  - Optimisation versus Stability – the argument here is that you can spend years optimising designs during which time the cost has become unaffordable.
  - Growth versus Stewardship - essentially a trade- off discussion between maintenance of our assets and new builds.

- His two parting comments were beautifully put –
  - "Make decisions early and make them with confidence and get on with it"
  - "We face harder choices now which needs a special and different kind of leadership than we often have".

There were a series of questions from that point on from attendees. The response was "we need to look at expected standards for bridges etc", *noting that we design and build for the worst circumstances that come with an incredible cost we may not be able to afford*.

This was a fantastic breakout session.

Breakout Session 2 – Fronting a Crisis
This was a great session that Dave has already commented on and I may look to use this as a training session for Elected Members at a later date.

Day 2

Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Breakfast – lead by Chair, Mayor Ben Bell -
- MTFJ has placed 9000 people into jobs over its lifetime.
- There were a series of awards presented –
  - Most Unexpected Outcome Award – presented to Whanganui District Council where Dylan, Coby, Isaac and Jesse turned a short term contract into a business.
  - The MTFJ Local Staff Member Award – went to Jono Craig from Central Hawkes Bay.
  - The Raising Futures Award – Young Person Nomination – the winner was Grey District Council. *Here I note that Jayden of the Rangitīkei received a Highly Commended*.
  - Top Performing Council on a Per Capita Basis – the winner was Ruapehu District Council delivered by our team of James and Louise and I congratulate them as the consistent standout performers for MTFJ.

Engaging with Iwi – Tame Malcolm, GM of Te Arawa Trust
- The Maori/Crown interface includes Local Government.
- He talked about being a good person as the essential driver of relationships.
- "Establish a relationship before looking for a transactional relationship".
- If you need to say no, be honest, say no, maybes don't cut it".
- If it is no, make it for a reason, i.e. have a principled approach.

Local Government Re-organisation – Mike Wakefield & Padraig McNamara of Simpson Grierson

- The focus will be on not wasting the work that has already been done.
- Referred several times to Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act and looking at clauses 10-12 within the Act. Essentially these are references to the different pathways possible to the reshape of Local Government, examples are bespoke legislation or a royal commission.
- The Government's aim is absolutely to reduce duplication.
- They think that a Government Commissioner is unlikely to be used because of the very long time frames associated with that process.
- The key question is now who will be the Minister?

Panel Discussion on Local Government Reform – Dame Fran Wilde, Scott Gilmour, Nick Smith & Kevin Malcolm

- The survey at conference resulted in 80% of membership supporting the reform of Local Government. *N.B. I note that this would have been much higher as a percentage if Auckland and Christchurch had been at conference!*
- Local Government should drive the reform not Government. *N.B. I note that comment but the point is we haven't done so*.
- I note all of the panelists supported the reform – it may have been better if they had included a panelist opposed to the reform.
- Comment made by panelists that shared services does not tend to reduce staff numbers.
- Comment from Dame Fran – "you need amalgamation and a balance sheet strong enough to fund major climatic events".

Labour Party Presentation – Chris Hipkins

- Spoke on the value of Local Government and localism.
- Comment on rates capping – "if Local Government is not properly funded the results are –
  - Deferred maintenance
  - Delivery of poor services
  - Increased costs because of deferred maintenance.
- He clearly said that Labour supported rates capping to the Select Committee to start a conversation.
- What he didn't say was that he would remove rates pegging.

Breakout Session 3 – Presentation by ARUP – international engineering designers
Essentially I think this was the poorest presentation I said in on and they were soliciting work.

Minister of Local Government Address – Minister Simon Watts -

- Acknowledged the work that Local Government does.
- There will be ongoing and future reforms.
- Local Water Done Well has been implemented and is going well but needs to be built on.
- Government will issue three new regional deals shortly.
- There will be reporting of Local Government in terms of their positions/financing/transparency.
- The well-beings will focus on a back to basics principle.
- Rates caps will be put in place.

- Head Start work is not wasted and will be progressed next term.
- Government has set up New Zealand for success.
- Regional Councillors will not be re elected next term – the timelines for this remain unchanged.
- "Head Start is a voluntary process" *(I note that he is required to say this because of the possible legal challenge enforcing a law that is not law, but in essence it is a forced process).*
- When Minister Watts was questioned about managed climate change retreat and who would fund it his answer is this has still not been resolved.
- When questioned about rates capping he talked of narrowing the scope of Local Government so that rates capping could be managed.

SuperLocal 2026 Awards

- Alison Short, Manawatu District Councillor was awarded the SuperHuman Award. This is an incredible acknowledgement for long service to a Councillor who has been particularly involved in health areas.
- Gisborne District Council received an award for cleanup of forestry debris.
- Waikato Regional Council received an award for their project Pathways to the Sea allowing native fish to pass through 124 pump stations.
- Taupo District Council received an award for partnership between commercial builders, Council and Iwi to build 38 affordable homes.

Closing Address – Tania Tapsell Mayor of Rotorua

- Commenting on the challenges of homelessness and as a consequence has formed the Mayor's Taskforce for Homes.
- Thanked Government – Rotorua is now supported by a tourism levy of $10m over the next four years.

Mayor Andy Watson
October 2026

LGNZ ROTORUA 2026

Notes/ Thoughts: Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson

Once again, a full 2 days with a wide range of speakers and topics covered. In my experience conferences of this nature often leave you with more questions than answers and as such are always thought-provoking, which is good, to help bring better decision making around the council table.
I will list the speakers in order with topic and my notes/thoughts.

1 Mayor Rehette Stoltz, LGNZ PRESIDENT
Structural change must be designed to 'Fix a Problem' – understand the problem
Change must be 'Enduring'- take time to get it right
"Life may give you a cactus - but you don't have to sit on it!'

2 Scott Necklen, CE LGNZ
LGNZ Survey - 51% of rate payers support Rate Capping , but drops to 40% when the impacts/trade-offs are explained.

3 Political Panel Discussion, ACT, Greens, NZ First, Opportunity, Te Pati Māori
Good around table discussion on a range of topics - mainly rates capping , council funding and Local Govt reforms – All agree that change/restructure is needed, but can't agree the process. A number believe that rate capping will cause Councils to fail and put more pressure on already failing infrastructure- funding & financing of councils to deliver, needs to be a part of the change conversations-
Head start simplifying Local Govt – A bit of political point scoring from all speakers on this matter, again all agree that change is needed, but can't agree the process.

4 Forces shaping/challenges for Local Govt and Aotearoa- New Zealand - number of speakers
Falling population/Fertility rates in the western world – interesting facts from 2025
USA & EU has 790m people, 2025 7.3m babies born
Nigeria 230m people, 2025 7.5m babies born
More baby strollers sold in Korea to carry dogs than sold to carry babies
More adult nappies sold in Japan than for babies
Our country needs immigration but so do other countries , how do we make NZ attractive and how do we attract quality immigration ?
Treaty Partnerships are important- Our Māori/Iwi partners take a long term view with regards to infrastructure – what is the impact of new infrastructure on future generations and the environment ? long term view/thinking
Climate, infrastructure, our economy and our communities are all changing at once- we are a turning point in history.

4 Ben Hayward, CEO Fulton-Hogan
Local Projects Vs Large Scale Programmes ?
Resilience Vs Affordability ?
We face harder choices with greater expectations from our communities.

5 Sir Brian Roche – Transforming the Public Service
'Good intentions don't always lead to better out comes'
Shared Services – New Tech will allow these arrangement to perform better than they have done in the past and will bring efficiency but must be set up with a long-term view.

6 I attended 1 of 4 different workshops – 'fronting a Crisis' What to do when fronting Media.
1 be a trusted voice
2 what we know
3 what we don't know
4 what we are doing
5 what we are going to do
Talk only to facts at hand- don't speculate

7 What Local Govt needs next – Conor English
'If you can't Control It -Move on'
'Value every dollar from rate-payers' Timely reminder!
'Don't worry – take action'- 91.4% of worries don't happen.
Good Motivational address.

8 Workshop 2 – Rate Capping, Lessons from the front line - NSW Australia
NSW 26/27 year 4.9%
NSW has had a rate cap since 1977 and is increasing facing 'cost shifting' from the Federal Govt to Local Govt , however NSW gets addition funding from State Govt and Federal Govt by way of a general FAR rate [finical assistance rate] also large infrastructure IE stadiums, are Federal funded – As mentioned previously , Rate Capping discussions must include funding and financing discussions with Local Govt and Central Govt, without, infrastructure will continue to fail and cause bigger problems for future generations. Local Govt funding is still the biggest hurdle to reform. We need to, and already have started, to test what a 2-4% rate cap looks like and the impacts. We must be clear with our communities what the trade-offs might be and the impacts across the board – there will be impacts for all!!

In addition to the above notes/thoughts, Labour Leader Chis Hipkins & Minster Simon Watts also addressed the conference, don't wish to comment on these to speakers as we are so close to the general election.

Dave Wilson
Deputy Mayor
Rangitīkei District Council

20 October 2026 Passenger Transport Committee Notes

Rural Bus Manawatū fare zones

- Manawatū Rural Bus operates over a large part of the Rangitīkei bounded approximately by Mangaweka, Scott's Ferry and Rātana offering an 'on-demand' taxi type service largely catering for trips to and from Feilding or Palmerston North (p15).
- Fares are $25 return to Feilding and $35 Palmerston North. The service has only partial funding from HRC and NZTA hence the relatively high fare prices for public transport but one fare covers up to four passengers.
- The service has not reached the number of passengers forecast and would consider expanding its service area if there was sufficient demand.

20 October 2026 Horizons Passenger Transport Committee Agenda

- Total Mobility Scheme funding decreased. No service currently offered in the Rangitīkei but registered Rangitīkei users could still use the service in the rest of the region (p22).
- Public transport usage significant increase in demand in Palmerston North, Feilding and Whanganui after reforms to services.
- Whanganui service increases were over 50% for some reporting periods (p 49). This was achieved with no increase in rolling stock but an additional ten drivers.
- More precise efficiency figures were not available as the changes have only been for a relatively short time.
- Other factors including increased fuel prices, free-fare periods, changes to fare capping etc would also affect usage considerably making direct comparisons difficult.
- The cancellation of the increases to the Regional Transport Plan was disappointing but not unexpected without any further funding from NZTA.
- This includes an increase in services from Whanganui through Marton and Bulls to Palmerston North to connect to future planned train services to Wellington (p 37).
- However small changes could still be possible depending on community engagement at both local and regional council consultation before the next RPTP (Regional Public Transport Plan) p83.

Jeff Wong

DRAFT LETTER

12 November 2026

Horizons Regional Council

Kia ora

Trial for Increased Bus Services

We welcome the opportunity to submit a request for the Rangitīkei to participate in the trial for increased bus services between Whanganui and Palmerston North.

We believe there is a significant need for the towns of South Rangitīkei to be better connected to Whanganui, Palmerston North and Feilding in light of the increased costs of fuel, increased opportunities for young people, the ageing population and looking forward to the planned increase in rail connection with the lower North Island.

Past surveys have indicated shopping, social, access to health services, education and employment as to the reasons to use public transport and increased bus services would greatly improve the ability for the public to be able to utilise public transport.

Yours sincerely

Rangitīkei District Council

Making this place home.
06 327 0099 info@rangitikei.govt.nz www.rangitikei.govt.nz 46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - November 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.

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 Rangitīkei District during October 2026:

- 13th October 2026 – Taihape Area School – Whole school cross country – all fields + reserve area - Memorial Park, Taihape.
- 17th October 2026 – Music festival and events NZ board – Spring Music Fest '26 – Village green, Marton.
- 23rd October 2026 – Hunterville School – School Cross Country – Field 1 + grandstand – Hunterville Domain.
- 30th October 2026 – Hunterville School – Interschool Cross Country – Field 1 + grandstand – Hunterville Domain.
- 31st October 2026 – Hunterville Huntaway Festival – Hunterville Shemozzle 2026 – Whole field – Hunterville Domain.

3. Staff Movements in September

3.1 In October, Council welcomed the following new employees welcomed into RDC:

- Nerolie Goddard – Finance Officer – Payables

3.2 In October we farewelled the following employee(s) from RDC:

- Lee Minhinnick – Parks Assistant

4. Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard

4.1 The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboards for September and October 2026 are attached (refer to Attachments 1 and 2).

5. Submissions

5.1 The updated list of current opportunities for Council to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached (Attachment 3). Submissions are planned for the Building Amendment Bill, and the Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill. A brief description of these consultations, along with the other consultation currently running, can be found within the attachment.

5.2 There are a number of external consultations currently open. Officers will continue to weigh up the benefit of submitting on these consultations with staff capacity. It is anticipated that the number of consultations opening for submissions will remain low until the new year, once the new government is stood up.

5.3 This submission, along with all other submissions Council has previously made can be found on Council's website.

6. Central Districts Water (CDW) Updates

6.1 Further work is being done on the draft transfer schedules, which document the land, consents and assets to be transferred to CDW, particularly in response to the comments made by Simpson Grierson in its legal review. These comments have regard for the 'first-pass' review provided by Tina Porou on behalf of Nga Tapūwae o Hau.

6.2 The three Councils (Horowhenua, Palmerston North and Rangitīkei) provided a briefing on 27 October 2026 to the CDW Board on key issues in the initial drafts of these schedules. In turn, the Board provided feedback for each Council to consider. This will be covered in the workshop session scheduled for 19 November 2026.

6.3 CDW has started a weekly coordination meeting for representatives of the three Councils, Simpson Grierson and Chapman Tripp on the transfer agreement and schedules.

6.4 At a meeting on 9 October 2026 of representatives of the three Councils with CDW on Matters of Shared Interest, agreement was reached on priorities and approach. Some of the topics are being addressed through existing workstreams; others through specific working parties. Council staff have involvement in emergency management, shared facilities, bylaws, land use planning, the Building Act, and the roading corridor Interface for stormwater.

6.5 Council staff are also involved in the CDW project to develop a single set of Standard Operating Procedures and also in providing details about Councils compliance and consenting processes for CDW's digital implementation project.

6.6 CDW has made employment offers to Rangitīkei staff involved in delivering or supporting water services.

6.7 CDW intends to provide a draft of its Water Services Strategy to the Shareholders Committee's meeting on 4 December 2026. Council staff are currently reviewing the proposed finances (both opex and capex) as well as the intended prioritisation of capital projects. The Strategy must include proposed charges, levels of service, and performance measures.

6.8 Currently, CDW is consulting on its proposed Significance and Engagement Policy. The Shareholders Committee considered a draft at its meeting on 9 October 2026 and made recommendations for CDW to consider. Details of the Central Districts Water Board meetings are here: https://www.centraldistrictswater.co.nz/Meetings

Details of the Shareholders Committee meetings are here: https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Council/Council-meetings/Upcoming-meetings-and-agendas

7. Alteration of resolution for Hearing Panel for Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth to make decisions

7.1 At its meeting on 30 July 2026, Council resolved to appoint a hearings commissioner or hearing panel and that they would have the ability to consider, hear, deliberate and decide all submissions and further submissions received on Proposed Plan Change 3 (PPC3) to the Operative Rangitīkei District Plan.

> ***"Resolved minute number 26/RDC/182***
>
> *That Council delegates to the independent hearings commissioner or hearings panel all necessary powers, duties and functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider, hear, deliberate and decide on all submissions and further submissions received on Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Operative Rangitīkei District Plan."*

7.2 On 19 September 2026 the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 came into effect. This amendment included changes to Schedule 7, clause 32 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and therefore, Council's ability to delegate decision-making to committees or other subordinate decision-making bodies.

7.3 Schedule 7, clause 32(1)(i) states "*the power to adopt a strategy, policy, or a management plan under the Reserves Act 1977, or a district plan, district plan change, or variation to a district plan under the Resource Management Act 1991*" as an exception to the responsibilities, duties, or powers Council can delegate to a subordinate decision-making body such as a hearing panel.

7.4 In regards to a plan change there are various points in the process that Council makes a decision to 'adopt' including under clauses 5, 10, 17 and 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

7.5 As the changes to Council's ability to delegate decision-making powers are new, officers (and the wider sector) are working through the intent and effect of them. The broadness of the wording in clause 32(1)(i) suggests that the intent is that Council retain key decision-making powers at all points in the RMA plan change process. On that basis, officers recommend that Council alter resolution 26/RDC/182 to rescind the Hearing Panel's delegation to making decisions on the submissions and further submissions received for PPC3 and instead make recommendations on them.

7.6 This would mean that the Hearing Panel for PPC3 will consider, hear and deliberate on submissions and further submissions and then make recommendations on them to Council for a decision of Council. The proposed alteration to resolution number 26/RDC/182 would be (~~strikethrough~~ shows words to be removed and <u>underline</u> shows words to be added):

> That Council delegates to the independent ~~hearings commissioner or~~ hearings panel all necessary powers, duties and functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider, hear, deliberate and ~~decide~~ <u>make recommendations to Council</u> on all submissions and further submissions received on Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Operative Rangitīkei District Plan.

Note: "hearings commissioner or" can be removed as a hearings panel was appointed.

8. Request for Late Application New-Build Rates Remission

8.1 Mrs Joy and Mr Nick Martell have requested that Council consider their application for a New Build Rates Remission, despite the application deadline of 30 June 2026 having passed.

8.2 The applicants have advised they were unaware of the remission opportunity prior to the deadline. They have indicated that, despite having been in contact with Council staff during the relevant period, they were not made aware of the opportunity until after the deadline had passed.

8.3 The applicants initially approached the Chief Executive seeking a CE Delegated Waiver to the application deadline. Following discussion with the Mayor this request was declined, and the applicant has subsequently requested that the matter be referred to Council for consideration.

8.4 A copy of their application is included (Attachment 4) to this report. Refer to Recommendation 3 below.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 If a $5000 rate remission is granted this will mean a reduction in rates collected for this year.

9.2 There are no other identified financial implications associated with this report.

10. Impact on Strategic Risks

10.1 Legal and political environment requires excessive resources / changes to governmental legislation are transformational:

10.1.1 Tracking external submissions ensures Council is aware of upcoming legislative changes which may require resources.

10.2 Obligations with health, safety and wellbeing are not met:

10.2.1 The Health, Safety and Wellbeing dashboards are attached. There is a strong focus on Health, Safety and Wellbeing within the organisation.

11. Strategic Alignment

11.1 There are no strategic alignment impacts identified.

12. Mana Whenua Implications

12.1 Members of the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti receive the submission list and, if time allows, asked for input into specific draft submissions.

12.2 Iwi play a key part in CDW, with advice being provided by Nga Tapūwae o Hau and representation on the Shareholders' Committee.

13. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

13.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

14. Statutory Implications

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

14.2 The recommended alteration of resolution 26/RDC/182 is to ensure that Council's decision-making complies with the most up to date legislative requirements. PPC3 will continue to follow the process set out in the First Schedule of the RMA.

15. Decision Making Process

15.1 None of the items for decision are considered to be significant.

Attachments:

1. **HSW Dashboard - September 2026** ⇩
2. **HSW Dashboard - October 2026** ⇩
3. **Current and upcoming submissions - November 2026** ⇩
4. **New Build Rates Remission Application - Joy & Nick Martell** ⇩

Recommendation 1

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

Recommendation 2

That Council approves the alteration of resolution number 26/RDC/182 to read as follows:

That Council delegates to the independent hearings panel all necessary powers, duties and functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider, hear, deliberate and make recommendations to Council on all submissions and further submissions received on Proposed Plan Change 3 to the Operative Rangitīkei District Plan.

Noting that the alteration to this resolution removes delegation to the independent hearing panel for making decisions on submissions, in accordance with changes to Schedule 7, clause 32 of the Local Government Act 2002.

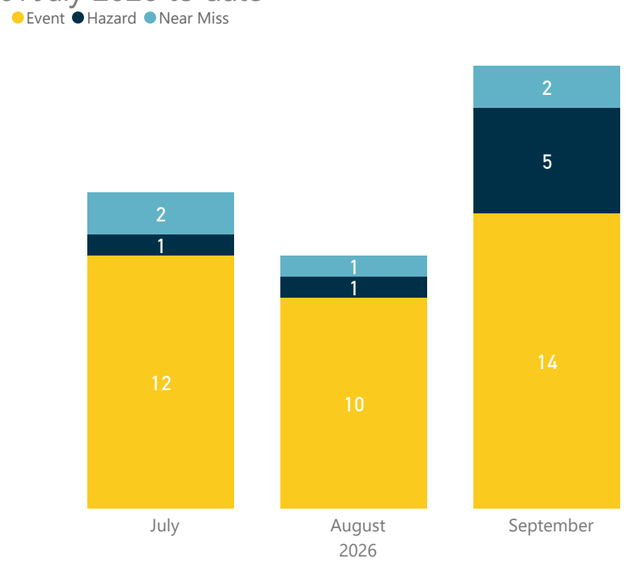
Recommendation 3

That Council agrees / does not agree [*delete one*] to grant a $5000 New Build Rates Remission to Mrs Joy and Mr Nick Martell, noting the application was received after the 30 June 2026 deadline

RDC Health and Safety Dashboard September 2026

Events, Hazards and Near Misses

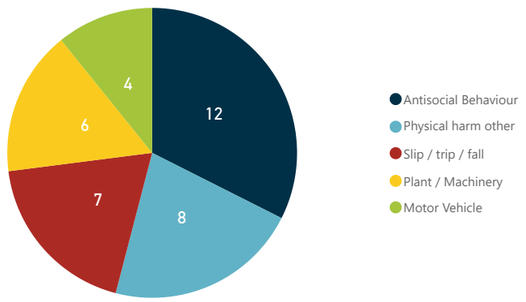
01 July 2026 to date



Category

Events, Hazards and Near Misses

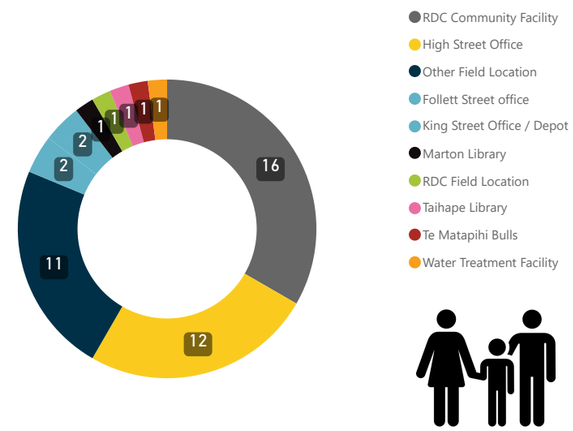
01 July 2026 to date (Top 5 Categories)



Total Events, Hazards and Near Misses: **48**

Location

Events, Hazards and Near Misses



Contractor Health & Safety Information

HSW Contractor Site Inspections Conducted

6	7
Month	YTD

Contractor HSW Incidents Reported

3	5
Month	YTD

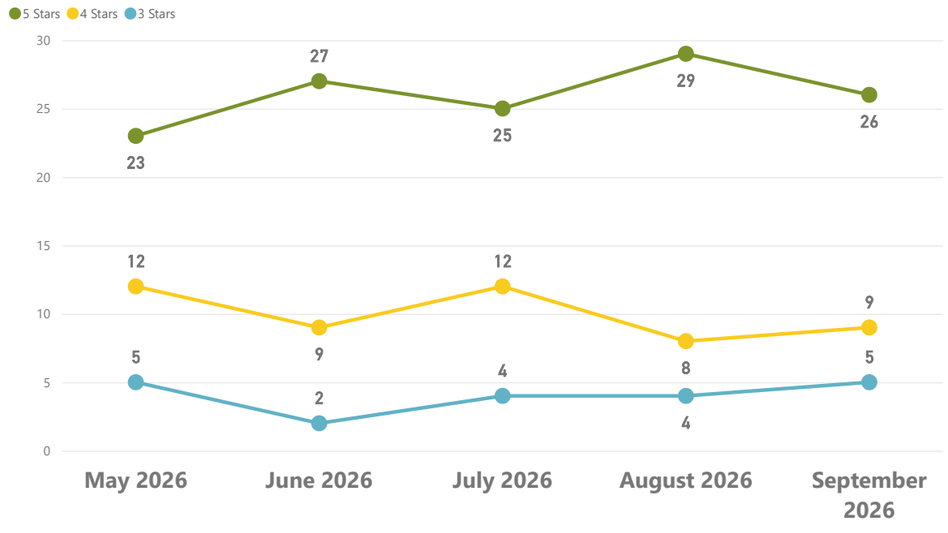
Contractor WorkSafe Notifiable Events

0	0
Month	YTD

Average Driver Ratings

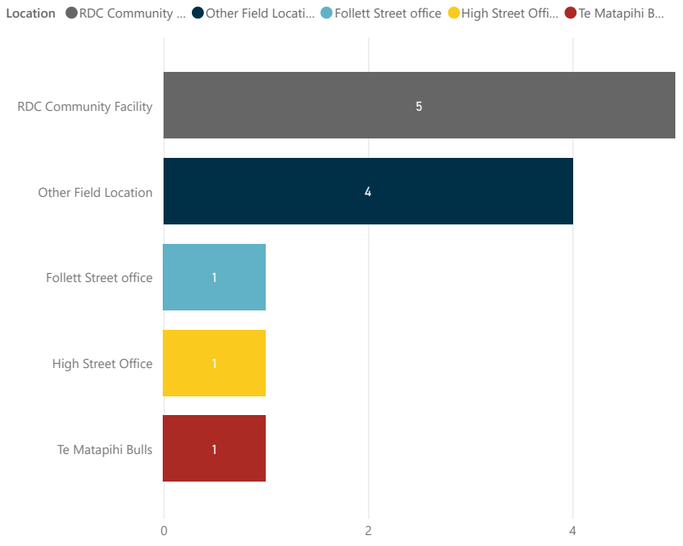
Ratings from E-Road Dashboard (Overspeed / Harsh Braking & Harsh Acceleration Events)

72% Completed Driver Safety Training



Antisocial Behaviour - per location

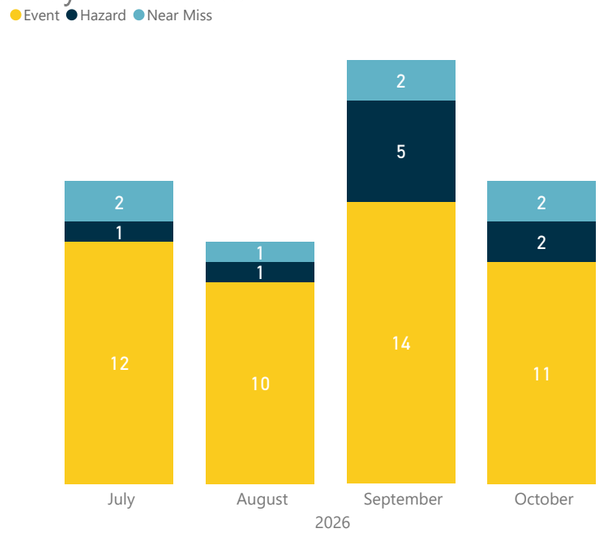
Year to date



RDC Health and Safety Dashboard October 2026

Events, Hazards and Near Misses

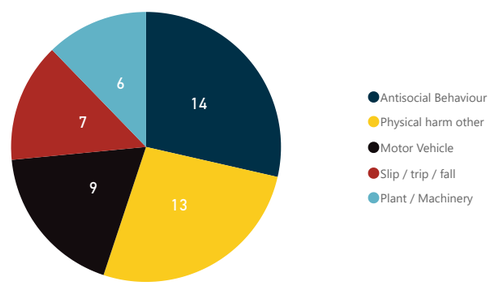
01 July 2026 to date



Category

Events, Hazards and Near Misses

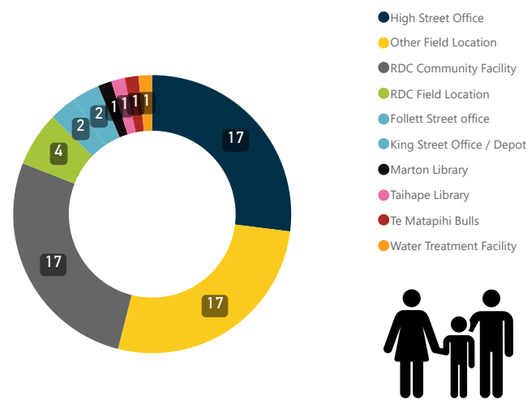
01 July 2026 to date (Top 5 Categories)



Total Events, Hazards and Near Misses: **63**

Location

Events, Hazards and Near Misses



Contractor Health & Safety Information

HSW Contractor Site Inspections Conducted

5	12
Month	YTD

Contractor HSW Incidents Reported

4	9
Month	YTD

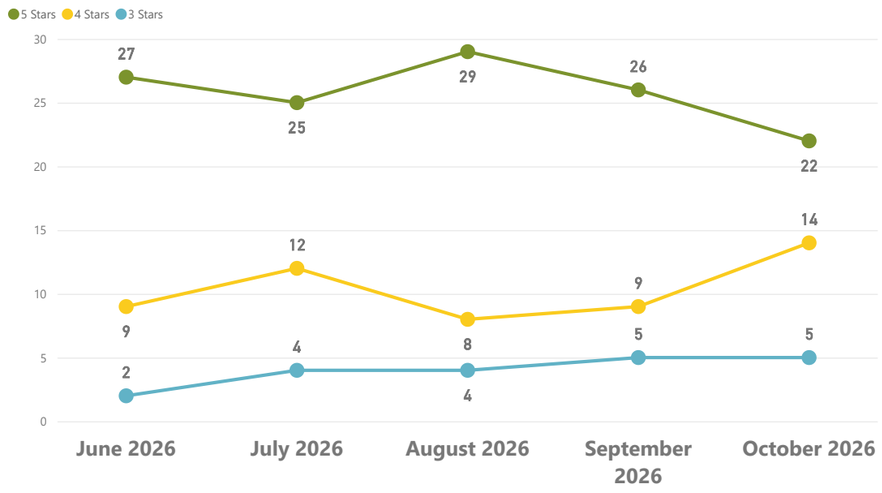
Contractor WorkSafe Notifiable Events

0	0
Month	YTD

Average Driver Ratings

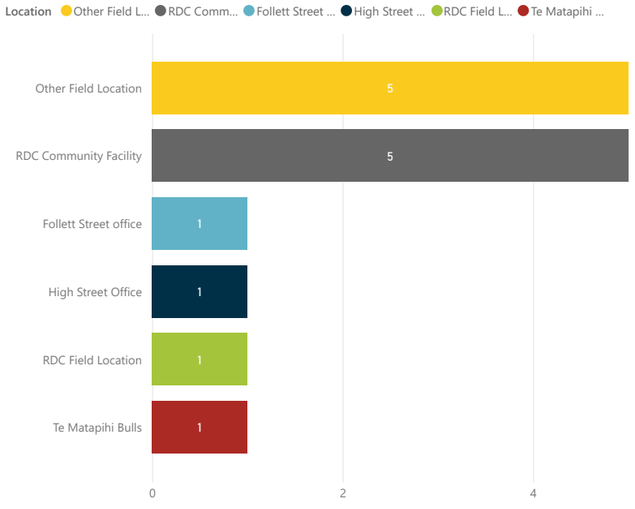
Ratings from E-Road Dashboard (Overspeed / Harsh Braking & Harsh Acceleration Events)

73% **Completed Driver Safety Training**



Antisocial Behaviour - per location

Year to date



Current Consultations run by External Agencies

Name of Initiative	Agency Engaging	Due Date	Description	Proposed RDC Action
Currently Open for Submission				
Building Amendment Bill	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	15 November	Changes proposed in the Bill include: introduction of proportionate liability, facilitating councils combining their BCA functions replacing the Building Research Levy with a contestable funding mechanism overseen by MBIE, and reduced processing time for PIMs.	Submit
Proposed regulation on the prolonged confinement of dogs	Ministry for Primary Industries	23 November	MPI perceives a regulatory gap, A dog may have adequate shelter, water and sanitation while still experiencing significant welfare compromise as a result of prolonged confinement. The proposed regulation draws on the approach used in Regulation 14 (dogs left in vehicles) and Regulation 15A (prolonged tethering of dogs), which create infringement offences that rely on observable environmental, physical and behavioural indicators to identify situations of compromised welfare, rather than proof of a specific duration of unreasonable or unnecessary pain and distress.	None
Information Disclosure for Water Services Consumer Protection	Commerce Commission	26 November	The Commission seeks feedback on whether the identified areas are the right ones to focus on, whether sufficient information is currently available to understand them, and whether additional information may improve understanding of supplier performance and consumer experiences. The identified areas are consumer information and engagement, complaints information, complaint handling, dispute resolution and redress. billing and charging, and vulnerable consumers.	None

Stormwater engagement paper	Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai	27 November	The paper outlines the challenges and opportunities facing the sector, explores approaches used internationally and sets out how the Authority plans to support improved stormwater network oversight and leadership. It tests three immediate priorities: improving national stormwater data, supporting stormwater risk management planning, and promoting infrastructure standardisation through National Engineering Design Standards.	None
Draft Significance and Engagement Policy	Central Districts Water	27 November	The proposed Significance and Engagement Policy explains how CDW will decide which decisions are important to communities, when it will ask for feedback and how it will consider people's views. CDW envisages that most engagement will take place through the Joint Shareholders' Committee, which includes representatives from the three councils and Nga Tapūwae o Hau. CDW may also work directly with individual councils on matters specific to them. "Where appropriate", CDW will seek wider community feedback following council engagement.	None
Land Transport Rules reform: Heavy Vehicle Productivity Phase 3	New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi	30 November	Changes proposed as part of Phase 3 of the Heavy Vehicle Productivity workstream of the Government's Land Transport Rules Reform Programme aim to improve productivity and reduce compliance costs, and make requirements more enduring and easier to update. These include changes to vehicle requirements, mass limits, permitting, and over dimension vehicle requirements.	None

Local Government (Rates Capping) Amendment Bill	Finance and Expenditure Committee	1 December	The bill aims to limit annual increases of council rates to promote local authority fiscal responsibility and provide predictability of costs to rate payers. It will do this by: introducing a minimum and maximum amount that non-water-related rates can be increased by. The first target range would be set at 2–4 percent. Future target ranges would be set by Order in Council, establishing a regulatory function within the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to ensure council compliance with the target range, and providing exemption mechanisms that would allow councils to operate outside the target range in specific circumstances.	Submit
References to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (standardisation) Amendment Bill	Justice Committee	1 December	The single broad policy of this omnibus bill is to implement a standardised drafting approach to descriptive Treaty provisions and references to the Treaty in legislation without substantively changing their legal effect.	None
References to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (Strength of Legislative Obligations) Amendment Bill	Justice Committee	1 December	The single broad policy of this omnibus bill is to amend the weighting of te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi provisions in legislation to a single standard of "take into account".	None
References to Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi (Repeals) Amendment Bill	Justice Committee	1 December	The single broad policy of this omnibus bill is to repeal statutory references to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi in a number of Acts.	None
Draft Earthquake-prone Building Legislation and Methodology Guidance	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Emplyment	4 December	The guidance is intended primarily for territorial authorities performing functions or exercising powers under Subpart 6A of Part 2 of the Building Act. It is organised in two parts. Part 1 has guidance around determining a building's EPB status and category. Part 2 explains the process for identifying, validating, remediating and removing an EPB from the EPB Register.	None

RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Applicant Details – New Build

Full Name(s) of Property Owner(s):	Joy Martell Nick Martell
New Build / Relocation Address:	[redacted]
Postal Address (if different from above):	
Preferred Contact Number:	[redacted]
Email Address:	[redacted]
Building Consent Number:	230116
Code Compliance Certificate Issue Date:	7 May 2024

Signature of Property Owner(s): ..... **Date:** 30/10/26

Background Information (please provide a short summary about yourselves and why you have developed in the area, this information will not be used as criteria for our assessment):

We chose to build our home in Marton because of its strong sense of community and its proximity to our workplaces and childrens schooling. We have both worked locally for many years, with Joy teaching at Rangitikei College and now at Nga Tawa, while Nick served as a Community Police Constable and is now a Detective constable. Our son Connor attended South Makirikiri School and our daughter Eden is beginning there shortly. We have enjoyed contributing through local fundraising, education and school productions and we look forward to continuing to support and contribute to the Marton community in the future.

OFFICE USE ONLY			
MEETS CRITERIA	DENIED	REASON FOR DENIAL	
REGULATORY OFFICER	REGULATORY OFFICER		
APPROVED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE			
	SIGNATURE		DATE

10 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 - 29 October 2026

2. 304-318 Broadway, Marton - Consideration of Tenders Received

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
10.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 29 October 2026	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 29 October meeting.	S48(1)(a)
10.2 - 304-318 Broadway, Marton - Consideration of Tenders Received	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)

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.

11 Open Meeting