



Council workshop

23 July 2026



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda

- Head Start
- LGNZ Remits
- Workshop notes

Head Start



Presentation outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Head Start criteria
- Community Consultation
- Iwi/hapū/TRAK feedback
- Technical work
- Regional collaboration
- Information gaps
- Small group discussion
- Next steps

Head Start pathway

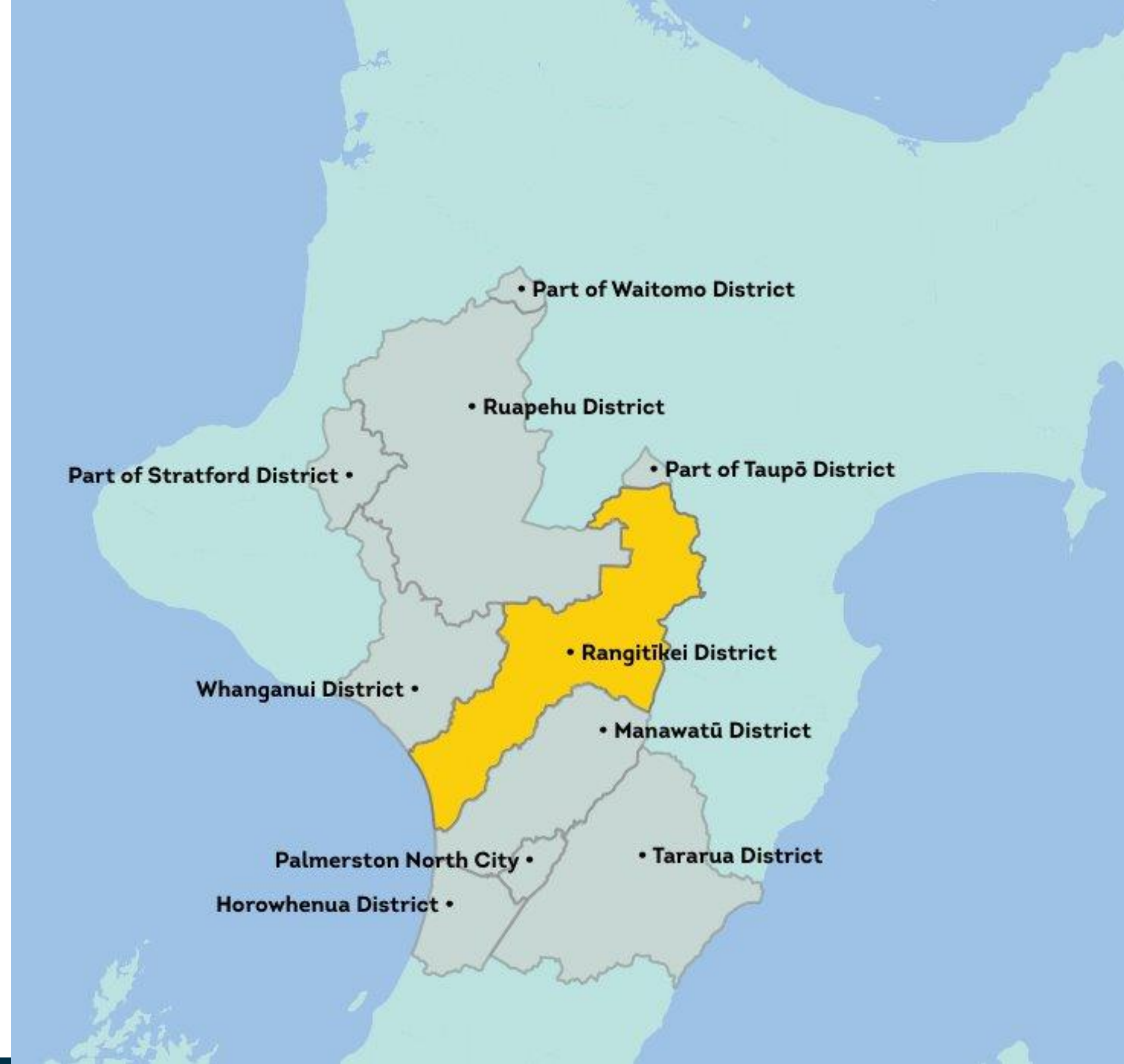
Simplifying Local Government



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Purpose

- Provide a summary of work completed following the Head Start announcement
- Allow elected members to ask questions
- Prepare Council for decision on 30 July 2026



Background

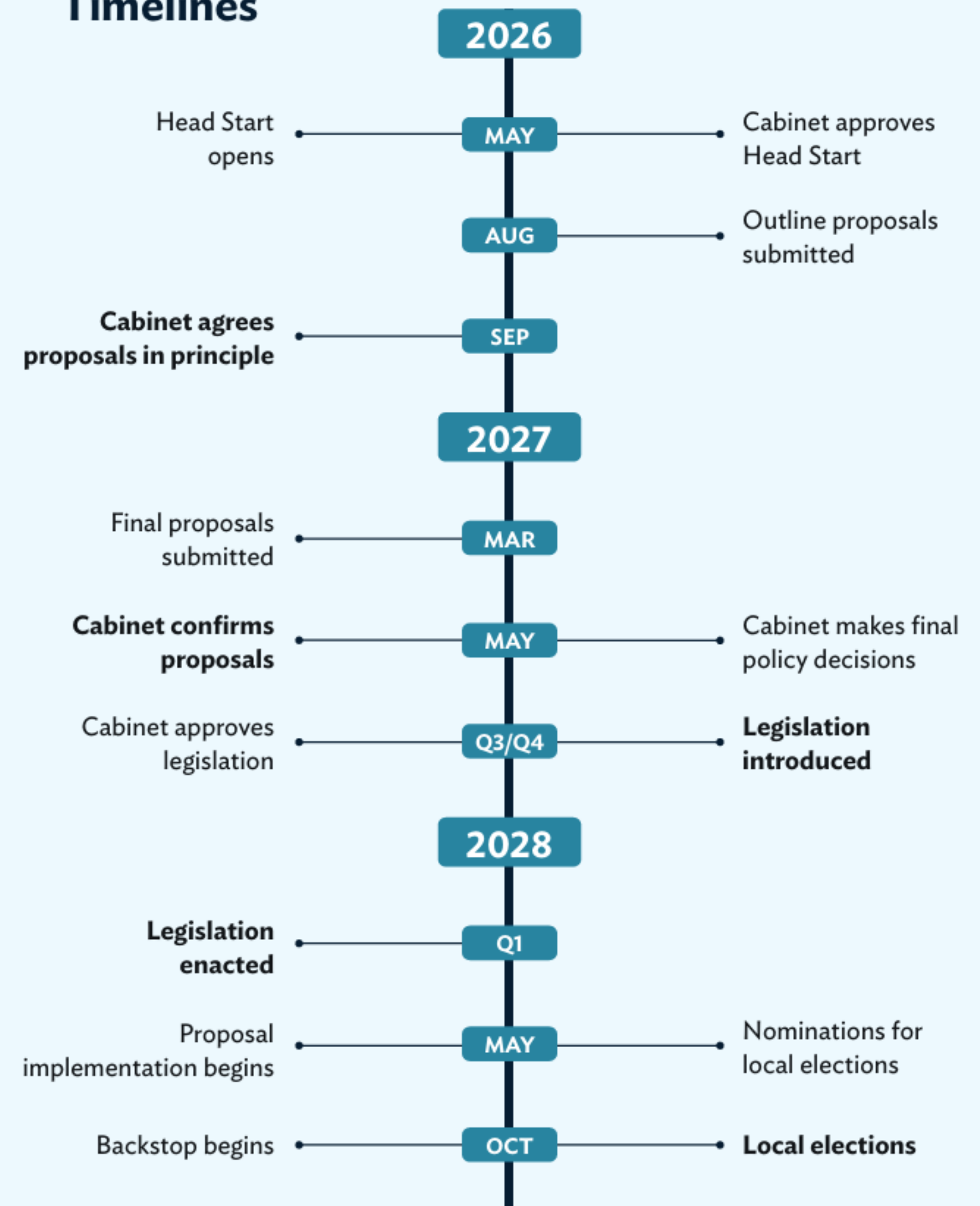
Government announcement in May 2026

- No regional councillors beyond 2028
- Head Start proposals for unitary councils only (*both regional and territorial functions*)
- 9 August deadline for Head Start proposals
- Combined Territories Board – Backstop

Council agreed principles

- **One team:** strong governance, strong management, clear roles, shared purpose.
- **Community first:** decisions grounded in long-term community outcomes.
- **Open and constructive:** collective view, collaborative, and relationship-focused.
- **Evidence-led:** learn from the past, understand the issue before deciding the response.

Timelines



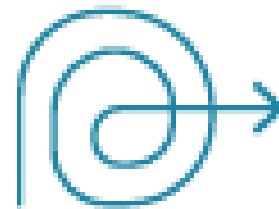
Head Start Criteria



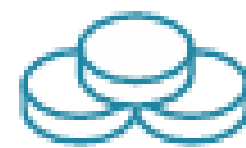
Deliverability: Proposals are realistic and demonstrate how new arrangements can be implemented in a timely manner.



Supports the new planning system: Shows clear support for implementing the new planning system – including progress on spatial and natural environment plan development – and avoids or minimises disruption to that work.



Simplifies local governance: Proposes more efficient regional governance arrangements, consolidating decision-making and improving alignment between a region's councils.



Economies of scale: Supports regional strategic planning and effective delivery of key regional functions (such as transport and catchment management), and demonstrates responsible and affordable asset management, infrastructure investment, and service delivery.

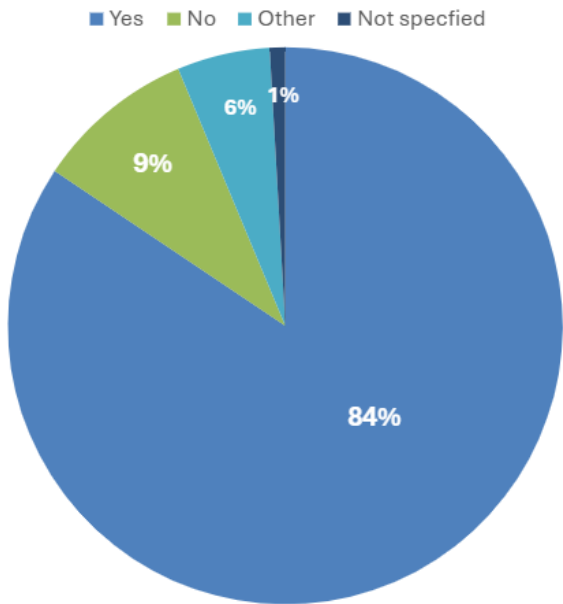


Maintains local voice: Demonstrates fair and effective representation for communities of interest and how decisions will be made at the local level, balancing urban and rural interests.

Community consultation – Rangitīkei at the Table

Full results: Council workshop – 25 June 2026

Should Council put together a Head Start proposal?

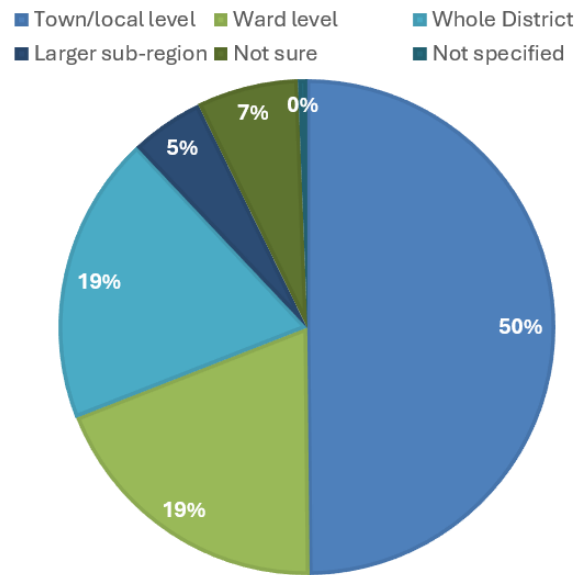


Consultation was as broad as possible – newspaper, multi platform social media, website, consultation booklets, pamphlets and posters, and in-person meetings

333 people responded to the survey which is about 2% of our population

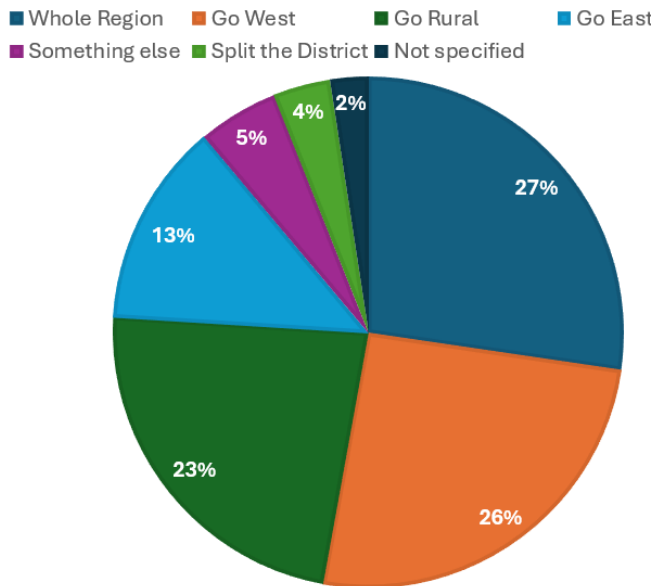
Approximately 130 people attended the public meetings (not including those online)

What level of local representation matters to you?



Options	Number
Town/local level	157
Ward level	63
Whole District	61
Larger sub-region	15
Not sure	22
Not specified	2

If we amalgamate who should we work with?



Options	Number
Whole Region	91
Go West	85
Go Rural	77
Go East	43
Something else	17
Split the District	12
Not specified	8

Iwi/hapū/TRAK feedback

- Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
- Kauangaroa
- Te Rōpū Ahi Kā
- Mokai Patea
- Ngā Ariki



Technical work

- 7 scenarios which explore the 'most likely' options for Rangitīkei District

Rangitīkei Head Start Rangitīkei District Council



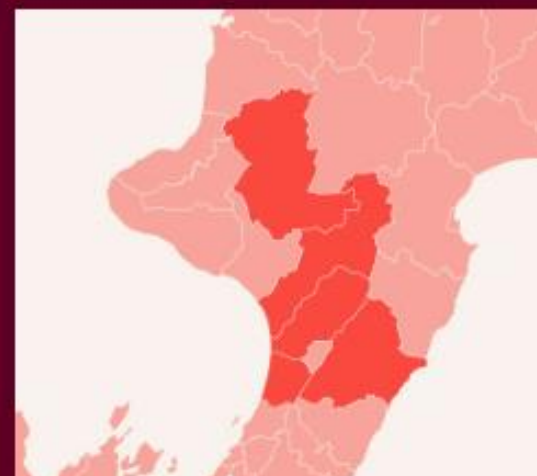
Option 1
Horizons Region



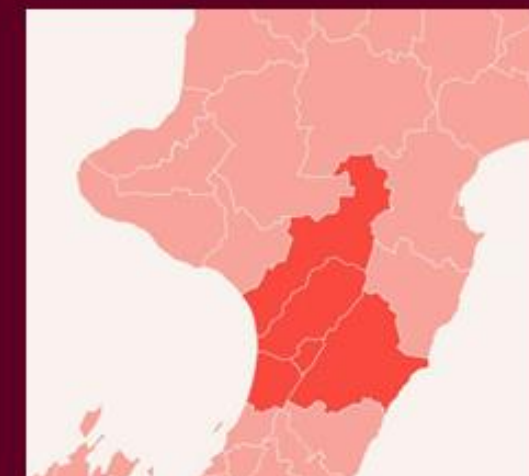
Option 2
West



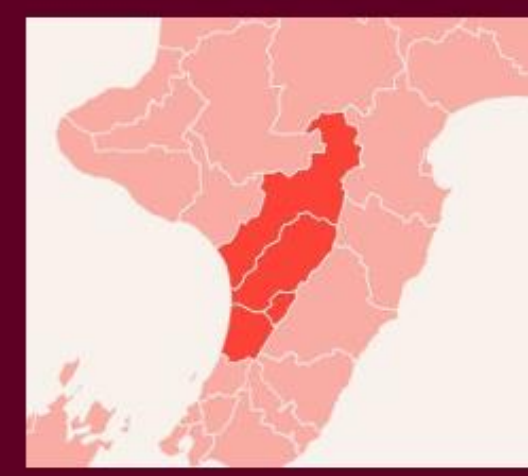
Option 3
Rural - tight



Option 4
Rural - wider



Option 5
East

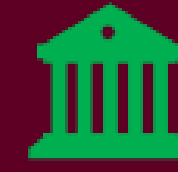
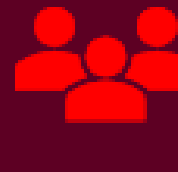
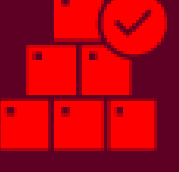
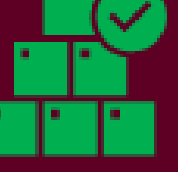
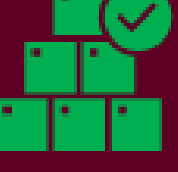
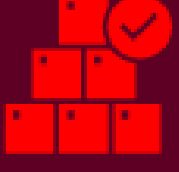
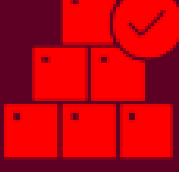
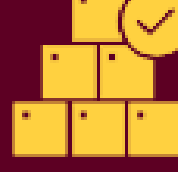
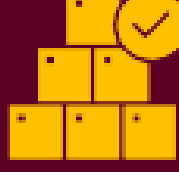


Option 6
Central Districts +
MDC



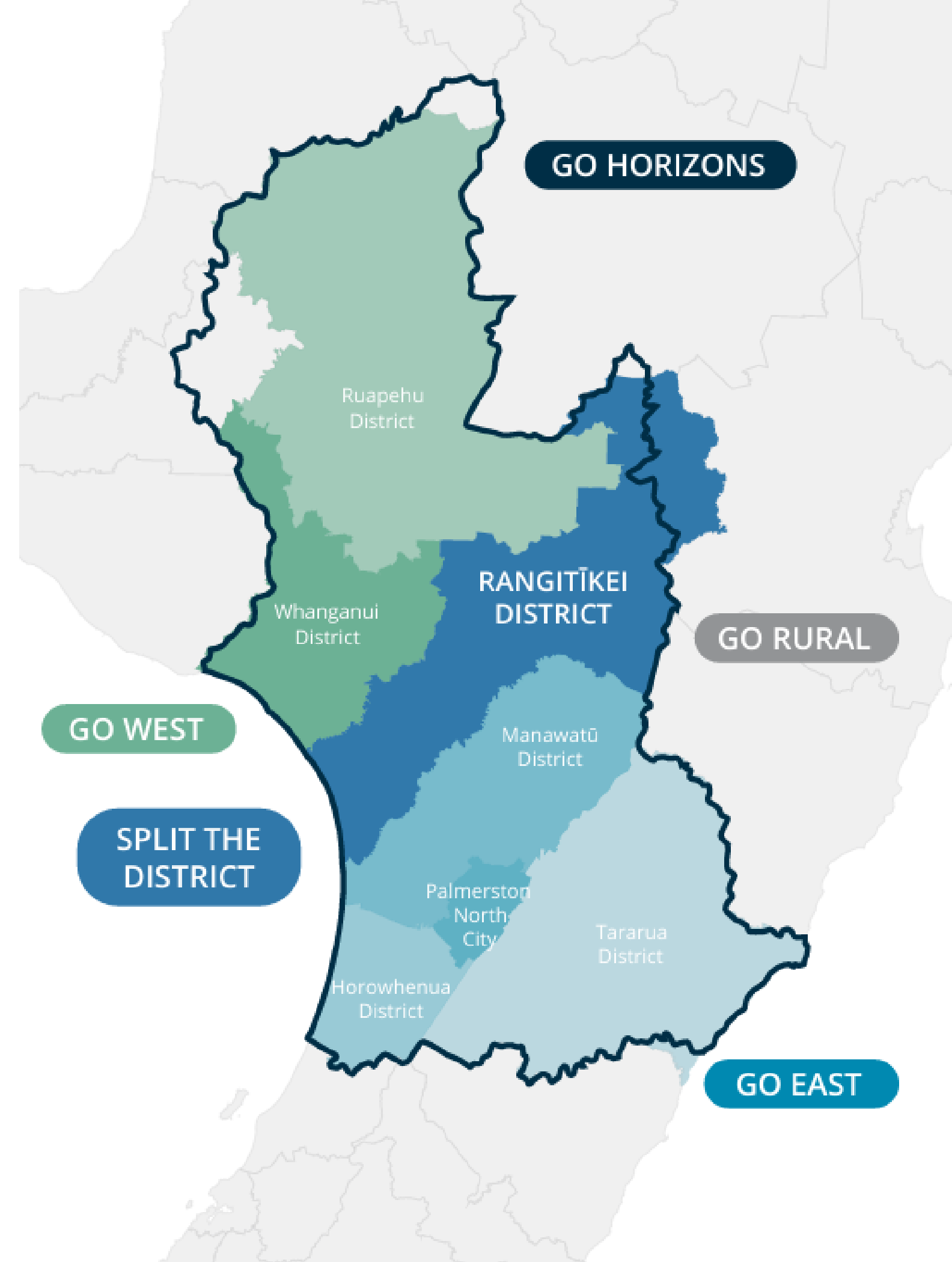
Option 7
West + MDC

Summary of initial assessment

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7
Supports the new planning system							
Simplifies local governance							
Economies of scale							
Maintains local voice							
Deliverability							

Regional collaboration

- Mayors/CEs have held and participated in many meetings since the announcement
- Letter of intent/MoU
- Being named in other proposals?
- Manchester/federation models
- Split region – some councils progressing with Head Start and others entering the Backstop



Information gaps

- Representation options/structures
- Financial picture – rating, financial management
- Operational similarities/differences
- Regional functions – which services could be delivered most effectively via a regional approach
- Reorganisation plan
- Communities of interest across the region (not just our own)
- Cross boundary issues
- Community, iwi, stakeholder feedback on options that have detail

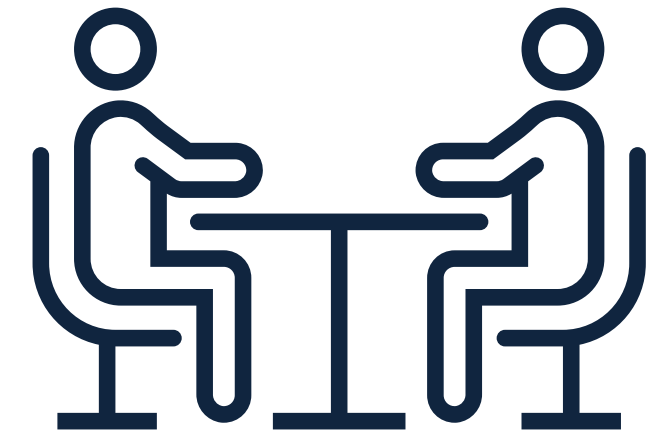


Options

Option 1 – Head Start	Option 2 – Take a proactive approach regionally (letter of intent)	Option 3 – Wait
• Submit a head start proposal by 9 August • Would need to decide ASAP which partners to work with • Reliant on those partners agreeing to submit a proposal • Incomplete information • Timeframes very difficult • Provides greatest control over destiny	• Letter to the Minister/DIA describing regional approach • Time to build the evidence • Time to work with potential partners • Will be part of Backstop process • Less certainty over Govt decisions • Could be caught up in a neighbouring proposal • Relying on others being willing to take this approach	• Do nothing and wait for Backstop • No resourcing required – can focus on other work streams • Risks the Government deciding an outcome • Work will likely need to be done regardless • Could be put into other proposals

Small Group Discussion

- What three councils would be your top picks to partner with?
- Are there potential scenarios you want to be in?
- Are there potential scenarios you don't want to be in?



Next Steps

- Council meeting 30 July – decide on whether to enter Head Start
 - Officers to take steps to implement Council's decision (i.e. work on a proposal or prepare a letter of intent)
- Monitor decisions of other councils in the region
 - Take measures to respond to these if needed



LGNZ Remits

- Text here

Remit 1. Priorities for Dog Control Act reform

Proposed by: Rotorua Lakes Council

Supported by: Invercargill City Council, Gisborne District Council, Tauranga City Council, Hamilton City Council and Far North District Council

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate to government for the reform of the Dog Control Act 1996 to provide councils with more effective powers and tools to undertake their dog control responsibilities including:

- greater scope for earlier intervention
- stronger consequences for non-compliance
- better ability for councils to set minimum requirements for dog owners - including for desexing and containment

Remit 2. Improved regulation of vape retailers

Proposed by: Wairoa District Council

Supported by: Manawatū District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Gisborne District Council, Napier City Council, Hastings District Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate to central government for legislative change to provide territorial authorities with greater regulatory and enforcement powers over vape retailers, including the ability to control the location, density, operation, advertising, product visibility and compliance standards of vape stores within their districts.

Remit 3. Financial support for government reform implementation costs

Proposed by: Whangārei District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate to central government to provide specific targeted financial support to councils to implement the operational and governance changes that are proposed through the legislative reform programme, for example Simplifying Local Government and RMA reforms.

Remit 4. Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform

Proposed by: Waikato District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 2

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate to the Government, on behalf of its members, for compliance relief from the upcoming representation review requirements in light of the significant reforms proposed through the Simplifying Local Government programme and the recent Head Start pathway, which may render any review undertaken before the 2028 elections redundant.

Remit 5. Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities

Proposed by: Far North District Council

Supported by: Northland Regional Council, Porirua City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Rangitīkei District Council and Whakatāne District Council

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate for legislative changes to devolve authority for officiating geographic place names from the Minister for Land Information to local authorities.

Remit 6. Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy

Proposed by: Metro Sector

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate to government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to formalise and increase its role in supporting subnational diplomacy including developing clear policy and capability to support and grow local government's contribution.

Remit 7. Bulk funding of transport activities

Proposed by: Waikato Regional Council

Supported by: Zone 2

Remit:

That LGNZ calls on government, opposition parties and NZTA to support a move to bulk funding for basic and repeatable transport activities, thereby acknowledging the efficiency and financial gains, and reduction in funding risk, this change would provide to local government, and supports a trial of this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027- 2030 funding round amongst a group of councils which have demonstrated strong performance in delivering public transport services and/or maintaining transport infrastructure.

Remit 8. Improving LTP audit requirements

Proposed by: Gisborne District Council

Supported by: Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Hastings District Council, Stratford District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Wairoa District Council, Manawatū District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Tararua District Council, Rangitīkei District Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate to government for improvements to the efficiency, proportionality, and cost-effectiveness of audit requirements for Long Term Plans and Consultation Documents, including:

1. Greater proportionality in audit requirements, ensuring that audit effort is aligned with council size, complexity, risk, and materiality; and
2. Reducing duplication across audit stages, particularly where similar information and assumptions are subject to repeated review; and
3. Improving standardisation, transparency, and cost control in audit delivery, to reduce rework and improve consistency across the sector, and to constrain excessive or escalating audit fees through greater transparency of audit pricing and benchmarking of costs across the sector.

Remit 9. A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding

Proposed by: Stratford District Council

Supported by: South Taranaki District Council, New Plymouth District Council, Rangitīkei District Council, Manawatū District Council and Wairoa District Council

Remit:

That LGNZ advocate for a fairer approach towards uneconomic transport infrastructure, where either NZTA commits to co-funding this infrastructure if councils remain legally obligated to own and maintain it, and/or the Government provides clearer guidance and support for councils downgrading or ceasing service to low traffic volume areas.



Ngā mihi, Thank you



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL