

ORDER PAPER

MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 13 August 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: 18 Humphrey Street
Marton

Chair: Mrs Carolyn Bates

Deputy Chair: Mr David Christison

Membership: Mrs Lyn Duncan
Mr Peter Farrell
Mrs Jennifer Greener
Mrs Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Greg Maughan (Alternate)
HWTM Andy Watson

Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the 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 for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided¹.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

Quorum

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 23 November 22) 11.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

At least 1 Elected Member must be present at the meeting.

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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

kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

¹ Appended to the Delegations Register

Notice is hereby given that a Marton Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the 18 Humphrey Street, Marton on Wednesday, 13 August 2025 at 6.00pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

3 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 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 **Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2025** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Marton Community Committee Meeting - 11 June 2025**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 11 June 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: MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 11 June 2025

Time: 6.00pm

**Venue: 18 Humphrey Street
Marton**

Present

Mrs Carolyn Bates
Mr David Christison
Mrs Lyn Duncan
Mrs Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
Cr Dave Wilson
HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Ms Melanie Bovey, Manager- Heritage and Culture
Cr Brian Carter
Greg Smith, Bulls Community Committee
David Yates, Bulls Community Committee
Aaron Torkill
Queenie Mitchell
Marguerite
Evan

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1 Welcome

Mrs Bates opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, introduced Mrs Carol Gordon and invited the members of the public in attendance to introduce themselves.

2 Apologies

That the apologies be received from Peter Farrell and Jennifer Greener.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflict of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the Order of Business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/009

That the minutes of Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 9 April 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.

Mrs C Bates/Ms S Moore. Carried

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings

Item 1 - Update on Calico Line footpath installation

Still in progress.

Item 2 – Road naming Hendersons Line Subdivision update

Mrs Bates is happy to remove this item from the list as it is now complete.

Items to be added

Mr Whittaker suggested adding the Marton Streetscape Upgrade and Cook's Wall progressions to the follow-up actions list. The committee concurred that they would like this added.

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/010

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Mrs C Bates/Ms S Moore. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/011

That Item 2 – Road naming Hendersons Line Subdivision update is removed as it is complete, That two new items being the Marton Streetscape Upgrade and Cook's Wall updates be added to the list.

.Mrs C Bates/Ms S Moore. Carried

7 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - June 2025

Mrs Bates gave a verbal report noting that she didn't have a lot to report on this month, due to a hip replacement, and not being able to drive.

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/012

That the Chair's Report – June 2025 be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

8 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report to Council - 30 April 2025

The Mayor was happy to take his report as read. He highlighted the recent Youth Awards and the achievements of the Youth nominated in the District. He also gave a brief outline of the progress with Local Waters Done Well, and issues around Health Services in the District.

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/013

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

Ms S Moore/Mr D Christison. Carried

9.2 Mayor's Report - May 2025

The Mayor was happy to take his report as read but highlighted a few part of the report for discussion:

The recent Youth awards held at Te Matapihi in Bulls, reminding the committee about the Dudding Trust closure dates, an update on the progress with Local Waters Done Well, around health service issues in Taihape and Marton, and the upcoming local elections.

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/014

That the Mayor's Report – May 2025 be accepted.

Ms S Moore/Mr D Christison. Carried

9.3 Consultation Tracker - May

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/015

That the report 'Consultation Tracker – May' be received.

Ms S Moore/Mr D Christison. Carried

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - June 2025

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/016

That the Funding Schemes Update – June 2025 be received.

Mr J Whittaker/Ms S Moore. Carried

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - June 2025

Mrs Bates spoke to a decision made at the last meeting of the committee, Resolution 3.1.1 regarding a payment from the small projects fund that the committee agreed to pay to the Marton Crafting Group, that was going into the account of Chloe Gaskin. Confirmation from the committee was required from the Finance Team at Council that the committee was happy to pay the money into Ms Gaskin's account. Mrs Bates had emailed the committee members present at that meeting to gain confirmation from each member that they were happy with that, but also required a resolution to confirm the payment, and suggested the following wording which for clarity.

"The Marton Community committee agree to the payment of \$200.00 to the Chloe Gaskin for running the Marton Crafters Group. This amount is to be transferred to the bank account of Chloe Gaskin".

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/017

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update –June 2025' be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mr D Christison. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/018

The Marton Community committee agree to the payment of \$200.00 to account of Chloe Gaskin for running of the Marton Crafters Group. This amount is to be transferred to the bank account of Chloe Gaskin.

Mrs C Bates/Ms S Moore. Carried

9.6 Project Updates Report - June 2025

Resolved minute number 25/MCC/019

That the report 'Project Updates Report – June 2025' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Mrs L Duncan. Carried

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Marton Community Committee held on 13 August 2025.

.....

Chairperson

ITEM 7.1

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Marton Community Committee meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for 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 Marton Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions					
Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	11-Jun-25	Cook's Wall updates	Jarrod	No updates	In progress
2	11-Jun-25	Marton Streetscape upgrade	Jarrod	No updates	In progress
3	14-Feb-24	Update on Calico Line footpath installation	Arno	There is nothing to update on this project.	In progress

ITEM 8.1

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - August 2025

Author: Carolyn Bates, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 A verbal report will be provided during the meeting.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report – August 2025 be received.

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - June 2025

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

King's Birthday Honours List 2025

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the following recipients of the recent King's Birthday Honours –

Ian McKelvie - Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit - "for services to local government, governance and as a Member of Parliament". Although not in our district, Ian has a special relationship as being the National Party MP for Rangitikei for many years.

Alan (Curly) Troon – King's Service Medal – "for services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand". This recognition goes far beyond Curly's Gold Star with the Fire Brigade for 25+ years service (he has served 34 years to date, becoming Chief Fire Officer in 2009) and recognises his involvement with everything else in Taihape including gumboot throwing, rural games and overall community support and also overseeing the rebuild of the Taihape Fire Station in 2022.

2025 Youth Awards

On 29 May I attended the 2025 Youth Awards evening at Te Matapihi and was astonished at the incredible things our rangatahi have accomplished over the last year. I have listed the winners below and a brief outline of their achievements so you, like me, can take pride in all the great work and initiatives our youth in the district are involved in.

Winner of the Northern Rural/Rangatahi Taiwhenua Award (sponsored by Hautapu Pine) - Isobel Phynn. Isobel raised over \$3,400 for the Manawatu-Rangitikei Rural Support Trust to support rural mental health. In addition to raffles Isobel also organised a "gumboots and pyjama's" mufti day at school raising another \$400 for this Trust. Isobel also organised someone from the Trust to come and speak at the House Dinner, to explain the work of the Trust.

Winner of the Southern/Rangatahi Taiwhenua Rural Youth Award (sponsored by The Downs Group) - Olivia Ward. Olivia helped Rangitikei College become an Enviroschool. She took the initiative to thoroughly research the programme's criteria and navigate the application process, which included securing board commitment and policy changes, liaising with external agencies, and demonstrating excellent organisational skills and commitment. Ultimately leading to Rangitikei College successfully achieving Enviroschool status.

Winner of the Youth of Arts/Rangatahi Toi Award (sponsored by Te Rūnanga O Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa) - Eva Dreliozis. Eva has played key roles in school productions, notably co-choreographing the Showquest team in 2024. A gifted musician and vocalist, she plays the guitar and sings with confidence and expression. Her academic achievements in Speech and Drama further highlight her artistic dedication, receiving Honours Plus.

Current Follow-up Actions					
Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	11-Jun-25	Cook's Wall updates	Jarrold	No updates	In progress
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3	14-Feb-24	Update on Calico Line footpath installation	Arno	There is nothing to update on this project.	In progress

throughout her college years and has captained several teams, including netball, basketball, volleyball, and badminton. Last year, she took a break from playing winter netball for her college teams in Palmerston North to focus on school but continued to referee games for her former primary school. She placed 1st in her school's athletic throwing events, earning a spot at the interschool athletics in Whanganui. There she won 1st place in shot-put and broke a school record set in 1969. This achievement qualified her to compete at the North Island Secondary School Athletic Championships. Without professional training just self-taught and she gave it her best, finishing close to the Top 10. She is proud to represent her small school and appreciates the support she received. While she was training for the North Island Secondary School Athletics Championships, her former primary school reached out to ask if she could run workshops for students preparing for their athletics day in Hunterville, volunteering her time to guide students in discus and shot-put techniques. Her coaching proved successful, with Pati, a Year 7 student, breaking the senior section discus record which had stood for 17 years. Denise is always happy to contribute to her team's success as well as her own. She has consistently achieved Excellence endorsements in NCEA within the college, her leadership has been impactful. As Head Prefect, student Board of Trustees representative, and leader of the Pasifika Aiga group, she has consistently inspired and motivated her peers. She possesses a natural and remarkable ability to foster collaboration, communicate effectively, and guide teams towards achieving common goals. At Pasifika Fusion she has been involved in Samoan cultural performances, debating, public speaking, and visual art. Beyond the school, her commitment to leadership extends to various community organisations. Her active participation and leadership in the Youth Council highlights her dedication to making a positive difference in the wider community. Through forum such as the Race Unity Speech Awards, debating and Pasifika Fusion, she has also been a key agent of change and advocacy for youth. Significantly, she was also a member through 2023-2024 of the Children's Commission 'Youth Voices Group', which involved 30 young people throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand providing input, insight, advocacy directly through to the Children's Commissioner. Underlying all of her achievements is a strong sense of integrity and humility. Denise consistently acts with honesty, kindness, fairness, and respect, and so earns the trust and admiration of those around her. Her commitment to her values is evident in all she does, making her a role model for all other young people in our community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity of background. She is hugely respected at school and fully embodies everything this award stands for.

I personally congratulate each and every one of the winners on their remarkable achievements.

RDC Matariki Stars Awards 2025

The Matariki Stars Staff Awards were held on 13 June and I will leave the detailing of this to Carol which is appropriate as an operational matter however I would like to say the awards highlighted to me just how hard our staff have worked and what they are involved with outside of work in the community. It gave me a real thrill to hear Marita Wilkinson awarded the Hiwa-I-Te-Rangi/Personal Achiever award for passing her final exam towards an accountancy degree (while also working full-time) – this is such a special occasion and highlight in her life. The overall Matariki Star/Chief Executive's Award presented to Mike Hart was richly deserved – Mike's commitment to council and the community is outstanding and much appreciated.

Local Water Done Well

I will follow these accolades with a report on "the never-ending story about LWDW"

- After months of analysis and consultation, our preferred solution was to form a Regional CCO (Council Controlled Organisation) with Whanganui and Ruapehu.

ITEM 9.1

- What we have now is a Regional CCO to be set up with Palmerston North City, Horowhenua District Council and ourselves, the Rangitikei, with the hope that Whanganui and Ruapehu will join us. These are now decisions made by the first three councils. Ruapehu and Whanganui will decide over the next 2-3 weeks.
- I suspect that Whanganui and Ruapehu may not join with us.
- This Regional CCO is based on savings to the ratepayer by way of loan structures and efficiencies and includes scale of about 50,000+ connections.
- We will argue as part of the governance board of the new entity for –
 - a) Each council will have an equal vote (we have support for this)
 - b) Price harmonisation or cross-subsidy over time where everyone pays the same charges for water. (This will need to be a long term discussion and will not be happening in the short term).
 - c) That price harmonisation should happen initially in reach respective district, i.e. the charges in the Rangitikei will be the same throughout the district (this should be straightforward).
 - d) That the shareholding will be based on the value of assets transferred (expected to be a given).
 - e) That there will be mechanisms worked out to capture the collective Iwi considerations (this could, in my opinion, be by an advisory board).
 - f) The Board will probably have an independent chair.
 - g) The rural water schemes such as Omatane, Erewhon, Hunterville and Putorino will be set aside from the entity (the mechanism for this will need to be approved by Government).

So what happens now???

1. We wait on Ruapehu/Whanganui decisions
2. The operational plan for delivery needs to be submitted to Wellington for approval/ratification by 3 September.
3. The councils will form the governance boards to work on strategy/pricing.
4. The governance board will need to start interviewing/searching for a chief executive of the entity. (I note these positions will be competitive and I suspect entities will need to act quickly to get preferred staff).
5. The formation of these entities will result in significant changes to councils' LTPs (Long Term Plans) this will be complex and include –
 - Staffing changes (although many staff of the entity will remain in-situ with each council);
 - There will be, I think, rating changes especially in the areas of public good concerning water/wastewater delivery and there may need to be some rebalancing here with other charges;
 - Council's debt/loan structure will alter;
 - As we transfer the assets we have the loan component 'handed back' in some form and in stages to the council. How we choose to handle that leaves many interesting options that I will expand on at another time.
 - Yes we have made a decision but the work gets tough from hereon in!

Recently I spent a couple of hours listening to the details around a new fund set up by Government – The Social Investment Fund. This fund of \$275m, of which \$190m will be new money, will be focussed on early prevention and supporting New Zealand social outcomes.

The fund has Andrew Coster as it's Chief Executive and he introduced the fund with a lot of 'government speak' –

- Supporting social outcomes;
- Will use outcome focussed contractors (i.e. they will contract out services to committees to deliver);
- The fund will look for 'innovations';
- The fund will focus on set outcomes (presumably this is a reference to accountability conditions).

He ended his presentation by saying significantly, the fund has mechanisms where it can grow, i.e. it can draw on funding from other agencies. I think these comments reference that the New Zealand Government pays out around \$7b annually in buying services from non-government agencies. The Government is concerned about the accountability and performance (value for money) of this purchase. This fund would then be a mechanism to re-distribute this money with better checks and balances.

Andrew Coster was followed by Joe Fowler, the interim Head of Commissioning for the fund, who talked about how the fund will work. There are three pathways to access this fund –

1. Pathway 1 –
 - a) Applications will open in July with 5-8 initiatives funded in August.
 - b) Government is looking for 20-30 initiatives over the next 12-18 months.
 - c) Priorities for funding have not yet been set but are likely to be focussed on youth and children.
 - d) The programme will need to reach several hundred people over the coming years.
2. Pathway 2 – this pathway targets secondary prevention though I am not sure what it covers and I'm not sure Government is aware of what it covers either.
3. Pathway 3 –
 - a) "still in early development".
 - b) Government is interested in speaking to organisations that already operate as a collective impact model with Local Government arrangements.

Summary of my thoughts -

1. This is rushed, not fully developed to coincide again with Government wanting to see it established in this term of office.
2. It is under the control of the Minister of Finance who definitely wants more accountability. In my opinion many organisations that currently receive money could stand to lose their financing in the future.
3. But it does open up the opportunity for Local Government. This may indicate that Central Government is too heavily burdened with staffing/administration costs.
4. Part of the fund is already allocated –
 - a) \$20m for programmes strengthening the first 2000 days of a child's life i.e. reducing harm.

ITEM 9.1

- b) \$25m to prevent children and vulnerable young adults entering state care (included as a Crown response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse under Care position).

I finish this section with two quotes attributed to the Minister of Finance –

“Over the next 2-3 years I expect to see significant amounts of funding transferred from current social services to this fund as communities and providers developing new approaches to working with Government”. (From me - social services would probably include employment/health/benefits?).

“Each investment will have a robust evaluation built in from the start so the impact can be tracked”.

Annual Plan

On the agenda is the adoption of the Annual Plan. This is one of the “cornerstones” of Council and is a section of the Long Term Plan. There are several points I wish to make regarding the Annual Plan and the associated rating position/adoption of fees and charges.

- Councils throughout the country have struggled with resourcing annual plans against a backdrop of considerable change. Local Water Done Well has soaked up huge staffing resources especially for smaller rural councils.
- I thank Carol as CE and staff, in particular the Finance and Three Waters staff for what has been a challenging process.
- We are likely to adopt a rate increase of under 8% and that is quite an achievement considering that we started at a much higher figure. This rate increase is probably mid-pack compared to other councils throughout New Zealand.
- Costs increases faced by council are well beyond the national CPI (Consumers Price Index) for example, the costs for roading have risen substantially over the last couple of years and roading is a huge part of our budget.
- Council’s capex (capital expenditure) spend has been less than forecasted in this year so there are some carry-overs of existing budgets. Some of that delay is operational or consenting in nature but some of it is prudent considering the changes proposed by Government. Taumata Arowai, the regulator for discharge consents, has proposed new standards which could, if adopted, reduce costs. We will have to comply with these new standards so it makes sense to delay spending money until we have further advice.
- With decisions made around LWDW there will be a revision of our LTP required next year, something that the new council will need to consider.

Policy/Planning Meeting 12 June

The Policy/Planning Committee, as part of their terms of reference to develop, monitor and review Council’s strategies and plans, considered and made decisions to refine where officers should continue work for the rezoning of land to accommodate residential growth. Council will make the final decision on adopting the plan change for notification. I would like to make several points –

- We are required to go through planning change processes as a function of council.
- The demand for space for residential is heavy in the southern parts of the district, i.e. Bulls/Marton areas.
- As such, for consultation we are allowing principally for new areas of growth in those areas but we are also looking at possible spaces in Mangaweka to make land available for the northern region.

- For those people that are interested please ask to see the Policy/Planning Committee notes from 12 June.

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Remits

The Local Government New Zealand (of which Rangitikei is a member) 2025 Conference will be held in Christchurch on 16-17 July. As part of that conference there will be a series of remits proposed by different councils throughout New Zealand for LGNZ, our governing body, to consider at the AGM. If they receive support by way of vote it will effectively direct LGNZ to engage with Government asking them to either stop a process, change a process or look at future direction of Government. This is the direct way that we have as a council of directing Government. These remits have been proposed by individual councils and we as a council will need to make a decision as to whether we support them or not. At this council meeting I am asking for a vote on each remit as to whether we support it or not. That gives myself as delegate at the AGM, an understanding of the direction of our council. I do note that there will always be new supporting evidence presented as part of the LGNZ conference which could potentially change our view. That is the nature of debate.

On 7 June I attended the Open Day for the Otiwhiti School of Agriculture. Otiwhiti is committed to training young people to become the new breed of managers that the sheep and beef industry needs and takes on 18 rural students each year to build a working knowledge of shepherding as a career. These students often come in without any form of background in farming, they commence in January and are expected to arrive with a 5 month old heading pup that they will assist in the training of over the course of the year. At the end of the year they will leave with a New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture Level 3, covering basic skills in shepherding, cropping, tractor work and fencing and most are able to shear 100 sheep a day which is no small achievement. The Open Day was an invitation for people to seek applications for one of the 178 positions available. The turnout was huge with several families saying this was their second year of application or this is our first year of application but will really probably be considered better in our second year. The standard of facilities at the school are brilliant, there's a brand new butchery going in where the shepherds learn to dress venison, pork, mutton and make sausages. Students spend one day a week 'in class' and four days a week on a farm throughout the course gaining the skills required and can elect to carry on their studies after the conclusion of this. The standout from the Otiwhiti School is that virtually every year 100% of the graduates are placed in employment, many of them on neighbouring stations right up through the Turakina Valley and Rangitikei High Country.

Late afternoon on 6 June I travelled to the River Valley Lodge on invitation from Brian Megaw and the team. Invitees to an evening session were those people involved with tourism in the northern part of our district looking to see how we could work together in the future. I thank Brian for making this opportunity available – it is important that we leverage off each other and he made the point that visitors might make enquiries with him that could be better provided for by another local operator rather than them leaving the district. Our tourism operations throughout the district certainly don't link together as well as they could, however apart from the business of the day it was good to be able to meet up with friends around a roaring fire on an early winter's evening and I thank Brian for the great hospitality provided.

Mayor's Engagements

June 2025

ITEM 9.1

1	Attended Potitini - election Information event
3	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Taihape Grandstand User Group Meeting Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Omatane Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly meeting with staff re Marton Water Strategy Attended governors Q&A at monthly Executive Leadership Team meeting Attended online meeting with Hon Simeon Brown and staff
5	Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting Attended Tenders Board Subcommittee Meeting Attended Council Meeting – Annual Plan Deliberations
6	Attended online Tripartite Meeting with Whanganui and Ruapehu Mayors Attended Northern Tourist Businesses hui at River Valley Lodge
7	Attended Otiwhiti tour of school Attended Bulls walk around of town murals Attended meeting with Taihape constituent
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with staff re Urban Growth areas Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting
10	Attended Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti meeting Attended meeting with staff re Urban Growth areas Attended MSD Social Investment Fund Webinar Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Ratana Community Board Meeting
11	Attended Ruapehu District Council Meeting in Ohakune Attended Marton Community Committee Meeting
12	Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee workshop Attended Policy/Planning committee meeting
13	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Core Group Meeting in Wellington Attended RDC Matariki Stars Awards Evening
16	Attended Nga Wai Tota hui at Makaranui Marae

	Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting
17	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
18	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff Attended monthly comms catchup with staff Attended Youth Lobby in Taihape with staff Attended Mayors Event for Defence Hub in Palmerston North
19	Attended Marton Office & Library Project Governance Fortnightly Meeting Attended Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting Attended Regional Leadership Group Hui – Manawatu-Whanganui Attended Urban Planning in Bulls meeting Attended Mid Winter Xmas BA5 in Marton
23	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Quarterly Catchup with MP Suze Redmayne Attended Downer Board Function at NZ Parliament House
24	Attended NZ Tiny House Association online hui Attended Citizenship Ceremony in Bulls Attended LGNZ zoom on Rates Capping
25	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended quarterly catchup meeting with Chief Executive and NZDF Ohakea Base Commander and Command Team
26	Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Council Meeting
27	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend fortnightly economic development meeting with staff To attend meeting with Arohanui Hospice CE
29	To attend unveiling of Chris Amon statue in Bulls
30	To attend meeting with Deputy Chief Executive To attend Tripartite monthly Mayoral Meeting with Whanganui and Ruapehu Mayors To attend Election Candidate Information Session in Taihape To attend Election Candidate Information Session in Marton

Attachments:

ITEM 9.1

1. **LGNZ Remits** [↓](#)
2. **LGNZ Rates Caping** [↓](#)
3. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

That the Mayor's Report – June 2025 be accepted.



2025 Remits



// 01 Security System Payments

Proposed by:	Far North District Council and Central Otago District Council
Supported by:	Zone 6 and Zone 1
Remit:	<i>That LGNZ advocates for security system payments to be included as an allowance under the Local Government Members Determination, in line with those afforded to Members of Parliament.</i>

Why is this remit important?

The importance of safety for elected members has become more apparent in recent times. With an increase in animosity towards “government figures,” both online and in person, the time has come to address this. Recent examples of elected members being threatened, harassed and abused, including incidents occurring at or near their home address, highlights the need for changes to the Local Government Act to be updated. The ability for security system payments to be made as an allowance would go some way towards encouraging actual and perceived safety for existing elected members, as well as ensuring future candidates can feel safer while representing their communities.

Background and Context

Democracy worldwide is currently considered a “tinderbox” according to multiple news sites. In 2024, 37 candidates for election were murdered in Mexico. While this may seem extreme – our own Electoral Commission in NZ has a page dedicated to “security advice” for potential candidates. The rise of fringe groups, anonymity of online forums, general mistrust of government figures and polarising coverage of worldwide democratic outcomes has been creating a platform for those with singular or disaffected viewpoints. While we recognise that some of the sentiment is online, there have been instances of this spilling over into daily life for our elected members. Much of “being safe” is about “feeling safe.”

The Members of Parliament Determination 2023 (Section 48) allows for up to \$4500 to install a security system at a member’s primary place of residence, along with up to \$1000 per year to monitor this.

LGNZ’s own research carried out last year identified three quarters of elected members had suffered abuse or harassment at public meetings, a third at the supermarket or school pick up, and that half of EM’s felt it was worse than a year ago. Supporting new anti-stalking and harassment Legislation is a good start, but this is something that could immediately help our elected members to feel safer at home.

Some councils are already supporting elected members in personal safety. Central Otago District has paid for a member to install a camera at their home address where they live with young kids following an obnoxious campaign including items being left in their letterbox. There will be multiple other examples where councils are promoting personal safety, wellbeing initiatives and also installing or providing additional security measures at homes and council offices.

Far North and Central Otago Districts are just two examples of our huge, remote areas. Overnight Central Otago, all 9,968 square kilometres of it, is covered by two on-call Police officers, based 30km



apart. Feeling safe plays a big role in actual safety. Expectations of safety will be different for an older female to a young dad with kids, a large family or a person living alone, and they are also different between rural and urban areas.

This election, we want to ensure worry about how safe someone is in their own home is not a barrier to putting their hand up to fulfil a wonderful role for our communities.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

Ties into the research on safety that LGNZ carried out last year, and also the support of the Crimes Legislation (Stalking and Harassment) Amendment Bill.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Connect with Minister Mark Patterson (Minister for Rural Communities) for support

Investigate the possibility for a partnership with a national retailer/supplier of home security systems and/or trail cams

Timeframe - depends how quickly things could progress before the election?



// 02 Improving Joint Management Agreements

Proposed by:	Northland Regional Council
Supported by:	LGNZ Zone 1
Remit:	<i>That LGNZ advocate to Government for: a) legislative change to make the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) mechanism more accessible for councils to use with iwi/hapū, b) for the provision of technical, legal and financial support to facilitate the use of JMAs for joint council and iwi/hapū environmental governance, and c) for a mechanism such as JMAs to be included in the Government's new resource management legislation.</i>

Why is this remit important?

JMAs are a valuable tool for councils and iwi / hapū to work together on environmental governance. Many councils support stronger partnerships with tangata whenua, but the statutory and practical barriers to formalising JMAs have severely limited their uptake by councils and iwi/hapū. There is thus a need to address the limitations of the current mechanism under the RMA, to make it more accessible to councils and tangata whenua, as well as to ensure a mechanism such as JMAs is included in the Government's new resource management legislation.

Recommended improvements include a) simplification or modification of the JMA statutory requirements and criteria; b) provision of a customisable JMA template and detailed guidance on when JMAs might be appropriate and how to establish them; c) explanation of the legal implications for the parties, and the Health & Safety obligations; d) making JMAs mandatory in appropriate circumstances in addition to Treaty settlements; and e) provision of funding to support iwi/hapū capacity to develop and implement JMAs.

Background and Context

JMAs under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provide for agreement between a local authority and an iwi authority and/or groups representing hapū to jointly perform or exercise any local authority functions, powers or duties under the RMA relating to a natural or physical resource.

Since inclusion as a mechanism under sections 36B-E of the RMA in 2005, only two JMAs have been established, apart from their mandatory use in some Treaty settlements.

For a JMA to be developed, the local authority must be satisfied that the agreement is an "efficient" method of exercising the function, power or duty. However, if a JMA were to require more funds and resources to support administrative costs and extra person-hours than what council would itself expend, the "efficiency" criterion might not be satisfied. Thus, "efficiency" could compel an iwi/hapū to contribute its own resources to the collaborative management process if it wished to conclude a JMA. A lack of financial resources is repeatedly identified by iwi/hapū as being the most significant barrier to their full participation under the RMA.

Another requirement of s36B is that the local authority must be satisfied that the other party to the JMA has the "technical or special capability or expertise to perform or exercise the function, power,



or duty jointly with the local authority". Many (especially unsettled) iwi/hapū are under-resourced, often having to rely on voluntary contributions of resources and expertise; thus funding and technical support may be needed to facilitate iwi/hapū participation in JMAs.

Another deterrent to JMA uptake is that the agreement can be cancelled by either party at any time. If conflict arises, the local authority will always have the "upper hand" because the function(s) shared under the JMA will revert exclusively to local authority control. More stringent cancellation requirements could be introduced that give JMA parties greater assurance of continuation.

Only those JMAs created as part of Treaty Settlements are currently mandatory for local authorities. A similar mandatory requirement under the RMA for councils to enter into JMAs in appropriate circumstances would facilitate uptake.

Currently there is very little information available on the legal implications of JMAs, and on the process and considerations for developing and implementing such an agreement. There is also no template provided for such agreements. Technical guidance from central government would further facilitate uptake.

In summary, very low uptake of JMAs reflects the high barriers to their uptake by councils and iwi/hapū. They remain a potentially useful tool if sufficient guidance, resourcing and technical support is provided, and if criteria for developing them are made more enabling.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit aligns with LGNZ's strategy, in particular the long-term goal that Te Tiriti partnerships between local government and Māori are authentic, strong and respected. We are not aware of any existing or planned work to advocate for improved legislative mechanisms and implementation support for Joint Management Agreements.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

We can provide some technical expertise to support analysis of specific options to improve how JMAs function and some advocacy support.



// 03 Alcohol Licensing Fees

Proposed by: Far North District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Remit: *That LGNZ advocates for the government to update the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 18 December 2013 to account for inflation and include a mechanism for automatic annual inflation adjustments.*

Why is this remit important?

If a local council does not have a bylaw that sets alcohol licensing fees and charges it must default to the schedule of fees in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013. These default fees were set 12 years ago and, with the impact of inflation over this period, no longer enable local councils to reasonably recover the costs to administer the alcohol licensing system. This has led to increasing ratepayer subsidisation of these costs. Currently the only way that councils can increase these fees and charges is to make an Alcohol Fees Bylaw under an Order in Council associated with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is an inefficient and expensive way for councils to raise their alcohol licensing fees and charges, when this issue could be simply resolved by the government updating the schedule of fees in the Regulations.

Background and Context

Objectives relating to the setting of alcohol licensing fees were listed in the review of the Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013 conducted by the Ministry of Justice in 2017. These objectives include: - recovering the total reasonable costs incurred by local councils and ARLA in administering the alcohol licensing system - ensuring that those who create the greatest need for regulatory effort bear the commensurate costs.

Alcohol licensing fees and charges are intended to cover the reasonable costs of administering the alcohol licensing system via a 'user pays' approach. The fees and charges set in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013 are now 12 years out of date and have not been updated since 2013, despite two reviews of these fees conducted in 2018 and 2022 as required by section 404 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act. With inflation since 2013, costs to manage alcohol licenses cannot be recovered through the fees prescribed in these Regulations. This means that every time Council processes an alcohol licence it costs more than the fee paid by the licensee and the difference must be covered by general rates.

To increase these fees and charges in their districts, local councils can make Alcohol Fees Bylaws under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fee-setting Bylaws) Order 2013. However, making a bylaw is a relatively costly and inefficient way to address this issue as it involves: - time and effort to research and draft the bylaw - costs for public consultation - the need to regularly review the fees and charges set in the bylaw. A better solution would be for the government to update the fees and charges listed in the 2013 Regulations to reflect current costs. The schedule of fees in the revised Regulations should also allow for an annual CPI increase and allow cost recovery for hearings objections to District Licensing Committee decisions.

**How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

This remit sits within the Funding and Financing advocacy area within LGNZ's Advocacy Work Programme. Specifically, this relates to: - Advocating for changes to local government funding and financing - Building and working with a coalition of the willing to support LGNZ's advocacy for changes to local government funding and financing. Fees and charges are also specifically mentioned in LGNZ's funding and finance toolbox. We understand that the regulation of alcohol fees is not currently part of this Work Programme.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

We can provide detailed evidence of the current income received by FNDC from licensing fees based on applying the outdated fee schedule in the 2013 Regulations, compared with the costs to administer the alcohol licensing system. In summary, in the 2023/24 financial year FNDC received \$410,000 in income from licence application fees compared with costs of \$581,000. This means there was a shortfall of \$171,000 which has to be recovered from general rates. In 2023/24 licence application fees covered 71% of costs for the Council. By contrast, the 2017 Review of the 2013 Regulations reported that cost recovery across all local councils was 108%.



// 04 Aligning public and school bus services

Proposed by: Nelson City Council

Supported by: LGNZ Regional Sector

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate for the reform of the Ministry of Education funded school bus services to provide an improved service for families and to better integrate the services with council provided public transport services, including the option of Public Transport Authorities (e.g. regional and unitary councils) managing such services (with appropriate government funding), noting that:*

- a. councils better know their local communities; and*
- b. the potential to reduce congestion from better bus services for schools; and*
- c. the efficiency gains realised from integrating these two publicly funded bus services*
- d. the outdated and inflexible rules of the current centralised school bus system*

Why is this remit important?

The quality and efficiency of school and public bus services is compromised by school and public bus services being funded through two different arms of Government. Some services are funded through the New Zealand Transport Agency and councils, and others are through the Ministry of Education School Bus Transport Service. This remit proposes to align those functions by transferring the funding and management to Regional Public Transport authorities which are better placed to understand and respond to local transport needs. By improving our bus services for students, we can also reduce congestion which is noticeably less during the school holidays in towns and cities around New Zealand.

Background and Context

There are essentially two drivers for this reform. The first is that it makes no sense to have two different arms of Government separately planning and contracting publicly funded bus services. The second is that decisions about bus services are best made locally.

The co-ordination and contracting of public bus services, whether for getting students to school or for other passengers, is a complex job. Decisions about the routes, frequency, bus size and convenient bus stops are difficult, requiring the juggling the objectives of making the service as convenient as possible, maximising usage, managing costs and ensuring safety. These decisions are inherently local.

The centralised school bus transport system is a huge source of frustration to communities and councils all over New Zealand. It is governed centrally by archaic, rigid rules that date back nearly 100 years, and are unchanged to this day.



The Ministry of Education officials do the best they can within the current policy, but the system is fundamentally outdated and broken. It makes no sense for education officials to be running transport services, and it is impossible to run a community focused, flexible school transport system over thousands of schools and communities from Wellington.

One of the big opportunities of this reform is to reduce congestion by improving our bus service for students. The potential is highlighted in towns and cities all over New Zealand during school holidays when there is much less congestion. An improved bus service with timetables and routes tailored to students' needs would be a wise investment for the overall transport network.

Regional councils, unitary authorities and Auckland Transport are all public transport authorities with delegated responsibility for the development, planning and delivery of public transport services in New Zealand.

The current system has perverse incentives in that if a public transport authority uses rates to improve public transport service to an area, the Ministry of Education withdraws its service. The current system discourages councils to provide public transport services on routes and times that work for students.

Nelson/Tasman are exploring trialling the integration of the management of public and school transport services. We believe there is the opportunity to provide a more responsive service to families of school aged children, to expend our public transport network and to get efficiency gains from contracting for both types of services. If successful, the trial may result in wider reforms.

This is a significant proposal currently involving more than \$125 million of annual public expenditure on school bus services that would need to be transferred to public transport authorities. It would be a complex reform that requires careful attention to detail and consultation with parents, schools, bus service providers and councils. The prize is a better bus services in places like Nelson, less congestion on our roads and more efficient use of public money.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

Transport is a critical issue facing all councils and we need to be proactively looking for way to better deliver services. This remit goes to the heart of LGNZ's vision of localism in that it proposes to localise the delivery of school bus services. This remit also compliments LGNZ's strategic relationship with Government in that it proposes reforms that improve efficiency, and is not just asking for more funding in fiscally constrained times. It also supports LGNZ's sustainability goals by providing opportunities for expansion of public transport services.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Nelson City Council is keen to help advance the case for this reform. We have already engaged with the Ministry of Education, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Transport who are interested in the reforms and keen to trial this alternative approach for the delivery of school bus services. We also commit to sharing our experiences should Nelson Tasman proceed to trialling this reform.



// 05 Review of local government arrangements to achieve better balance

Proposed by: Tauranga City Council

Supported by: LGNZ Metro Sector

Remit: *That LGNZ works with the Government and Councils to review current local government arrangements, including the functions and structure of local government, to achieve a better balance between the need to efficiently and effectively deliver services and infrastructure, while enabling democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities.*

Why is this remit important?

Efficient and effective local democracy and associated decision making is paramount.

Background and Context

A number of local government reviews undertaken previously, have concluded that the current structure and arrangement of the local government sector, is not conducive to ensuring that infrastructure and services delivered to communities, are always done so in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Current sector arrangements are a legacy, and do not always reflect how our communities have expanded, nor how modern services are delivered.

Central government is underway with key policy and legislations changes that both directly and indirectly significantly impact the local government sector. This will require an agile and well planned response by the sector.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This is an important issue for local government as the sector responds to the current central government policy and legislation changes and reforms underway. Seeks advocacy for a work programme between central government, local government and LGNZ, to undertake this review, and ensuring local communities are well considered.

This remit sits within the principles of the Local Government Act 2002 in that it would give local government a tool to provide services more efficiently. While this is not currently part of LGNZ's work programme, engaging with central government will be essential to making progress in this area.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Metro sector councils will provide support and resource to participate and work on the programme established.



Rates capping AGM paper

Purpose of this paper

- To update members on the Government's approach to rates capping and seek agreement on LGNZ's direction of travel.

Recommendations

- That the AGM **approves** the direction of travel set out in this paper.
- That the AGM **notes** members will agree the next phase at a Special General Meeting after the 2025 elections (in March 2026 or earlier if needed).

Background

What is rates capping and what is being proposed?

Rates capping sets a limit on how much councils can increase rates. Often the cap is indexed to economic measures such as consumer inflation, local government inflation or population.

All rates capping policies effectively transfer local fiscal decisions from local communities to central government politicians or bureaucracies.

In August 2024, the then Local Government Minister set out a Local Government Forward Work Programme. This programme included a proposal to investigate a rates cap on "non-core" expenditure by councils. This policy was to be modelled on similar policies in Australian states New South Wales and Victoria.

The Government plans to distinguish between core and non-core spending, applying the cap only to non-core expenditure. Core services may be identified in the soon-to-be-reinstated Section 11A of the Local Government Act 2002 and new purpose of local government. It's still unclear how the Government will enable the cap to apply only to non-core expenditure as this is not a feature of other rate caps overseas. The distinction is likely to be unworkable at a practical level and generate significant bureaucracy. It is unclear for instance how support activities which are used across all councils services, such as call centres and human resource functions would be defined in such a cap.

What rates capping looks like in other countries

Rates capping looks slightly different in each jurisdiction. In NSW, rates capping extends to charges like development contributions. An independent authority decides the rates cap level and considers exemptions to it. However, in Victoria, the essential services commission provides advice to the state's Minister of Local Government who then decides the level of the rate cap.



LGNZ has engaged with local government experts from New South Wales and Victoria to understand how rates capping has affected their councils. They told us rates capping has led to negative outcomes for councils and communities, including:

- Degraded infrastructure and service delivery;
- Financial instability among councils;
- Severe infrastructure backlogs;
- Bureaucratic and expensive processes to approval rates above the cap;
- Reduced local economic growth; and
- Diminished local voice in council investment and revenue decisions.

NSW and Victoria's experience also suggests that once rates caps are in place, removing them is very challenging politically. NSW and Victorian councils also say that impacts worsen over time. Initially councils in those states were able to sell assets, and reduce services and staffing, to offset impacts of the rates cap. After several years, this is no longer an option.

LGNZ's advocacy so far

LGNZ's top advocacy priority (as set by members) is better local government funding and financing. Rates capping directly constrains local government funding and financing. Rates capping also runs counter to localism. Locally elected representatives – who are directly accountable to communities – are better placed than Wellington to make local taxation and investment decisions. Rates capping is not primarily about rates increases: it's about who decides what rates increases should be.

So far, LGNZ has communicated our views on rates capping in conversations and meetings with politicians and officials, via submissions, and through media. Some elected members around the country have publicly spoken out against the policy of their own accord.

Our advocacy needs to step up a gear

If we don't strengthen our advocacy, the Government is likely to implement rates capping. The Government is likely to introduce legislation next year. However, it is still politically possible to prevent rates capping. LGNZ successfully opposed a similar proposal in 2009. More recently, South Australia has held off a rates cap through lobbying and a strong public campaign.

Others will campaign for rates capping

Pressure group the Taxpayers Union has launched a campaign in support of rates capping that features anti-council rhetoric ("ballooning staff numbers and vanity project spending see councils delivering fewer core services"). This campaign is targeting particular councils and Mayors ahead of the local government elections.

Without balance, supportive voices will capture the public narrative around rates capping.

How we could stop rates capping



We would develop a comprehensive advocacy plan

This plan would draw on the strategies from LGNZ's 2009 advocacy and South Australia's successful campaign. We anticipate that public intensity would need to build as key policy milestones are passed (for example, when the Bill is introduced).

Being louder publicly would be essential

To argue that councils are better placed than central government to make rates decisions, we must boost public trust and confidence in local government. This would be one prong of our campaign, including highlighting popular council services and infrastructure that would be threatened by rates capping. A campaign centred on what the public would lose to a rate cap – and who has the right to decide – is more likely to succeed than one focussed on technicalities.

LGNZ sets the tone for rate capping advocacy. We know other groups and organisations oppose this policy but given this sits squarely in our space, no one will stick their neck out more than we do. Visible advocacy from LGNZ would be required to activate a "coalition of the willing".

The consequences of being louder

We also need to consider what political consequences might result from strongly and vocally opposing rates capping. Misinformation about LGNZ's political neutrality already exists. While we do (and will continue to) work closely with the Government on many other policies and portfolios, opposing specific proposals gains more attention.

However, other membership bodies talk loudly and publicly to the Government when certain lines are crossed. For example, Federated Farmers' "SOS: Save Our Sheep" campaign is aggressively calling on the Government to stop carbon forestry and preserve the sheep industry. Playing out across billboards, social media and media. It's important to note that opposing a policy does not prevent us from working constructively with the Government on other policy areas.

We need a mandate from members

The paper and the AGM 2025 vote are about confirming our direction of travel rather than agreeing explicit actions.

If the AGM agrees to the direction of travel, we will continue our current approach while developing a plan for the next phase.

That next phase would go to a Special General Meeting for approval. This SGM would be held after the 2025 elections so that we have an explicit mandate from the next triennium's members. It would potentially be held in March 2026 (or earlier if necessary).

LGNZ is clear that a mandate is needed from members to proceed with a strong public campaign.

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ATTACHMENT 3

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong
29-May-24	Creative NZ Committee	PR				PR							
30-May-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	AP	PR				PR	PR	AP		PR
30-May-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
6-Jun-24	Turakina CC	PR		AP							AT		
10-Jun-24	HRWS	PR			PR			PR					
10-Jun-24	Hunterville CC	CB			PR			PR					
11-Jun-24	TRAK Meeting	PR				PR	PR					PR	
11-Jun-24	ERWS	PR											PR
11-Jun-24	Ratana CB	PR					PR						
12-Jun-24	Marton CC	CB	PR										
12-Jun-24	Taihape CB	PR				PR							PR
13-Jun-24	PPL Meeting	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR		AP			PR
19-Jun-24	Santoft DMC	PR		PR							AT		
20-Jun-24	RA Meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR				
27-Jun-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR	AT			PR	PR	PR		PR
27-Jun-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
11-Jul-24	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		PR
25-Jul-24	Council Workshop												
25-Jul-24	PPL Hearings	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	AT	PR	AT	AT	PR
25-Jul-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
5-Aug-24	HRWS	PR			PR			PR					
5-Aug-24	Hunterville CC	PR			PR			PR					
8-Aug-24	Council Workshop												
8-Aug-24	Turakina CC	PR		PR									
12-Aug-24	Youth Council	PR				PR							PR
13-Aug-24	TRAK	CB					PR					PR	
14-Aug-24	Taihape CB	PR				PR							PR

9.2 Mayor's Report - July 2025

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

July has been busy with a number of events and continued work on Government reforms such as Local Water Done Well (LWDW) and the Resource Management Act (RMA) changes.

1. Te Pāti Māori MP Takutai Tarsh Kemp passed away at the end of June after battling kidney disease. Tarsh's tangi was held on her marae, Opaea, in Taihape. Opaea Marae is small and has recently been remodelled and is beautiful, but the challenge of hosting and feeding hundreds of people a day for four days would not have been possible without the support of neighbouring maraes Moawhango and Winiata. I attended the tangi to help host the visitors and support where I could. The major political parties all travelled to pay their respects.
2. The Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) conference was held this year in Christchurch on 16-17 July. Local Government represents Councils to take or voice our concerns to Government. Many senior politicians across several parties spoke at the conference and I attach the conference programme to this report.

Once again, the Government looked to blame Local Government for everything including the cost of living, inflation and unemployment etc. This year the Prime Minister elected not to attend the conference, which was disappointing. Unfortunately, several Councils have withdrawn from LGNZ, including Christchurch who hosted the event. Local Government needs to be united and yes, we are a sector under pressure – some of which we should be accountable for. Outside the venue was a trailer highlighting the rate rises by a number of Councils including the pictures of Chairs and Mayors which I illustrate as an attachment to my report. The Taxpayer's Union, which organised this banner, gave figures of rate rises that may not have been the final position for these Councils. The Councils highlighted have rate rises ranging from 11% to 16.5% for the year. Our rate rise in the Rangitikei for comparison is under 8%.

At conference there was a talk from Government about future rates pegging, or setting the maximum rate increases for Council. However, even Government recognises that it is not simple and if rates pegging happens it will not include rates attached to three water services, housing and potentially roading – all of which are the major contributors to rate increases.

Every sector of Local Government and Government knows that a review of the RMA is needed. New Zealand spends about \$1.3b per year on resource consents which is a process that is both incredibly expensive and takes far too long. Minister Bishop has instructed Councils not to proceed with planning changes while the reshape of the RMA is happening. So, the valuable work we as a Council have done on spatial plans and rezoning for housing growth will go "on hold". However, there will be a conversation and possible exemption for the Rangitikei because the Government also wants us to provide for housing urgently.

The key messages from Government throughout the conference, repeated several times, were:-

- i) "The culture of Yes starts now, the time for excuses is over".

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- ii) “Housing and supermarkets are essential services – make it easy”.
- iii) “Councils need to get back to basics”.
- iv) “Buildings need to be basic/functional not an architect’s gold-plated design”.

Many of which are valid points. As a sector we do have to cut our cloth to meet affordability.

In contrast, the Opposition’s address by Chris Hipkins was one where he thanked the Local Government sector, saying that “swimming pools, libraries etc are not nice to have – they are important and needed”. He highlighted that the increased cost on ratepayers comes partly due to new services/costs imposed by Government. Chris said that there needs to be a true relationship between Central and Local Government and that rate increases have been because many generations have neglected to invest. He warned Councils that “there is a significant cost to inaction or doing nothing” and that if Councils don’t fund replacements now, the cost to future populations will increase markedly.

There was an interesting presentation around unlocking the Māori economy, citing Iwi capital position in New Zealand, now valued at \$126b and that they contribute \$32b to New Zealand’s GDP.

I will try to comment further on a number of speakers at conference in a future report.

3. The Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) also had both a breakfast session for members and an evening celebration of 25 Years of operation at the LGNZ conference. Louise Upston as Minister, was at both functions highlighting the success of the MTFJ programme in finding jobs and her willingness to support by way of another year’s guaranteed funding. She also wanted to signal the contract changes with the Ministry of Social Development. In the past MTFJ have focussed on working with young people, described as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Under the new contract, we are required to have a 20% NEETs component with the 80% balance being people on the unemployment register. There has been disquiet around this contract with several Councils not taking a contract this year, which is a pity. Our results in the Rangitikei continue to be outstanding and consistently we lead the results nationally. The changes in the contract will make little difference to us as we find jobs for everyone and the needed results are covered.
4. On 1 July we changed roading contracts, with Downer replacing Higgins. This is a multi-million dollar contract over several years to service our road maintenance and construction. I congratulate Downer and look forward to working with them – their willingness to work alongside us in the form of an alliance model rather than just for us is quite a change. Equally, I thank Higgins for the work that they have done over the last few years. It is not an easy contract to service – our geology/land form and climate is particularly challenging. Many of the Higgins employees who live locally have transferred to Downer and will continue to be employed, which is satisfying.
5. Recently the Prime Minister Chris Luxon visited our district, stopping in at PEC in Marton, Honest Wolf in Hunterville and Hautapu Pine in Taihape, before a final meeting with party members in Feilding. The benefits of this trip were huge, for example, Taihape Health (fronted by Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa and Jude Macdonald) took the chance to update the Prime Minister on local health initiatives and the need to finalise arrangements at Taihape Hospital. The Prime Minister made several references to the effectiveness of local voice through Suze Redmayne. I don’t think that is just a standard response – it is a comment I have heard often from senior Government officials, so thanks Suze! I was also questioned by the Prime Minister

around our three waters decisions and the pressures we are under. He is happy with Council's positions.

6. On 29 June the Chris Amon statue was unveiled in the main street of Bulls. It was certainly a festive affair recognising a local hero who had an incredible record of Formula 1 racing throughout the world. My congratulations go to the organising committee, in particular Councillor Paul Sharland for the amount of research and fundraising undertaken which has obviously taken a huge effort over the last couple of years. The main street was closed off which allowed, I think, 17 Ferraris to be parked in front of the statue, something that the crowd drooled over. Certainly I was impressed and it's way beyond my ability to own one. The event finished with a social gathering at Te Matapihi.
7. I have recently attended two or three meetings with funders. The Bulls & District Community Trust AGM was held on 27 June and was a chance for me to say thankyou on behalf of the District for the vast amounts of money raised by the Trust for community projects over many many years. Equally, I attended the Four Regions Trust AGM in Whanganui on 23 July to acknowledge around \$300,000 that was paid out in the 24/25 year to the Rangitikei district with one of the major recipients being the Taihape Squash Club who received \$100,000 and \$50,000 for the Hautapu Bridges Project. I have also had a visit from Din Bandara, the CE of Whanganui Community Foundation, where we had a conversation around potential funds available for the Rangitikei. Our district would be incredibly poorer without external funding in these areas and it is appropriate that we thank them.
8. I have been approached by the Bulls & District Community Trust regarding the annual Christmas Parade. Following extensive consultation with stakeholders there is strong support for transitioning the "Celebration of Christmas" to the Bulls Domain. The location is seen as safer, more inclusive and better suited for a sustainable family-friendly event. There are also issues with road closures and traffic management plan costs - it's getting more difficult and expensive to continue to block the state highway for the annual street parade. The Trust have asked whether we would support this in principle and I am convinced that this is a good move. It's nice that this approach has come from the Trust as organisers rather than a directive from us or NZTA.
9. Recently I was called to a public meeting at St Joseph's School in Taihape regarding the ongoing concerns about safety at the SH1/Rauma Road intersection. The community are concerned about there being no effective pullover parking area while waiting to cross the intersection and the open speed limit of 100km/hr with difficulty of sight lines. The request from the community to NZTA is that there is a speed restriction on SH1 just south of Winiata Marae into Taihape, accompanied by effective electronic warning signs. This is not a new request – this is something that Council has asked for on numerous occasions. My understanding is that there have been 22 accidents in reasonably recent times and the concern is that we would like to see this action taken before one of those turns into a fatality. I attach as part of this report, the draft letter from Principal Peter Hijazeen, supported by Jordan Winiata from the Winiata Marae. As part of my report the recommendation is that we write a letter of support to NZTA highlighting our concerns.
10. Recently there has been a number of issues raised in Hunterville. The first of those was the issue of local policing possibly being replaced, and I stress 'possible' because a decision has not been made yet, by resourcing from Marton. I thank Hunterville for organising the community meeting which was incredibly well attended and the Area Police Commander Neil Forlong for his attendance. We understand that the final decision will be made at a higher level by the Central District Commander Dion Bennett. I have reached out to Dion asking for a

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meeting ahead of that decision, something he has agreed to. I am hopeful that policing will continue to be provided correctly out of Hunterville. On another matter, recently the main street of Hunterville has had a resealing that was a disaster with the road being ripped up in several areas. There has been a temporary fix which took considerable time and involved closures of sections of the street affecting retail trade. Our Economic Development lead Jarrod Calkin and I spent a little bit of time trying to repair the relationships in Hunterville over this. The road will need final resealing this coming summer and remediation works. It was a chance for us to apologise and explain the process going forward. Certainly our staff need to be absolutely definite around what will be done and the timeframes for road closures etc. I also take the chance to congratulate Hunterville – the Argyle Hotel has been sold and bought by, as I understand, around 50 members of the wider Hunterville Community who have all reached into their pockets. This is so typical of Hunterville – the history of just getting on with things and taking charge of their own destiny is something I absolutely admire and I am hoping as a Council we support them throughout the consenting processes and sit alongside them where we can. Hats off to you all in Hunterville!

Mayor's Engagements

July 2025

1	Attended Te Pāti Māori MP Takutai Tarsh Kemp's tangi Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
2	Attended fortnightly meeting with staff re Marton Water Strategy Attended meeting with Acting Chief Executive Attended networking event with Prime Minister at Hautapu Pine Taihape Attended fundraising event with Prime Minister in Feilding (at my personal expense)
3	Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting
4	Attended meeting with Acting Chief Executive Attended meeting at Napier Port
7	Attended Horizons River Management and Flood Protection Scheme Meeting
8	Attended meeting with Acting Chief Executive Attending meeting with Deputy Mayor
9	Attended Bulls Community Committee meeting
10	Attended Elected Member Working Group for National Direction packages Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting Attended Tenders Board Meeting Attended MTFJ online hui Attended Council Workshop Attended meeting with Acting Chief Executive
11	Attended meeting with Marton Country Music Festival Event Organisers
14	Attended monthly meeting with RDC Comms Manager

	<p>Attended Hunterville businesses morning engagement</p> <p>Attended meeting with Acting Chief Executive</p>
15	<p>Attended meeting with Acting Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended MTFJ Core Group Online Hui</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Superlocal 2025 Conference Welcome Function</p>
16	<p>Attended LGNZ Superlocal 2025 Conference</p> <p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs 25 Years function</p>
17	<p>Attended LGNZ Superlocal 2025 Conference & Awards Evening</p>
19	<p>Attended meeting at St Joseph's School Taihape re speed zone</p> <p>Attended Bulls Fire Brigade Annual Honours Evening</p>
21	<p>Attended breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Whanganui Community Foundation</p>
22	<p>Attended Maori Responsiveness Framework Review Workshop</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> <p>Attended Rangitikei Rivers Catchment Collective meeting at Whangaehu</p>
23	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended RCA Forum webinar</p> <p>Attended Four Regions Trust AGM</p> <p>Attended Quarterly Catchup with Chief Executive and Base Commander Ohakea</p>
24	<p>Attended AgBaker/MPI Biodiversity function at Te Matapihi</p> <p>Attended Rangitikei Rivers Catchment Collective meeting at Raetihi</p>
25	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly economic development meeting with staff</p>
28	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Sage Planning re Civil Defence Emergency Review</p>
29	<p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up</p> <p>Attended NZ Tiny Homes Association Local Planning Policy online meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
30	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly meeting with staff re Marton Water Strategy</p> <p>Attended meeting with District Commander re Hunterville Policing</p> <p>Attended Youth Council meeting</p>
31	<p>Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting</p> <p>Attended Finance/Performance committee meeting</p> <p>Attended LWDW Council Workshop</p>

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Attended Council meeting

Attachments:

1. Four Monthly LGNZ Report [↓](#)
2. TUIA 2025 Report [↓](#)
3. SuperLocal 2025 Programme [↓](#)
4. Taxpayers' Union Protest at LGNZ [↓](#)
5. St Joseph's School letter to NZTA [↓](#)
6. Elected Member Attendance [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

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



LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// March - June 2025





Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ's work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It's structured around LGNZ's purpose: to serve local government by **championing**, **connecting** and **supporting** members.

Please consider putting this report on the agenda for your next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam, Susan or other National Council members are very happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it – just let us know.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

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Introduction

March to June has been intensely busy for LGNZ, as we advocated around reform and other issues like council metrics/profiles, engaged with the Government, and launched new products and services for members.

In early April, LGNZ launched our new *Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights*. This report is exclusive to member councils. It's designed to ensure elected members are the best-informed people on local government economic data. Developed in partnership with Infometrics, *Insights* will be released quarterly, with the second issue published in early July.

Our Ratepayers Assistance Scheme is advancing in leaps and bounds. The RAS would allow ratepayers to borrow cheaply for ratepayer charges like development contributions/levies and rates postponement, and could be used for specific property improvements (like solar panels). It leverages the high credit quality of local government rates to access capital market financing. Minister Watts has written to LGNZ expressing his support and confirming DIA will begin policy work on RAS in August. As well as successfully securing capital commitments from councils and third parties, we are seeing growing media interest in RAS.

Membership was top of mind during this period. Before Easter we sent out invoices alongside our [value of LGNZ membership report](#). This report provided a comprehensive summary of our advocacy wins over the last year, a specific list of how we save councils money, and a summary of all the other work we do for members. While Western Bay of Plenty voted to leave before invoicing started, all other members have since renewed, with the exception of Waikato Regional Council, which is voting again on membership in July.

Other highlights of these four months included:

- We launched pre-elected learning for anyone considering standing for council. This interactive course steps potential candidates through what it means to be an elected member. It's freely available without an Ākōna log-in and has proved very popular.
- Our well-attended 1 May All-of-local-government meeting, focused on delivering infrastructure for growth, featuring an engaging q+a with Minister Watts. Other speakers included Minister for Building and Construction Chris Penk and Simplicity's Sam Stubbs, as well as the Infrastructure Commission, S&P Global Ratings and the Treasury.
- In June we secured funding from councils to sustain Policy.nz, which otherwise would have ceased to exist. This platform allows candidates to upload their profiles and policies so that voters have easy access to this information.
- We have had strong media engagement on issues of the day – from electoral reform to rates capping and benchmarking and the safety of elected members, as well as facilitating the Candidates Corner pre-election series with the Sunday Star-Times.

We always welcome your comments and feedback.

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan

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Champion

Government relations

Because our relationships with individual Ministers are now stronger and more mature, we're increasingly able to have robust and constructive discussions with them. For example, on resource management reform and potential implications for local government's functions/structure, rates capping, and ensuring that funding and financing tools announced as part of Pillar 2 of the Going for Housing Growth programme actually deliver the desired outcomes for councils and communities.

We've been staying closely in touch with Minister Watts on benchmarking (including DIA's metrics release) and rates capping through informal discussion and formal meetings, including in late June.

LGNZ met with the Prime Minister in early April and discussed our approach to the rates capping conversation. We all agree that no one wants high rates increases. We all agree that rates rises need to come down. However, we also set out rates capping's potential unintended consequences for councils and ratepayers (see more on rates capping below). We also note that recent rates increases have been driven by the need to fund essential infrastructure and services – and because of the increasing volume of unfunded mandates from central government.

We met again with the Prime Minister for another of regular meetings in early June. We raised cross-portfolio issues such as pressures on growth councils and low voter turnout in local elections.

Voter authorisation of major projects has been floated by several politicians. This refers to running public referenda to make key decisions, like large infrastructure purposes. We will explore with Ministers whether there is any real commitment to this approach from the Government. We'll also have conversations about this idea with members.

We've also begun quarterly meetings with other political parties, which currently in the policy development phase. We met with Labour's local government spokesperson Tangi Utikere and sought cross-party support for our electoral reform work. We also briefed him on LGNZ's funding and financing tools project, and received an update on Labour's "no unfunded mandates" policy work. We had a meeting with the Green Party in June and we are working to lock in dates with NZ First and ACT. We have a date secured with ACT's local government spokesperson for after SuperLocal.

We have requested to meet with the Justice Select Committee to brief them on our electoral reform work after it is launched at SuperLocal

Media

We have had significant engagement with the media on a range of topics – and are proactive or reactive in our approach depending on the issue at hand.

Late February saw Housing Minister Chris Bishop announce some of the new funding and financing tools we've been calling for, at our Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings. This resulted

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in stories appearing on [1News](#), [ThreeNews](#), [RNZ](#), [Stuff](#), [NZ Herald](#), [Gisborne Herald](#), [The Press](#), [The Post](#) and the [Waikato Times](#).

The All-of-local-government meeting also saw media cover topics LGNZ has been championing, from talking about alternatives to rates capping and four-year terms to a new stalking bill and housing growth. Local Government Minister Simon Watt's speech and [rates capping](#) took centre stage, with stories on [Newsroom](#), [NBR](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [RNZ](#), [The Press](#) and [The Post](#).

[Four-year terms](#) for local government has been a popular discussion point. Sam appeared on [Mike Hosking breakfast](#) on [Newstalk ZB](#) to discuss the issue, with his comments included in [The Post](#) and [Waikato Times](#). Mayors Alex Walker and Hon Dr Nick Smith also publicly addressed the issue via the [NZ Herald](#), [1News](#) and [95bFM](#).

Then in March the release of LGNZ's Electoral Reform Working Group's (ERWG) [draft position paper](#) swiftly become one of local government's biggest stories this year. Media were intrigued by the proposed move to booth voting, with stories appearing in the [Post](#), the [Press](#), [Waikato Times](#), [ODT](#) and [NZ Herald](#), and Mayor Nick speaking with [RNZ](#), [Newstalk ZB](#) (also [here](#)) and on [95bFM](#). The announcement continued to spark debate across [Newstalk ZB](#), the [Post](#) and the [Press](#).

[Rates capping](#) continued to be a topic of discussion, with LGNZ President Sam Broughton speaking to [RNZ](#) and [Newstalk ZB](#) on the recent S&P downgrading decision for 18 councils. Rates capping articles also appeared in the [Press](#), the [Post](#) and [Waikato Times](#), with Mayor Neil Holdom appearing on the [Platform](#).

The stalking and harassment of elected members remains in the spotlight. In February LGNZ Chief Executive Susan Freeman-Greene and Invercargill councillor Alex Crackett spoke with [Stuff/ThreeNews](#) and [Newstalk ZB](#) about the Government's proposed [stalking legislation](#), with [RNZ](#) also running a story on this issue. In recent weeks LGNZ's position has carried in stories on [1News](#) and [Stuff](#). LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene spoke alongside multiple councillors and Mayors on [TVNZ Breakfast](#) about the impact this has on members. There have been a large number of follow-up stories in April, driven by [a University of Otago study](#), setting out disturbing behaviour experienced by elected members.

LGNZ also weighed in on the [RMA reforms](#), expressing cautious support while signalling to the Government it needs to ensure that communities have a voice and regional councils play a key role in the changes going forward.

In other funding and financing coverage, LGNZ President Sam Broughton spoke with [the Press](#) about LGNZ's position on a bed tax, while also covering how [GST sharing on new builds](#) could help bring rates down.

[Stuff news](#) and [RNZ](#) covered the Te Maruata hui in April.

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We sent out a media toolkit to Mayors, Chairs and CEs when we released our new Infometrics' quarterly economic insights, with ideas on how councils can use this data to encourage local discussion.

Electoral reform has been a hot topic, with Wellington City Council calling for a [lowering of the voting age](#), Invercargill City Council supporting the report's call for improved [civics education](#), and Ashburton District Council [supporting a shift to four-year terms](#) for local and central government. LGNZ partnered with Infrastructure New Zealand to [urge the Government](#) to include a move to four-year terms for local and central government in the referendum.

Susan's announcement about [moving on from LGNZ](#) in August was covered by [the Post](#), [the Press](#) and [NBR](#).

Ex-Grey Power Vice-President Peter Matcham wrote an [opinion piece](#) in April on why a rates cap should be opposed at all costs. Elected member abuse and harassment also continued to dominate the headlines, with stories appearing on [TVNZ](#), [RNZ](#), the [Press](#) and [ODT](#).

LGNZ waded into the truancy debate, with LGNZ President Sam Broughton saying that the Government asking mayors to help lift school attendance doesn't align with its "back to basics" direction for councils. This was a lead story in the [Post](#), [Press](#) and the [Waikato Times](#). Sam also spoke to [ThreeNews](#) about the Government's new scheme to allow self-assessment for some trade work.

[Elected member safety was in the spotlight](#) following our All-of-local-government meeting in May, where we shared [a new guide for members on how to stay safe](#). This media advocacy led to the Remuneration Authority asking us for the guide, to aid their work towards considering an allowance to support elected members' home safety.

LGNZ's oral submission on congestion charging, led by Transport Forum Chair Mayor Neil Holdom, also resulted in a number of stories across various outlets [calling for more local input](#).

Following the Budget, LGNZ spoke out in support of the Government's [Rates Rebate Scheme](#) expansion to cover all SuperGold card holders, and how increased support for [local journalism](#) will positively impact elections later this year.

We've been working closely with the Sunday Star Times on a "Candidates Corner" series detailing key issues ahead of elections. Recent articles covered [rates capping](#) along with the case for and against [council mergers](#), with Mayor Neil Holdom and Mayor Nick Smith sharing their thoughts.

Rates – and the lack of other revenue-raising options for local government – were the focus of [an article by LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry](#).

LGNZ's [How to stay safe' guide](#) continued to receive positive press in the [Otago Daily Times](#), [Stuff](#), [The Press](#) and [1News](#), while our submission on congestion charging appeared in the [Herald](#) and [RNZ](#). Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs was also in the spotlight, thanks to an article in the [Otago Daily Times](#).



Local government funding and financing

Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)

On 21 March, Minister Watts wrote to LGNZ expressing his support for the RAS and confirming DIA will begin policy work on the initiative in August. The Minister has asked LGNZ to update the RAS business case to help the work progress quickly. We are working on this with project partners as well as seeking the necessary council capital commitments. With RM reform meaning a move away from development contributions (more on this below), the RAS could support financing of development levies as an alternative to other structures for this purpose (such as the IFFA). The RAS would be cheaper, more efficient and more flexible than the IFFA.

Since then significant progress has been made towards making a decision to establish the RAS. The RAS Steering group has been meeting with local authorities to affirm support for the RAS and secure establishment funding for the scheme. At the request of the Minister for Local Government, the group has also been meeting with developers to test the scheme's design with them. We have secured preliminary equity pledges from councils, and developers are supportive of the scheme.

We have secured a \$400k repayable grant from the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority. We have raised the \$2.5 million to progress to a stop/go decision – and with several councils taking decisions in the next few weeks, we may be a little oversubscribed. This demonstrates the high level of support for the RAS.

DIA continues to engage on the scheme: their substantive policy work is set to begin in August.

Infrastructure funding and financing

The Infrastructure Minister announced changes to New Zealand's infrastructure funding and financing settings at our late February All-of-local-government meeting. The Government will replace development contributions with a development levy system, allowing councils to charge developers a share of long-term infrastructure costs. There will be regulatory oversight of these development levies to ensure charges are fair and appropriate. Councils will also have more flexibility to set targeted rates based on the date of subdivision, allowing them to apply to new developments. Finally, the Infrastructure Funding and Financing (IFF) Act will be improved for developer-led projects and expanded to support major transport projects like those led by NZTA.

LGNZ welcomed these changes, which were in our funding and financing toolkit. We will work with officials to ensure these reforms make sense on the ground for councils.

This legislation likely to be introduced in September. DIA is unlikely to issue a substantive consultation on the changes, although they have engaged with technical experts from high-growth councils, and an early draft may be circulated to some individuals for feedback. While DIA is open to input from councils, given the Government's direction there may be limited scope for changes.

We will continue to engage on the development levy regulation when introduced, and with the regulatory regime. We understand this is likely to be in two stages: initial information disclosure requirements, followed by the creation of a regulator (or empowering an existing regulator with oversight of development levies).

We have raised with Under-secretary Simon Court the importance of balancing local democracy and the needs of communities with changes to the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act. Potential

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changes include limiting councils' ability to withhold endorsements of developer-led special purpose vehicles. We also discussed the need to disentangle the proposed new functions of the IFFA with the RAS, thresholds and legal frameworks for regulatory takings under the forthcoming RMA, and our support for ACT's proposed GST-sharing policy.

Budget 2025

LGNZ was in the Budget lock up so we could [analyse the impact of the Budget on local government](#). There were no significant new local government funding initiatives launched or changes to funding and financing tools. Points of note included the Government:

- Raising the threshold for the rates rebate scheme and increasing the maximum rebate.
- Introducing regionally specific transport funding boosts.
- Announcing new funding for the 2023 North Island weather events recovery.
- Cutting public transport and transport resilience funds.

The Government's accelerated depreciation policy and increases to employer contribution for KiwiSaver will also have impacts for councils.

Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights

On 7 April, LGNZ launched our new Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights report. This report, developed in partnership with Infometrics, will be produced quarterly and provides insights into the economy with specific relevance to local government. The report is exclusive to LGNZ members and is intended to make sure they are the best-informed people on local government economic data. It will also support LGNZ's policy and advocacy work.

The first edition was well received. There were high levels of engagement in the associated zoom, and we received positive and constructive feedback from members. We then worked with Infometrics on the briefing schedule and the next issue, which was released in early July. We are keen to respond to member feedback, and have identified rates capping, contextualising rates against utilities and other charges, and regional sector specific topics as areas to explore in future editions.

DIA metrics release ("council profiles")

These profiles, based on a range of metrics taken from LTPs and annual reports, were originally scheduled to be released on 30 June, although this was later delayed. National Council discussed the profiles and associated issues at a special meeting on 30 May.

In May, LGNZ proactively sought changes from DIA based on a range of concerns. As a result of this advocacy:

- DIA shared group medians and the data of other councils within that council's group.
- Each council profile will now link to that council's website (for example, a page with LTP or other plan data) and councils will be able to specify what page.
- The government metrics website and guide will provide specific context about why some councils might be different from the median; for example, being high growth, high tourism, or recovering from a natural disaster.



While we are pleased that DIA agreed to these changes as a result of our advocacy, we recognise members will remain concerned that there's not enough information about their specific context, including the specific pressures on your council and how you are dealing with them, or what your community gets for this investment.

On 11 June, we released a guide to support councils' communication planning for the launch, which is now expected to be in mid July. We've received positive feedback on the guide from members.

Regional deals

Cabinet announced that the first Regional Deal Memorandum of Understanding will be decided before July (and announcements of the regions selected were subsequently made in early July). These regions will negotiate a final deal, which may require enabling actions to take place. The end of 2025 is the target for signing the deal.

Rates capping

In March, we submitted on a petition before Parliament seeking to limit local authority rates increases to a maximum of the annual inflation rate. We do not expect this petition to progress through Parliament due to its overlap with the Government's local government work programme. However, submitting on the petition was a good opportunity to set out the clear evidence against rates capping and highlight the pressures facing councils to Parliament.

We understand that rates capping was discussed at the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee in the week of 31 March. To support these discussions, LGNZ sent letters to Ministers on this committee highlighting the likely impacts of rates capping on their portfolios and objectives. LGNZ also reiterated concerns about rates capping to the Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government during our regular meetings as discussed above.

In line with direction from the May National Council meeting, we developed a paper on our approach to rates capping, including that a stronger public campaign may be needed, and shared that with members for discussion at this year's AGM. We also held a zoom to help members prepare for the AGM discussion. If the AGM agrees the direction of travel, then we will develop a plan for this campaign and hold an AGM in 2026 to gain a member mandate before launching that campaign.

We have also supported member advocacy against rates capping by developing and distributing a set of messages and a letter template that can be used by elected members.

As part of our advocacy, there needs to be an acknowledgement of the public mood around rates. We also need to clearly set out other approaches to achieving the Government's aims. To take the next step in our advocacy, we want to engage with members on exactly what this response could look like.

Water services reform

During this period, councils were consulting on aspects of their Water Service Delivery Plans with communities. This has included decision making about the future water services delivery model. For many, this has put these reforms (and their implications for councils) in the spotlight. Plans need to be finalised and submitted to the Secretary for Local Government by 3 September 2025. The



Minister has called for councils to consider including other councils in their delivery model – and has made it clear that extensions of time are unlikely to be granted.

LGNZ made its oral submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee in March on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill. This submission sought a range of improvements to the legislation to provide greater clarity and certainty for councils. The committee reported back to Parliament on 3 July 2025 and adopted several of our suggested changes. These include: adding supporting growth as an objective for water service providers; clarifying the development contribution provisions to ensure a smoother transition of these for councils who set up water organisations; and clarifying the accountability framework to give water organisations greater separation from shareholding councils (as is the case for other CCOs).

Resource management reform

RMA replacement

The Government announced further details of its plan to replace the Resource Management Act, following the reporting back of the Expert Advisory Group tasked with designing a “blueprint” for replacement legislation. This has significant implications for local government in a variety of areas. The current RMA will be replaced with a Planning Act and a Natural Environment Act. Both will be enabling of development.

While there is plenty to support in the reforms, there is a significant move towards standardisation and narrowing of the scope of the resource management, which could mean limiting local input into planning and environmental management decisions.

We developed and shared [an explainer](#) identifying key issues for councils, and held an Ako Hour webinar with Buddle Finlay on 16 May. We’ve recently shared an analysis of [what we think councils need from the new system](#) and are seeking member feedback.

Another particular area of note is the implications for regional councils if the proposal to remove compliance, monitoring, and enforcement functions and shift them to a centralised body goes ahead. The Government has noted that this raises questions about the structure and functions of the local government system as a whole, and it will consider this and what should be done to address it later this year.

We have raised the issues flagged above in our regular meetings with Under Secretary Simon Court and Minister Chris Bishop, and are approaching the Ministry for the Environment on how we can work more closely with them as further policy decisions are made.

We’re also working closely with Taituarā, Te Uru Kahika, and the New Zealand Planning Institute on our response to the reforms, particularly on how we can collaborate together to input constructively into the new spatial planning system.

National direction changes

The Ministry for the Environment has opened consultation on [16 new or changed pieces](#) of National Direction under the RMA. These are in three packages:

- [Package one](#) – infrastructure and development changes (covering electricity generation and network changes, housing changes, and natural hazards)



- [Package two](#) – primary sector changes (covering marine aquaculture, highly productive land, commercial forestry, stock exclusion, and mining and quarrying)
- [Package three](#) – proposals to amend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020. Further consultation will be undertaken later this year through an exposure draft process, which will have more detail.

Consultation for the first three packages is open until 11.59pm, Sunday 27 July. We expect a fourth package looking at how the first pillar of the Going for Housing Growth programme could fit into the new resource management system to be consulted on in early June. We're currently reviewing what all this means for councils and will submit on aspects of these proposals.

Transport

We submitted on the Government's legislation to enable time of use (congestion) charging. While we are highly supportive of time of use charging, we have concerns about the highly centralised model that the Government is proposing, which would see councils having little control of the design or operation of the schemes, and how any revenue from them is spent.

Our Transport Forum met virtually on 12 May. They covered a range of topics: potentially proposing alternatives now that NZTA has halted its proposed emergency works changes; transport perspectives on resource management reform; and an update from the Road Efficiency Group.

Looking ahead, the Government has indicated it will be taking Cabinet decisions on transitioning to Road User Charges for all vehicles this quarter, and we'll be looking closely at the details given the implications it will have for asset management and funding and financing in the transport space.

In April, NZTA announced it would no longer be going ahead with changes to its emergency works funding. These changes would have seen a significant reduction in the additional funding made available to councils to repair transport networks following a natural disaster.

The proposed cuts would have significantly affected local transport networks, particularly in rural areas and other isolated communities, and came at a time where many councils were grappling with the cost of repairing damage caused by the severe weather events of early 2023.

LGNZ advocated strongly on this issue, including through speaking directly with the Minister of Transport and NZTA, submitting on the consultation document, and raising our concerns in the media. NZTA has signalled they will now work on alternative reform options, and we will engage constructively to ensure they land on an option that works for councils.

Climate change

We engaged with the Climate Change Commission on the second National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA). The assessment will look at all the climate risks the country faces and identify priorities to focus on. This risk assessment is due to be delivered to the Minister of Climate Change by August 2026 and will inform the Government's National Adaptation Plan.

With the Government's climate adaptation framework set to be released later this year, we are planning member engagement to inform our submission. This legislation is expected to have



significant impacts for local government and the topic is politically sensitive. Collating and mediating divergent member views will require care.

Other policy issues

Seismic strengthening

With the work of the Government's review into the seismic strengthening regime progressing at pace, our reference group chaired by Manawātū District deputy mayor Michael Ford met to get an update from the local government representatives on the MBIE steering group, and to start considering LGNZ's submission on the eventual legislation.

Electoral Reform Working Group

We consulted on the Electoral Reform Working Group's draft position paper, with this closing on Monday 28 April. Engagement included all zone meetings, the Local Government Business Forum, and with members of Auckland Council's local boards.

The Electoral Reform Working Group presented its final recommendations for endorsement by National Council at its May meeting. After National Council agreed to the working group's recommendations, we finalised the position paper. This will be launched at SuperLocal by working group chair Mayor Nick Smith. As well as this plenary session, the working group will host a breakout that explores the final recommendations in depth.

We are now planning post-launch actions, in terms of government relations and concepts like a local government week.

In June we secured funding from councils to sustain Policy.nz, which otherwise would have ceased to exist. The Electoral Reform Working Group's recommendations reinforce the importance of voters being able to access information about candidates and their policies.



Connect

Member visits and zone engagement

We continued our member visits, visiting, Waipa District, Waikato Regional, Waitomo District, Tauranga City, Whanganui District, and Manawatu District during this period as well as connecting with a range of Mayors and CEs.

Sam or Campbell and at least one LT member attended in-person all zone meetings between March and June.

Women in Local Government

In late February we emailed all women elected members with an update on our work, including a link to a Whatsapp group where they can chat with each other, our advocacy on the anti-stalking legislation and a link to Australian research. More recently we have facilitated media around the threats some women are experiencing, with Susan also providing comment as discussed in the media section above. Minister for Women Nicola Grigg launched a toolkit targeted at women leaders at our 1 May All-of-local-government meeting, which has been positively received.

We are planning a breakfast event ahead of SuperLocal, which has strong registrations. The keynote speaker will be former Minister Tracey Martin.

All-of-local-government meetings

The 1 May All-of-local-government meeting was the last before the elections. Before the main programme, we held a session on abuse and harassment that elected members are facing. Minister Nicola Grigg will launch her toolkit, and a guest speaker from Reliance Risk covered practical tools and strategies any elected member can use when you're faced with this behaviour in the community. We also launched a toolkit that pulled together all the work we have done on elected member safety and security in the past 18 months, so that it's easy for members to access and use.

The main programme for that meeting focused on delivering infrastructure for growth. Highlights included Minister Watts participating in an engaging q+a with attendees, speakers including Minister for Building and Construction Chris Penk, industry thought leaders such as Infrastructure Commission and Simplicity's Sam Stubbs, as well as speakers from S&P Global Ratings, the Treasury, and the Opposition – alongside a number of high-quality case studies.

We are having early conversations with current sector chairs to plan for the November sector meetings. These sector meetings will be an opportunity to connect as a sector for the first time in the new triennium and vote on sector chairs. There will be time set aside for priority setting, which will feed into subsequent National Council strategy sessions.

The theme for the first All-of-local-government meeting of the new triennium in February will be "Making an impact in our communities – the role of data, collaboration and innovation". We are currently working to secure Sir Brian Roche as our keynote speaker.



SuperLocal25

We launched promotion and registration for SuperLocal 2025 on 10 April. We have a stellar line up of speakers One NZ's Chief Executive Jason Paris, who will provide his reflections on the value of a strong local government sector to the business community; Google Cloud New Zealand's Natalie de Boursac who heads the local government team and will focus on technology's role in driving efficiencies and high performance; and our final key note speaker Mark Di Somma – a strategist behind LGNZ's first localism campaign. Key political speakers include Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour, Minister Chris Bishop, Minister Simon Watts and Minister James Meager (with Minister Louise Upston speaking to MTFJ), along with the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister will be providing a video.

The programme was finalised in June, with speaker briefings and panel meetings underway. We have a comprehensive breakout programme this year to complement a tightened plenary, with a wide range of topics covering current issues and reforms, driving change, tools for success and benchmarking.

Our three key pieces of LGNZ work launching at Superlocal are an economic data piece which quantifies the contribution of local government's investment to the country's economy; the final recommendations from the Electoral Reform Working Group Chaired by Mayor Nick Smith; and a guide spearheaded by CBEC on improving relationships between councils and community boards.

Sponsorship has been strong despite a difficult economic environment. Similarly, exhibitors have been strong, with booths sold out. We have successfully used all our channels to promote attendance and we are also keeping a close eye on conference costs.

Finalists for the SuperLocal Awards have been announced. We saw an excellent quantity and calibre of entries this year, with the largest category receiving over 20 entries. Winners will be announced at the Awards Night, again sponsored this year by Fulton Hogan. Our judges have been very generous with their time – it has not been a small task to review, score and comment on every entry.

2026 events calendar and forward planning

We have developed a draft events calendar for 2026 that has received National Council feedback and will be circulated to members in July.

Vote25

We updated the Candidates Guide and other material on the Taituarā-hosted VoteLocal website – this has launched with the Ākōna pre-elected learning for candidates (discussed further below).

We are rolling out a social media campaign designed to support people to register, stand and vote. This includes a focus on what councils do and why this matters to communities.

We have been engaging with policy.nz, which has struggled to secure funding for its web platform for candidates. We are pleased to report that in June LGNZ coordinated between councils to raise the funding needed to keep the platform in place for the 2025 elections. Policy.nz is the only comprehensive, nationwide source of candidate information that's hosted by a neutral third party. Being able to easily find out information about candidates is an important part of the local



democratic process and policy.nz was identified as a useful tool for voters by our Electoral Reform Working Group.

Regional Sector

The President briefed Chairs, Mayors, and CEs of the Regional Sector in April on his conversation with the PM around potential impacts on local government of RM reform. There was a discussion on the best approach to this issue at the regular LGNZ meeting with Minister Bishop.

The May Regional Sector Meeting focused on the future resource management system, with Secretary for the Environment James Palmer speaking. The meeting also included engagement with the Minister of Conservation, Māori Crown Relations and Māori Development Tama Potaka.

LGNZ has supported planning for Te Uru Kahika's plenary session, which brings together CEs, Chairs and Mayors, and the leaders of the Te Uru Kahika's special interest groups. This will be held on 11 September 2025.

We have been working with the new Chair and co-deputy Chair to help establish them in their new roles. The next Regional Sector meeting will be online on the morning of 8 August. This is likely to focus on the wide range of reforms currently affecting the Regional Sector, including resource management and water.

LGNZ Acting Policy Director Simon Randall will accompany the Regional Sector on their annual pre-conference tour, which will visit the West Coast.

Te Maruata

Te Maruata whānui held an in-person hui in Taupō from 3-4 April with the theme Ngā Maunga Koutuutu. This acknowledges the three tipuna maunga in the rohe and the role they hold in terms of kaitiakitanga. It also references bringing people together to wānanga and share kōrerō and insights to support each other. Over 60 Te Maruata members from across the motu attended the event. Speakers included Tina Porou (Poipoia), Sharon Te Rangi (Tainui Live) and Lauren Fletcher (Tūrangitukua Chair) covering kaupapa such as Taiao, Partnership and Elections. Members visited key locations in Taupō including He Whare Hono o Tūwharetoa – a building owned by Tūwharetoa that brings together the Iwi, council and other key agencies under one roof; and Pūkawa Marae, a significant landmark in the connection between Tūwharetoa and the Kiingitanga. The final evening was a celebration of all the great mahi the network has seen over the last triennium, with Trevor Maxwell and Peter Moeahu being inducted into the Te Maruata Hall of Fame.

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere met in April and are working on several key kaupapa, including supporting the development of a plan that spans Vote25, elections and induction, to support Te Maruata members and councils holding referendum. Also top of mind is Te Maruata involvement in the development and delivery of SuperLocal.

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere met again at the end of May for an in-person hui. Several key kaupapa were discussed, including preparations for SuperLocal 25. The Te Maruata pre-conference hui will be held on 15 July at the Christchurch Town Hall, with the theme being Te ngana o Tū te pou o Rongo – which speaks to the balance of all things and how this intersects the roles and responsibilities of Māori elected members.

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: March – June 2025 // 16



Te Maruata rōpū whakahaere will be supporting several aspects of the SuperLocal programme including the whakatau, poroporoaki, awards and breakout sessions.

Also discussed at the hui were opportunities to guide RM reform submissions, the ongoing workplan and the mahi around support heading into elections (specifically around Māori wards referenda), and induction.

Young Elected Members Network

We are producing an induction document for YEM that includes its history, the purpose of the committee, the programme of events and key achievements so far. We are working with the YEM Committee on a plan to release it.

The Young Elected Member Network committee met in early June to sign off the programme for their pre-Conference hui. Former National Minister Paula Bennett and Former Labour Minister Kelvin Davis will be guest speakers.

The committee agreed a fee would apply for all in-person events in the next triennium, apart from the pre-conference hui for member councils. The committee noted that, to stay true to the network's roots, YEM events need to strike the right balance between a structured agenda with time to network and leveraging the safe space YEM has created over the years.

Community Boards

CBEC met in May to discuss a range of issues including their forthcoming guide launch at SuperLocal. CBEC will have a booth in the exhibition space so that this work has maximum visibility and we are working with them on what that will look like.



Support

Ākōna and Induction 2025

The pre-election learning was launched on 14 April. This interactive course steps potential candidates through what it means to be an elected member. It offers three videos, two e-modules and a range of downloadable resources designed to educate potential candidates and offer insight to the general public on the reality of being an elected member. The three animated videos look at: 'Structure of Local Government', 'Roles within a council' and 'How councils are funded'. The two e-modules cover: 'Stepping into Local Leadership: The role of an elected member' and 'Stepping into Local Leadership: The life of an elected member'.

As of mid-June, since the launch of the pre-election learning, the site had received 1,028 views, with 453 people actively accessing the learning. These are very good numbers, especially given registration to run for office did not open until 1 July and interest in elections is only just ramping up. Feedback from councils has been all positive, with those spoken to confirming that they are sharing the links and promoting the learning on their websites.

We have decided to allow non-members to attend Mayors' and Chairs' Schools and elected members induction at a premium rate. We believe this is appropriate from the principle of supporting councils setting themselves up for success at the start of the triennium. Attending helps non-members understand the full breadth of LGNZ's work and makes rejoining more likely. The price differential will be sufficient to avoid disincentivising membership.

Logistics for the Mayor Induction, Chair Induction and EM Induction hui are almost in place with agenda construction nearly finalised.

In other work, development of the Team Builder Toolkit is going well and it's on track for release in August. Development of the 2026 workshop schedule and Ako Hour Academy schedule is also going well, with both due for release in July. Construction of the updated Ākōna site and conversion of the Emodules is nearing completion. The Ākōna team continues to work with councils to ascertain what local content they want added to the Ākōna site.

Te Korowai – CouncilMARK

In April, we launched the new Te Korowai webpage and digital prospectus, making it easier than ever for councils to explore what the new programme offers and how it can support their improvement journey.

We have already completed three assessments under the new programme,:

- Waikato Regional Council
- Otago Regional Council
- Ōtorohanga District Council

In May, we were on the ground with Central Hawke's Bay District Council for their on-site assessment. Next up, we're excited to launch the Integrity Survey with Marlborough District Council



ahead of their July assessment. This will be our first unitary authority to participate under the refreshed Te Korowai banner. Central Otago District Council is also preparing for its assessment in August.

Undertaking an assessment during an election year provides multiple benefits: it supports operational continuity, offers valuable insights for incoming elected members, and gives councils a clear, independent view of how they're tracking—like a 'warrant of fitness' for local government.

For councils not ready to commit to a full assessment, Te Korowai also offers staged entry options. A great starting point is the Integrity Survey. This tool goes beyond traditional engagement surveys by assessing how well strategy and values are aligned across the organisation, including with elected members. It's also an effective early intervention tool for identifying issues before they escalate.

Other staged options allow councils to focus on specific areas—for example, a targeted assessment of financial health.

Te Korowai is presenting at SuperLocal as part of two breakout sessions.

Roading Efficiency Group

The Road Efficiency Group (REG) programme is now in its 10th year of LGNZ involvement, and is coming to the end of this financial year's work plan. We are proud to be a Roothing Efficiency Group (REG) partner and will continue to support the 2024-2027 programme.

We have worked hard to further develop the REG relationship and ensure alignment with our Transport Forum and add value where we can.

Our involvement provides increased support for the sector, and over the past five months we have seen significant increased activity in the REG programme. We are planning to develop an online platform for REG, which involves developing an online learning solution for REG and migrating all the historical content over the course of the next two years to Ākōna.

REG is presenting at Conference as part of two breakout sessions.

Governance support

We are currently supporting several councils to navigate sensitive issues, albeit on the sidelines given we have not formally been asked by the council to intervene. Alongside this work are the numerous calls we receive for general advice and support.

Work continues on updating LGNZ's suite of governance guides. The first products of the shelf were the Standing Orders' templates and the Standing Orders' Guide. The templates and Guide were updated to reflect legislative changes made over the last three years and to incorporate additional guidance where this has been requested, for example, information on workshops following advice from the Ombudsman and clarity on the new quorum rules.

Other guides to be updated include:

- Guidance for new mayors and chairs;



-
- The community boards' governance guide (this will also include the council/community board relationship guide when complete);
 - The tax guide for elected members; and
 - The CE Recruiting Guide.

LGNZ has received a number of queries from councils about whether our Code of Conduct template will be updated. We have plans to streamline the Code of Conduct template, based on feedback from users. However, the Local Government Commission has been charged with developing a model Code of Conduct, and there may be further changes as a result of the LGA amendment bill due to be introduced in the middle of the year. So our template update is on hold until the picture is clearer.

Work is also underway on a Guide to help councils determine governance and decision-making structures. This Guide is intended to assist councils to look at the pros and cons of different governing arrangements, such as the pros and cons of establishing committees, whether committees should have delegated responsibilities, or simply be advisory, and whether they should be committees of the whole, or not.

2025 TUIA Programme Report

July 2025

Kia ora,

This is an update on how things have been going in the 2025 TUIA Programme so far.

The programme this year has had a bit of a slow start for me, but I have already taken a lot away from it. Being part of TUIA has challenged my thinking and given me valuable insights around leadership, my role in the community and the direction I want to take next. I have thoroughly enjoyed it so far and look forward to building on that over the rest of the year.

So far, I've attended the first wānanga of the year, Tuia i Runga, hosted at Pōhara Marae. The kaupapa focused on "weaving above", exploring our connections to our tūpuna and whakapapa, to te ao wairua, and to our aspirations as future leaders.

One of the biggest highlights for me was visiting Maungatautari. We got to walk through the bush and spent time learning about the ecological sanctuary there. I was genuinely blown away by the commitment and effort from the local iwi and community to protecting the bush and native manu. One of the volunteers spoke to us about the intense care taken to maintain the pest-proof fence, and how even a small breach is treated seriously and fixed straight away. It showed me what kaitiakitanga in action looks like, not just as a concept, but as something that is lived and protected daily.

Another highlight for me was being surrounded by like-minded rangatahi from around the motu. All of us young Māori, all on our own journeys, and all deeply passionate about giving back to our communities. Being in that space made me feel understood and supported. Some of the kōrero I had with other Tuia participants helped shift my thinking about what's next for me and actually gave me the confidence to explore studying at university next year. Their honesty around things like juggling study with work, staying grounded and dealing with imposter syndrome really stuck with me.

While I haven't been able to attend all wānanga due to illness and the most recent wānanga in Nelson being cancelled due to the State of Emergency there, I am committed to attending the rest of the wānanga throughout the year and look forward to continuing my journey through the programme.

For my community service project, I've started exploring a kaupapa around emergency preparedness and flood awareness in Kauangaroa, where I now live. My whānau was directly impacted by the 2004 flood, and recent heavy rainfall events have reminded me how important it is for our community to be prepared and informed.

After reading the Whangaehu Flood Resilience Uplift Project and learning more about the work that has been done, I've become interested in how I can contribute at a local level, especially in

ITEM 9.2**ATTACHMENT 2**

supporting whānau preparedness and safety planning. I want to have further discussion around this kaupapa with my neighbours, the community and the Rūnanga as I believe that this would be a meaningful and relevant kaupapa to build my community contribution around.

TUIA is already helping me to grow and develop my leadership skills not just in theory, but through the real-life mahi I'm starting to do in my own community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Faenza Hiroti

SuperLocal 2025 Programme >

WELCOME TUESDAY 15 JULY

8.30AM	Te Maruata Hui - Limes room, Christchurch Town Hall [PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED]
2.00PM	Conference registrations open
2.30PM	Young Elected Members Hui - Limes room, Christchurch Town Hall [PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED]
5.30PM	Simpson Grierson Welcome reception - Dobson foyer, Te Pae
7.00PM	Presidents Dinner - 27 Steps, New Regent Street [BY INVITATION ONLY]

DAY ONE WEDNESDAY 16 JULY

7.00AM	Women in Local Government Breakfast - sponsored by Datascope Waitaki room [PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED]
8.30AM	LGNZ AGM - Conway room Level 1 [PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED]
10.30AM	Welcome and mihi whakatau - Auditorium Prime Minister's address, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (by video)
11.15AM	Connect & refuel break - sponsored by Meredith Connell
12.00PM	Plenary session: Powering the economy - growth from the ground up - sponsored by Arup and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Minister for RMA Reform and Infrastructure address, Hon Chris Bishop KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Insights from the corporate world, Jason Paris, One NZ Minister of Local Government address, Hon Simon Watts Q & A with Hon Chris Bishop and Hon Simon Watts LGNZ research launch: Defining local government's contribution to the national economy, Mayor Sam Broughton, President, LGNZ and Susan Freeman-Greene, LGNZ PANEL DISCUSSION: How local contributes to the national economy FACILITATED BY Miriama Kamo PANELLISTS: Justin Tipa, Chair Ngai Tahu; Hillmarè Schulze, BERL; Seija Wellington, Arup
2.15PM	Connect & refuel break - sponsored by Meredith Connell
3.00PM	Breakout session one/ Reform ready: Navigating the big changes - sponsored by Martin Jenkins Auditorium - Navigating reform: What it means for financial sustainability - sponsored by Martin Jenkins Councils' playbook: Tools for success - Conway 4 / 5 - The make-or-break relationship: Mastering your CE partnership - sponsored by QLG Advisory Leading the charge: Driving change and achieving results - sponsored by GHD Conway 2 / 3 - Leading the charge: driving change and delivering results - sponsored by GHD From insight to impact: Dialling up performance Conway 1 - From scenario to strategy: creating value through local investment - sponsored by Arup
4.00PM	Breakout session two/ Reform ready: Navigating the big changes - sponsored by Martin Jenkins Auditorium - Māori wards and constituencies: What councils need to know Councils' playbook: Tools for success Conway 4 / 5 - What makes big projects work? - sponsored by Frequency Leading the charge: Driving change and achieving results - sponsored by GHD Conway 2 / 3 - Delivering value under pressure - sponsored by Warren and Mahoney From insight to impact: dialling up performance Conway 1 - Beyond numbers - supporting true performance improvement
5.00PM	Networking function - sponsored by Suncorp Exhibition space

DAY TWO THURSDAY 17 JULY

7.00AM	MTFJ Breakfast - Conway rooms [PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED]
	Welcome
8.40AM	Plenary session: Local government's role in our natural and built environment - sponsored by Boffa Miskell
	PANEL DISCUSSION: Beyond the RMA: What do we need from a future development and environmental protection system?
	FACILITATED BY Sarah Scott, Simpson Grierson
	PANELLISTS: Chair Craig Pauling, Environment Canterbury; Mark Todd, Ockham; Stephanie Styles, Boffa Miskell
	Deputy Prime Minister's address, Hon David Seymour
9.45AM	Plenary session: Driving efficiencies and productivity
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Pathways to transformation - driving efficiencies and productivity, Natalie de Boursac, Local government, Google Cloud NZ
	Opposition address, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins and Hon Tangi Utikere
10.40AM	Plenary session: Increasing participation in local elections
	Launch of LGNZ's electoral reform position - Hon Dr Nick Smith, Nelson City Council
11.00AM	Connect & refuel break - sponsored by Meredith Connell
12.00PM	Breakout session three
	Reform ready: Navigating the big changes - sponsored by Martin Jenkins Auditorium - Shifting the dial on local elections
	Councils' playbook: Tools for success - Conway 4 / 5 - Funding and financing tools to unlock housing growth
	Leading the charge: Driving change and achieving results - sponsored by GHD Conway 2 / 3 - Unlocking the Māori economy
	From insight to impact: Dialling up performance - Conway 1 - Beyond numbers - supporting true performance improvement
1.00PM	Breakout session four
	Reform ready: Navigating the big changes - sponsored by Martin Jenkins Auditorium - Role of local government in the changing landscape - sponsored by Simpson Grierson
	Councils' playbook: Tools for success - Conway 4 / 5 - Whiria te muka tangata: Strengthening Council/Iwi Partnerships
	Leading the charge: Driving change and achieving results - sponsored by GHD Conway 2 / 3 - Community facility projects: Managing scope, costs and expectations - sponsored by Apollo Projects
2.00PM	Connect & refuel break
2.45PM	Plenary session: Local government for local impact - licence to lead - sponsored by Warren and Mahoney and Creative New Zealand
	PANEL DISCUSSION: The role of local government in building communities
	FACILITATED BY: Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Gisborne District Council
	PANELLISTS: Michael Barnett, Former CE of Auckland Chamber of Commerce; Gretchen La Roche, Creative NZ; Vajini Pannila, Warren and Mahoney
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Licence to lead, Mark Di Somma, The Audacity Group
	Conference concludes
5.30PM	Pre-awards networking refreshments - Level one foyer
6.15PM	SuperLocal Awards Ceremony - Conway rooms
7.30PM	Fulton Hogan Gala Dinner - Rivers room





Peter Hijazeen

Principal

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

0212314517

Principal@saintjos.school.nz

[Date]

To:

NZTA / Waka Kotahi

official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz

Subject: Urgent Request to Reassess Speed and Safety Measures on SH1 South of Taihape through to Winiata Marae

Tēnā koutou,

Following a community consultation held on 19 July 2025, I am writing on behalf of the local community to raise urgent concerns regarding the safety and traffic conditions along the section of State Highway 1 (SH1) that runs south of Taihape, from the Rauma Road intersection through to Winiata Marae.

This stretch of road is vital to our community, as it services both **St Joseph's Catholic School** and **Winiata Marae**—two taonga (treasures) of our region that are frequented by tamariki, whānau, kaumātua, and manuhiri, alongside the residents of this area. The current open road speed limit of 100 km/h is inappropriate and unsafe for such a significant and heavily used community corridor.

The community has strongly expressed the need for:

- A **speed limit reduction**—ideally to **50 km/h** in the immediate areas surrounding the school and marae, and no more than **80 km/h** along the full corridor from south of Taihape to Winiata Marae.
- **Improved signage** clearly alerting motorists to the presence of a school, marae, residential areas, and frequent turning traffic.
- The adoption of **innovative and technological solutions** to reduce/ manage speed during key times — including school pick-up/drop-off hours, hui and tangihanga gatherings at the marae, and holiday and peak traffic periods.
- A **full reassessment of the road design and layout**, including consideration for a **turning bay for northbound traffic turning into Rauma Road**, to address safety risks and reduce the likelihood of further incidents.

Recent accidents in the area — including the one on 15 July near the SH1/Rauma Road intersection — only confirm what the community has long feared: that without change, more serious or even fatal incidents are likely to occur.

The wellbeing and safety of our tamariki, our kaumātua, and all road users must be the top priority. We are asking NZTA/Waka Kotahi to act urgently to review and improve safety measures along this section of SH1, in partnership with our community, Rangitikei District Council, and mana whenua.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will respond with the urgency and seriousness it deserves.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Peter Hijazeen
Principal/ Tumuaki

Peter Hijazeen
Principal/Tumuaki
Saint Joseph's School
Rauma Road
Taihape
06 388 0531

My work hours may be different to yours. I don't expect you to respond outside of your usual work schedule.



Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
29-May-25	Council Meeting	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
3-Jun-25	Erewhon RWS	PR				AT							PR	
3-Jun-25	Omatane RWS	PR				PR								
5-Jun-25	Tenders Board	PR	PR		AP									
5-Jun-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
5-Jun-25	Turakina CC	PR		PR										
9-Jun-25	Hunterville RWS	CB	AT		PR			PR						
10-Jun-25	TRAK	PR				PR	PR							
10-Jun-25	Ratana CB	PR					PR							
11-Jun-25	Taihapa CB	CB				PR							PR	
11-Jun-25	Marton CC	PR	PR	AT										
12-Jun-25	PPL Meeting	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR		PR	
16-Jun-25	Hunterville CC	PR			PR			PR						
19-Jun-25	Risk and Assurance	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR					
24-Jun-25	Hearing												PR	
26-Jun-25	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR				PR	PR	PR		PR	
26-Jun-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
9-Jul-25	Bulls CC	PR		PR								PR		
10-Jul-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	AP		PR	

Present (and is a member of the committee)	PR
Apology	AP
Absent - no apology received	AB
Not a member of the committee	
Not a member of the committee (but still attended)	AT
Not present as on Council business	CB
Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used]	ZM

9.3 Consultation Tracker - July**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is included for the Committee's information. The attached schedule will be update regularly.
- 1.2 This dashboard highlights the topic, staff lead and expected consultation period. There is a lot planned across the local government sector and for our Council over the next 12 months, so it is of benefit to provide this to not only Council but also our community committees on a monthly basis.

2. RDC Website

- 2.1 Council's website lists all open and recently closed consultations (see the below weblink). This is also where individuals can make submissions.

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/consultation/current-consultations>

Attachments:


1. Consultation Tracker [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Consultation Tracker - July' be received.

2025 Consultation Tracker

Rangitikei District Council



Project	Staff Lead	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Local Water Done Well	Arno	Adoption of Consultation doc - 26th Feb		Consultation 5th March - 2nd April		Deliberations - 22 May				WSDP submitted to Govt.			
District Plan Review	Tiffany	Urban Growth Plan Change				Engagement			Notification				
Annual Plan	Janna	Adoption of CD & draft annual plan - 27 Mar		Consultation 4 April - 5 May		Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June						
Fees & Charges	Janna	Adopt of draft consultation - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan			Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June					
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	Janna/Bryan	Adoption of draft WMMMP - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan		Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June						
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	Arno/Raj	Adoption of draft WMMMP - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan		Hearing - 15 May	Deliberations - 5 June						
Marton-Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Plan	Arno												
Local Body Elections	Katrina					National, regional, local 'Enrol' campaign		nominations open - 4th July	Pre-election period			Election	
Māori Wards Referendum	Katrina					National, regional, local 'Enrol' campaign		nominations open - 4th July				Election	
Bulls Recreation Master Plan	Tiffany					Engagement		Workshops					
Upcoming but unconfirmed projects													
Marton Streetscape Plan Rangitikei Tomorrow: Economic Strategy and Action Plan													

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - August 2025

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Overview

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
 - a. Community Initiatives Fund
 - b. Events Sponsorship Scheme
 - c. Creative Communities Scheme
 - d. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Round one 2025/26 is now open and closes on the 31 August 25. Decision will be made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25.

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Round one 2025/26 is now open and closes on the 31 August 25. Decision will be made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25.

4. Creative Communities Scheme

- 4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:
 - Demonstrate growth over time
 - Develop and support local artistic communities
 - Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
 - Support diversity and inclusion
 - Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged
- 4.2 Creative NZ typically allocates \$24,090 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 4.3 Round one for 2025/26 opens on the 11 August and closes 19 October. Decision will be made on the 12 November 25.

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

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- 5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.
- 5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.
- 5.3 The round will be opened 11 August 25 and will close 29 March 2026. Decision will be made by the Sport NZ Travel Committee in April.

6. Further Information

- 6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:
<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – August 2025 be received.

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - August 2025**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Allocation**

- 1.1 The yearly allocation of the 2025/26 Small Projects Fund for the Marton Community Committee is \$3,500.

2. Funding Applications

- \$800 - Marton Budget Service
- \$2,000 - Te Kai Whaka Ora - Marton Youth Trust
- \$1,656 - Marton Arts & Crafts Centre

Attachments:

1. Te Kai Whaka Ora - Marton Youth Trust [↓](#)
2. Marton Budget Service [↓](#)
3. Further Marton Budget Service [↓](#)
4. Marton Arts & Crafts Centre [↓](#)
5. Marton Arts & Crafts Centre Quote [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update –August 2025' be received.

Te Kai Whaka Ora- Marton Youth Trust

18th July 2025

Marton Community Committee
Chairwoman
Carolyn Bates

Dear Carolyn,

We at Te Kai Whaka Ora - Marton Youth Trust are seeking course establishment funding of \$2000.00 to implement a new series of youth programmes, "Shine" for girls, and "Strength" for boys. This course which began this school term from late July will be run in 2 Marton schools for 8 weeks, initially with year 6-8 pupils participating. It is intended to extend the course availability to other Marton schools that are willing to participate.

About Shine and Strength

Shine and Strength foster the premise that every life counts and has intrinsic value and are a solutions focused, personal mentoring programme that empowers young people regardless of their cultural, educational or socio-economic background. The goal is to help individuals on their journey of discovering their personal value, resilience and potential in life.

Since its conception in 1997, Shine and Strength have been used globally by thousands of organisations in various settings including schools, refuges, ethnic & indigenous communities, rural communities and correctional centres, and we are excited to bring these programmes to our youth in the Rangitikei.

Worth, Strength and Purpose.

The aim is for each individual to develop understanding of their own personal worth, strength and purpose and to realise the potential within themselves.

Shine and Strength will equip our young people to: - Identify themselves as valuable with much to contribute to society - Build confidence and gain an understanding of their intrinsic value - Develop decision-making and problem-solving skills - Understand they are able to have a positive influence in their world - Identify personal desires and strengths to motivate them to set and achieve personal goals.

Te Kai Whaka Ora (TKWO) has one part time paid youth facilitator and 3 volunteer facilitators to run our programme.

We ask that the Marton Community Committee consider Te Kai Whaka Ora's Shine and Strength programme when allocating upcoming grants this year.

Yours

Evan McIntyre, Co-Treasurer

Application to Marton Community Committee Small Projects / Grants FundSubmissions deadlines: 28th of Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov for consideration at the next Committee Meeting.

Applicant	Christina Marcroft
Organisation (if applicable)	Marton & Districts Budget Service Inc
Contact Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Amount Requested	\$ 800.00
Project Title	Brief title eg Paint road side wall of Community Hall / Promote a "Have a go day" / Set Up "...." Activity. Marton Social Service Expo
Detail	<p>Please provide an overview / explanation of what you hope to achieve with this request.</p> <p>We are planning to hold an expo in August where the various social services that have a presence in Marton can showcase their organisation to the public. We know that there is a lot of good work happening in our community and we believe that strengthening the connections between organisations, and providing information to the public around what they do and how they can be contacted, is essential to the ongoing wellbeing of the residents here.</p> <p>We are offering social service organisations a place in the RSA Community hall on Saturday 23 August, which they can set up as their information and engagement hub. We plan to invite the public to come and check us out, via advertising, and to provide encouragement through offering a free bouncy castle for the kids, a sausage sizzle, cups of tea and coffee, etc.</p> <p>We are also looking into inviting some of our retailers to provide items for spot prizes, give-aways or a free "raffle".</p>
Beneficiaries	<p>Who / how many people do you anticipate could benefit from this support?</p> <p>about 20-25 organisations, and 300 individuals and families</p>
Supporting Documentation	<p>Are quotes or estimates attached? If quote(s) or estimate(s) are not available or relevant, an indication of costs would be useful – eg screen shots from websites or links to them.</p> <p>Please see attached planning summary document</p>
Alternative Funding	<p>What efforts have been (or will be) made to source funding? What level of success has been achieved? If the total amount requested is not approved, how will you make up the shortfall?</p> <p>We will be approaching local businesses and retailers for in-kind and/or financial support.</p>
Bank Details	Please attach confirmation of your bank account, eg provide a deposit slip or an screenshot / image showing your bank account name and number (no transactions need to be provided).

The purpose of the fund is to assist entities with the purchase of small items or additional services which are not included in Council's operating budgets and which will benefit the local community. Examples would be signage, park furniture, plants, paint, a leaflet or other publication or an event, including implementing community-led initiatives.

Applications are normally expected to be for the benefit of the whole Community (not for individuals or small groups eg only club members). More than one application can be submitted in any financial year.

Applications cannot be for:

- Provision of training or conference attendance.
- Additional payment(s) for goods or services subject to a contract with Rangitikei Council.
- Amounts which exceed the Committee's annual allocation.

If you have any queries regarding your application please contact a committee member (or call 021-342-524).

Send request to: Marton Community Committee: martoncc.cab@gmail.com or deliver c/o 7 Dalrymple Place, Marton.

Community Open Day 23 August 11am-2pm

Invitees

MCW – food bank
MBS
CLAW
Food Pantry
ITC Hub
Nga Tangata
Jigsaw
Te Kotuku Hauora
Counselling Service
Te Orangi Trust (Hera Day)
Mahi Tahi (Louise)
St John health shuttle and ambulance
Tenancy Service
Companionship
Friendship Club
IRD – community compliance (Rebekah Davenport)
Zane (TK) Men's group
Jay (BFC)
Police Public Safety Team (Celine Boshier)
Debt Managers (Whanganui)
Housing Advice Centre Palmerston North
TKWO
Mainly Music (Brethren Church)

Costs

Council - Hall hire – 9am-5pm - \$152.00
Council – community barbeque trailer - \$100.00 refundable bond + \$50.00 charge
Bouncy Castle \$100 + \$45/hour/staff + travel
Chilly Box, PN – cheap bulk sausages?

ITEM 9.5
ATTACHMENT 3

Donations

New World – sausages and bread for BBQ
 Fresh Choice
 MCW – Tea, coffee, sugar
 Mitre 10 – bollards for parking (Vicki to arrange)
 MBS – Laminated disability signs, and parking signs

Officials

Fire warden – Vicki
 First aiders – Vicki, Christina, Cherie, Liz
 Health & Safety – Vicki and Cherie
 Tea/coffee service – Church volunteers (Anne to oversee)
 Parking warden – Lance and others?

Budget Service

Brochures, flyers (MDBS)
 Opp Shop vouchers – some per table to give away to punters
 Give-away sweets

Advertising

Flyers
 Posters
 Paper
 Radio (remember Freely Given)
 Facebook

Sponsorship

Turkington's – Vicki to contact

Application to Marton Community Committee Small Projects / Grants FundSubmissions deadlines: 28th of Jan / Mar / May / Jul / Sep / Nov for consideration at the next Committee Meeting.

Applicant	Rosemary Mead-White - Treasurer
Organisation (if applicable)	Marton Arts & Crafts Centre Inc
Contact Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Amount Requested	\$ 1656.00 (Portion of quote)
Project Title	Brief title eg Paint road side wall of Community Hall / Promote a "Have a go day" / Set Up "...." Activity. Art Centre/ Event Signage
Detail	Please provide an overview / explanation of what you hope to achieve with this request. Because of where the Arts Centre is situated, our classes, groups, workshops & events are often overlooked because the centre is not on a main thoroughfare of Marton. We have heard of local people going to Whanganui & PN for art classes etc, unaware that we have an awesome Arts Centre in town! We are seeking funding for professional signage for when we have events at the Arts Centre or elsewhere in the Marton/ Bulls district. We have a Garden Tour already planned for Marton & Districts which is going ahead in November. The signage is to aid locals and outside visitors to find our event easily. Also, Marton has through traffic between the highways. These travellers could be tempted to stop in Marton, by seeing the signs on main thoroughfares. People who attend these events/ classes may decide to stay longer to look at the businesses in town and buy food/ drink etc. We want to use the signs for many years to come.
Beneficiaries	Who / how many people do you anticipate could benefit from this support? Locals and people from surrounding districts plus travellers. Thousands of people over years can benefit
Supporting Documentation	Are quotes or estimates attached? If quote(s) or estimate(s) are not available or relevant, an indication of costs would be useful – eg screen shots from websites or links to them. Email quote from Rangitikei Signs and Designs
Alternative Funding	What efforts have been (or will be) made to source funding? What level of success has been achieved? If the total amount requested is not approved, how will you make up the shortfall? You are our first effort as we need signage for Garden Tour in Nov.
Bank Details	Please attach confirmation of your bank account, eg provide a deposit slip or an screenshot / image showing your bank account name and number (no transactions need to be provided).

The purpose of the fund is to assist entities with the purchase of small items or additional services which are not included in Council's operating budgets and which will benefit the local community. Examples would be signage, park furniture, plants, paint, a leaflet or other publication or an event, including implementing community-led initiatives.

Applications are normally expected to be for the benefit of the whole Community (not for individuals or small groups eg only club members). More than one application can be submitted in any financial year.

Applications cannot be for:

- Provision of training or conference attendance.
- Additional payment(s) for goods or services subject to a contract with Rangitikei Council.
- Amounts which exceed the Committee's annual allocation.

If you have any queries regarding your application please contact a committee member (or call 021-342-524).

Send request to: Marton Community Committee: martoncc.cab@gmail.com or deliver c/o 7 Dalrymple Place, Marton.



Outlook

QUOTE

Re: Marton Arts & Crafts Centre - Sandwich boards & Flags

From Melissa Welch

Date Thu 31/07/2025 5:40 PM

To Rosemary Mead-White

2 attachments (2 MB)

unnamed.jpg; 8-4.jpg;

Hi Rosemary,

Thank you for the opportunity to quote on Marton Arts & Crafts signage needs.

Firstly for the sandwich boards, for a high quality base with ACM panel with handle, double sided printed and laminated the cost would be \$240+GST for each sandwich board. We could use a cheaper vinyl without laminating for \$200+gst per board, this would be fine if they are not being left outside permanently. I have attached a jpeg showing an example of the sandwich board hardware.

Secondly for the flags I'd recommend a 2M swell design with a water base. Printed double sided so readable from both sides, the cost for this including the base would be \$235+GST for each flag, when ordering 11. I have attached a jpeg of this too as an example of the hardware.

We have included design setup in these prices too.

If you have any questions regarding this quote please feel free to contact me.

Best regards

Melissa

--

Ranaitikei Sians and Designs

Sandwich boards:

$\$240 + \text{GST } (\$36) = \$276 \times 6 = \1656.00

Flags:

$\$235 + \text{GST } (\$35.25) = \$270.25 \times 11 = \2972.75

TOTAL = \$4628.75

www.rsd.nz

or check us out on Facebook

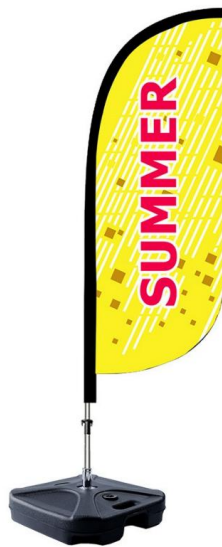
Made from heavy duty durable recycled rubber, our new Fusion footpath signs are portable and easy to carry with an integrated carry handle. Ideal for high wind areas where you need your sign to stay put!




RSD
RANGITIKEI
Signs & Designs

Fusion
RUBBER BASE & BLADE COMBO
PORTABLE AND EASY TO CARRY WITH AN INTEGRATED HANDLE
ACM BLADE WITH HANDLE
DURABLE RUBBER BASE

- Black Base
- Stackable for easy storage
- Weight - 11 kg
- ACM Blade



ITEM 9.5 ATTACHMENT 5

9.6 Project Update Report - July 2025

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 Responding to the proposed new Taumata Arowai Discharge Standards, and as outlined at the Assets / Infrastructure Committee meeting on 10 July, the project team has refined the shortlisted options as follows:
 - Option 1 - 100% Discharge to land- treatment plant at the RDC-owned site.
 - Option 2 – as per Option 1 with I/I reduction in the networks.
 - Option 3 - Combined discharge to land and river.
 - 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
- 3.2 A Design Report on each of these Options is anticipated to be supplied before the end of July 2025. Costing of these options are anticipated to be completed by end of July.
- 3.3 The team will be ready to identify a preferred option by the end of July. However, it has been decided that the identification of the preferred option will not be carried out until the Wastewater Discharge Standards are finalised. Taumata Arowai advised that this is anticipated for early August. We consider this timeline ambitious.
- 3.4 It is proposed that a preferred option will be identified immediately after this and that the preferred option will be presented to Council in either late August or September for ratification.
- 3.5 Taumata Arowai have also advised in a meeting with them on 3 June that RDC is covered by the Interim provisions of Standards re operating on existing use rights for expired

ITEM 9.6

consents and that the insistence of consent lodgement before 30 June 2026, is no longer necessary. A consent could therefore be lodged at a date later than this. However, this is not the preferred process, with consent lodgement still being targeted to before 30 June 2026.

- 3.6 Prioritised investigative works carried out by the team thus far have concluded that the RDC purchased land will not be able to dispose of more than 65% of current design flows in a 100% discharge to land option. A land disposal solution will require more land, adding significantly to the cost. The associated costs may make this option unfeasible. This is currently being assessed by the project team.
- 3.7 Autosamplers are now installed to provide better definition on possible trade waste flow components of the flows entering the Marton and Bulls treatment plants. A representative from Ngati Parewahawaha is carrying out the sampling for RDC.
- 3.8 Direct liaison with Malteurop, Speirs and Nestle Purina about their current and projected trade waste flows has helped better define trade waste inputs.
- 3.9 Dialogue with ANZCO Manawatu is ongoing to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of incorporating their discharge into the Bulls plant inlet. ANZCO Manawatu would become a trade waste customer of RDC under this scenario. Discussions will evolve further once the additional components of capex and Opex due to the ANZCO Manawatu flow are determined.

Water Projects

4. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Gwilym van Hoffen)

- 4.1 Relocation of the pilot plant to the Reservoir Bore site is now complete, and testing of the bore water commenced on 21 July. It will run continuously for 8-12 weeks, to collect information relating to the proposed membrane's design and performance.
- 4.2 Draft Principal's Requirements, NZS3916 Contract Document (Design and Construct), and Separable Portions for stage payments are being finalised with GFS. RDC will appoint a "principal's design reviewer" to carry out the necessary design reviews at Preliminary Design, Detailed Design, and Construction Design stages.
- 4.3 An extended operating warranty (5 years) is still being negotiated, in addition to the 12-month defects liability period. This will provide RDC with good protection from any 'teething' issues that are to be expected with an innovative design solution.
- 4.4 Design and costing of ancillary works to deal with the waste stream from the new plant are being undertaken by GFS. This is a new cost, which has not been included in the original (or later revised) GFS offer.
- 4.5 A design consultancy with WSP has almost completed design of the inlet work. This is inclusive of a permanent pump for the new Reservoir Bore and some new inlet pipework.
- 4.6 Extended full capacity testing of the 10-year-old Tutaenui Bore has been completed and indicating that sustainable yield (stable water levels without on-going unacceptable drawdown) of this bore is of the order of 3-3.1ML/day.
- 4.7 Staff are keeping the Marton community up to date with progress. A press release was picked up and published by The Post/Manawatu Standard on 10 July 2025, and by the Whanganui Chronicle on 13 July 2025.

<https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360752587/trial-plant-begin-tests-bid-improve-marton-drinking-water>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/rangitikei-town-marton-set-for-new-trial-treatment-plant-to-combat-poor-water-quality/I6MCU622XRFDE3I7XQDVS7MSE/>

Community Facilities

5. Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)

- 5.1 Council authorised staff to proceed with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as a separate project independent of the Marton Offices and Community Hub.
- 5.2 Team Architects have now been engaged to provide Design Consultancy services for the EOC project.
- 5.3 Geotech, soil contamination and underground tank detection surveys are now completed with the report being forwarded to both Maycroft and Team Architects for their review.
- 5.4 The contract document is now signed, and a further kick-off meeting was held with the project team on 18 July 2025.
- 5.5 Maycroft will make use of the above-mentioned reports to better understand the implications of the identified findings on the project and report back to the project team in the next few weeks.
- 5.6 In the meantime, RDC have scheduled a workshop with Councillors to make a final decision on the scope of the project. Once the scope is approved, Maycroft will start with the concept design process.
- 5.7 As previously advised Horizons Regional Council will not be part of the Marton Offices & Community Hub build project but may consider being part of the King Street development in future.
- 5.8 If Council choose to proceed with undertaking the seismic strengthening works as a separate activity, the community will no longer be able to use the interior of the building as they currently do.
- 5.9 Another user group meeting was held on 21 July 2025 in Taihape. RDC were informed that the group have now finalised their requirements for utilising the underside of the building.
- 5.10 These requirements have since been shared with RDC staff. Staff shall now engage with design consultants to determine the extent of design works involved in addition to estimating the design fee.
- 5.11 In the meantime, the community is looking at various funding avenues to fund the design works.
- 5.12 The community are of the opinion that the design fee would be in the \$40K to \$60K range. Staff reminded the group that these estimates might not be sufficient compared to design costs received in other projects.

6. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation (Project Manager – Eswar Ganapathi)

ITEM 9.6

- 6.1 During the April 2025 Council meeting a report was presented to Council that provided a more detailed analysis of the options available for the Marton Swim Centre. This report aimed at providing more detailed information to facilitate Council's decision making for how to address the structural issue with the Marton Swim Centre.
- 6.2 Council agreed to proceed with investing in the repair of the Marton Swim Centre and to upgrade the existing facility to modern standards. Council selected the Base Recommendation option 1-B as their preferred option.
- 6.3 This option proposes that the swim centre main pool hall is strengthened and includes a range of repairs and some replacement of end of life or out of date assets. This option excludes any upgrades to the changing rooms and reception area.
- 6.4 The items identified in this option will be phased to align with available funding. The first items to be actioned will be the replacement of the roof and the earthquake strengthening of the main pool hall.
- 6.5 At the June 2025 Council meeting, Council confirmed the scope for the Marton Pool repairs to include the replacement of the roof with like for like with the addition of a ETFE liner for improved insulation and to allow more daylight into the facility.
- 6.6 The scope of work to be included in the first phase of repairs and upgrades has now been finalised with Create Architects and Engineers and work has commenced.
- 6.7 The timeline for the design is expected to be completed by the end of October 2025, followed by a tender process expected to be finalised by the end of February with a Contractor expected to be on site by early March 2026. Construction of phase 1 repairs and upgrades are expected to be completed by August 2026.
- 6.8 The remainder of the upgrades may be included in future years depending on available funding.
- 6.9 A Geotechnical survey was carried out on site on 7 and 8 July 2025. The report is expected to be completed by end of July 2025.
- 6.10 Staff had a meeting with CLM (the pool operator) to update them with the Marton Pool development timelines. CLM were notified during this meeting that the pool will remain closed for this summer.
- 6.11 CLM were asked to evaluate other potential venue options for this swim season and to work with Council staff to inform the public of any alternative arrangements.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

8. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 8.1 No impacts on strategic risks

9. Strategic Alignment

- 9.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

10. Mana Whenua Implications

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

11. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

11.1 There is no climate change impact.

12. Statutory Implications

12.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation

That the report 'Project Updates Report – July 2025' be received.

ITEM 10.1

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Property Files

Author: Carolyn Bates, Chair

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The Chair requested this item be included:

1.1.1 Property Files are now digitally available.

Recommendation

If needed:

10.2 Meet the Candidates

Author: Carolyn Bates, Chair

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The Chair requested this item be included:

1.1.1 Meet the Candidates - 21 Aug 25 at Rangitikei College, start time to be confirmed by Marton Lions.

Recommendation

If needed:

ITEM 10.3

10.3 Community Open Day

Author: Carolyn Bates, Chair

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The Chair requested this item be included:

1.1.1 Community Open Day - 23 Aug 25 at Memorial Hall.

Recommendation

If needed:

11 Meeting Closed.