



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2026

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Chair: Ms Sally Moore

Deputy Chair: Mr David Christison

Membership: Mrs Lyn Duncan
Mrs Carolyn Bates
Mrs Jennifer Greener
Mrs Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Mr John Whittaker
Mr Damian Turner – Steele
Mr David Woodbridge
Ms Philippa Hancock
Mr David Stantiall
Mr Evan McIntyre
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr John Hainsworth (Alternate)
HWTM Andy Watson (Ex-Officio)

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 Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Wednesday, 15 April 2026 at 6.00pm.

Order Of Business

1	Welcome	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Public Forum	4
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations	4
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	4
6	Confirmation of Minutes	5
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	5
7	Chair’s Report	11
	7.1 Chair's Report - April 2026	11
8	Reports for Information	12
	8.1 Community Response Plan - Marton	12
	8.2 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026.....	42
	8.3 Mayor's Report - March 2026	43
	8.4 Project Update Report – March 2026	62
	8.5 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026	72
9	Meeting Closed.	75

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 18 February 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Marton Community Committee Meeting - 18 February 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Time: 6.00pm

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

Present Mrs Lyn Duncan
Mr David Christison
Mrs Carolyn Bates
Mrs Jennifer Greener
Mrs Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
Mr Damian Turner – Steele
Mr David Woodbridge
Mr David Stantiall
Mr Evan McIntyre
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr John Hainsworth

In attendance Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

1 Welcome..... 3

2 Apologies 3

3 Public Forum 3

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations..... 3

5 Confirmation of Order of Business 3

6 Reports for Decision 3

6.1 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair - Marton Community Committee 3

8 Reports for Information..... 4

8.1 Guidance and Terms of Reference - Marton Community Committee..... 4

8.2 Mayor's Report - February 2026 4

8.3 Mayor's Report - December 2025 4

8.4 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2026..... 4

8.5 Project Update Report - January 2026 5

8.6 Funding Schemes Update - February 2026 5

ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1

Unconfirmed

1 Welcome

Deputy Mayor Wilson opened the meeting at 6.00pm and the committee introduced themselves.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/001

That the apologies be received from Ms P Hancock and HWTM A Watson on council business.

Cr D Wilson/Mrs J Greener. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Reports for Decision

6.1 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair - Marton Community Committee

Ms Moore was nominated Chair and accepted the nomination for Chair.

Mr Christison was nominated for Deputy Chair and accepted the nomination.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/002

That the Marton Community Committee, for the purpose of electing or appointing persons under Clause 25, adopt System B.

Cr D Wilson/Mr D Turner-Steele. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/003

That Sally Moore be appointed Chair of the Marton Community Committee.

Cr D Wilson/Mr D Christison. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/004

That David Christison be appointed Deputy Chair of the Marton Community Committee.

Mrs C Bates/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

6 Reports for Information

8.1 Guidance and Terms of Reference - Marton Community Committee

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/005

That the report Guidance and Terms of Reference – Marton Community Committee be received.

Mr D Christison/Mrs J Greener. Carried

8.2 Mayor's Report - February 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/006

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

Mr J Whittaker/Mrs B Harvey-Larsen. Carried

8.3 Mayor's Report - December 2025

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/007

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

Mr J Whittaker/Mrs B Harvey-Larsen. Carried

8.4 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2026

Mrs Bates received an application for the Small Projects Fund and this has been circulated by email to the committee members. Members agreed that the application did not fit the Small Projects Fund guidelines.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/008

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – February 2026 be received and that the application received for the Small Projects Fund be declined.

Mr D Christison/Mrs C Bates. Carried

ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1

8.5 Project Update Report - January 2026

Marton Streetscape

The Marton Streetscape project will be discussed at an upcoming meeting to consider submissions and determine whether it proceeds, noting that no decisions are made at workshop sessions.

Marton Swim Centre Structure Remediation

Cr Wilson spoke that the community should take a collective and forward-looking approach to supporting the Marton Pool project.

Thanks was given from the committee to staff for the ongoing emergency response after the weather event.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/009

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

Mrs C Bates/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

8.6 Funding Schemes Update - February 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/MCC/010

That the Funding Schemes Update – February 2026 be received.

Mr J Whittaker/Mr D Christison. Carried

The meeting closed at 7.19pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Marton Community Committee held on 15 April 2026.

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Chairperson

7 Chair's Report

7.1 Chair's Report - April 2026

Author: Sally Moore, Chair

1. Reason for Report

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

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report –April 2026 be received.

8 Reports for Information

8.1 Community Response Plan - Marton

Author: Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor

Authoriser: Johan Cullis, Group Manager Regulatory Services and Emergency Management

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to discuss the Marton Community Response Plan (CRP) to support community-led emergency preparedness and response capability in alignment with Civil Defence and Emergency Management.
- 1.2 Mr Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor will be in attendance to speak to this item.

2. Context

- 2.1 Community Response Plans are a key component of local emergency management, enabling communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency events such as flooding, earthquakes, severe weather, and infrastructure disruption.
- 2.2 The development of a Community Response Plan empowers local residents, organisations, and volunteers to take coordinated action during emergencies.
- 2.3 The Marton community has a draft Community Response Plan, and this is an opportunity to confirm whether this is appropriate.

3. Discussion and Options Considered

- 3.1 The Committee may decide to:
 - 3.1.1 Review and update the current plan as is stands
 - 3.1.2 Review and include other community groups not mentioned in the current plan
 - 3.1.3 Decide to start the process again

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 This report has no financial implications.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 Failure to support community response planning may increase the risk of inadequate coordination and delayed response during emergency events.

6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 The Community Response Plan aligns with Council's strategic priorities by supporting working collaboratively to improve community wellbeing.

- 6.2 The plan strengthens partnerships between Council, emergency services, local organisations, and residents, enabling a coordinated and community-led approach to emergency preparedness and response.
- 6.3 It contributes to broader strategic outcomes by:
 - Enhancing community resilience and self-reliance
 - Supporting public safety and effective emergency management
 - Fostering strong community connections and local capability
- 6.4 This initiative is consistent with regional and national CDEM objectives to build resilient communities that are well-prepared to respond to and recover from emergency events.

7. Mana Whenua Implications

- 7.1 Mana whenua have an important role in community resilience and emergency response. Engagement with iwi and hapū has been considered as part of the broader approach to community planning.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 8.1 Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall, flooding, and drought. These impacts heighten the importance of localised emergency preparedness.
- 8.2 The Community Response Plan supports climate resilience by enabling the community to better anticipate, respond to, and recover from climate-related events.

9. Statutory Implications

- 9.1 The development of Community Response Plans is consistent with the requirements and intent of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
- 9.2 The plan aligns with the Manawatū-Whanganui CDEM Group Plan and supports Council’s responsibilities to promote and support community readiness and resilience.

10. Decision Making Process

- 10.1 The Marton Community Response Plan represents an important step in strengthening local emergency preparedness and resilience. It provides a practical framework for coordinated community action during emergencies and aligns with Council’s strategic and statutory responsibilities

Attachments:

- 1. **Community Response Plan - Marton** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Community Response Plan – Marton be received.

ITEM 8.1
ATTACHMENT 1

MARTON CIVIL DEFENCE COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER - 2024



The Marton Community Response Group was organised by the Rangitikei District Council.



2 - MARTON CIVIL DEFENCE COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction4
- 2 Plan Purpose4
- 3 Community Overview5
- 4 Geographical Map6
- 5 Significant Threats To Marton6
- 6 Alert And Warning Systems8
- 7 Emergency Response Guidelines9
- 8 Declarations9
- 9 Community Response Group Committee 10
- 10 Community Response Group 11
- 11 Agency And Other Group Responsibilities 12
- 12 Plan Activation 13
- 13 Emergency Centres 13
- 14 Communication..... 14

- Appendix 1 Hazard Map 16
- Appendix 2 Hazards 17
- Appendix 3 Warnings for New Zealand..... 18
- Appendix 4 Plan activation process 19
- Appendix 5 Evacuation Process20
- Appendix 6 Priority Contacts21
- Appendix 7 Local Resources.....22
- Appendix 8 Welfare Centre Information23

- Notes..... 24



1. INTRODUCTION

This Plan has been prepared to provide a Civil Defence Community Response Plan for the Marton Community in the event that the community is required to respond to any civil defence emergency or take action in advance of any civil defence emergency to prevent potentially devastating effects

When an emergency occurs, this Plan will be activated by the community in response to the event. Other agencies will respond to the event by activating their own plans and coordinating their activities with other agencies to manage the impact on the community.

This Plan has been prepared with the aim of providing an effective, planned civil defence emergency response that links the community and the civil defence organisations in Rangitikei.

In preparation of surviving a civil defence emergency the community should undertake to be personally prepared with survival kits of water, food, lighting, heating, radios, spare batteries and medical supplies (see back page of the phone book for more detail on survival information or visit www.getthru.govt.nz).

2. PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to identify hazards that may impact on the Marton Community, and to provide a plan whereby the community within is able to respond and remain self reliant for at least three days without any outside assistance if an emergency occurs

3. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The town of Marton is the largest in the Rangitikei district, and began life as a private township in 1866, when shop and housing sections were sold at auction by local landowners. Marton has always been a service town for the fertile farming region of the Manawatu Plains. Butter, wool, and flour have been among its agricultural products. The arrival of the railway in 1878 led to rapid growth in the area, which soon added industries such as engineering, sawmilling, and textile production to its economy. Ngāti Apa are tangata whenua for the Marton area.

At the time of the 2013 census, the town had 4,548 residents.^[2]

Vulnerable members of the community include: our schools, elder care facility, our elderly residents, and visitors to the township.

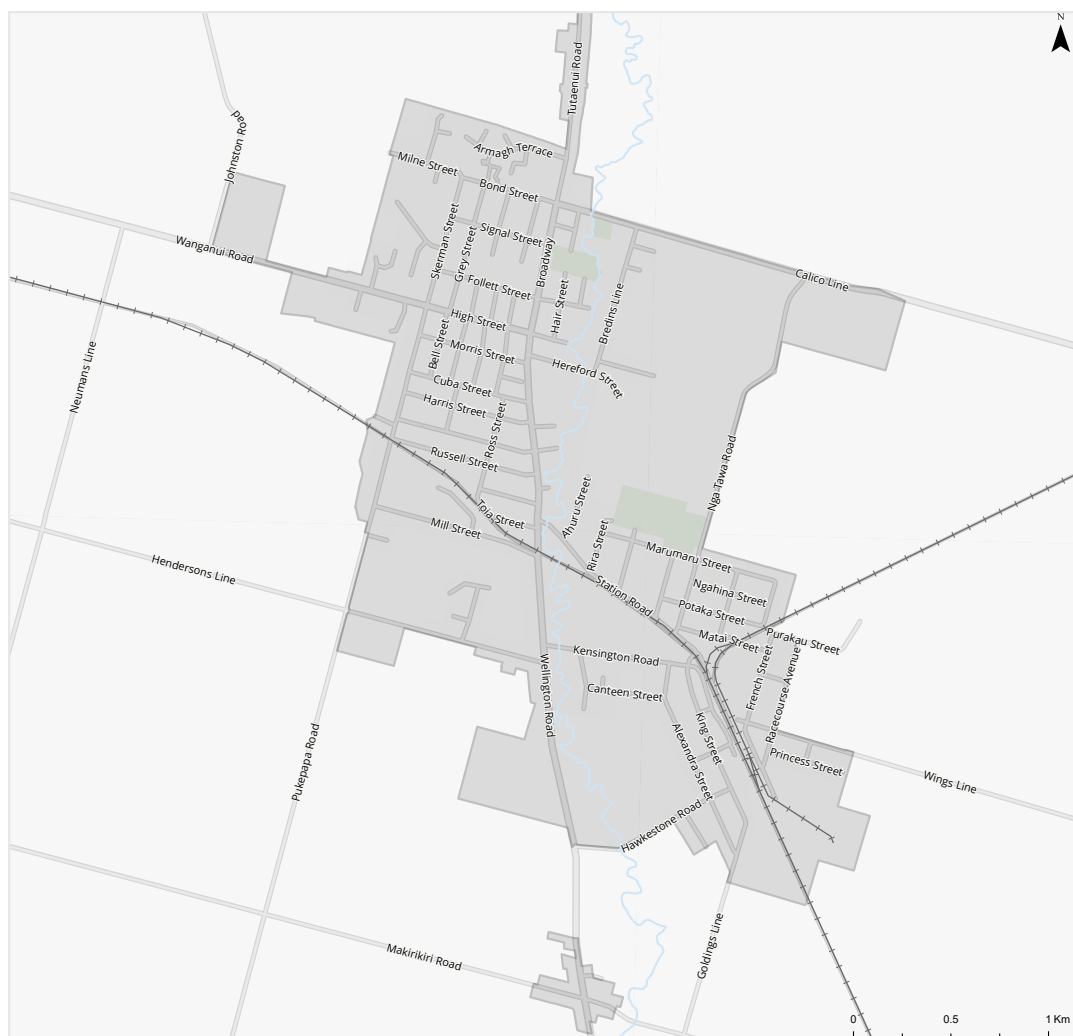
The community can easily be cut off from the outside by flooding, slips and trees over the road and damaged bridges. The community can also be easily cut off from within itself the area known as the Junction.

There are seven schools within the community – Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Huntley School, Rangitikei College, Marton School, James Cook School, St Matthews School, and nearby, South Makirikiri School.



4. GEOGRAPHICAL MAP

For the purpose of this Plan, the geographic area of coverage for the Marton Community will be Marton and Crofton.



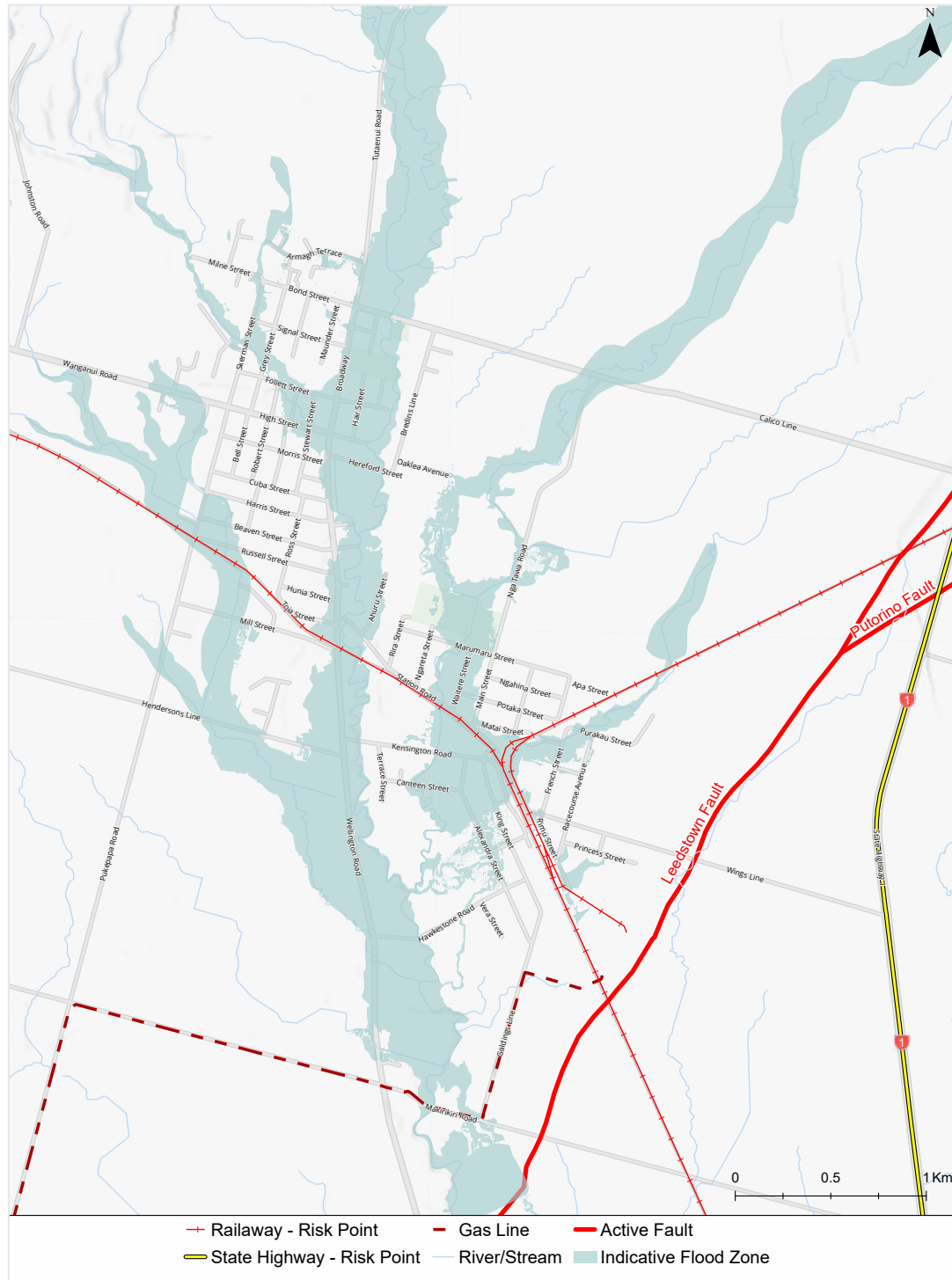
5. SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO MARTON

Hazards which pose a significant threat to the Marton Community may include:

- Flooding
- Cyclones
- Earthquake
- Influenza pandemic
- CBRE – SH1/rail – Chemical Biological Radiology Explosive



ITEM 8.1 ATTACHMENT 1



6. ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS

The Rangitikei District Council is a member of the Horizons Regional Council Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and receives warning of adverse natural events from Central Government, the Meteorological Service, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and from other agencies.

Warning systems in place for Marton are as follows:

National Warnings:

These will be received by Council and Police/Fire/Ambulance Communication Centres and disseminated to regional and local emergency responders. National Warnings come from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and from different agencies who are contracted by NEMA, For example:

- The Metservice issues severe weather warnings and watches for storms, cyclones, snow, thunderstorms and wind
- The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences provide earthquake and volcanic bulletins
- The Ministry of Health and District Health boards provide public health warnings
- MAF disseminate alerts and warnings for animal disease outbreaks
- The National Emergency Management Agency provide tsunami warnings and advisories

Natural Warnings:

For some natural events there are no pre-warnings, for example an earthquake. But an earthquake can be a natural sign that an eruption may follow. This natural warning should be heeded by the public.

Local Warnings:

For up to date information and warnings, Public should follow any guidance provided on Rangitikei District Councils Webpage and social media accounts.



7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Incidents of emergencies are categorised into five levels reflecting the intensity of scope of the event that has occurred.

The broad headings of the levels of response are:

1. Local incident, declaration not required, emergency is dealt with by the Emergency Services
2. Local incident, declaration not required, but some external support is necessary.
3. Imminent state of local emergency is being considered and is of local significance
4. Imminent state of local emergency that is regionally significant
5. Imminent or state of National emergency.

8. DECLARATIONS

Only the following persons may declare a state of Civil Defence Emergency within the Rangitikei District Council:

1. The Mayor of the Rangitikei District
2. An elected member of the Rangitikei District Council authorised to act on behalf of the Mayor, of if the Mayor is absent
3. The Rangitikei District Council Civil Defence Controller

When a civil defence emergency is declared, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 is invoked which gives Emergency Services and Police additional powers over and above their respective acts.

The lead agency in the event of any emergency response is the agency that has the legislative or agreed authority for control of the incident or emergency.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand - control and suppression of fires and other specialist functions.

New Zealand Police - maintain law and order, exercise additional powers as required during the state of emergency.

Ministry of Health - control the outbreak of infectious diseases.

THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROLLER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER ALL PERSONNEL

All instructions given by the Emergency Services and the Police
must be followed without exception.



10. COMMUNITY RESPONSE GROUP

The overall responsibility of the Marton Community Response Group is to liaise with police and emergency services to initiate and assist in response to a civil defence emergency.

Protection under the CDEM Act

The CDEM Act (Section 110) provides protection from liability for controllers, local authority staff, contractors and volunteers, in a state of emergency. Any person performing their functions, duties or powers under the CDEM Act is protected from liability for loss or damage caused by their actions or omissions due to a state of emergency. Despite Section 110, no person is exempted from liability for an act or omission that constitutes bad faith or gross negligence.

Re-imbursment for costs

Fair and reasonable costs incurred by the community during the emergency will be re-imbursed by Council. Those costs associated with the caring of people evacuated from their homes or adversely affected by the event, or any actions taken to protect life should be collated by the Marton Community Civil Defence Group and forwarded to the Emergency Management Officer at the Rangitikei District Council.

The Marton Community Response Group responsibilities prior, during and after an emergency are listed below.

Prior to an emergency:

- Inform the community that communication pathways have been established (ie telephone tree) to disseminate civil defence warnings.
- Ensure that people are prepared through a community education campaign.
- Test the plan as required and participate in exercises.
- Ensure that the community is informed about the Community Response Plan.
- Create, update and maintain a telephone tree.
- Meet at least annually to review the Plan.
- Provide basic First Aid/Civil Defence training.

During an emergency:

- The Chief Fire Officer or his/her delegate will activate the Marton Community Civil Defence Response Plan
- Ensure that warning information is disseminated to the community as quickly and efficiently as possible
- Liaise with the emergency services if at all possible to get an overview of what is happening and what is required
- Relay information back to the Rangitikei District Council civil defence if possible;
- Provide a situation report (casualties, damage, other threats) for the community and request assistance if required.
- If required set up a Civil Defence Centre
- Provide assistance to the emergency services to help evacuate the affected community

After an emergency has occurred the main avenue for the collection of information will be from local sources and those persons identified in this Plan. The early collection of information is very important as it will assist in determining the scale of the response that is required.

After an emergency:

- Work in support of any recovery efforts in the Marton community.
- Hold a de-brief of the group's response to see if there needs to be any improvements or there are things that worked really well that should be continued
- Arrange to get the plan updated with any improvements or new ideas that have come about as a result of the emergency

There is also the commitment of the Rangitikei District Council to provide the following in support of the Marton Community Response Group:

- To maintain and ensure that early response warnings are being received by the Rangitikei District Council
- Ensure that vital information of any threat is forwarded to the Marton Community Response Group without delay, where communication is possible
- Provide advice and guidance to local communities developing and testing their plans
- Provide opportunities for training and exercising as requested by the Marton Response Group



12. PLAN ACTIVATION

This Plan may be activated by the following:

- local Incident Controller
- local emergency services personnel – Chief Fire Officer or his/her delegate
- the Marton Community Response Group Chair in isolation only if contact cannot be made with either the Local Incident Controller or Chief Fire Officer

There may be situations when an event has not occurred but the local community is concerned about the impact of a potential threat and this Plan can be activated. For example an cyclone may cause the activation of this Plan.

This Plan is also designed to be activated when there is limited or no contact with the Rangitikei District Council and it outlines the process the community will go through to work together to support themselves in an emergency.

The community may also be asked to activate the Plan as part of a local, regional or national exercise to test its capability.

13. EMERGENCY CENTRES

A Civil Defence Centre may be established for any event if it is required.

The proposed Civil Defence Centre for Marton is Te Poho o Tauriki, Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, 85 Hendersons Line, Marton. If a Civil Defence Centre is established, public will be notified on Rangitikei District Councils Webpage and social media accounts.



14. COMMUNICATION

Communication is the critical component of this Community Response Plan. People within the community must be alerted to an impending emergency or be contacted after an emergency or an event has occurred. Communication must also be made outside the community to relay the situation and/or request any assistance if required.

This Plan must also be communicated to the community.

Communication within and between communities:

Communication typically relies on the following communication pathways:

- Telephone
- Cell phone
- E-mail
- Radio Networks
- Pagers
- Radio telephone
- Face to face (neighbours calling on neighbours)
- Camp ground information to campers (announcement/signage)
- Social Media

During emergencies there are often disruptions to these telecommunications pathways (i.e. with loss of power, cell phone towers and poor satellite coverage) and the following alternatives have been identified if traditional communication pathways have become interrupted to communicate with those outside the community:

- VHF radios or satellite phones. (Held by Council)
- Alternative communication within the community when the normal means of communication has been disrupted, ie face to face contact, whistles, alarms, loud speakers.

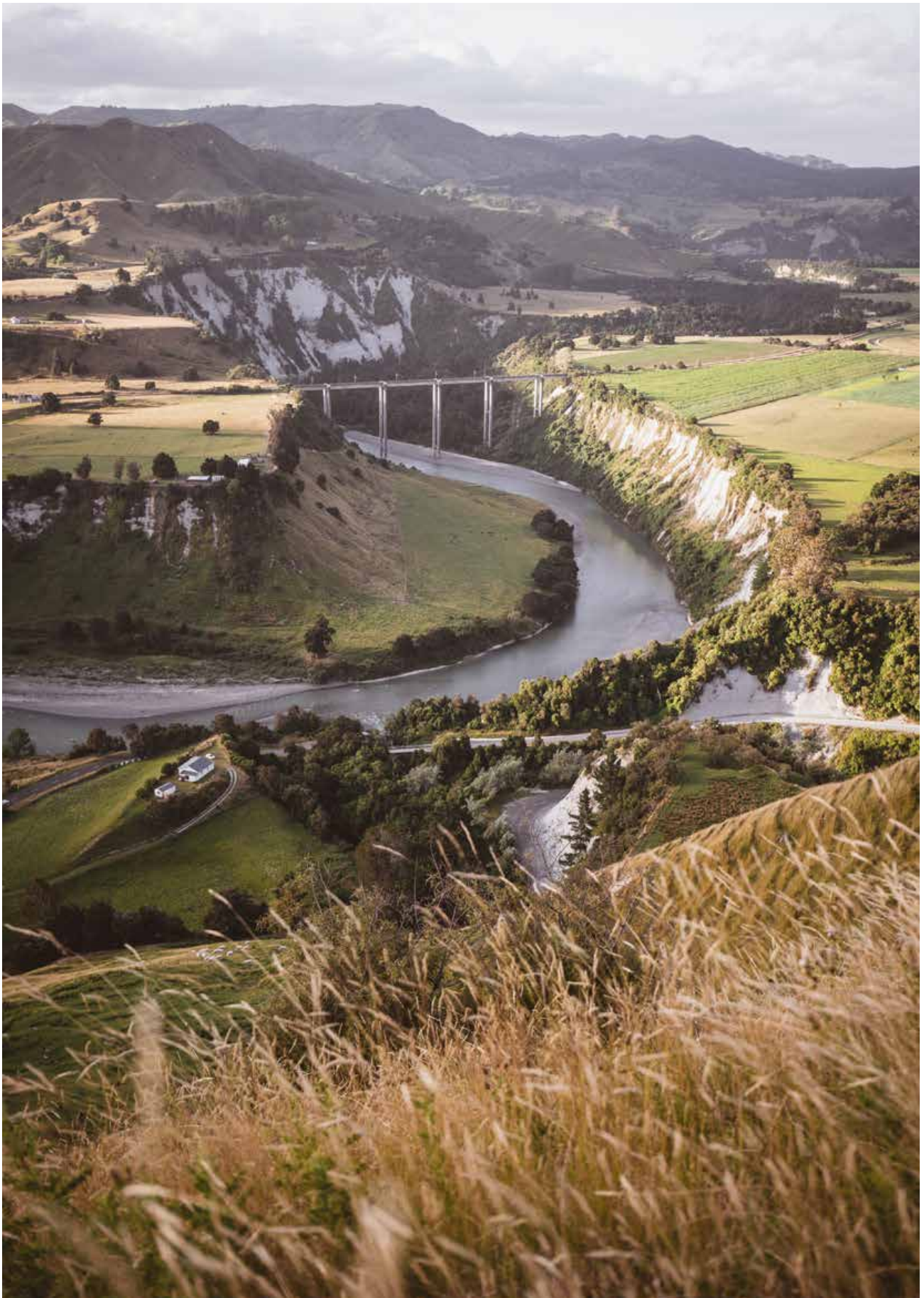
Communication of this Plan to the community

This Plan needs to be communicated to the wider community if it is to be effective and representative of the entire community. The following have been identified as means of communicating this plan to the wider community:

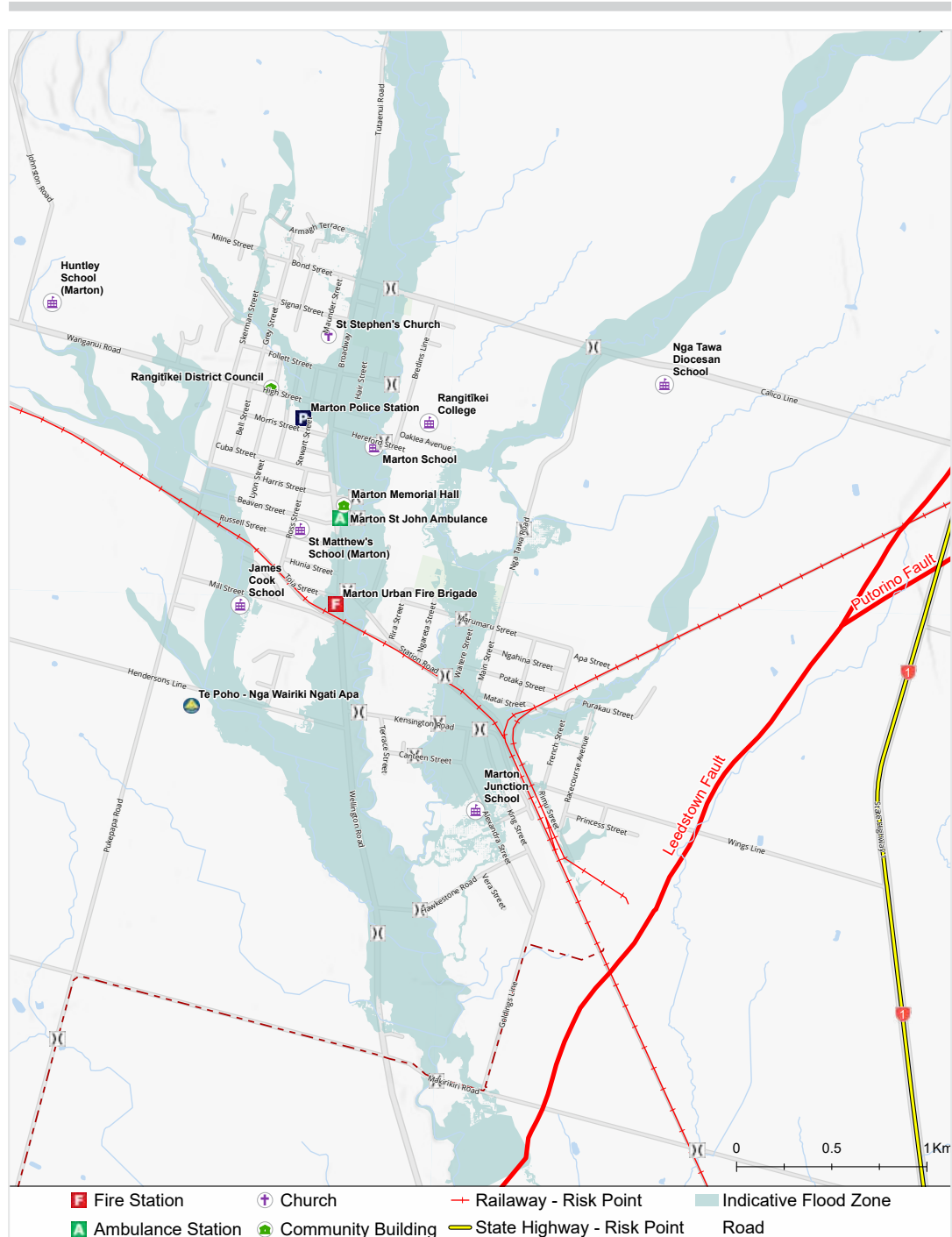
- Presentation at community meetings
- Stands at community events
- Notice or articles in community newsletters
- Training exercises
- Plan available at the Library
- Abridged Plan delivered to all households and on the Rangitikei District Council website



ITEM 8.1 ATTACHMENT 1



APPENDIX 1: HAZARD MAP



APPENDIX 2: HAZARDS

Significant threats to Marton include but are not limited to:

Threat	Probability	Impact to Marton
Flooding	High	Road access denied Cause land-slips Most areas in marton are affected Community cut-off from outside Community may have to be self-sustainable
Storms	High	Can be life-threatening Cause of panic & fear - in particular to elderly Loss of power affecting water pumps & appliances Telephones not working properly Damage to property or homes Community may have to be self-sustainable
Earthquake	High	Can be life-threatening Damage to property or homes Road access could be denied Community may have to be self-sustainable
Pandemic	High	People may not be able to leave their homes Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to source Pressure on local health services Community may have to be self-sustainable
Animal disease	Low	Restriction on movement of people and stock Services may be disrupted Community may have to be self-sustainable Cause of panic & fear
Chemical spillage	Medium	People may not be able to leave their homes Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to obtain Community may have to be self-sustainable
Volcanic eruption	Low	Water supplies affected Road access denied Dust in the air Health risks People may not be able to leave their homes Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to source Community may have to be self-sustainable Loss of power affecting water pumps & appliances Telephones not working properly

Hazard identification determines which hazards threaten areas of the community and the probability identifies how likely it is that the disaster will occur.



APPENDIX 3: WARNINGS FOR NEW ZEALAND

The following table outlines risks and the monitoring agency responsible for issuing warnings:

Particular Risk or Hazard	Monitoring Agency	Comment
Severe Weather Outlook Watch or Warnings Storms Flooding Wind	Meteorological Service of New Zealand (Met Service). www.metconnect.co.nz	National Weather Services (NWS), A division of the Met Service collects and analyses meteorological data from around New Zealand and the world, from which the many different types of weather forecasts are made. The NWS is responsible for the safeguarding of New Zealand lives and property through the issuing of Severe Weather Watches and Warnings.
Earthquake	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences	Monitored by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences who are responsible for alert bulletins issued to MCDEM and CDEM Groups.
Volcanic Eruption	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences	Monitored by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences who are responsible for alert bulletins issued to MCDEM and CDEM Groups.
Public Health Warnings	Ministry of Health and District Health Boards	Develop and disseminate alerts and warnings to CDEM Groups and the general public.
Flood Warnings for major rivers	Rangitikei Regional Council	Develop and disseminate river flood warnings to the public, emergency responders and pre-arranged landowners.
Animal Disease Outbreaks	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Dissemination alerts and warnings to CDEM Groups and public.



APPENDIX 4: PLAN ACTIVATION PROCESS

The Marton Community Response Group is responsible for the activation of this Plan in the lead up to an event that is known to be likely to occur due to advance warning, or as a result of a sudden event. The community may also be asked to activate the Plan as part of a local, regional or national exercise to test its capability.

Initial actions

Where advance warning of an event is received by Civil Defence or the responsible agency then the following should be notified:

Any Officer in Charge from the Response Group Committee may activate this plan.

ONCE ACTIVATED:

DO THIS

- Ensure all other response group agencies are aware of the plan activation, this can be achieved by calling Rangitikei District Council 0800 422 522
- Activate telephone tree and other notification processes

The Marton Community Response Group will set up the Civil Defence Centre at Te Poho o Tauriki to;

- Provide shelter, warmth and information to those affected by the emergency

WHERE AN UNEXPECTED SUDDEN EVENT OCCURS:

Remember, the person in charge of the lead agency should activate this plan



APPENDIX 5: EVACUATION PROCESS

Civil Defence warnings to the Marton community will be by the following methods

- Warnings via radio
- PA systems on emergency services vehicles
- Local procedures – car horns, telephone trees, door to door knocking.
- Guidance will be provided on Rangitikei District Councils web page and social media accounts

IF YOU RECEIVE A WARNING!

Do this:

- Listen to your local radio station and follow instructions
- Refer to this plan as a guide on what to do
- Activate your pre-determined telephone tree to warn others
- Prepare to activate your household emergency plan

STAY AT HOME UNLESS YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE, AVOID UNNECESSARY TRAVEL

IF YOU ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE THEN...

Do this:

- Assemble with your emergency survival kit at Te Poho o Tauriki

THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROLLER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER ALL PERSONNEL.

All instructions given by the Emergency Services and the Police must be followed without exception.



APPENDIX 6: PRIORITY CONTACTS

FIRE	All emergencies	Dial 111
POLICE	All emergencies	Dial 111
AMBULANCE	All emergencies	Dial 111
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	All emergencies Stewart Street Surgery	Dial 111 06-327 8884
RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL	Call Centre Civil Defence Emergency	0800 422 522 0800 422 522




APPENDIX 7: LOCAL RESOURCES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	
BUS AND COACH TRANSPORT	
AMBULANCE	
LOCAL RADIO STATIONS	
GENERATORS	
RADIO COMMS	
COOL STORAGE	
RURAL HALLS	
TRADES	
ELECTRICIAN	
PLUMBER	
CONTRACTORS	



APPENDIX 8: CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE INFORMATION

Te Poho o Tauriki	
Location	85 Hendersons Line
Access	From Hendersons Line
To open as a welfare centre contact	Rangitikei District Council
Cater facilities	Yes
Toilet facilities	Yes
Parking	On and off street
Welfare kit on site?	Yes
<p>Notes</p> 	



ITEM 8.1
ATTACHMENT 1





CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

8.2 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****ITEM 8.2****1. Allocation**

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

2. Breakdown

- 2.1 The committee paid Te Kai Whaka Ora – Marton Community Trust by grants of \$1,000.00
- 2.2 The committee paid Marton Budget Services \$400.00
- 2.3 Remaining funds are \$2,100.

Recommendation

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – April 2026 be received.

8.3 Mayor's Report - March 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

1. Everyone I am sure will be aware of the recent extreme weather event, however I would like to summarise events and thank a number of people -
 - I was advised on 15 February of what was described as the potential for an unprecedented wind/rain event centred on the northern areas of the Rangitikei catchment. I made the call to declare a Civil Defence State of Emergency as a pre-emptive step.
 - Tararua had already declared on the back of existing flooding and with two districts now declaring that made it a Regional or Horizons declaration.
 - It is important to note that if two districts declare in our region, it gives all the other districts the powers of declaration.
 - Carol our CE had already assembled our senior staff to provide the information needed.
 - Once declaration happens, trained controllers take over managing the response.
 - Minister Mitchell praised the early declarations - "There is very little downside from making a declaration and not needing it rather than wishing you had".
 - Even before the process of declaration happened people were being warned especially farmers and people near rivers in the northern area.
 - Very high levels of rainfall were predicted (up to 300mm) in a very short space of time. If that had happened the floods on the Rangitikei, Turakina and Whangaehu Rivers would have been significantly greater than 2004.
 - It is worth noting that predictions and modelling did not indicate a flood event through Marton via the Tutaenui.
 - The advance warnings/river height and modelling was accurate against rainfall recorded throughout the event.
 - So what happened –
 - i) Flooding was nowhere near what was initially predicted with only, I think, the Turakina breaching banks for a short duration on the Monday night.
 - ii) However the wind damage was extreme resulting in –
 - a. Thousands of homes without power for an extended time;
 - b. State highways and many local roads closed with both slips and numerous tree falls;
 - c. Commercial forests fared badly with up to 1000ha of trees decimated. (The recovery of mature trees may be possible but expensive and after about 6 weeks the pines have little to no value).
 - d. Our Parks and Reserves likewise were closed for safety reasons and full clean-up will take a long time.
 - e. Crop damage is variable – some maize crops may not be recoverable but many will suffer a drop in value along with some barley crops.
 - f. Stock losses have occurred – I am aware of one farmer losing 200 lambs through exposure and there will be more.

The combined cost to the district is substantial and Council losses/costs will be reported on later.

ITEM 8.3

- Council will apply for an increased roading rate which has been given by NZTA already as an existing (FAR) Financial Assistance Rate increased by 20% for emergency works. (This means that approximately 85% of approved emergency work will be paid by Government to roading).
- Council will look at what other Government funds may be possible to assist the district.
- I thank –
 - i) Staff, Councillors and Civil Defence staff, Police etc for absolutely stepping up in this event.
 - ii) Downer are our new contractors and they have been exceptional in their response opening up roads in the short term by cutting their way through with chainsaws and will need to go back to clean up debris.
 - iii) Powerco teams have been incredible, working for days in appalling and at times dangerous conditions. This wind damage has been unprecedented in our history.
 - iv) Many of our roads were opened by farmers with their machinery at their cost in what could be described as a practical rural approach and I thank them.
 - v) The community and marae reaction has been fantastic – you have checked on others, shared generators, at times cooked communally on BBQs and have been patient.

Sadly these events once thought of as being a 1:100 year event are the new “norm” in New Zealand. Many councils in their Annual Plan and Long Term Plans are now starting to consider a separate rate provision to provide resilience.

2. On Thursday 26 February I attended Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) meetings in Wellington described as All of Government and a meeting for Rural and Provincial Mayors and Councillors. The “takeouts” for Thursday’s All of Government meeting were: –
 - i) LGNZ opened the meeting with comments made by President Rehette Stoltz, Vice-President Dan Gordon and Scott Necklen Acting CE -
 - a. Rehette –
 - “We want to work with and serve all councils” (a pointed reminder that Auckland and Christchurch are not financial members).
 - “We want to work with Government to find common ground”.
 - “We want Government to realise that we have new leadership in LGNZ”.
 - b. Dan –
 - LGNZ needs to be apolitical and work with all political parties.
 - There will be more regular zoom updates to the membership
 - “Cost increases proposed for membership originally modelled at a 9.5% increase have now been reduced to 3.1%” (financial prudence).
 - c. Rehette commented that recent discussions with the Prime Minister had been positive and LGNZ’s position on regional councils would mean that Mayors should focus on the process for restructure and leave the running of regional councils operationally to regional councils at least in the short term. This seemed to be well received by Government.
 - d. LGNZ’s priorities will be –
 - a) A cost effective Local Government;
 - b) A responsive and accountable Local Government;
 - c) Meeting current and future needs for infrastructure; and
 - d) Resilient community economics and environment.

- Note - there was question from the floor to say “what about the Treaty?”
 - Nick Smith, Mayor of Nelson, commented that Local Government owned \$200B worth of assets – a greater asset position than Central Government. (He is suggesting that we have the financial power to call the shots).
 - In response to questions from the floor about Auckland and Christchurch not being present, Mayor Grant Smith (Metro Mayor) said there needed to be a value proposition for them but they are reconsidering.
- ii) The second session was a panel discussion on New Zealand Economic Landscape. Dr Eric Crampton CE of the Economist NZ Initiative and John Ballingall made the following points:-
- There is volatility in the world markets described as the Trump Effect;
 - Our exports are now going to more diverse markets;
 - Many countries want to invest in New Zealand which is seen as a safe haven;
 - Our financial outlook is reasonably stable;
 - There is concern about the outflow of New Zealand citizens to offshore largely Australia;
 - The wage pressure is forecast to lift.
- Their conversations then turned to general things such as –
- You shouldn't be scared of AI;
 - Central Government reforms are challenging but needed and suggested that councils should impose a set levy per year on capex programmes to aid inter-generational equity.
- iii) The address by Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour –
- Opened by saying “Local Government is thankless but essential”.
 - Made a series of comments on the Regulatory Standards Bill where council regulations will need to be audited by Central Government.
 - Affordability (rates) are directly related to productivity (in relation to the cost of producing things in New Zealand, costs are too high because regulations get in the way).
 - “Developers do not want to invest in New Zealand because of regulations”.
 - “We inflict costs on people through unneeded regulations”.
 - Quoted methane targets (agriculture) limited productivity.
 - “We need to accept risks” was a common theme.
 - “Sister City relationships have no benefit to ratepayers in New Zealand”.
 - The theme continued with costs councils face to discharge wastewater to land is unacceptable.
 - Note – very good comment from Mayor Scott (Tararua) – “would you then reduce the audit costs that our councils face?”.
- iv) Emergency Management Update by Hon Mark Mitchell (online)
- Acknowledged/praised the Local Government sector
 - Climatic events should be “locally lead but Government supported”.
 - The biggest enemy for the sector is complacency.

ITEM 8.3

- Pre-positioning early with declarations is great.
 - Acknowledged the leadership of Tauranga Mayor Mahe.
 - Made comment that mayors should never be excluded from response meetings.
 - Common failure points for New Zealand are river mouths (reference to Wairoa etc).
 - **There have been 31 declarations by councils in the last 2 years!!**
 - 61% of New Zealand is in some sort of recovery mode.
 - When questioned about the battery power/life of the cell network his response was “yes this is a known issue and we are working towards a solution”.
 - Note – Minister Mitchell has the total respect of the sector.
- v) Panel discussion on regulatory relief under the new RMA system – Sandra Faulkner (Federated Farmers), Vincent Holloway (Brookfield Developments) and Greg Severinsen (Director Environmental Defence Society). Relevant concerns from the panel -
- There is uncertainty around the ministerial powers;
 - There is an issue where councils are being forced to compensate landowners over land they own which is being protected;
 - That uncertainty will lead to litigation;
 - From Feds - “the sector is very poorly informed”.
- vi) Oppositoin view - Damien O’Connor Labour Department spokesperson on Trade, Regional Deals/Land Information -
- Acknowledged sector
 - “RMA reform is a heaven for lawyers”.
 - The current Government blames and intimidates Local Government
 - We are against a review of regional councils
 - We are against rates capping
- This section was all a pre-election speech

Thursday afternoon session -

- vii) Commerce Commission (com-com) presentation by Dr John Small (Chair) made the following comments -
- Com-com will increase the role of Local Government;
 - Com-com has the ability to set prices in other fields (is this a warning for the new entities?);
 - Com-com has broad regulatory powers;
 - The Commission was asked by Government to be the regulator in Three Waters (they didn’t go searching for the role);
 - They will work closely with the water regulator Taumata Arowai;
 - They will be publishing this week the first tranche of how the Commission will operate;
 - The system will probably work similar to the electricity sector which was the first to be regulated in this way;
 - There will be reporting from all entities and the Commission will publicise comparisons between entities;
 - The Commission will be looking at asset management systems and management practice.
 - The Commerce Commission was questioned re –

- Do they have the technical skills to do the work (the answer was yes);
- The audit charges are already high for councils – these are added charges by way of a levy, is this fair? (the answer was that future guidance will be provided here).

viii) Simon Upton – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment -

- He has powers under S16 of the Environment Act with particular reference to 16(1)(a) (1986?);
- He has oversight of systems and laws that control the environment;
- He has read many of the submissions from LGNZ sector;
- His comments were –
 - “Regional councils have become the whipping boy for Government”;
 - His own submission to the Crown is “that the Crown has not been clear about the role and mechanism that is to be used”, i.e. a lack of clarity;
 - Some existing functions should not be with regional councils but should be nationally lead;
 - There is a need to review regional boundaries (a view that I share);
 - “The simplest way of reform would have been to go to unitary authorities”.
 - From me – Simon was very well received and it is interesting to me that as the Commissioner he was treated the same as all other submitters!

ix) Panel discussion - Understanding the Political Environment - players were Tracey Martin (ex NZ First), David Farrar (Kiwi Blogger), Tai Ahu (Maori Law Society)

- Their combined view was that election will be very close.
- Local Government needs to be very clear as to what it wants from each party.

x) Navigating Rates Capping – lead by Wade Crockett, Monique Davidson, Leonie Rae all CEs of Local Government plus Nick Brunnsden as Principal Economist. They talked about the impact of rates capping -

- There will be a decrease in services, e.g. library hours;
- They noted that the issue is how do we survive rates capping in the long term!
- Conversation around the need for user pays;
- The need for line by line examination of costs etc.

xi) Keynote address by Transit Bus Fleet (privately owned company). This was effectively a celebration of 100 years of ownership and made comments about the investment into electric busses.

xii) The day ended with a tour of Parliament which was interesting.

Day 2 - Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting

- i) Quite a long first session with updates/introductions of new mayors across the sector.
- ii) The session was interrupted by Parliament’s practice evacuation (why timetable it for what would be a challenging day).

- iii) Sessions on value of submissions to Government. The view here is the realisation that submissions are important to do but have little chance of success.
 - iv) Taumata Arowai, key points –
 - Domestic suppliers for more than 25 people will need to be registered by November 2028 and compliant by 2030;
 - If less than 25 people there is no need to register.
 - v) Session on contrary view to the size of authorities (scale) being important – speakers Ross Copeland who referred by the mythical economies of scale and Dr Oliver Hartwich’s view of scale versus reality. These comments were designed to indicate that scale doesn’t always lead to efficiency.
 - vi) “Fireside Chat” Navigating Structural Changes of Government lead by Mayor Scott (Tararua) and Mayor Fran Wilde (South Wairarapa). Fran’s view is that amalgamation must happen but unitary authorities is a separate conversation. Scott’s view – “we do not have to be connected to work together” and the value of shared services.
3. Central Districts Water
- Shareholders, through an appointment committee will be in a position very shortly to name the new directors of the entity.
 - Applications for the entity directors were very strong in terms of quality.
 - The entity is moving at pace and is highly regarded by the Government and other councils, some of whom are struggling.
 - On 13 February at the Joint Shareholders Committee – Central Districts Waters, Chris Gallavin was appointed Independent Chair for the period 13 February 2026 to 30 June 2027. Mayor Andy Watson was appointed Deputy Chair.
 - The Committee also provided recommendations for amendments of the Shareholder Agreement as attached in relation to clause 2 and clause 6. The recommendation for Council to agree is included below.
 - Upcoming meetings for the Joint Shareholder Committee are scheduled for 13 March, 27 March, and 30 April 2026 at the Palmerston North City Council Chambers. Subsequent meetings are also intended to be held in Horowhenua and Rangitikei.
4. The survivors who suffered abuse under care at Lake Alice Hospital gathered with Minister Erica Stanford to unveil a memorial at Lake Alice on 21 February. The principal organiser Robyn Dandy and survivors asked that the event be personal with little fanfare. Council, myself and our CE Carol have supported this event funded largely by the Abuse Under Care Commission. The speakers were Robyn, Minister Stanford, myself and Suze Redmayne our local MP.
- It was a very emotional day and confronting to hear the stories and the impacts. As such I have included in its entirety the Minister’s speech with her permission as an appendix to this report. That speech says it all as an ugly truth. The memorial reflects on those who did not survive. The abuse did not encompass all of Lake Alice. Good people also worked there but the hospital will be remembered for what it became to many young defenceless children.
5. Horizons Regional Council River Meetings – on 26 February Horizons held a meeting to update the Rangitikei District regarding their river control schemes. For me the date was unfortunate being a clash with the All of Government meeting in Wellington. Our controlled rivers are the Turakina, Tutaenui, Pourewa, Rangitikei, Makirikiri, Forest Road and Huanui drains. The meeting was attended by Councillors Dave Wilson and Sandra Field and they may wish to provide an update on the associated budgets, work schedules etc. The significant 2026/27

budgets for these rivers are – the Rangitikei \$1.26m (a 2% increase on budget) and the Tutaenui \$157k a 13% increase in budget driven by dam costs.

Last year's total spend by Horizons on capital river works was \$19m – an increase from \$10.5m the year before.

The Turakina River – virtually all work is channel maintenance. The Tutaenui features maintenance and retention with huge new compliance costs. The Scheme has 18 dams and 4 are classified as needing safety reports. The Rangitikei features significant spraying programmes hampered by difficult weather this summer and the Pourewa has 27 dams, 4 also needing safety reports.

6. Staff and Councillors have spent a considerable amount of time working on the Annual Plan which I hope will be released at this meeting. We are looking at a 6.4% projected rate increase down from what was originally proposed at 10.5%. A significant amount of work and hard decisions have gone into making that possible. As the plan is released you will be able to see the relative rate increases – please remember the 6.4% is an average and generally the higher rate increases have been across the rural sector.
7. I am one of the decision-makers as a governor on the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ). Recently there became the possibility of awarding extra funding and the Rangitikei has just picked up an additional \$85,000 plus GST to fund finding jobs for young and unemployed people. The success that James and Louise bring to this programme is incredible, consistently they have been in the top performers for the country. This extra funding will allow them to reach out to more people in terms of employment.
8. Last weekend I attended the Fest-a-Bull at Te Matapihi in Bulls. This was a free event ringfenced from the road to allow young children to be safely protected and was such a huge hit. I thought the live band playing was fantastic – congratulations Bulls on a great event!
9. Recently there has been a meeting in Hunterville regarding policing. A final decision is yet to be made but I think it will be favourable for Hunterville. What I would like to say is the process was one where the community could sit down with very senior regional and area commanders and understand the issues from both sides in an open and friendly manner.
10. I have used my powers under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 to appoint Mr Philip Jones as the Independent Chair of the Risk/Assurance Committee. I also wish to appoint the councillor members of this committee as Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Cr Fi Dalgety, Cr Jeff Wong. These are the chairs of our council committees.
11. Under similar powers, Councillor Diana Baird has been appointed to the Finance/Performance Committee and Policy/Planning Committee, and Cr Coral Raukawa and Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa on the Assets/Infrastructure Committee. These are a tidy up of appointments for councillors that were not in attendance at the Council meeting where the committees were initially established.
12. Two Ratana rangatahi have been accepted into the 2026 TUIA programme – sisters Mariaan Veuger and Moniek Veuger. The first Wananga is due to take place later in March at the Te Kotahitanga Marae in Otorohanga. These appointments have been made possible this year because of the reduced costs of internal transport within NZ for them to attend the Wananga.

Mayor's Engagements

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

February 2026

13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy update with staff</p> <p>Attended meeting with staff regarding Environmental Bill submission</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water POG Meeting</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting</p>
15	<p>Attended Manawatu-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management (MWCDEM) hui</p> <p>Attended Minister & Mayor Civil Defence online meeting</p>
16	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended monthly Economic Development meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended MWCDEM online meeting</p> <p>Attended Koitiata Beach to check on community/flooding/storm damage</p>
17	<p>Attended Zoom interview with ABC News Australia</p> <p>Attended Ratana to check on community/storm damage</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
18	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended monthly Comms Meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended MWCDEM State of Emergency Declaration online discussion</p> <p>Attended Bulls Community Committee meeting</p>
19	<p>Attended Bragging Breakfast in Hunterville</p> <p>Attended BA5 at Rangitikei Hire Centre</p> <p>Attended Turakina Community Committee meeting</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Zoom with National Council</p> <p>Attended Risk & Assurance Chair Interviews</p> <p>Attended monthly RDC/Police catchup</p>
21	<p>Attended Lake Alice Memorial Unveiling</p>
23	<p>Attended Central Districts Water Director interviews</p>
24	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting</p> <p>Attended meeting with ratepayer</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water POG online meeting</p> <p>Attended Defence Hub February Event in Ashhurst</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
25	<p>Attended Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs Membership forum online</p>

26	Attended LGNZ All of Local Government meeting in Wellington
27	Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting in Wellington
28	Attended Fest a Bull in Bulls

March 2026

1	Attended Scotts Ferry Community Meeting
2	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Central Districts Water Director interviews Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting
3	Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Central Districts Water Director interviews Attended Omatane Rural Water Scheme meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayor’s Briefing before Council with CE and staff Attended monthly Governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended meeting with ratepayer Attended forestry visit re storm damage Attended Hunterville Policing meeting
5	Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop Attended Finance/Performance Committee Workshop Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee draft agenda meeting Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Mayor’s online debrief Attended Marton Development Group Meeting
6	Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs catchup with staff Attended Accelerate35 Lead Team Meeting Attended Rural Community BBQ Attended meeting with new Youth Council
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with ratepayers Attended TUIA mentor training online meeting Attended Defence Updates Relevant to the Manawatu meeting (Rangitikei hosting)
10	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting
11	Attended Northern Marae Tour with Elected Members and staff
12	To attend monthly Economic Development Meeting with staff To attend Council meeting and Council workshop

ITEM 8.3

Attachments:

1. **Hon Erica Stanford - speech at Lake Alice Memorial Unveiling - February 2026** [↓](#)
2. **Recommendation from Joint Committee** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

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

Speech: Hon Erica Stanford, Unveiling of Lake Alice**Memorial, Saturday 21 February 2026**

[note: may be slight variations on delivery]

- Tēnā koutou katoa
- [in delivery Minister referred to reasons why she was using a written speech – importance of ensuring that specific acknowledgements and recognition were made at the site of Lake Alice itself]
- I want to acknowledge the Lake Alice survivors here today, the survivors who couldn't attend, and those who are no longer with us. This memorial is a testament to you, your families and your whānau. In particular, I would like to thank Robyn Dandy and Karilyn Wildebore for all you have done to make today possible.
- I also want to acknowledge mana whenua for the karakia, the Mayor of Rangitikei Andy Watson for the welcome, and Suze Redmayne, MP for Rangitikei.

**ITEM 8.3
ATTACHMENT 1**

- The memorial plaque is an acknowledgement of the horrific abuse and cruel treatment of hundreds of children and young people at the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit.
- Over the last 18 months I have been deeply impacted by the experiences that have been shared with me by Lake Alice survivors.
- When the Royal Commission’s final report was tabled in Parliament in July 2024, we formally acknowledged for the first time that children and young people were tortured at the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit.
- I recall looking up into the public gallery in Parliament and watching peoples’ faces as the Government finally acknowledged what, for decades, it had denied. The disbelief, the tears, the relief and yes, for some, the skepticism.
- That night I had the privilege of meeting with some of the survivors of Lake Alice. I will never forget that night. As the survivors talked about what had happened to them there I

was confronted with absolute horror that what I had read in the Royal Commission's case study and report were sanitised versions.

- That, at the same ages as my children, they had been sent into what can only be described as a facility of unbridled evil. For being a bit different. For being traumatised. For being difficult. There the most horrific events imaginable happened in the “care” and “protection” of the State. Where Selwyn Leeks, his staff, and others used the cloak of authority and legitimacy to abuse and torture and abuse children. They also turned a blind eye to children being abused by others too and, in some instances, encouraged it.
- We talked about how public servants and others had so many opportunities to stop children being abused and tortured and how the first complaint was laid only six months after the unit opened.
- Even once the Unit was finally closed public servants spent more years and the State's infinite resources

fighting, obfuscating, and weaponising the bureaucratic and legal systems to deflect, dispute, and deny the full extent of what happened over decades. Some survivors told me that, for them, that was almost worse than what happened to them at Lake Alice.

- The roll call of shame is long. Doctors. Nurses. Teachers. Social workers. Police officers. The health and education departments. Medical professional bodies. Regulatory agencies. The Ombudsman. ACC. The Children’s Commissioner. The Health and Disability Commissioner. Crown Law. Disbelieving, disinterested, dodging responsibility, failing to follow up, not taking complaints seriously, not sharing or blocking requests for information, or assuming that if there was something to be found someone else would have found it already.
- There were three failed police investigations. Three opportunities to bring the perpetrators to justice lost because of incompetence, bias, lost evidence, failing to interview complainants, casting victims as unreliable and

troublesome, lack of resourcing and no priority. By the time a fourth was finally completed the perpetrators were either too dead or too close to it to stand trial. The opportunity for any real measure of justice to be served and perpetrators held to public account was lost and for that I am deeply sorry.

- Risk. Liability. Reputation protection and preservation. For decades these were all more important than finding and telling the truth. All mattered more than holding rapists, torturers, and abusers of children to account.
- These decisions were made by people. Not systems. In the trail of carelessness, callousness, and contemptuous behaviour there were a few brave public servants who tried to elevate the truth. They were inevitably discouraged, quashed, dismissed, or obstructed by others higher up.
- Ultimately it took two cases at the UN and a Royal Commission for New Zealand to admit the truth that children at the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent were

tortured. To apologise for it. To provide redress. Decades too late for many survivors who died waiting. For that I am deeply sorry.

- Torture at the Lake Alice Unit didn't occur for years to hundreds of children because there wasn't sufficient systems or oversight mechanisms or legislation or complaints or knowledge. It continued and was then covered up, because many people wielded the power of the State against vulnerable people in the worst ways possible because they valued almost anything and everything more than the truth.
- I know that agreeing to meet with me and share some of their experiences, not just at the Lake Alice Unit, but the impact it had on their entire lives, took great courage.
- I remain so deeply grateful that they were willing meet with me that night and for their ongoing generosity and honesty in the conversations that followed. I know I will never understand how much it cost survivors to relive those events when they had no reason to trust me or my team

after they had been betrayed so many times and for so long.

- There is nothing that we can ever say, or do, that can change what the State allowed to happen and then colluded to cover up. But I hope that this memorial plaque is seen as another form of public recognition of what you have endured, and that all of the children of Lake Alice will never be forgotten.
- To families and whānau, I am sorry your loved ones endured so much abuse, harm and suffering, for so long, before the Government and other organisations formally acknowledged and apologised to you.
- I also want acknowledge the many others who fought for decades to shine the light on the truth of what happened at Lake Alice. The advocates, journalists, Royal Commission staff and the Commissioners for the roles they have played in fighting for the truth to be known and paving the way for all of us to be here today to unveil this memorial plaque.

ITEM 8.3**ATTACHMENT 1**

- I hope this memorial plaque will be seen as a testimony to the determination, bravery and resilience of the Lake Alice survivors, their family and whānau and an acknowledgement of the truth of what took place at the Lake Alice Unit. Thank you for the privilege of being included in its unveiling today.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

TO: Council
MEETING DATE: 25 March 2026
TITLE: Presentation of the Part I Public Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water Recommendations from its 13 February 2026 Meeting

Set out below are the recommendations only from the Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water meeting Part I Public held on 13 February 2026. The Council may resolve to adopt, amend, receive, note or not adopt any such recommendations. (SO 2.18.1)

3-26 Initial Shareholders' Committee Policies

Memorandum, presented by Chris Dyhrberg - Executive Director
Julie Keane - Executive Support.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

- 2. That the Committee recommend to the respective shareholder councils that the Shareholder Agreement Terms of Reference for the Committee are amended:
 - a. Clause 2 – add (t) Engaging with the Company on behalf of the Shareholders’ Committee in relation to how the Company shall engage with mana whenua to give effect to te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles and establish and implements its Te Ao Māori framework
 - b. Clause 6 – adjust 6(a) Quorum to remain at 5 members, but now require a member from each of the shareholder councils and Ngā Tapuwāe o Hau

8.4 Project Update Report – March 2026

Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council staff. These updates are provided in the Council order paper and are copied here for the Marton Community Committee’s information.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects







3. Project: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Project Manager: Steve Carne

Budget: \$85.36M

Reporting Period: March 2026

3.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	 Green	No major hurdles envisaged
Scope	 Green	T+T scope up to lodgement to be defined
Schedule	 Green	On track as per latest HRC advisory in Feb
Budget	 Green	Within upper bound LTP- estimates expected to decrease
Benefits	 Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	 Green	Positive Iwi feedback about land passage/wetland discharge to Rangitikei River

3.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Significant optioneering and conceptual development work
- A shortlist of costed options for subsequent investigation, all assessed within the requirements of the Wastewater NEPS Regulations
- Monitoring bores installed at Marton and Bulls oxidation ponds to test for pond leakage

- A summary of resource consenting required
- Confirmation from ANZCO Manawatu re their willingness to consider being a trade waste customer of RDC
- Agreement with HRC to adjust the consenting timelines.

In progress:

- Periphyton risk assessment as per WW NEPS Regulations
- Land Passage/wetland concept designs being developed with Iwi
- Flows and loads being finalised

3.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Periphyton Risk Assessment Complete	End April 2026	●
Preferred Option Identified	End June 2026	●
Consent Lodgement	Nov 2026	●

3.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$85.36M
Actual Spend	\$1.61M
Forecast Completion	\$85.36M

Variance: **within budget**

3.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Uncertainty related to Periphyton Risk assessment process	Medium	Early liaison with Taumata Arowai and HRC

3.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Verification of preferred Option selection in late June

4. Project: Marton Water Strategy
Project Manager: Gwilym van Hoffen
Budget:
Reporting Period: March 2026

4.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	The project is on hold pending Council decision in April.
Scope	● Amber	The scope going forwards is dependent on the April Council decision
Schedule	● Amber	The schedule has been delayed by the extended trial plant and testing.
Budget	● Amber	The budget remains unchanged
Benefits	● Amber	The outcomes of the project remains the same
Stakeholder Support	● Amber	Stakeholder support will be dependent on the April Council decision.

4.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- GFS’s pilot trail of their direct nanofiltration system was completed in December 2025
- WSP Engineers has completed a review of the GFS direct nanofiltration pilot trail results in Jan/Feb 2026
- Recommendations from the WSP review will be provided to Council at the April Council meeting.

In progress:

- WSP Engineers is carrying out further evaluation of likely project costings and other related matters
- Awaiting further direction from Councillors at the April Council meeting

4.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
GFS pilot trial completed	Dec 2025	●
Go/No Go Decision by Council	April 2026	●

4.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$11M
Actual Spend	\$3.8M
Forecast Completion	\$TBC

Variance: **tbc**

4.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Public perceptions	Medium	Ongoing communication and regular engagement with Marton residents
New technology risks	High	Obtain high quality engineering review and technical advice

4.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

A decision report will be brought to the April Council meeting, seeking Councillor’s input and direction on how to proceed with the Marton Water Strategy programme delivery.

5. Project: Marton Offices and Library
Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi
Budget:
Reporting Period: March 2026

5.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	Major risks identified and planned for
Scope	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Green	On track
Budget	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	Positive

5.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- No new updates

In progress:

- Resource consent document planning
- Preliminary design continues

5.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Preliminary Design	May 2026	●
Developed Design	Jul 2026	●
Detail Design	Nov 2026	●
Resource Consent	Jul 2026	●
Building Consent	Nov 26	●
Construction Start	Jan 2027	●
Project Completion	Jul 2028	●

5.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$17M
Actual Spend	\$700K
Forecast Completion	\$17M

Variance: **None**

5.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Unexpected findings during demolition	Medium	Contingency sums allowed in design and construction budgets

5.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

None

6.

ITEM 8.4

7. Project: Marton EOC
Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi
Budget: \$2M
Reporting Period: March 2026

7.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	Resource consent RFI's affecting design progress
Scope	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Amber	Design on hold pending closure of resource consent RFI's
Budget	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	Positive

7.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- No new updates

In progress:

- Addressing RFI's raised as part of the Resource consent application
- Possible design amendments based on resource consent outcomes
- Cultural design discussions with Iwi representatives

7.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Detailed Design	Mar 2026	●
Resource Consent	Apr 2026	●
Building Consent	May 26	●
Construction Start	Jun 2026	●
Project Completion	Feb 2027	●

7.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$2M
Actual Spend	\$100K
Forecast Completion	\$2M

Variance: **None.**

*** The budget is yet to be supported by a contractor’s pricing or a QS estimate. Staff expect to have the contractor’s pricing within 4-6weeks of detail design completion.**

ITEM 8.4

7.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Increased construction costs due to rising fuel costs	High	Allow for cost contingencies

7.6 Further Information/Decisions that May Be Required of Council

None







8. Project: Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi

Budget:

Reporting Period: March 2026

8.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	 Red	Delay in contractor selection
Scope	 Green	No changes
Schedule	 Red	Expected delay of 8-12 weeks to completion of construction
Budget	 Red	Budget to be approved by Council
Benefits	 Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	 Green	Positive

8.2 Progress Since Last Report




Completed:

- Tender process completed
- Building consent issued

In progress:

- Contractor selection
- Recommendation report to Council

8.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Contractor selection	Feb 2026	
Construction Start	April 2026	
Project Completion	Sep 2026	

8.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$2.7M
Actual Spend	\$642K
Forecast Completion	\$6M

Variance: **+222%** of approved budget

8.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Increased shipping costs due to current global market condition	High	Allow for cost contingencies

8.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

- Council decision will be required to finalise Contractor selection
- Council decision will be required to confirm funding

9. Financial Implications

9.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

10. Impact on Strategic Risks

10.1 No impacts on strategic risks

11. Strategic Alignment

11.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

12. Mana Whenua Implications

12.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

13. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

13.1 There is no climate change impact.

14. Statutory Implications

14.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation

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

8.5 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026

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 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Scotts Ferry Community Committee
 - Marton Returned Services Association (Incorporated)
 - Alzheimer’s Whanganui
 - Scout Association of New Zealand
 - The Parkinson’s New Zealand Charitable trust
 - Itty bitty kitty committee
 - Cancer Society of NZ Whanganui Rangitikei Waimarino Centre Inc
 - Taihape Art Club (Society)
 - Manawatu Multiple Sclerosis Society Incorporated
 - Marton & Surrounds ICT Hub Charitable Trust Board
 - Marton & District Historical Society Incorporated
- 2.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closed on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

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 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Hunterville Huntaway Festival
 - Hunterville Squash Racquets Club Inc
 - Bulls & District Community Trust
 - Marton Country Music Festival

- Marton Arts & Crafts Centre
- Opaea Marae
- Rangitikei Shearing Sports Inc
- Taihape Dressage
- Taihape Area Show Jumping

3.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closed on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

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 has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.

4.3 Decisions for round one for 2025/26 were made on the 12 November 25 and below are the successful groups.

- RuapehuREAP - He Taonga Tuku Iho - Korowai Wānanga
- Bulls & District Community Trust - Bulls 148th Annual Rose Show
- Art4Arts Sake 2026
- Flynn's Celtic Strings
- Beautify Bulls - Bulls Rugby Club Mural
- Turakina Caledonian Society Incorporated

4.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 30 April with the decision date the 20 May 26.

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

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 closed 29 March 2026. Decision will be made by the Sport NZ Travel Committee in April 2026.

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>

ITEM 8.5

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

9 Meeting Closed.