

**POLICY/PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

ORDER PAPER

THURSDAY, 11 July 2019, 1.00pm

**Council Chamber, Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street, Marton**

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Chair - Councillor Angus Gordon

Deputy Chair - Councillor Richard Aslett

Membership

Councillors Cath Ash, Nigel Belsham, Jane Dunn, Graeme Platt, and
Lynne Sheridan.

Ms Tracey Hiroa (Te Roopu Ahi Kaa representative).

His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson (ex officio)

Please Note: Items in this agenda may be subject to amendments or withdrawal at the meeting. It is recommended therefore that items not be reported upon until after adoption by the Council. Reporters who do not attend the meeting are requested to seek confirmation of the agenda material or proceedings of the meeting from the Chief Executive prior to any media reports being filed.

Making this place home.





Rangitikei District Council

Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

Agenda – Thursday 11 July 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

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The quorum for the Policy and Planning Committee is 5.

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 3 November 2016) 10.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, ie half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

1 Welcome

2 Public Forum

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

4 Members' conflict of interest

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, be dealt with as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 13 June 2019 are attached.

File ref: 3-CT-15-2

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 13 June 2019 [as amended/without amendments] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

7 Chair's Report

A report will be tabled at the meeting.

File ref: 3-CT-15-1

Recommendation:

That the 'Chair's Report' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 11 July 2019 be received.

8 Progress with strategic issues – Update

With priority 4 projects (Earthquake-Prone buildings), Council agreed to undertake consultation on the location of priority areas in the urban centres over the period 7 October to 7 November 2017, with oral submissions being heard by this Committee at its meeting on 9 November 2017. As well as advising the Bulls, Marton and Hunterville Community Committees and the Taihape Community Board and making letter drops to all potentially

affected businesses and property owners, there were public meetings held in Taihape and Marton. At its meeting on 30 November 2017, Council resolved not to adopt any priority areas under section 133AF of the Building Act 2004 and to send a strong message to Government about the severe impacts of the legislation on the viability of many businesses and sustainability of the District's towns. Rangitikei was a participant in the September forum of regional mayors with the Minister of Building and Construction, Jenny Salesa, who undertook to review how the legislation affects rural towns. The initial formal assessments of building in Marton's CBD area started in September and is now complete. The process following these assessments was outlined in the Committee's March 2019 meeting agenda. *The Building Amendment Act 2019, which gives councils powers to evacuate, repair, or demolish buildings which an earthquake has caused to be unsafe, comes into effect in December 2019.*

An application was submitted to the Lotteries Heritage and Environment Fund in February 2018 for a grant towards a feasibility study on establishing the Marton Heritage Precinct Project as a collaborative initiative between private building owners and the Council. Funding of up to \$100,000 had been agreed to between the parties. However, Lotteries declined the application. An approach is being made to the Provincial Growth Fund.

Further work to safeguard water and wastewater treatment plants was included in the 2017/18 Annual Plan programme, continued in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, with revised timing of elements in the 2019/20 Annual Plan. The major project is the linkage of Marton to Bulls and subsequent discharge to land, which Council confirmed as its preferred option at its meeting on 30 August 2018.

Regarding priority 5 projects, a new agreement for the continued delivery of Infrastructure Services by Manawatū District Council has been finalised between the Chief Executives of both councils. It builds on the original foundation of collaboration, but introduces a more structured arrangement and explicit performance framework. Quarterly reporting is provided to the Finance/Performance Committee, starting April 2018. This is one of the key priorities for the Principal Advisor – Infrastructure, Arno Benadie, who started on 3 September 2018.

A member of Te Roopu Ahi Kaa was appointed to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee (from its February 2017 meeting) with full speaking and voting rights. Discussions last year with the Komiti showed interest in this being extended to other Council Committees. At its meeting on 1 March 2018 Council resolved to formally extend the invitation to Te Roopu Ahi Kaa offering them a seat as contributing members to the Policy/Planning and Finance/Performance Council committees. New members were nominated (and subsequently accepted by Council) for Assets/Infrastructure and Policy/Planning Committees. The Komiti has yet to nominate a member for the Finance/Performance Committee. Last year's appointment of a Strategic Advisor Iwi/Hapu is enabling more meaningful relationships with Māori outside Te Roopu Ahi Kaa; the reorganisation of the delivery of youth programmes is securing greater interest and participation from this target group. The Memorandum of Understanding – Tutohinga is currently under review.

There has been substantial Council involvement with Marton's Centennial Park skateboard park extension, the Marton Memorial Hall playground upgrade and the Hautapu River Parks development proposal in Taihape: both are community-led projects. A similar involvement is envisaged for the revival of the Onepuhi Domain. Complementing this, Council has secured community engagement in projects it has led, notably the planting at Marton's B & C Dams.

A review of the arrangements to support young people in the District resulted in the appointment of a full-time Youth Co-ordinator (instead of two part-time co-ordinators) and the opening of new youth centre 'The Lobby' in both Marton (in 2018) and Taihape (in 2019). The Rangitikei Youth awards were offered in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and was again in 2019. A Youth Council has been formed, and has now had three meetings. The annual Youth Awards were presented on 23 May 2019.

The Policy/Planning Committee recommended to Council that the Significance and engagement policy be adopted for consultation at the same time as the Consultation Document for the 2018-28 Long Term Plan. At its meeting on 1 March 2018, Council decided to defer that consideration until its meeting on 29 March, which it did. Following deliberation on submissions at Council's meeting on 31 May 2018, the policy was adopted.

The Council's role in responding to climate change has been highlighted in the Consultation Document for the 2019/20 Annual Plan and suggestions for further action were received. *It is also a topic in the Productivity Commission's draft report on local government funding and financing and an issue raised in the draft Council submission to the Climate Change Resposne (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.*

A new Council brand is being implemented. The agendas for the October 2018 meetings of Community Boards and Community Committees included clarification on Council's plans and process for town and District signage and sought their views on local icons to be included. The roll-out of the new signage has started – at Hunterville, *and has extended to Taihape*. More was done during *June*.

9 Update on Communication Strategy

A report is attached.

File ref: 3-CT-15-1

Recommendation:

That the 'Update on Communications Strategy' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 11 July 2019 be received.

10 Legislation and Governance Update – July 2019

A report is attached.

File ref: 3-OR-3-5

Recommendation:

That the 'Legislation and Governance Update - July 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 11 July 2019 be received.

11 Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

A draft submission is attached.

File ref: 3-OR-3-7

Recommendations:

1. That the draft Council submission to the 'Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 11 July 2019 be received.
2. That the Policy/Planning Committee, under delegation authority, approve His Worship the Mayor signing, on behalf of the Council the submission [as amended/without amended] to the Parliamentary Environment Committee on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

12 Update on the State of the Environment report

A memorandum is attached.

File ref: 1-PL-1-2

Recommendations:

- 1 That the 'Update on the State of the Environment report (June 2019)' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 11 July 2019 be received.
- 2 That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the following recommendations in the State of the Environment Report (June 2019) are progressed through the current District Plan Change:
 - a) amend the objectives and policies to provide scope for a wider range of subdivisions in the rural zone where the site does not have highly versatile soils or has a mix of highly versatile with other soil types;
 - b) amend the rule on dwelling density in the rural zone to allow for more than two dwellings on rural properties in defined circumstances;
 - c) remove indicative flood areas leaving modelled flood areas as being the sole reference for such matters; and
 - d) align papakainga housing provisions to more closely resemble those adopted by the Hastings District Council.
- 3 That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the following recommendations in the State of the Environment Report (June 2019) are progressed through the next review of the District Plan:
 - a) adopt a procedures manual which would

- (i) confirm the location and nature of additional material referred to at both territorial authority and regional council level,
- (ii) guidelines on how to apply the definitions of Natural Hazard Areas 1 and 2;
- b) review rules on dwelling proximity to allow more discretion to Council;
- c) review rules for subdivision in the residential zone;
- d) prohibit successive extensions over time to habitable dwellings in the Taihape West Slip Zone (so that the cumulative area does not exceed 40m²); and
- e) implement a specific noise standard for bird scaring devices and wind machines.

13 Preliminary results from the 2019 residents' survey

To be tabled at the meeting.

14 Public Art in Marton

An update will be provided to the meeting.

15 Proposed icon/symbol for Marton township signage

Concept designs will be tabled at the meeting.

16 Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – June 2019

A report is attached.

File ref: 1-CO-4-8

Recommendation:

That the report 'Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – June 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 11 July 2019 be received.

17 Activity Management

A report is attached.

File: 5-EX-3-2

Recommendation:

That the report 'Activity Management' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 11 July 2019 be received.

18 Questions put at previous meeting for Council advice or action

None.

19 Late items

As agreed in Item 5.

20 Future items for the agenda

- Policy options around poor state of unoccupied CBD properties
- Jurisdiction Collaboration team
- Environmental compliance and infrastructure maintenance
- Dataco app – Antenno – presentation
- Closed landfills (currently not subject to monitoring)
- MoU framework (August)
- River walk tunnel between Utiku and Mangaweka (August)

21 Next meeting

8 August 2019 at 1.00 pm.

22 Meeting closed

Attachment 1



Rangitikei District Council

Policy and Planning Committee Meeting

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Present: Cr Angus Gordon (Chair)
Cr Richard Aslett
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Jane Dunn
Cr Lynne Sheridan
Cr Cath Ash
Ms Tracey Hiroa (Te Roopu Ahi Kaa representative)
His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

In attendance: Mr Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager
Mr Blair Jamieson, Strategy and Community Planning Manager
Ms Carol Gordon, Customer Services and Communications Team Leader
Mr George Forster, Policy Advisor
Mr Johan Cullis, Environmental Services Team Leader
Ms Gaylene Prince, Community & Leisure Services Team Leader
Ms Nardia Gower, Strategic Advisor – Rangatahi/Youth
Ms Bonnie Clayton, Governance Administrator

Also in attendance: Mr Tony Thomas

Tabled Documents	Item 7	Chair's Report
	Item 10	Legislation and Governance Update, June 2019
	Item 14	Update on the Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the District Plan

1 Welcome

The meeting started at 1.04 pm. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 Public Forum

Ms Ali Hale Tilley from Sadhana Yoga, addressed the Committee with her presentation on Public art in Marton. Ms Tilley explained the life and vitality that public art can bring to an area, she requested an audit of Marton's current public art and potential locations including the new world class skatepark for a creative overhaul for Marton.

Ms Tilley is to meet with Cr Ash outside of Council.

3 Apologies/Leave of Absence

That the apology for the absence of Cr Graeme Platt and Cr Dave Wilson and early departure of Cr Dunn to be received.

4 Members' conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of order of business

The order of business was confirmed.

There were no late items.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number

19/PPL/045

File Ref

3-CT-15-2

That the Minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 9 May 2019 amendments be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Cr Dunn / Cr Aslett. Carried

7 Chair's Report

The Chair's tabled report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number **19/PPL/046** **File Ref** **3-CT-15-1**

That the 'Chair's Report' for the May and June meetings to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Gordon / Cr Sheridan. Carried

8 Progress with strategic issues – Update

The Committee noted the commentary in the agenda.

9 Update on Communication Strategy

The report was taken as read.

Ms Gordon provided a brief commentary to the Committee:

- The Walton Street house in Bulls is well on its way to being completed, open homes will need to be organised.
- There has been mass media coverage around our Youth events in May.
- Planting of more than 300 plants has been happening at B and C dams.

The Committee asked where the names of B and C Dams came from. The Committee would also like to see some signage at the Dams along with a name for the project.

Undertaking

Subject

Ms Gordon to look into the history of B and C dams and whether they could be renamed suitably to their history.

Resolved minute number **19/PPL/047** **File Ref** **3-CT-15-1**

That the 'Update on Communications Strategy' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Ash / Cr Aslett. Carried

10 Legislation and Governance Update – June 2019

The tabled report was taken as read.

Mr Hodder provided a brief commentary to the Committee:

- The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill reading is in its second stage for stronger regulations for drinking water.

His Worship the Mayor advised that he will be at Parliament for final stage of the Ngati Rangi Claims Settlement Bill.

Resolved minute number

19/PPL/048

File Ref

3-OR-3-5

That the 'Legislation and Governance Update - June 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Ash / Cr Sheridan. Carried

11 Draft submission on proposed Building System legislation reform

The report was taken as read.

The Committee sought an explanation of Question 3.3.3 of the report.

Undertaking

Subject

Mr Cullis to seek further detail of Question 3.3.3 of the report.

Resolved minute number

19/PPL/049

File Ref

That the 'Draft submission on proposed building law reform' 2008' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Belsham / Cr Sheridan. Carried

Resolved minute number

19/PPL/050

File Ref

That the Policy/Planning Committee, under delegated authority, authorise His Worship the Mayor to sign the submission (as amended) to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on the proposed building law reform.

Cr Belsham / Cr Gordon. Carried

12 Remits to Local Government New Zealand 2019 Annual General Meeting

The remits were taken as read.

Resolved minute number**19/PPL/051****File Ref**

That the remits to Local Government New Zealand 2019 Annual General Meeting be received.

Cr Sheridan / Cr Belsham. Carried

Resolved minute number**19/PPL/052****File Ref**

That the Policy/Planning Committee makes the following recommendations to Council on the 24 remits to be considered at the Local Government New Zealand 2019 Annual General Meeting.

Number	Topic	Support (Y/N)	Comment
1	Climate Change – local government representation	Yes	
2	Ban on the sale of fireworks to the general public	No	
3	Traffic offences – red light running	Yes	
4	Prohibit parking on grass berms	No	
5	Short-term guest accommodation	No	
6	Nitrate in drinking water	Yes	
7	Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (1987)	Yes	

8	Weed control	Yes	
9	Building defects claims	Yes	
10	Social housing	Yes	
11	Procurement	Yes	
12	Single use polystyrene	Yes	
13	Local Governments Act 2002	Yes	
14	Campground regulations	Yes	
15	Living Wage	Yes	
16	Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act	Yes	
17	Greenhouse gases	Yes	
18	Climate Change – funding policy framework	Yes	
19	Road safety	Yes	

20	Mobility scooter safety	Yes	
21	Museums and galleries	Yes	
22	Resource Management Act	No	
23	Mayor decision to appoint Deputy Mayor	No	
24	Beauty industry	Yes	

Cr Gordon / Cr Sheridan. Carried

Council adjourned at 3.03 pm – 3.23 pm

Cr Dunn departed at 3.03 pm

13 Hawkes Bay Regional Council- Proposed Plan Change 7 – Outstanding water bodies

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number

19/PPL/053

File Ref

That the Policy/Planning Committee, under delegated authority, approves His Worship the Mayor supporting the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's proposed Plan Change 7 – Outstanding water bodies.

Cr Gordon / Ms T Hiroa. Carried

14 Update on the Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the District Plan

Mr Thomas took the tabled report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number **19/PPL/054** **File Ref**

That the 'Update on the Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the District Plan' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Ash / Cr Belsham. Carried

15 Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – May 2019

The report was taken as read. Mr Jamieson provided an update to the Committee:

Township signage:

- Ratana – Following social media comments, the item has been raised at the Ratana Community Board Meeting for further feedback.
- Scotts Ferry – Have received two letters of feedback from the community. This is to be followed up.
- Turakina – To discuss location of signage with the Caledonian Society on 13 June 2019.
- Marton – Lions Club have agreed that the need to remove old brick work to place new signage up. More discussion is needed on an icon for Marton, however will not be proceeding with Barley.
- Mangaweka – To be discussed at the next Community Committee Meeting.

His Worship the Mayor spoke in regards to the wonderful rapport with the children attending the Taihape Amazing race. Feedback was passed on from His Worship the Mayor to Ms Gower on the brilliant job done with Youth.

Undertaking	Subject
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Mr Jamieson will deliver Supporting Items – Function Report following his Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity report in future Policy Planning Committee meetings.

Resolved minute number **19/PPL/055** **File Ref** **1-CO-4-8**

That the report 'Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – May 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Aslett / Ms T Hiroa. Carried

16 Activity Management

The report was taken as read.

The Committee queried when the Youth Committee meetings are held. It was noted that the meetings have been moved from 6 weekly to 4 weekly. Ms Gower and the Chair of the Youth Committee have also discussed that the Youth Committee attend a Council meeting to see it in action.

The Committee raised concerns around the First Response timeframes for noise complaints. It was explained that there is a two-step process and that the response timeframes are prompt. It has been requested that further information be provided in regards to the timeframes.

Undertaking

Subject

Mr Hodder to follow up on the timeframes for response for request for service on noise complaints.

Resolved minute number

19/PPL/056

File Ref

That the report 'Activity Management' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 13 June 2019 be received.

Cr Belsham / Cr Ash. Carried

Cr Ash departed at 4.28 pm

17 Questions put at previous meeting for Council advice or action

None.

18 Late items

Nil

19 Future items for the agenda

- Jurisdiction Collaboration Team
- Policy options around poor state of unoccupied CBD properties'
- Environmental compliance and infrastructure maintenance
- Datacom app – Antenno – presentation
- Closed landfills
- MoU framework
- River walk tunnel between Utiku and Mangaweka.

20 Next meeting

11 July 2019 at 1.00 pm.

21 Meeting closed

4.33 pm

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date:

Unconfirmed

Attachment 2

Update on Communications Strategy

This report provides the Committee with an update on media activity; current consultation processes underway and progress on the action plan.

June 2019 Media Activity

The table below outlines the media activity during June; printed media articles published during the month and website activity:

- Rangitikei Bulletin – This was published in the Feilding - Rangitikei Herald and District Monitor on 4 July and covers the key decisions from the June Council meeting.
- Rangitikei Line – the June edition was distributed via mail chimp. The focus for this edition was Parks and Reserves.
- There were 7 media articles (all articles) during June:

Date	Media Channel	Article Heading and Topic
06/06/19	District Monitor	Youth award dual winners Tia Wright and Lydia Whyte were dual winners of the Change Maker award at the recent Rangitikei Youth awards.
11/06/19 13/06/19	Manawatu Standard FR Herald	Historic bridge may live on Mangaweka bridge – the 115 year old bridge between Manawatu and Rangitikei was previously set for demolition with a new \$11M bridge relocated 30m downstream.
13/06/19	Feilding-Rangitikei Herald	River saved from seeping garbage Horizons Regional Council has successfully dug a new channel around the Putorino landfill.
20/06/19	District Monitor	Dam good planting Council was successful in its Matariki Tu Rakau bid for funding to supply 20,000 plants, the majority of which will be planted at the Marton's B & C dam. The first Community planting day has been held, with many more to come.
27/06/19	District Monitor	Memorial erected to mark Meyer cemetery donation A memorial has been erected at Mt View to recognise the generous donation by Pioneer Johann Christian Meyer, who donated 2 acres of his Mt View farm in 1860's to the Marton township to be used as a Cemetery. Descendants acknowledged the executive and staff of Council for their interest and support of the project.

29/06/19	Wanganui Chronicle	Farewell to the visionary who changed the face of our town “It’s been the most challenging and rewarding job I’ve ever had” These words spoken by Athol Sanson as he steps down as Parks & R Team leader.
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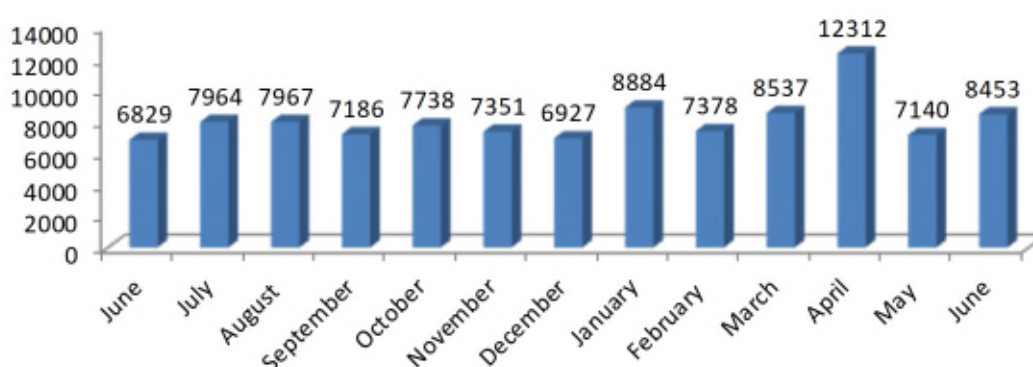
Requests under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)

As at 30 June, 31 requests have been received this year.

Website Statistics

Activity on Council’s website for June 2018 – June 2019:

Website Visits 2018-19



In June 65% of those who visited Council’s website were new visitors to the site.

Top Council Webpages Visited (June)

1. Current vacancies
2. Rates
3. Cemeteries
4. Contact Us
5. Meetings
6. Rubbish / Recycling / Transfer Stations

Top Six Geographical Locations

Visiting the Website (June)

1. Palmerston North
2. * Wellington
3. * Auckland
4. Christchurch
5. Whanganui
6. Napier

* note smaller areas can be recorded as Auckland or Wellington

Communications Strategy 2018 – 2020 – Update on Actions in the Action Plan

Statutory Communications	Timeframe	Status
Draft Proposed District Plan Change – rural to industrial	1-12 July	Open for feedback

Proactive Communications	Timeframe	Status
Ensure website is the primary source of information for customers, staff and residents	Ongoing	Content continually updated. Alternative format for forms being looked at.

<i>Proactive Communications</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Status</i>
Social media	Ongoing	High use of this channel to promote and publicise events, open days and ongoing promotion of council's services
<i>Project and Event Communications</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Status</i>
Council projects - Bulls Community Centre	October - onwards	Time-lapse recordings of the building progress are available on Council's website.

Dark Sky Forum

I was lucky enough to attend the Dark Sky Forum in June a brief report is attached to this paper.

Recommendation:

That the 'Update on Communications Strategy' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 11 July 2019 be received.

Carol Gordon

Team Leader - Communications

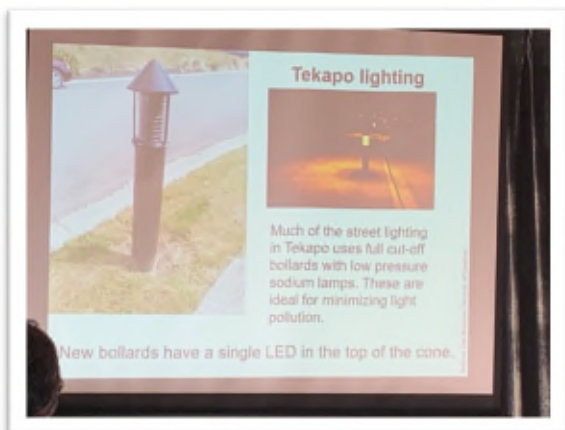
Appendix 1

Dark Sky Forum – Mackenzie District Council

This forum was held on Friday, 21 June and Saturday, 22 June 2019, 15 Councils attended, which was hosted by Mackenzie District Council.

The Mackenzie District is home to the Aoraki Mackenzie International dark sky reserve, which covers 4,300sq km.

It has been awarded gold tier status and was recognised as the “Dark Sky Place of the year” for 2018, by the International Dark-Sky Association.



The region now has one of the most pristine vibrant night skies in New Zealand, and the world. Since the early 1980s outdoor lighting controls have been introduced, in streets and businesses. This new way of lighting attracts an 85% subsidy from New Zealand Transport Agency to change street lights to less invasive styles that complement their skies.

They have also been successful with their bid to rename their state highway (8) to Starlight Highway.

The project has been a collaborative approach between Ngai Tahu, NZTA, the Tourism sector, Council and local businesses. Mackenzie is now becoming “too successful” where visitor nights are expected to reach over 1 million in the very near future.

Local businesses have grown and a large number of these now revolve around the sky and star gazing. Dark skies is the largest growing tourism opportunity and globally shows it's one of the biggest trends (astro tourism).

While we were there we visited the local St. John observatory (view from here shown on the right); took part in the Tekapo Springs stargazing tour (this involved looking through telescopes at stars and planets then going into the hot pools to gaze at the bright starry southern sky). The evening was very cold and clear so the stars were very bright and visible, unluckily for the next group the clouds came across.



On Saturday we had a tour of the new Earth & Sky facility, which opened on 2 July. This is fantastic new tourist facility which has been a joint project with the Dark Sky Project, Council, Tourism and Ngai Tahu. Tours depart from there, it houses a retail space and its own indoor astronomy experience for when the weather is no good outside. One of NZ's largest refractors, built in 1894 in Pennsylvania is now housed in this facility for budding astronomers to enjoy. There is a large café, with a liquor licence and the facility has a staff of 80. Their biggest challenge is how to accommodate the staff.

The purpose of the forum was to see if everyone (especially Councils) can collaborate and come together to become a dark sky nation, which may be ambitious, so a target of dark sky 'regions' may come first. Everyone has an opportunity to benefit from this. It was well worth the visit.

On 20-23 October 2019 a Starlight Conference is being held in Tekapo. Councils and other interested parties were encouraged to attend.

Attachment 3

Report

Subject: Legislation and Governance Update, July 2019

To: Policy/Planning Committee

From: Michael Hodder, Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager

Date: 4 July 2019

File: 3-OR-3-5

1 Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Bill

- 1.1 As reported last month, this bill is still at the 'Committee of the Whole House stage, which precedes the third (and final) reading. These stages will occur later this month.

2 Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill

- 2.1 This Government Bill, a response to the Havelock North incident, was introduced into Parliament on 5 July 2018 and referred to the Health Committee on 8 November 2018. The Health Committee presented its report to Parliament on 7 May 2019.
- 2.2 It is now at the Committee of the Whole House stage.

3 Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

- 3.1 This Bill was introduced into Parliament on 8 May 2019 and had its first reading on 21 May 2019, when it was referred to the Environment Committee. Submissions are due on 16 July 2019.
- 3.2 A draft submission will be tabled at the meeting. Council has delegated approving a submission to the Policy/Planning Committee at its meeting on 11 July 2019.

4 Local government funding and financing – draft report from the Productivity Commission

- 4.1 The Commission released its draft report on 4 July 2019, calling for submissions by 29 August 2019. A summary is attached as Appendix 1. The full report is at https://www.productivity.govt.nz/sites/default/files/ProdCom_Draft%20report_Local%20government%20funding%20and%20financing.pdf

4.2 The Commission believes new funding tools are needed to ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support rapid urban growth, to enable councils to adapt to climate change, to meeting tourism growth and to recognise the responsibilities shifted by central government to local government. Otherwise, the Commission considers that the current funding and financing framework is broadly sound and that there is scope for councils to make better use of existing tools.

4.3 A draft submission will be provided to the Committee's meeting on 8 August 2019.

5 Privacy Bill

5.1 This Bill is still at the second reading stage.

6 Building Amendment Act

6.1 This legislation received royal assent on 17 June 2019. It provides a new system for managing buildings quickly and effectively during and after an emergency. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has advised that the new system will come into effect in December – it cannot be later than 17 December 2019. That will enable councils, after an emergency event, to

- direct evacuation of a building, keep people at a safe distance and erect signs prohibiting or restricting use of a building (ss.133BR-133BT);
- require building owners to provide information, such as detailed engineering assessments, to help determine the risk posed by their buildings (s.133BU); and
- require or carry out work to, or demolish, any buildings that pose an immediate risk to life or risk damage or disruption to neighbouring buildings or public thoroughfares – the owner of the building is liable for the costs of such works (ss. 133BV, 133BW and 133BX).

MBIE is empowered to investigate building failure. This extends to household units (ss.207C-207S)

6.2 MBIE has indicated its intention to work with key agencies responsible for building emergency management including a representative group of territorial authorities, to discuss role, responsibilities and processes.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That the 'Legislation and Governance Update – July 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee meeting on 11 July 2019 be received.

Michael Hodder
Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager

Appendix 1

Local government funding and financing

Draft report – July 2019



The Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into local government funding and financing. The Government wants to know whether the existing funding and financing arrangements are suitable for enabling local authorities to meet current and future cost pressures.

This *At a glance* summarises the main findings and recommendations from the Commission's draft report. Your feedback and submissions on the draft report are invited by **29 August 2019**.

High-performing local government is vital for community wellbeing

Local government matters a great deal to communities and the wellbeing of New Zealanders. High-performing local government can provide greater access to housing; better protection of New Zealand's natural environment and cultural values; strong, engaged communities; and quality infrastructure at the right time in the right place.

If councils struggle to deal with rising costs, or are not incentivised to improve their performance, communities are unlikely to reach their potential. The funding and financing framework for local government must incentivise good performance, and enable local authorities to deliver quality amenities and services that reflect the preferences and aspirations of their communities.

The current funding and financing framework is broadly sound

Local authorities currently have a wide range of funding and financing options, which gives them considerable flexibility in how they raise revenue.

The current funding and financing framework measures up well against the principles of a good system. The current system, based on rating properties, is simple and economically efficient, compared to alternatives, such as local income taxes. Wholesale change to a radically different model would be expensive, disruptive and uncertain.

The current system should therefore remain as the foundation of a fit-for-purpose future funding and financing system for local government. However, councils need new tools to help them deal with some specific cost pressures.

There is scope for councils to make better use of existing tools

Many councils could make better use of the funding tools they already have available to them, and better organisational performance and decision making would also help to relieve funding pressures. Council decision making and broader performance also need to be more transparent.

Changes are needed to strengthen governance and increase the transparency of council performance. All councils should have an assurance committee that is independently chaired; and the legislative requirements for councils' Long-Term Plans should be clarified and streamlined. In addition, the current performance reporting framework for local government is not fit-for purpose. It requires fundamental review, aimed at significantly simplifying and improving the required financial and non-financial disclosures.

The best way to use the current funding tools

The Commission favours the "benefit principle" as the primary basis for deciding who should pay for local government services. That is, those who benefit from (or cause the need for) a service should pay for its costs. Councils may also use "ability to pay" as a consideration, taking into account central government's primary role in income distribution. Where local services also benefit national interests, central government should contribute funding. User charges or targeted rates should be used wherever it is possible and efficient to do so.

Improving equity

There is little or no evidence that rates have generally become less affordable over time. However, legislative changes are needed to make the current funding system more equitable and transparent, including changing rating powers to give more prominence to the benefit principle, phasing out the current rates rebate scheme (which is not equitable or effective), and introducing a national rates postponement scheme.

New funding tools are needed to address key pressures

The Commission has identified four key areas where the existing funding model is insufficient to address cost pressures, and new tools are required:

- supplying enough infrastructure to support rapid urban growth;
- adapting to climate change;
- coping with the growth of tourism; and
- the accumulation of responsibilities placed on local government by central government.

These pressures are not distributed evenly across councils, because they face widely differing circumstances. In addition, small rural and provincial districts are facing particular challenges in funding essential infrastructure and services. These councils need to be open to scalable new technologies and alternative organisational arrangements. They may also require support from central government to make the necessary investments.

New funding and financing tools for growth infrastructure

The failure of high-growth councils to supply enough infrastructure to support housing development has led to some serious social and economic problems. Councils currently have funding and financing tools to make growth “pay for itself” by ensuring revenue for new property developments is derived from new residents rather than existing ratepayers. However, the long time it takes to recover the costs of development, the risks involved, debt limits, and the continued perception that growth does not pay for itself are significant barriers.

Value capture and user charging would help growth “pay for itself”

The Commission has previously recommended a new “value capture” funding tool for councils. This tool would raise revenue because property owners who enjoy “windfall gains” in their property value as a result of nearby publicly-funded infrastructure investment would be required to pay a portion of this gain to the council. Such a tool, combined with powers for councils to levy road-congestion and volumetric wastewater charges, would help give councils sufficient means to fund growth.

Special Purpose Vehicles could help councils nearing their debt limits

Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) are a financing option for new development, that involve debt sitting off a council’s balance sheet. This provides a means for high-growth councils approaching their debt limits to continue to invest in development. The Commission supports the Government’s current work around expanding the use of SPVs to brownfields development.

Considering two additional options

To address the perception that growth does not pay for itself, the Commission recommends considering a **new funding stream from central government** to local authorities, based on new building work put in place within an authority’s boundary. This can be justified because of the strong national interest in an adequate supply of infrastructure-serviced land and new houses. The Commission seeks feedback on the advantages and disadvantages of such a payment scheme, and how it could be designed. The Commission is also seeking submissions on whether a **tax on vacant land** would be a useful mechanism to further improve the supply of land for housing.

Adapting to climate change is a significant challenge

As the impacts of climate change unfold over coming decades, local authorities will face a significant and growing challenge. Future sea-level rise and increased flood risk from climate change directly threaten local government infrastructure such as roads and bridges, as well as stormwater, wastewater and flood-protection assets. Moreover, councils are responsible for planning and regulating development on at-risk land.

To help local government prepare for the impacts of climate change, **central government should take the lead** on providing high-quality and consistent science and data, standard setting, and legal and decision-making guidance. Institutional and legislative frameworks also need to move from their current focus on recovery after an event towards reducing risk before an event.

The Government should **extend the role of the New Zealand Transport Agency** in co-funding local roads to include assistance to councils facing significant threats to

the viability of local roads and bridges from climate change. The Commission also recommends that the Government creates a **climate-resilience agency and associated fund** to help at-risk councils redesign, and possibly relocate and rebuild, wastewater, stormwater and flood-protection infrastructure threatened by the impacts of climate change.

Funding support for tourism hotspots

The large and rapid increase in tourism is placing considerable pressure on several types of “mixed-use” infrastructure in popular tourist destinations, such as local roads, parking, public toilets, water and wastewater. Tourists are not paying the full cost of the demands they are placing on this infrastructure.

The Government should legislate to enable councils in tourist centres to implement an **accommodation levy**. Councils in tourist centres should also make greater use of **user pays** for mixed-use facilities. For small councils that cannot reasonably use either accommodation levies or user pays, the Government should provide **funding from the international visitor levy**.

Need to reset the relationship with central government

Another cause of funding pressures on local government is the continued accumulation of tasks and responsibilities passed from central government, without adequate funding means. The Commission sees significant value, and has previously recommended, that central and local government work together to develop a “**Partners in Regulation**” protocol. This would involve the co-design and joint-implementation of appropriately-funded regulatory regimes, and would promote a more constructive relationship between central and local government.

A new regulatory regime for the three waters

Improving the safety and environmental performance of three-waters services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) will be expensive, and will create additional funding pressure on councils. A new approach that both rigorously enforces minimum standards, and is permissive about how councils meet these standards would substantially improve the performance of the three-waters sector. The new regime would be administered by an independent regulator, such as the Commerce Commission. The performance regime would be permissive and flexible, but have a backstop arrangement applied to councils that fail by a specified time period to lift their performance sufficiently to meet minimum health and environmental standards.

Read the full version of the draft report and make a submission at www.productivity.govt.nz, email us at info@productivity.govt.nz or call us on 04 903 5150.

The **New Zealand Productivity Commission** is an independent Crown Entity. It conducts in-depth inquiries on topics selected by the Government, carries out productivity-related research, and promotes understanding of productivity issues.

Attachment 4

11 July 2019

File: 3-OR-3-5

Deborah Russell, MP
Chair
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By email: zerocarbon@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Deborah,

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

The Rangitīkei District Council understands that the purpose of this Bill is to provide a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that align with the Paris Agreement, noting that the framework would establish a new independent Crown entity, the Climate Change Commission.

Council supports the establishment of such an entity, to assess the risks, provide politically independent expert advice, and prepare national climate change risk assessments for the current and future effects of climate change. In undertaking the later, the Council notes that the framework and remedial actions will need to be co-ordinated at a local level in response to those risks – as this framework alone will not be sufficient for addressing the considerable adaptation challenge that New Zealand faces. For Council, the scope of the advice and adaptation plans from such a Commission must, as a matter of urgency, provide advice and support to local governments and communities. Council is hopeful that the scope of the Climate Change Commission will be to support local governments as spending resources on advice and support individually would be costly for the rate-payer and risks inconsistency.

The Productivity Commission's draft report on local government funding and financing also highlights this very need, and the effects that climate change places on Council's; requiring new tools, to help deal with climate change specific cost pressures, such as:

- apportioning risk between central government, local government and communities;
- supporting Council in taking adaptive action, and reducing liability risks; and
- addressing issues related to funding and financing of the costs of climate change adaptation.

The Rangitikei District Council makes the following comments on provisions contained within the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill:

Climate Change Commission (CCC)

It is critical that the CCC's membership comprises a sufficient number of members with skills, expertise and experience that are needed to ensure that the Commission effectively monitors and reviews the Government's progress towards its goals. The Bill notes the proposed range of knowledge, experience and skills for members of the Commission, which Council supports. While the formulation of a committee to determine the membership of the Commission may appear to create an additional layer of unnecessary bureaucracy, it provides assurance that the membership collectively meets the requirements of section 5H and the recommendations to the Minister is politically neutral. As a separate concern, the Bill lists a significant number of functions that the proposed commission will undertake – rather than being specialised. If the commission is to have teeth and a focus in direction for all these functions, it must be resourced sufficiently. The outcome of inadequate resourcing would lead the Commission to become merely diagnostic in nature.

Rangitikei District Council therefore supports the proposed range of knowledge, experience and skills for members of the Commission, and recommends:

1. that the Climate Change Commission is tasked and adequately resourced to undertake such works as the NCCRA, as well as the provision of advice and support for local governments.

National Climate Change Risk Assessment

It appears that local government is generally referenced as an implementing stakeholder rather than a partner in the completion and outcomes of the NCCRA, meaning Council would be an agency that would undertake works based on what the Commission decides. However, section 5ZN (preparation of national climate risk assessment) makes no mention of local government. Council has a genuine concern that stems from the continued accumulation of responsibilities placed on it, and in-turn the ratepayer, by central government. An NCCRA will have implications for all ratepayers (i.e. impacts on property prices) and may present additional risks for local governments when certain risks are identified and communicated to communities. Although section 5ZV notes local government as a stakeholder in local risk assessments, the Bill is unclear as to what resourcing would be expected from, or contributed to Council for this to occur. Council requests that this be clarified.

Rangitikei District Council therefore recommends:

DRAFT

1. The Bill more explicitly state the role/resourcing that local government is expected to contribute (or if local government as a partner rather than simply act as an implementing agency) in the NCCRA and/or local and regional level risk assessments.

Adaptation provisions

Council has been concerned that for a number of years how central government will address climate change issues and support local government in the development of new, climate change resilient fit-for-purpose infrastructure. While Council understands that the focus of the Bill is limited to the framework for the CCC, and agrees that it is a critical foundation, this framework alone will not be sufficient for addressing the considerable adaptation challenges that New Zealand faces. As noted earlier, considerable work still needs to be done to support local governments to undertake adaptive action at the local level.

The Rangitīkei District Council looks forward to a considerably greater focus by the Government on climate change adaptation. However, it notes that more needs to be done to allocate roles and responsibilities for climate change adaptation, as well as the apportioning of risk, and identifying options for funding and financing local governments; such as noted in Productivity Commission's draft report on local government funding and financing.

Council welcomes the introduction of the Bill as an important step in the right direction, and looks forward to working with the Government, on the areas noted in the commentary above.

On behalf of the Rangitīkei District Council, I [wish/do not wish] to speak to this submission.

Yours sincerely

Andy Watson
Mayor of the Rangitīkei District

Attachment 5

Memorandum

To: Policy/Planning Committee

From: Michael Hodder

Date: 5 July 2019

Subject: **Update on the State of Environment Report**

File: 1-PL-1-2

At its meeting on 21 March 2019, the Committee was briefed on the proposed State of the Environment Report, to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the District Plan (a statutory requirement), accepting the eight suggested indicators:

1. Subdivision
2. Dwelling density
3. Dwelling proximity
4. The residential zone
5. Natural hazards
6. Noise rules
7. Regional environmental issues
8. Any matters under consideration for the next District Plan Review.

The completed report is attached as *Appendix 1*. It includes recommendations for consideration in the next District Plan Review.

Council is currently part way through a District Plan change process, as approved at its meeting on 2 May 2019. The scope was to provide for additional industrial and residential land in Marton and for a smaller minimum lot size in the rural living zone. The first phase is dedicated to the rezoning of land classified as rural to industrial. The Committee may see merit in including in the second phase some or all of the recommendations in the State of the Environment report. Those not dealt with in this way would be brought into consideration in the next District Plan review.

Recommendations

1. That the 'Update on the State of the Environment report (June 2019)' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 11 July 2019 be received.
2. That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the following recommendations in the State of the Environment Report (June 2019) are progressed through the current District Plan Change:
 - a) amend the objectives and policies to provide scope for a wider range of subdivisions in the rural zone where the site does not have highly versatile soils or has a mix of highly versatile with other soil types;

- b) amend the rule on dwelling density in the rural zone to allow for more than two dwellings on rural properties in defined circumstances;
 - c) remove indicative flood areas leaving modelled flood areas as being the sole reference for such matters; and
 - d) align papakainga housing provisions to more closely resemble those adopted by the Hastings District Council.
3. That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the following recommendations in the State of the Environment Report (June 2019) are progressed through the next review of the District Plan:
- a) adopt a procedures manual which would
 - (i) confirm the location and nature of additional material referred to at both territorial authority and regional council level,
 - (ii) guidelines on how to apply the definitions of Natural Hazard Areas 1 and 2;
 - b) review rules on dwelling proximity to allow more discretion to Council;
 - c) review rules for subdivision in the residential zone;
 - d) prohibit successive extensions over time to habitable dwellings in the Taihape West Slip Zone (so that the cumulative area does not exceed 40m²); and
 - e) implement a specific noise standard for bird scaring devices and wind machines.

Michael Hodder
Community & Regulatory Services Group Manager

Appendix 1



RANGITIKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

A Review of the District Plan Efficiency **and Effectiveness.**

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT.

Prepared by Tony Thomas.

June 2019



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Appendix 1: Extracts from the Resource Management Act 1991

Appendix 2: Feedback from Federated Farmers.

Appendix 3: Feedback from the Department of Conservation.

Revision history

Version 1	Draft	14 June 2019

Abbreviations

DoC	Department of Conservation
MfE	Ministry for the Environment
NES	National Environmental Standard
NPS	National Policy Statement
RDC	Rangitikei District Council
RMA	Resource Management Act
SoE	State of the Environment.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following persons in the preparation of this report.

1. Michael Hodder: Community Services Group Manager, Rangitikei District Council.
2. Blair Jamieson: Strategic & Community Planning Manager, Rangitikei District Council.
3. George Forster: Policy Advisor, Rangitikei District Council.
4. Ellen Webb-Moore, Resource Consents Planner, Rangitikei District Council.
5. Katrina Gray, Former Senior Policy Analyst/Planner, Rangitikei District Council.

Tony Thomas
June 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires Councils to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of their District Plans at least every five years. This report is intended to address that requirement. These reports are often also referred to as State of the Environment Reports (SoE) and the term is used interchangeably herein.

Whilst the requirement is specific to the District Plan there are a wider suite of both national and local documents that will impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the District Plan. These are referred to in this report.

The current District Plan became operative in November 2013. This report addresses areas of specific interest in the District Plan. These relate mainly to the rural living zone, rural subdivision, dwelling density and location, the rules for subdivision and development in the residential zone, natural hazards rules, noise rules in the rural zone, regional environmental issues and rules relating to Papakainga.

Generally speaking, this report finds that the Objectives and Policies of the District Plan in relation to the above matters are well structured and gives clear direction to users in relation to the above matters. There are recommended areas for development with them. Similarly, the rules relating to matters reported on are efficient and effective. Recommendations made relate to the need address certain areas of complexity or the need for clarification.

Key recommendations are that:

1. The subdivision rules for the Rural Living zone should be reviewed to encourage the further use of that zone for the purpose intended.
2. Consideration should be given to broadening the rules for the Rural zone to:
 - a. Accommodate the subdivision of sites with a mix of soil classifications
 - b. Introduce rules for both controlled activity and non-complying activity subdivisions
 - c. Reviewing the policies, objectives and rules to allow for more than two dwellings on a rural property
3. Amending the rule in the Rural zone covering the proximity of dwellings on the same site to each other to reduce the required separation.
4. The minimum lot size for residential zone subdivisions remains at 400m² and that rules be considered for specific site layout requirements and visual assessments in applications for subdivisions of less than 400m².
5. A review of the interpretation of the rules and definitions for natural hazards (flooding) be undertaken.
6. The rules relating to the use of bird scaring devices and wind machines within close proximity to living zones be undertaken.
7. A review of the rules relating to Papakainga be undertaken.

2. INTRODUCTION

Section 35(2)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (Appendix 1) places an obligation on Councils to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of their District Plans. This report is intended to address that requirement within the brief. These such reports are often also referred to as State of the Environment Reports (SoE) and the term is used interchangeably in this report.

The last substantive report was produced in 2005.

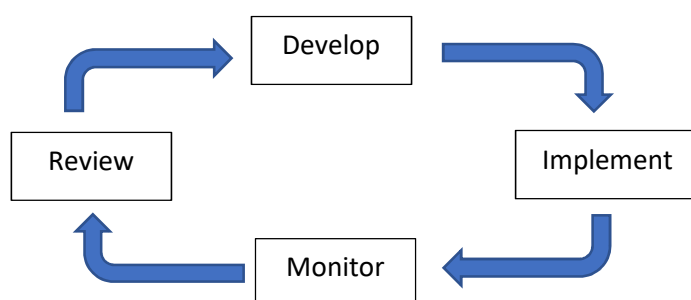
The purpose of this report is to assess the specific aspects of the Operative District Plan within its statutory and environmental context with a view to guiding the Council in giving effect to the District Plan and, to inform the process for the next District Plan review and/or any District Plan changes that might precede that review.

The Council has identified various key indicators which are required to be considered in this report these being:

1. Subdivision. The key concerns relating to subdivision include:
 - a. The Rural Living Zone. This zone has not achieved the outcomes sought particularly in relation to Objective 9 of the District Plan which seeks to provide Rural Lifestyle Living in specified areas around existing settlements.
 - b. The ongoing pressure for rural subdivisions that do not meet minimum lot sizes. Related to this are concerns that the approval of these applications (whilst considered on their individual merits) is collectively undermining the Objectives and Policies of the District Plan particularly in areas of Class 1 and 2 soils. Also discussed is the absence of rules related to such applications being 'controlled' or 'non-complying' activities.
 - c. The absence of any subdivision rules in the Rural zone that relate to sites that contain a combination of versatile and non-versatile soils.
2. Dwelling density. The District Plan allows two dwellings per lot regardless of size. Consideration should be given to a rule that relates dwelling density to lot size.
3. Dwelling proximity. The Rural zone rule that limits the distance between dwellings does not distinguish between dwellings on the same lot or on adjacent lots.
4. The Residential zone. Are the rules suitable to achieve the appropriate levels of urban design? In particular;
 - a. Is 400m² the appropriate minimum size?
 - b. Should there be more focus on visual assessments for non-compliance with the rules?
 - c. Should there be 'tighter' rules around the building envelopes?
5. Natural Hazards (Inundation). A review the wording of the rules.

6. Noise Rules. The suitability of these rules having regard to reverse sensitivity.
7. Regional Environmental Issues. Liaison with Regional Councils regarding any State of the Environment issues that they have identified of relevance to the Rangitikei District and this work.
8. Any other matters under consideration for the next District Plan Review or Plan Changes.

Typically, a report such as this forms part of a four-stage policy cycle, the full cycle being:



In undertaking the review specific regard will be had to the relevant Objectives, Policies and Rules in the District Plan and how effective they have been. As part of that process key stakeholders have been consulted.

3. DISTRICT PROFILE.

The New Zealand census is undertaken every five years with the last one being undertaken in 2018. That information will be released in September 2019.

The previous 2013 census is available on line at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/census>.

A brief outline of that information includes the following extracts:

Total population

- 14,019 people usually live in Rangitikei District. This is a decrease of 693 people, or 4.7 percent, since the 2006 Census.

Māori population

- 3,270 Māori usually live in Rangitikei District. This is a decrease of 183 people, or 5.3 percent, since the 2006 Census.

Number of dwellings counted

There are 5,733 occupied dwellings and 912 unoccupied dwellings in Rangitikei District.

Household composition

- One-family households make up 67.1 percent of all households in Rangitikei District. For New Zealand as a whole, one-family households make up 68.3 percent of all households.

- In Rangitikei District, there are 1,566 one-person households making up 28.1 percent of all households. In New Zealand, one-person households make up 23.5 percent of all households.
- The average household size in Rangitikei District is 2.4 people, compared with an average of 2.7 people for all of New Zealand.

Home ownership

In Rangitikei District, 65.5 percent of households in occupied private dwellings owned the dwelling or held it in a family trust.

For New Zealand as a whole, 64.8 percent of households in occupied private dwellings owned the dwelling or held it in a family trust.

Business demographics

Business demographic data for the year ended February 2013 showed that:

- There were 2,203 business locations (geographic units) in Rangitikei District compared with 507,908 for all of New Zealand. This is a decrease of 3.4 percent from the year ended February 2006 for Rangitikei District.
- There were 5,520 paid employees in Rangitikei District compared with 1,941,040 for all New Zealand. This is a decrease of 9.5 percent from the year ended February 2006 for Rangitikei District.

Top five industries in Rangitikei District

By employee count

For year ended February 2013

Industry (ANZSIC06)(1)	Rangitikei District		New Zealand	
	Employee count	Percent of total employee count	Employee count	Percent of total employee count
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,690	30.6	111,520	5.7
Manufacturing	1,040	18.8	211,710	10.9
Education and training	560	10.1	167,240	8.6
Retail trade	530	9.6	195,870	10.1
Accommodation and food services	360	6.5	134,440	6.9

Dept Of Statistics 2013 Data.

4. CONSULTATION

Prior to the preparation of this work the Council identified a number of key stakeholders who should be consulted. These included.

The Councils Policy and Planning Committee.

A short presentation was given to this Committee on 21 March 2019. The purpose of that presentation was to advise the committee of the work being done, set out the key indicators

that are to be reported on and seek any feedback or direction from that Committee. Members expressed an interest in the work and resolved;

That the State of the Environment Report for the Rangitikei District, monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the District Plan, address the proposed key indicators

A subsequent presentation by way of progress reporting was made to the Committee on 13 June 2019.

Te Roopu Ahi Kaa (the Councils Iwi Liaison Committee).

Members of the reporting team attended the Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019 and introduced the project to the Committee seeking feedback on the key indicators and any other matters that the Committee might want to raise.

Discussion took place mainly around;

- Papakainga in the District Plan. Clarification was sought on the location of existing Papakainga zones in the Plan, the ability to introduce additional such areas on a more simplified basis, the work of Te Puni Kokiri in this field and the work being done by Hastings District Council on Papakainga.
- Aging infrastructure in the District and more particularly the adverse effects of older on-site wastewater systems that have not been checked or maintained over the years (it was acknowledged that this is more of a Regional Council matter).

The Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council (the Horizons Regional Council).

A meeting with staff from the Regional Council took place on 26 March 2019 at the Regional Council offices. Key points from that meeting included:

- The One Plan identifies four key issues being:
 - Water Quality
 - Increasing water demand
 - Hill Country erosion
 - Declining biodiversity
- It was noted that there is a large amount of highly erodible land in the Rangitikei District and there are concerns at the regional level around the effects of commercial farming on coastal areas and the loss of dune country to pivot irrigators in particular.
- The absence of any further data on the Taihape slip zone.
- The need for more reliable data on indicative flood mapping particularly in Bulls and Marton given the levels of development now being experienced. Horizons intend to undertake a vulnerability assessment of this but not in the near future.
- The necessity to look at unmodelled areas of flooding.
- The absence of any rules at a District level in relation to Biodiversity.

Since the above meeting the Regional Council has released its State of the Environment report which can be located on its website. The report is in four main chapters being climate, air, land and water. Relevant aspects of the report are covered in Section 10.7 below

The Hawkes Bay Regional Council. As a small portion of the District falls within this regional council area contact was made via email on two occasions. No response has been received.

The Department of Conservation. A meeting was held with the Department of Conservation (DoC) staff on 29 March 2019 at which they were advised of the intended indicators. They advised that the Rangitikei District Council area falls within both the Wellington and the Central North Island regional areas of DoC. Regarding the former they referred to their Conservation Management Strategy and they have provided some information in that regard.

Subsequent to the above meeting DoC have provided a listing of reference materials and matters of interest to DoC within the District (Appendix 3). This material can be summarised as follows;

- Their key reference document is the Conservation Management Strategy for the region.
- Key concerns at various listed sites in the District relate to;
 - Weed control
 - Possum and rat control
 - Fencing for stock management
 - Maintenance of tracks and bridges, historic sites
- Promoting biodiversity at defined sites
- Community and conservation work including works with Rangitikei District Council relating to;
 - Meeting with the Rangitikei Environment Theme group (Chris Shenton)
 - Planting at Kotiata
 - Carp release at wastewater plants
 - Statutory land management verifying ownership of RDC properties.
- Exploring and developing relationship opportunities with Iwi.

The Wellington Conservation Management Strategy is a three volume document that covers the whole of the Wellington Region. I have not undertaken a full review of the document as it is not within the scope of this report. However, Chapter 6 of Volume 1 refers to the Rangitikei District specifically and covers Policies and Milestones. The Strategy can be located on line at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/wellington/2019-updates/>

The policies in Chapter 6 relate to;

- Treaty of Waitangi relationships
- Natural Values policies:
 - *6.3.2.1 Manage a range of issues, including pest plants, water quality, and indigenous species protection.*

- 6.3.2.2 Develop, with neighbouring landowners, awareness about the condition of fencing within the Place, the importance of good stock-proof fences, and develop an internal prioritised planning programme to regularly check fences.
- 6.3.2.3 Encourage and support landowners of non-protected areas containing significant natural values to seek and implement practical and statutory protection measures.
- 6.3.2.4 Advocate for, and educate the community about, remnant reserve maintenance and restoration, and facilitate increased community involvement in pest plant and animal control.
- 6.3.2.5 Establish wildlife and freshwater corridors to create an integrated network of protected areas across the Place.
- Historic Values policies (region wide):
 - 3.2.2.6 Work with PSGEs, tangata whenua, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and others to utilise expertise and shared interests to: a) conserve and protect historic places and wāhi tapu on public conservation lands and waters; b) tell the stories of some historic places and wāhi tapu on public conservation lands and waters; and c) integrate and enhance visitor experience.
 - 3.2.2.7 Work with local authorities through their district and regional plan review processes, to ensure identification and protection of historic heritage.
- Recreation Policies
 - 6.3.4.1 Improve public access to public conservation lands and waters, by working with the New Zealand Walking Access Commission and private accommodation.
 - 6.3.4.2 Ensure trout fishery, wetland and game bird hunting values are maintained, by working with Fish & Game New Zealand.
 - 6.3.4.3 Minimise the adverse effects of water abstraction on recreational use of the rivers flowing through this Place, by working with Horizons Regional Council.
 - 6.3.4.4 Develop a programme with local tourism agencies, local authorities and community groups to promote recreation opportunities close to State Highway 1.

Federated Farmers. Federated Farmers have provided feedback in relation to several indicators. Their comments (not all of which area relevant to this report) are copied into Appendix 2. Key points include:

- concerns were raised about the inability of the Plan to enable farms to cut off sections of unproductive land that were under size.
- concerns that the Council seemed to be propping up developers while not equally supporting rural businesses
- the need for the DP to ensure that farming businesses are still able to continue to operate viably. Noise rules need to be permissive to farming activities

- *concerns regarding the management of urban storm water and urban wastewater and ensuring that urban and rural were being treated equally*
- *concerns about the Ratana scheme development and the need for existing farmers to be able to continue to operate their businesses*
- *Rules regarding combination of soil types*
- *Dwelling density. Rural businesses often have multiple dwellings on lots to provide accommodation to staff also.*
- *Dwelling proximity – also of interest to members. Important for consistency/transparency*

5. THE DISTRICT PLAN AND PLAN CHANGES

5.1. The Operative District Plan

The current District Plan was made operative in November 2013. It has a ‘comparatively light’ regulatory touch and a particular focus that:

- a. recognises that terrestrial indigenous biodiversity will be managed primarily by the Regional Councils;*
- b. provides control of land use to avoid or mitigate natural hazards;*
- c. provides for renewable energy generation in appropriate locations;*
- d. protects the productive capacity of versatile soils; and*
- e. protects outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONFL) from inappropriate development, subdivision, and use.*

- 5.2. Current and Proposed Plan Changes – the Council is in the early stages of considering a Plan Change to rezone land on the outskirts of Marton from Rural to Industrial. The plan change involves changing rural zoned land to industrial land (approximately 140ha) south-east of Marton, see red area below. The primary address is at 1165 State Highway 1.

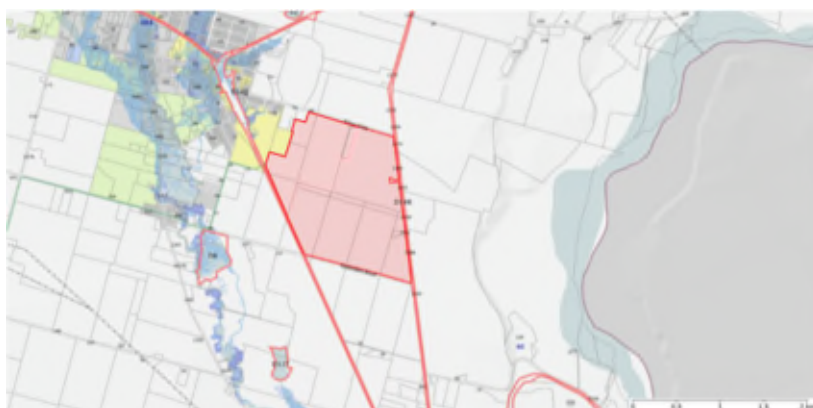


Figure 1: Proposed Plan Change.

- 5.3. District Plan Review. At this stage it is likely that the Council will commence a District Plan review in 2021/2022. No details are available at present.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

The District Plan forms one of a suite of Council documents used for the governance and management of the District. It is beyond the scope of this report to summarise those documents but they are influential in varying degrees to any actions arising from this report and regard should be had to them at the appropriate time.

They include:

- The Long Term Plan
- The Annual Plan
- Relevant Policies and Bylaws
- Asset Management Plans
- Parks and Reserves Management Plans
- The Heritage Strategy 2016
- The Urban Tree Plan 2017
- Financial and Development Contributions Policies

7. 2005 AND 2015 SOE REPORT

In 2005 the Council undertook a review of its Plan efficiency and effectiveness. The report covered a range of topics including then recent amendments to the RMA.

It included thirteen recommendations relating to:

- The need for policies and rules for large scale subdivisions
- The need for urban expansion land.
- Working with Horizons for more certainty around natural hazards
- Working with Horizons and land owners for the protection of natural features and landscapes.
- A built heritage strategy
- Heritage trees
- Hazardous substances
- Cultural heritage
- Financial contributions
- On site water systems
- Use of surface water.

It is beyond the scope of this report to examine whether these recommendations were given effect to but the subsequent review of the District Plan would have given them the appropriate level of consideration and they are not considered any further in this report.

A further report was submitted to the Policy/Planning Committee's meeting on 13 August 2015.

8. NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

The District Council is required under Section 45A of the RMA to consider matters set out in a National Policy Statement

Section 45(a)(1) requires that “A national policy statement must state objectives and policies for matters of national significance that are relevant to achieving the purpose of this Act.”

The following National Policy Statements are in place.

- National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation
- National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement [Department of Conservation website]
- Work has also been done on a proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

In addition, the RMA provides for National Environmental Standards to be set out. These are described on the Ministry for Environments Website as follows:

National environmental standards (NES) are regulations that prescribe standards for environmental matters. The government sets standards where appropriate to ensure a consistent standard for an activity or resource use.

The following National environmental standards are in force as regulations:

- National Environmental Standards for Air Quality
- National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water
- National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities
- National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities
- National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health
- National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry

The following standards are at various stages of development, ranging from initiating consultation to being legally drafted.

- Proposed National Environmental Standard on Ecological Flows and Water Levels
- Proposed National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture
- Proposed National Environmental Standard for the Outdoor Storage of Tyres

The MfE Website also notes that:

The previously proposed National Environmental Standard for Measurement of Water Takes is now regulations under section 360(1)(d) of the RMA. See the Resource Management Act 1991 webpage.

And:

The proposed National Environmental Standard for On-site wastewater systems has been withdrawn.

These matters will need to be considered both in any forthcoming review of the District Plan as well as in the processing of any applications under RMA. A review of their relevance to this report is not within the scope of the brief and they are mentioned here only for completeness.

9. REPORTING PROCEDURE

Each of the indicators identified for this review has been assessed in terms of the following Framework.

- Relevant Objectives, Policies and Rules
- Consultation feedback
- Available data
- Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Recommendations

Available data for this report has been relatively limited and it relies to a large extent on the data that can be taken from the Councils MagiQ database and/or that which was provided to the Ministry for the Environment for the National Monitoring Surveys of 2014/15 and 2016/17.

Anecdotal information from staff has also been incorporated where available.

10. KEY INDICATORS

10.1. Subdivision.

The key concerns relating to subdivision include:

- a. The Rural Living Zone. This zone has not achieved the outcomes sought particularly in relation to Objective 9 of the District Plan which seeks to provide Rural Lifestyle Living in specified areas around existing settlements.
- b. The ongoing pressure for rural subdivisions that do not meet minimum lot sizes. Related to this are concerns that the approval of these applications (whist considered on their individual merits) is collectively undermining the Objectives and Policies of the District Plan particularly in areas of Class 1 and 2 soils. There is also the absence of rules related to such applications being 'controlled' or 'non-complying' activities.
- c. The absence of any rules in the Rural zone that relate to sites that contain a combination of versatile and non-versatile soils.

The Rural Living Zone;

This zone has not achieved the outcomes sought particularly in relation to Objective 9 of the District Plan which seeks to provide Rural Lifestyle Living in specified areas around existing settlements.

Relevant Objectives, Policies and Rules

Objectives and Policies for the Rural Living zone are set out in Section A2 of the District Plan.

OBJECTIVE 9

Rural lifestyle living is provided for in specified areas.

Policies

A2-2.1 Establish two zones called the Rural Living Zone and the Rural Zone.

A2-2.2 Provide a Rural Living Zone around the settlements of Marton, Bulls, Taihape and Hunterville that:

- a) enables rural residential scale allotments;
- b) requires a minimum lot size to minimize the loss of versatile soils;
- c) enables a range of rural and residential activities; and
- d) preserves aspects of rural amenity while providing a transition to the urban environment.

The Rural Living Zones around the above areas are located on the edges of the residential zones within each settlement such as is illustrated below for Marton.

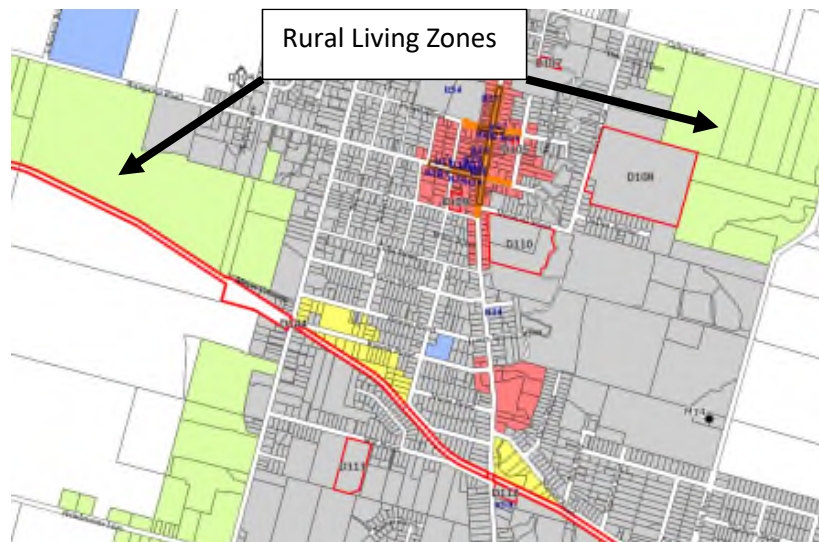


Figure 2: Rural Living Zone - Marton

Rules for the Rural Living zone are set out in Chapter B6 of the District Plan. They allow for up to two dwellings per site over 5,000m² or one dwelling per site for sites under 5,000m².

Chapter B11 of the District Plan provides for subdivisions within the Rural Living zone. It allows for a minimum lot size in the zone of two hectares as restricted discretionary activity. A Restricted Discretionary activity allows for the Council to approve or decline such subdivisions but that it may only decline such applications on those matters over which it has reserved discretion. Such grounds include a wide range of matters including:

- The design of the lots.
- Access and services
- Effects on the natural environment
- Avoidance of hazards
- Reverse sensitivity

The constraint around the minimum lot size may in some cases be related to the Regional Council One Plan provisions for on site waste disposal. Those rules require a minimum lot size of 5,000m² for on site waste disposal systems.

Consultation feedback

The comments from Federated Farmers refer to the loss of productive land to subdivision and reverse sensitivity with noise rules being specifically mentioned.

Data

The Council's database does not allow for specific details to be extracted on the number of subdivision applications that have been lodged within the Rural Living zone but it is apparent from discussions with staff that there have not been many since its introduction. Whilst there will have been subdivisions within the zone it does not appear to have been a consequence of persons taking advantage of the zoning.

The areas zoned as Rural Living do not necessarily coincide with non highly versatile soil areas.

- Marton - mainly Class 2 soils.
- Bulls - mainly Class 2
- Taihape - mainly Class 6 with one area of Class 2 soils on Rauma Road
- Hunterville - Class 6 and 7

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

The distinction between the Rural zone and Rural Living zone in the District Plan is intended to promote lifestyle living options around urban settlements in the District whilst safeguarding the productive capability of the rural zone. The latter is a cornerstone of the District Plan and is a recurrent theme of discussion for that zone.

The tension between the protection of the primary productive capability of the District and developmental pressures both within the Rural zone and other zones is contentious and will remain for the foreseeable future. It will require careful management principally by way of the tools that the District Plan provides.

Whilst the Rural Living zone provides one mechanism to manage that tension it does not appear, on available evidence, that it has relieved tension on subdivision pressures within the wider rural zone or that it has been attractive to developers wanting to promote lifestyle options in the District.

A review of rural subdivision consents granted over the past few years does not show any concentration of subdivisions within the Rural Living zone. It appears more likely that the pattern of rural subdivision is driven by the individual needs of property owners in the Rural zone. Furthermore, I have not seen any evidence of subdivisions intended to promote lifestyle opportunities in the District (the one exception being the Rows Road subdivision which is not located within a Rural Living zone).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the rules relating to the Rural Living zone be reconsidered in the next District Plan review. Consideration should be given to amending the status of the subdivision of this land so as to provide for controlled activity subdivision where appropriate. That need not remove the option to retain discretion over those areas with limited infrastructure, subject to hazards or similar concerns that require that level of discretion.

One mechanism by which subdivision in this zone may be encouraged would be to facilitate subdivisions of less than 5,000m² (say 2,500m²) where reticulated wastewater services are available, or can be made available.

The ongoing pressure for rural subdivisions

This involves;

- Subdivisions that do not meet minimum lot sizes. Related to this are concerns that the approval of these applications (whist considered on their individual merits) is collectively undermining the Objectives and Policies of the District Plan particularly in areas of Class 1 and 2 soils.
- The absence of rules related to such applications being 'controlled' or 'non-complying' activities.

A related matter is the absence of any subdivision rules covering properties that contain a blend of highly versatile and non highly versatile soils.

Relevant Objectives, Policies and Rules

The protection of the rural zone (and particularly the areas of highly versatile soils) from ongoing subdivision is a cornerstone of the District Plan and there are numerous Objectives and Policies of relevance. These are found in Section A1 of the District Plan as follows:

OBJECTIVE 6

Maintain the largely primary production qualities of the Rural Zone and manage land use so that character and amenity values are not compromised.

OBJECTIVE 7A

Ensure that activities dissociated from primary production or meeting the needs of rural communities are minimised, and, where those activities do occur, manage them to avoid or mitigate potential conflicts with primary production activities.

Policies

A2-1.1 *Enable primary production* with limited controls.*

A2-1.4 *Preserve the largely open space* and unbuilt nature of the rural environment, and maintain the distinctive cultural landscapes associated with the predominance of primary production*.*

A2-1.6 *Avoid the fragmentation of rural land for residential development*.*

OBJECTIVE 8

Sustainable management of the versatile soils of the District to ensure their ongoing productive capability.

Policies

A2-2.3 *Provide a Rural Zone for most of the District that:*

- a) maintains the predominant primary production nature of the District;*
- b) avoids residential and rural residential development dissociated from primary production;*
- c) maintains the open space and protects outstanding natural features and landscapes that are distinctive of the District.*

In addition to the above Section A6 of the District Plan covers Special Assessment Policies and includes the following in relation to rural subdivision.

A6-1.5 *Subdivision into allotments of less than 10 hectares should be avoided, where versatile soils exist as defined in the NZLR LUC as being Class 1 and 2 land, to prevent residential development on the most versatile soils in the District and to maintain the primary production use and character of this land. The minimum lot size will be the principle mechanism for protecting these versatile soils and ensuring that the productive capacity of these soils is preserved for future generations.*

A6-1.6 *Where land proposed to be subdivided does not contain class 1 and class 2 land, only limited subdivision is provided for.*

Rules for the rural zone are set out in Chapter B7 of the District Plan and rules for the subdivision of that land are in Chapter B11. Relevant features of these rules are:

- Existing and new primary production activities are permitted activities (except in outstanding natural features and landscapes).
- All rural subdivision is a restricted discretionary activity (except in outstanding natural features and landscapes) subject to compliance with restricted discretionary activity standards. These include the following minimum lot sizes:

b) 10 hectares for lots containing only versatile soils defined in the NZLR LUC as being Class 1 and 2 land.

c) For lots not containing Class 1 or 2 land:

- (i) For existing titles of 10 hectares or less, no additional titles can be created, but boundary alterations between existing titles can occur;*
- (ii) For existing titles of more than 10 hectares, but less than 20 hectares, one additional title of 2 hectares can be created.*
- (iii) For existing titles of more than 20 hectares, two additional titles of 2 hectares can be created.*

There is no rule for the subdivision of lots containing a blend of both highly versatile and other soils.

It is also worth noting that Rule B1.1-6 of the District Plan precludes the public notification of restricted discretionary subdivisions.

Consultation feedback

Not surprisingly rural subdivision was a key aspect of the feedback from Federated Farmers although not necessarily all against rural subdivision. Comments included:

- *the inability of the Plan to enable farms to cut off sections of unproductive land that were under size.*
- *concerns that the Council seemed to be propping up developers while not equally supporting rural businesses.*
- *concerns about the Ratana scheme development in particular and the need for existing farmers to be able to continue to operate their businesses (one member in particular concerned they would have their land/livelihood taken from them).*

General Comment: Rules regarding combination of soil types – this will be of interest to members. Federated Farmers generally takes a stand that the District Plan should be less

burdensome and therefore less rules are better, but protection of class 1 and 2 soils is of concern also. Perhaps thought could be given to rules that are not hinged on soil type but instead give Council discretion to take soil type into consideration when making decisions to provide consent or otherwise. E.g. a tool rather than a rule, perhaps via a footnote?

Data

Since January 2014 the District Council has processed 352 resource consent applications of which 155 (44%) have been for subdivisions (including boundary adjustments and applications not creating any additional lots).

Of the granted subdivisions about 60 have been in the rural zone and have created about 140 new lots in the Rural zone. Typically consents have been for between one and three additional lots and the applications have been spread across the whole district.

Without individually going to each subdivision file it is not possible to comment on the percentage of applications proposed over highly versatile soils. I have however processed a number of these applications and have spoken with staff who have also been involved in such applications. It is not uncommon to have applications that:

- Involve sites with a blend of soil classifications including both highly versatile Class 1 and 2 soils and others. Such applications can involve subdividing that portion of the site that does not contain highly versatile soils.
- Involve proposed lots of less than the minimum size specified for a restricted discretionary activity.
- Involve subdividing land for family members to live on or for estate planning.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

The following features of the Rural subdivision are of note (note, a number of these matters overlap and they should not be considered in isolation).

- a) Notwithstanding the clear policy direction to protect highly versatile soils the subdivision of land not complying with the restricted discretionary standard for minimum lots sizes defaults to a discretionary activity. That is, there are no rules for non complying rural subdivisions.

Comment: Given the high degree of policy protection afforded to highly versatile soils in the District Plan the Council should consider a higher level of protection under the corresponding rules. Defaulting these subdivisions to a 'non complying' activity (as opposed to a 'discretionary' activity) would require the Council to consider the provisions of Section 104D of the RMA in making a decision on an application. That section provides, in summary, that such an application may only be granted if the Council is satisfied that

- The adverse effects on the environment will be minor; or,
- The subdivision will not be contrary to the objectives and policies of the District Plan.

This does not preclude the approval of such applications but does require a higher standard of compliance both in the applications and the decision-making process.

- b) There is no rule directed at properties that contain a mix of highly versatile soils (Class 1 and 2 soils) and other Classes of soils.

Comment. Rule B11.6-3, relating to rural subdivisions, sets out rules for lots 'containing only versatile soils' and for lots 'not containing Class 1 or 2 land' (being highly versatile soils). There is no rule for lots containing a blend of these soils.

Notwithstanding the rules it is not uncommon for application sites to contain a blend of both highly versatile soils and other soils. The absence of a rule to manage these applications is problematic and creates uncertainty for both applicants and decision makers. On such 'blended' sites a common scenario is for a new lot being subdivided off to be on the non versatile soils portion of the site which facilitates a pragmatic decision but there are examples of undersized sites being applied for on highly versatile soils, typically for an existing dwelling to be located on its own lot (such as for retiring farmers).

The introduction of specific objectives, policies and rules to manage subdivisions proposed on lots with a combination of soil types is recommended. This might allow for distinctions be made based on soil classification areas rather than legal boundaries.

- c) There is a policy disconnect in the District Plan in that Objective 7A and Policies A2-2.3 and A6-1.5 (see above) seek to minimise or avoid residential development in the rural zone where they are not directly associated with primary production. On the other hand, the subdivision rules in Section 11 of the District Plan allow subdivisions down to 10ha or even 2ha. Such subdivisions will generally permit residential development as of right, possibly frustrating the objective and policy intent of the District Plan.

Comment. The Rural Zone provisions of the District Plan permit residential activities as of right subject to compliance with the specified standards. One of those standards (B7.5-1) allows for up to two dwellings per site. Consequently, every subdivision approved, whether on highly versatile soils or not, creates a right for two additional dwellings on that site notwithstanding the relevant objectives and policies.

The objectives and policies are aimed at the protection of both rural amenity and highly versatile soils. Whilst residential development on the latter would clearly compromise the soil resource it is less clear that such development will compromise rural amenity. Some subdivisions will be located well out of the public eye, will generate minimal traffic or noise and will not necessarily adversely affect rural amenity. It is suggested that the objectives and policies should make provision for that distinction.

- d) There are no controlled activity subdivisions in the Rural zone (although that applies to all zones).

Comment. There are applications where the Council may want to ease the regulatory process for the subdivision. Typically, these might involve minor boundary adjustments or the subdivision of large properties in excess of the minimum lot sizes. The introduction of a controlled activity status would facilitate both the preparation and processing of those applications. It is recommended that consideration be given to defining controlled activity subdivisions in the rural zone.

Recommendations

A comparison of the Objectives and Policies of the District Plan with the Rules, using the consents history of rural subdivisions, shows the need for a more sophisticated set of rules that both protect the highly versatile soils whilst providing for a more pragmatic approach to those areas that are not made up of highly versatile soils.

It is suggested that the rules do not adequately reflect the intent of the Objectives and Policies or the need for more flexibility in rural zone subdivisions.

It is recommended that the Objectives and Policies need to be reviewed in order to provide scope for a wider range of subdivisions in the Rural zone where no Class 1 or 2 soils are involved.

Similarly, the rules need to be reviewed to;

- incorporate provision for those sites with a mix of highly versatile and other soil types,
- provide for the consideration of portions of a site that are not highly versatile soils
- introduce rules for both controlled and non complying rural subdivisions.
 - In the case of controlled activity subdivisions this might related to subdivision of land or boundary adjustments where lots of over say 20ha are being created
 - In the case of a non-complying activity this might extend to any subdivision of highly versatile soils in part or in full.

10.2. Dwelling density in the Rural zone.

The District Plan Rural zone allows as of right a maximum of two dwellings per lot regardless of lot size. Consideration should be given to a rule that relates dwelling density to lot size.

Relevant Objectives and Policies

There is no specific Objective or Policy from which the rural dwelling density rule is derived although there are policies which related to the preservation of the character and amenity of that zone. These are:

OBJECTIVE 6

Maintain the largely primary production qualities of the Rural Zone and manage land use so that character and amenity values are not compromised.

OBJECTIVE 7A

Ensure that activities dissociated from primary production or meeting the needs of rural communities are minimised, and, where those activities do occur, manage them to avoid or mitigate potential conflicts with primary production activities.

Policy A2-1.4 *Preserve the largely open space and unbuilt nature of the rural environment, and maintain the distinctive cultural landscapes associated with the predominance of primary production.*

Policy A2-1.6 *Avoid the fragmentation of rural land for residential development.*

Whilst the policies are inherently sound the rule does lead to resource consent requirement for additional dwellings over two even if associated with primary production activities. Examples of this would be where additional permanent or seasonal accommodation is needed for staff or, where additional dwellings are being proposed for family members (typically older family members wanting to retire on their farms).

The rule may also be an impediment to the development of Papakainga Housing which is otherwise a permitted activity in the Rural zone.

Consultation feedback

The indicator was mentioned in the feedback received from Federated Farmers as a matter of interest noting the need to be able to provide for staff on site.

Data

There is little data available in this regard although anecdotal information is available from discussions with staff. Further work may be required in this regard.

A good example of this situation is Resource Consent RM 150025. This was an application for a fifth dwelling on a farm of 275ha. The proposal was for a four-bedroom brick house to be located over 400 metres from the existing dwellings. The decision report notes that the approval of the application would support the primary production activities on the site as it was to be used for a farm manager. The application was granted.

It is not clear from the report whether the building was to be located on an area of versatile soils or not.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

It is believed that the policy direction in relation to this indicator is sound and need not be modified.

There are however several factors that suggest that an additional degree of latitude in the framing of the rule is appropriate. The rule as it stands reads;

B7.4 Maximum number of dwellings per site

B7.4-1 The number of dwellings must not exceed a maximum of two dwellings per site.

The rule takes no account of whether third and additional dwellings:

- Are required for primary production purposes (e.g. staff/shearers accommodation).
- Are located on non-productive areas of a site
- Are intended for Papakainga Housing
- Are consistent with the character and amenity values of the zone. This may relate to the visibility of the building from roads and public areas, its design and access from within the site or not.
- Have any regard for the size of the parent property.

There is something of a conundrum for the Council here in that the approval of additional dwellings is sometimes taken as tacit support for subsequent subdivisions around those dwellings in due course. This is not a unique problem and any review of the rule should incorporate consideration of the ways that this has been addressed in other District Plans.

Similarly, any review of the rule should be undertaken in conjunction with the review of the rural subdivision rules of the District Plan.

This may not be an issue for larger properties that can meet the rules for a restricted discretionary activity.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Rule B7.4 of the District Plan be reviewed and developed to permit third and subsequent dwellings on rural properties in defined circumstances.

10.3. Dwelling proximity.

Rural zone rule B7.6 specifies that new dwellings in the Rural zone must not be located closer than 100m from any existing dwelling in that zone. The rule does not distinguish between dwellings on the same lot or on adjacent lots.

Relevant Objectives and Policies

There are no Objectives or Policies with which the rule is directly associated although there are more generic Objectives and Policies of relevance including:

OBJECTIVE 6

Maintain the largely primary production qualities of the Rural Zone and manage land use so that character and amenity values are not compromised.

OBJECTIVE 7A

Ensure that activities dissociated from primary production or meeting the needs of rural communities are minimised, and, where those activities do occur, manage them to avoid or mitigate potential conflicts with primary production activities.

Policy A2-1.4 *Preserve the largely open space and unbuilt nature of the rural environment, and maintain the distinctive cultural landscapes associated with the predominance of primary production.*

Consultation feedback

The feedback from Federated Farmers raised this aspect noting that it is important for transparency and consistency.

Data

There are several applications on record in relation to this indicator. They fall into one of two categories:

- Dwellings on the same property.
- Dwellings on adjoining lots.

Examples of resource consents granted for non-compliance with this rule include: RM 140035, 140046, 170004, 170055, 180011, 180025 and 180060.

In the case of dwellings on adjoining lots one of the best examples is the already consented subdivision on Rows Road on the north bank of the Rangitikei River. Typically, these lots are less than 100m wide and consequently it is impossible (or at least impracticable) if the

adjoining property is developed to build a first dwelling on a lot without having to obtain a resource consent due to the proximity of existing dwellings on adjoining lots (refer aerial photo below).



Figure 3. Rowes Road Subdivision.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

The relevant rule in the Rural zone currently reads;

B7.6 Dwelling Separation

B7.6-1 New dwellings must not be located closer than 100 metres from any existing dwelling in the Rural Zone.

In relation to dwellings on the same lot it is suggested that there is merit in a relaxation of this rule to allow dwellings on a single property to be located in the most practicable way to facilitate farming operations. The necessity for the operators to have to obtain a resource consent for this is no doubt frustrating and, given that these applications are often granted without conditions, serves little purpose. Typically, these applications are for restricted discretionary activities and a review of a sample of such consents shows that the Council rarely exercises its discretion to impose any conditions by way of mitigation of adverse effects.

It is understood that the rule is not only related to matters of amenity but also to the need for an appropriate separation of on site waste water facilities and due regard will need to be given to the ability to separate these facilities.

In relation to dwellings on separate (usually adjoining lots) the rule is considered to be practicable and gives effect to the relevant Objectives and Policies. Whilst it may have a level of inconvenience in certain situations (such as the Rowes Road subdivision) this is outweighed by wider protection of rural amenity and character that it serves to provide and the possibility for potentially affected third parties to be involved in the decision-making process.

Where subdivisions take place that do not facilitate the logical separation of dwellings to comply with this rule it is appropriate that the Council should be able to exercise its discretion on that matter. The matters over which the Council reserves its discretion for restricted discretionary subdivisions in the Rural zone are set out in Section B11.1-2 of the District Plan. These matters do not directly refer to dwelling separation distances although it is implied in several matters. It may be worth considering a more explicit reference to this matter. As an alternative, consideration should be given to placing consent notices on new subdivisions alerting future owners to the rule.

Recommendation

It is recommended that consideration be given to;

- The amendment of Rule B7.6 in the District Plan to refer to separation between dwellings not on the same lot.
- The amendment of Section B11.1-2 of the District Plan to include dwelling separation distances between dwellings on separate lots as a matter over which the Council reserves its discretion.

10.4. The Residential zone.

Are the rules suitable to achieve the appropriate levels of urban design?

In particular;

- a. Is 400m² the appropriate minimum size?
- b. Should there be more focus on visual assessments for non-compliance with the rules?
- c. Should there be 'tighter' rules around the building envelopes?

Relevant Objectives and Policies and Rules

OBJECTIVE 2

Enable a variety of housing that reflects the aspirations and identity of people and communities while achieving good urban amenity and design. This includes the efficient use of existing infrastructure, and integration of pedestrian, cycling and vehicle transportation networks.

Policy A1-2.4 *Control the height and location of buildings in the Residential Zone to maintain amenity.*

Policy A1-2.5 *Enable a range of housing densities.*

Policy A6-1.2 *Infill subdivision in the Residential Zone that meets the standards for restricted discretionary activities will generally be granted consent subject only to conditions where the allotment*:*

- a) is to be connected to reticulated essential services;*
- b) allows for each dwelling* to be isolated from services for maintenance and repair;*
- c) can accommodate residential development* in accordance with the requirements of the District Plan;*
- d) can provide connection to the roading network that is safe and efficient; and*
- e) is capable of being adequately serviced with electricity.*

Policy A6-1.3 *Greenfield* subdivision^ in the Residential Zone should be designed in a manner that ensures:*

a) that the size and shape and arrangement of lots meets the standards for restricted discretionary activities and generally provides for good pedestrian and vehicular access, and sunlight;

b) the development is fully serviced and connected to the Council's reticulated essential services, and is connected in a manner that allows for the services to be isolated for maintenance and repair;*

c) that connection to the roading network is safe and efficient in a manner that provides for sufficient network connectivity;

d) that development is designed, located and managed in such a way as to avoid, remedy or mitigate conflicts with existing network utilities;

e) that development in proximity to an electricity transmission corridor ensures the safe and efficient use and development of the electricity transmission network and the safety and amenity values of the subdivision; and f) that all sites created by subdivision demonstrate that they are capable of being adequately serviced with electricity.

Policy A6-1.4 *While residential density requirements in the District Plan express a minimum lot size which is known to be sufficient to provide for residential amenity^, **smaller lot sizes may be allowed where it can be shown by an accompanying application for the construction of a dwelling(s)* that the higher density makes sufficient provision for the amenity^ of future residents and adjoining neighbours.**(emphasis added).*

The introduction to Section A6 of the Objectives and Policies notes that there is not a significant demand for subdivision and consequently a degree of flexibility in the urban zones is provided for it.

The rules have a close correlation with the Objectives and Policies although there is no specific reference to the requirement in Policy A6-1.4 above relating to the provision of plans for dwellings on lots proposed below minimum lot size.

Consultation feedback

There was no feedback received on this indicator.

Data

In the period between 2016 and 2019 there were a total of 28 residential subdivision applications lodged (excluding boundary adjustments) proposing a total of 103 new residential lots. Most of these applications were in Marton and Bulls as might be expected.

- Of the 28 applications;
 - 15 were for 2 lot subdivisions,
 - 6 were for 3 lot subdivisions,
 - 2 were for 4 lot subdivisions,

- 3 were for between 6 and 8 lots and;
- 2 were for 13 lots.
- Only 2 applications proposed lots of less than 400m². These proposed a total of 3 lots of between 348 and 368m².
- Three applications included lots of less than the minimum width of 15m.
- Five applications involved lots of 400m² or just over that area.
- Seventeen applications involved lots of over 500m².

Most of the subdivision (19) applications were processed as restricted discretionary activities. That is, they complied with the rules for the proposed activity (noting that the District Plan does not provide for controlled activity subdivisions). The remaining applications were for discretionary activities as a consequence of non-compliance with residential rules including;

- Boundary setbacks (in respect of both existing and proposed buildings)
- Boundary setbacks required for habitable rooms
- Coverage
- Outdoor living space rules.

Several applications included floor plans for proposed dwellings to show the levels of amenity proposed.

In addition to the above there was a landuse consent application (RM190014) to develop dwellings on previously approved undersize lots of between 241 and 277m². The application, which included proposed plans for the dwellings, included similar non compliances to the above discretionary activity subdivisions and was approved.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

The policy and objectives provide a clear framework that is generally permissive for both infill and greenfield subdivisions. They also have specific reference to lots proposed of less than 400m² in terms of the protection of the amenity on and around those sites.

Where infill subdivisions applications are received they are for the most part compliant with the associated rules. Where they are not it is, in most cases, associated with non-compliance with the residential rules (eg. setbacks) rather than the minimum lot size. In the cases where there is non-compliance with the minimum lot size there is almost invariably associated non-compliance with one or more of the residential rules.

The range of residential rules is comprehensive and typical of what might be found in a District Plan for the area it covers. It is not recommended that they need to be 'tightened up'. Conversely, it is not clear why the Plan does not include provision for complying urban subdivisions to be considered as controlled activities and it is recommended that consideration be given to that. The introduction of such a rule would encourage complying subdivisions and reduce compliance requirements.

In cases where there is non-compliance with the minimum lots size rule the District Plan attempts to manage it through the policy requirement for floor plans to be provided at the time of subdivision. That requirement is not however translated into a specific rule although such applications have typically included such plans in varying degrees of detail. Such applications are however, for discretionary activities and consequently the Council may exercise its full discretion in such cases. It is recommended that a site plan, floor plan and elevations should specifically be required in such instances as a rule.

The matters of discretion under Rule B11.1-1 whilst not referring to building floor plans directly are comprehensive and enable consideration of a wide range of potential effects including;

- d) *the suitability of lots for the construction of buildings* for permitted activities within the zone, or other non-permitted activities where there is an accompanying land use application;*
- m) *reverse sensitivity effects, including minimum setback distances for any subsequent residential activity* in the Rural Zone;*
- p) *the extent to which the subdivision^ achieves good design outcomes, having regard to the intended end use of the allotment*;*
- r) *The size, shape, location and arrangements of lots, cross lease areas, company lease areas, units and access to avoid reverse sensitivity effects;*

These matters do not directly extend to visual effects although there is clear potential for such effects. It is recommended that potential adverse visual effects should be considered for inclusion in the matters over which the council can exercise its discretion.

In those cases where plans have been provided it is not clear in the decisions that there is any obligation to construct in accordance with those plans (such as consent notice). It is possible that the 'general accordance' condition that accompanies the decisions may have some use in this regard but that needs confirmation.

There are several instances of resource consents triggering non-compliance with the setback rule even though the proposal is for a semi-detached pair of dwellings straddling a boundary. It is suggested that an exception for such instances be considered.

Finally, it would appear that there is an error in Rule B11.10-3 where it refers to Rule 11.8-1. It would appear that it should refer to Rule 11.9-1.

Recommendations

It is considered that the residential Objectives, Policies and Rules are well constructed and serve the purpose and context of the District Plan. The minimum lot size appears to be appropriate judging by the relative absence of applications for smaller lots. Such applications default to a discretionary activity (rather than non-complying) and consequently they can be considered on their merits.

It is recommended that consideration be given to;

1. Applications for subdivisions of residential lots to less than 400m² be accompanied by a site plan showing the dwelling footprint, an overall floor plan and elevations.
2. The introduction of a controlled activity rule for subdivisions complying with the rules of Chapter B1 (general Rules and Standards), B2 (Residential Zone), B8 (Natural Hazards), B9 (Transport) and B11 (Subdivision and Development).
3. The introduction of 'visual effects' as a matter of discretion for restricted discretionary subdivisions.
4. The introduction of an exception from the boundary setback requirement for semi-detached dwellings constructed across a common boundary.
5. Confirmation as to whether the rule reference under Rule B11.10-3 is correct.

10.5. Natural Hazards

- a. Is there a need to review the wording of the rules?
- b. Taihape West Slip zone.

Relevant Objectives and Policies

Natural hazards are referred to under Objective 17 and the associated policies as follows;

OBJECTIVE 17 *The adverse effects of natural hazards^ on people, property, infrastructure and the wellbeing of communities are avoided or mitigated.*

Policy A4-1.1 *Significant natural hazards^ will, where there is a known high probability or high potential impact from an event's predicted effects, be identified on planning maps as Natural Hazard Area 1* or Natural Hazard Area 2*.*

Policy A4-1.2 *Avoid subdivision^, new structures^, activities, or an increase in the floor area of existing structures^ or activities in Natural Hazard Area 1* unless the resulting risk, including residual risk, to people, property, infrastructure and the wellbeing of communities is no more than minor, and is achieved through: a) Specifically designed avoidance or mitigation measures; or b) The character or scale of the subdivision^, structure^ or activity.*

Policy A4-1.3 *Allow subdivision^, the establishment of new structures^ or activities, or an increase in the scale of any existing structures^ or activities in areas that are shown on the Planning Maps as being within Natural Hazard Area 2*, provided any natural hazard^ is avoided or mitigated.*

Policy A4-1.4 *Avoid where practicable the siting of Critical Infrastructure* and services within areas of significant risk from natural hazard^ events.*

Policy A4-1.5 *Manage the effects of natural hazards^ caused by long-term shifts in climate and changes in sea-level by setting minimum floor levels*, designing flood avoidance or mitigation measures, and through the design and construction of network utilities*.*

Policy A4-1.6 *Avoid structures^ and activities that are likely to reduce the effectiveness of existing works, structures^, natural landforms or other measures which serve to mitigate the effects of natural hazard^ events.*

Policy A4-1.7 *Manage the use, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances* in areas subject to natural hazards^ to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects caused by hazardous substances* during natural hazard^ events.*

Policy A4-1.8 *Avoid new habitable buildings or a significant increase in the floor area of existing habitable buildings in the Taihape West Slip Zone.*

Rules in relation to these matters are set out in Chapter B8 of the District Plan.

Consultation feedback

Horizons Regional Council has noted the need for more reliable data on indicative flood mapping particularly in Bulls and Marton given the levels of development now being experienced. Horizons intend to undertake a vulnerability assessment of this but not in the near future.

Also mentioned by Horizons Regional Council was the necessity to look at unmodelled areas of flooding.

Data

Refer to the assessment below.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

Whilst the objective and policy framework is clear its interpretation leads to some uncertainty regarding the rules, definitions and District Plan maps. This relates to;

1. The rules in Chapter B8 are headed by two notes. The first refers to additional information available at both the regional and district council levels which, it notes, does not form part of the District Plan. Plan users are referred to that information although it is not clear what status that information should have in terms of any consenting process. It is also not clear what this information is or where it is held.

The second note clarifies that the definitions for natural hazard areas 1 and 2 (flooding) as contained in the definitions of the District Plan override the information on the planning maps. The definitions refer to areas that would be flooded in a 1:200-year flood. They give no assistance as to how to define those areas (which may be the additional information in the above paragraph) and consequently users will tend to default back to the maps notwithstanding the priority of the definitions.

2. The District Plan maps refer to both a 'modelled flood zone' and an 'Indicative flood zone'. It is not clear which of these is covered by the rules or if is both (noting that the definition takes precedence but does not geographically define these areas). This is further complicated by the information available on the Councils public GIS the index of which is shown below. It appears to also show both modelled and indicative flood areas.

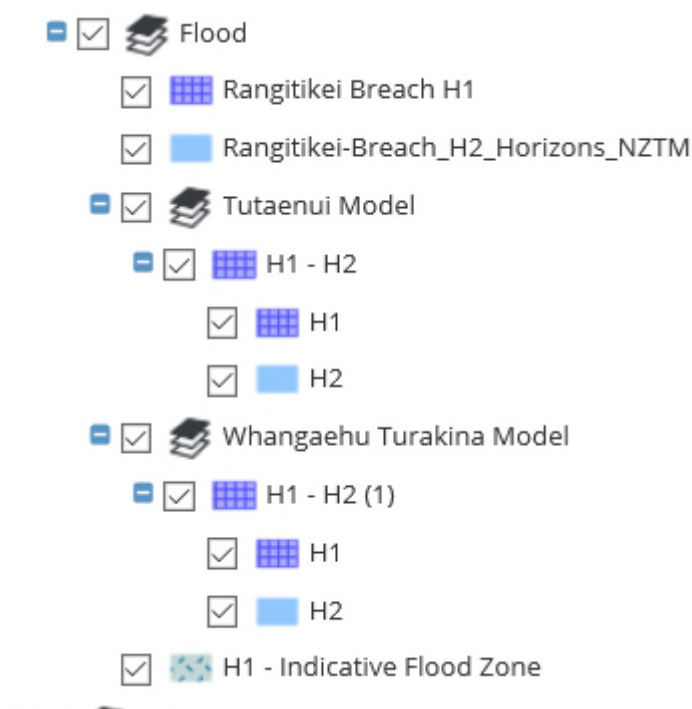


Figure 4; Extract of Public Online GIS Index for flooding.



Fig 5; Extract of Public GIS map of flood areas.

3. In relation to the Taihape West Slip Zone, the rules cover both habitable and non habitable buildings of both under and over 40m² as permitted, restricted discretionary or discretionary activities as applicable. The rules for non habitable building of less than or more than 40m² provide for one extension as of the date of the District Plan. That limitation does not apply to additions to habitable buildings not exceeding 40m² these being a permitted activity. As the rule is written it appears that successive such additions may be constructed as of right.
4. It is also noted (although this may be deliberate) that whilst the extension of a habitable building of less than 40m² is permitted a larger extension defaults to a fully discretionary activity rather than a restricted discretionary activity.

The construction of rules around natural hazards is always a complicated task given the many unknowns and variables involved. Creating certainty should therefore be a key consideration and it is recommended that the adoption of a procedure manual in respect of this chapter of the District Plan should be considered for that purpose.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in relation to natural hazard (flooding) consideration be given to the adoption of a public procedures manual that can be used to;

1. Confirm the location and nature of the additional material referred to both at the Regional and District Council level.
2. That as far as it is possible established guidelines to guide users of the District Plan on how to apply the definitions of Natural Hazard Areas 1 and 2 (flooding) given their precedence over the District Plan maps.
3. Provide certainty on the applicability of the 'modelled' and 'indicative' flood areas.

It is also recommended that Rule B82-2 relating to extensions of habitable dwellings of less than 40m² in the Taihape West Slip zone be clarified so as to preclude successive extensions over time resulting in a cumulative area of greater than 40m².

Finally, it is recommended that confirmation be established that habitable building extensions in the Taihape West Slip zone of over 40m² should be a fully discretionary activity.

10.6. Subdivision and Reverse Sensitivity to Noise

The suitability of these rules having regard to reverse sensitivity particularly, but not only, in relation to noise.

Relevant Objectives and Policies

The Objectives and Policies of the District Plan establish a clear desire to protect the primary production capability of the District whilst recognising the need for rural residential scale lots.

Issue 7 of Part A of the District Plan specifically identifies that:

Primary production inevitably generates effects. Amenity^ effects, or potential adverse health effects, encompass 24 hour harvesting operations, noise associated with animals or with cropping, plantation shading, and odour, which may not be compatible with more sensitive land uses. It is, however, important that more sensitive activities do not create inappropriate conflicts with or constrain primary production*.*

Furthermore, Issue 9A sets out that:

Unrestricted rural lifestyle development within rural areas would have significant adverse effects on primary production, outstanding natural features and landscapes, rural character, transport networks, and demand on services. It is necessary to ensure that provision of rural lifestyle development is located close to existing townships and in specified areas to avoid haphazard rural residential development and limit the loss of versatile soils.*

Relevant Objectives and Policies are;

OBJECTIVE 7A

Ensure that activities dissociated from primary production or meeting the needs of rural communities are minimised, and, where those activities do occur, manage them to avoid or mitigate potential conflicts with primary production* activities.*

Policy A2-1.1 *Enable primary production* with limited controls.*

Policy A2-1.4 *Preserve the largely open space* and unbuilt nature of the rural environment, and maintain the distinctive cultural landscapes associated with the predominance of primary production*.*

Policy A2-1.5 *Require separation distances between rural dwellings* and other rural activities such as intensive farming*, forest planting, effluent holding ponds and oxidation ponds to minimise any adverse effects on those dwellings*.*

OBJECTIVE 9 *Rural lifestyle living is provided for in specified areas.*

Policy A2-2.2 *Provide a Rural Living Zone around the settlements of Marton, Bulls, Taihape and Hunterville that:*

- a) enables rural residential scale allotments*;*
- b) requires a minimum lot size to minimise the loss of versatile soils;*

- c) enables a range of rural and residential activities; and*
- d) preserves aspects of rural amenity^ while providing a transition to the urban environment.*

Policy A2-2.3 *Provide a Rural Zone for most of the District* that:*

- a) maintains the predominant primary production* nature of the District*;*
- b) avoids residential and rural residential development* dissociated from primary production*;*

In relation to noise the General Rules of the District Plan establish noise limits under Rule B1.7. The rules extend across the District at varying levels of noise but notably do not apply to static or mobile farming machinery but do apply to bird scaring devices or wind machines. The rule reads;

B1.7-5 The above noise limits do not apply to the noise from the following sources: Sounds from mobile primary production related noise sources, stationary primary production* equipment such as pumps and generators and all animal sounds (excluding those arising from intensive farming and animal boarding activities or percussive bird scaring devices or wind machines used for frost damage mitigation.)*

The District Plan allows subdivisions in the Rural and Rural Living zones down to two hectares in specified circumstances. This sets up the potential for reverse sensitivity issues to arise although this is not an uncommon problem across New Zealand in rural areas.

Consultation feedback

The only feedback in relation to this indicator was from Federated Farmers as follows;

Noise rules – as with concerns above about urban sprawl, comments were made about the need for the District Plan to ensure that farming businesses are still able to continue to operate viably. Noise rules need to be permissive to farming activities

Data

No data in relation to noise complaints arising from this has been located.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

The balance between rural primary production activities and their effects on perceived amenity requires a balance that is both reasonable and capable of responding to particular circumstances.

The Manawatu District Plan specifies noise limits within its Rural zone although exempts Rural Production Activities (except for intensive farming) from them. It makes no reference to static or mobile machinery or to bird scaring devices. It does however refer to the wider provisions of the RMA relating to unreasonable and excessive noise, that is Sections 16 and 327. Section 16 refers to a duty on occupiers of land and persons carrying out any activity to avoid unreasonable noise. Section 327 refers to enforcement powers for excessive noise.

The Horowhenua District Plan allows that mobile sources of primary production noise are not subject to the specified noise limits and nor are bird scaring devices. The latter are subject to specific provisions around their use including hours of operation, a restriction within 200m of a

residential zone, a specified noise limit and limits on the number of 'events' per hour within 500m of certain dwellings.

It is considered that the Rangitikei District Plan provides a reasonable balance between the provisions of the above two examples. Investigation of noise complaints are notoriously difficult and expensive to undertake given the difficulties of establishing evidence of non-compliance. Similarly, the use of the RMA provisions for enforcement can be challenging.

On the other hand, capturing bird scaring devices and wind machines within the noise limits of the District Plan, as in the Rangitikei case, is similarly likely to lead to issues with enforcement. It is also considered that given the permissive nature of the District Plan in relation to primary production activities these devices should not be subject to normal noise limits but should be subject to specific standards as in the case of the Horowhenua District Plan. Those standards should be considered within the context of proximity to any zone other than Rural and the Rural Living and Residential zones in particular.

Recommendations

That consideration be given to a specific noise standard for bird scaring devices and wind machines within an appropriate distance from the Rural Living and the Residential zones of the District Plan.

10.7. Regional Environmental Issues.

Liaison is required with Horizons and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils regarding any State of the Environment issues that they have identified of relevance to the Rangitikei District and this work. As indicated above in this report no response has been received from the Hawkes Bay Regional Council.

The Horizons Regional council has recently released its State of Environment Report. It is an extensive document which will have a substantial amount of information of relevance to the Rangitikei District although not necessarily to this report. I have however summarised the key points from the report as follows below. Note that these are selected extracts thought to be of interest and readers are referred to the original report for more detailed information.

- *from the year 1909 annual average temperatures in New Zealand have warmed by $0.09 \pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ per decade and average annual temperatures are likely to increase by between 0.7 and 1.1°C by 2040 and up to 3.1°C by 2090.*
- *Annual average rainfall is predicted to be 15 to 20 per cent more in the northern part of the region (eg. Taumarunui) and potentially 20 per cent less in the south eastern part of the region (eg. Akitio) by 2090.*
- *The Air chapter reports that particulate matter (PM10) monitoring of 12 towns in the winter of 2001 to 2003 identified Taumarunui and Taihape as having the worst air quality in the region. These are now monitored as the only designated airsheds in the region. Other towns identified with potential air quality issues were Ohakune, Feilding, Dannevirke and Pahiatua. Monitoring in the Taumarunui and Taihape airsheds shows these sites meet the National Environmental Standard (NES) for air quality.*

- *Statistics New Zealand information shows that during the period from 1994 to 2017 the number of dairy cows has grown 69 per cent nationally compared to 50 per cent (155,000 cattle) in the Horizons Region. During this same period regional beef cattle numbers dropped by 239,000 and sheep numbers dropped by 2.4 million.*
- *The region, which covers approximately 8 per cent of New Zealand, has 18 per cent of the nation's Class 1 land (34,000 hectares) and 14 per cent of Class 2 land (172,000 hectares).*
- *Consented groundwater allocation volumes in all groundwater management zones are within One Plan allocation limits. Groundwater levels are monitored at 145 bores in the region. Results show approximately 30 per cent of sites have increasing water levels and 14 per cent are declining, with the declines primarily in the Manawatū and Rangitikei catchments where allocation levels have increased.*

10.8. Other Matters

Papakainga housing

During the course of consultation with the Councils Iwi Liaison Committee (Te Roopu Ahi Kaa) clarification was sought on;

- the location of existing Papakainga zones in the Plan,
- the ability to introduce additional such areas on a more simplified basis,
- the work of TPK in this field; and,
- the work being done by Hastings District Council on Papakainga.

Relevant Objectives and Policies and Rules

Reference to Papakainga housing is made in the District Plan Objectives and Policies and Rules as follows.

OBJECTIVE 2 (URBAN ZONE)

Enable a variety of housing that reflects the aspirations and identity of people and communities while achieving good urban amenity[^] and design. This includes the efficient use of existing infrastructure, and integration of pedestrian, cycling and vehicle transportation networks.

Policy A1-2.2 *Enable iwi and hapu to develop Papakainga housing.*

Under the Rural zone rules Papakainga housing is listed as a permitted activity subject to the following standard.

Rule B7.7 Papakainga Housing

B7.7-1 Papakainga housing can only occur in the Rural zone within the Papakainga Housing land area overlay. B7.7-2 Each dwelling must have an area for exclusive use of at least 200 metres, and:*

a) where there are 3 dwellings or less, a private and exclusive outdoor area formed in the shape of a rectangle, with a minimum area of 55 square metres and a minimum width of 4.5 metres.

b) where more than 3 dwellings are sited, a communal outdoor space of at least 200 square metres, if a private and exclusive outdoor space is not provided.

B7.7-3 Dwellings must be separated by at least 3 metres at the closest point.

B7.7-4 Rule B7.2-1 does not apply to Papakainga housing.

B7.7-5 All dwellings must be able to be separately serviced for connections to water, stormwater and sewage.

There is no equivalent rule in the Residential or Rural Living zone.

The District Plan maps include a Papakainga overlay symbol although a perusal of the maps shows only a handful of such areas.

Consultation feedback

As above

Data

There are relatively few Papakainga housing areas identified in the Rural zone and I have not located any resource consent applications for such developments.

Assessment of Effectiveness and Efficiency

The Hastings District Plan recognises the development of Papakainga as a district wide activity on Maori land and includes a number of Objectives and Policies to that end. The guiding principle is set out as to;

‘ensure that Papakāinga development provides for Māori who have aspirations to develop their traditional lands and to meet their housing needs and cultural aspirations.’

The District Plan promotes the use of its Papakāinga Development Guide which *gives a step by step process to undertaking a Papakāinga Development in the Hastings District. The document was collaborated by Hastings District Council, Māori Land Court and Te Puni Kōkiri.*

This document can be found on the Te Puni Kokiri website at:

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/mo-te-puni-kokiri/kokiri-magazine/kokiri-11-2008/takitimu-papakainga-guide>

Hapu Development Plans are also used by the District Plan to guide such projects

Whilst the District Plan recognises the ability and desire for Papakainga housing and projects it is considered that the framework for such projects could be expanded as shown by the Hastings District Plan and the work done by Te Puni Kokiri.

Recommendations

That a review of the provisions of the District Plan in relation to Papakainga projects be undertaken in the next District Plan review with particular regard to the work done by the Hastings District Council.

11. MONITORING OF OUTCOMES.

The ability to undertake a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of a District Plan is founded on the availability of data for that purpose. It is recognised that there are resourcing issues associated with this. It is also recognised that the next District Plan review will probably occur before the next such review.

It is recommended that as part of the next District Plan review consideration be given to the data that will be required for the subsequent State of the Environment report and that systems or procedures be put in place to collate that data in the lead up to the report.

12. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The review of the Operative Rangitikei District Plan has addressed specific matters known to be of interest to the Council as specified in the brief for the report.

The report has addressed the efficiency and effectiveness of those particular matters and finds that generally the policies and objectives are well structured and give clear guidance to the application of the rules. There are identified areas where the policy direction should be reviewed to provide greater certainty.

The rules of the District Plan in the matters under consideration are also efficient and effective and the recommendations go to their refinement to provide for both greater certainty and relevance to the particular circumstances of any particular application.

The specific recommendations of the report are:

The Rural Living Zone.

It is recommended that the rules relating to the Rural Living zone be reconsidered in the next District Plan review. Consideration should be given to amending the status of the subdivision of this land so as to provide for controlled activity subdivision where appropriate. That need not remove the option to retain discretion over those areas with limited infrastructure, subject to hazards or similar concerns that require that level of discretion.

It is also recommended that where reticulated wastewater services are available, or can be made available, consideration should be given to a lower minimum lot size such as 2,000m².

Rural Subdivisions

A comparison of the Objectives and Policies of the District Plan with the Rules, using the consents history of rural subdivisions, shows the need for a more sophisticated set of rules that both protect the highly versatile soils whilst providing for a more pragmatic approach to those areas that are not made up of highly versatile soils.

It is suggested that the rules do not adequately reflect the intent of the Objectives and Policies or the need for more flexibility in rural zone subdivisions.

It is recommended that the Objectives and Policies need to be reviewed in order to provide scope for a wider range of subdivisions in the Rural zone where no Class 1 or 2 soils are involved.

Similarly, the rules need to be reviewed to;

- incorporate provision for those sites with a mix of highly versatile and other soil types,

- provide for the consideration of portions of a site that are not highly versatile soils
- introduce rules for both controlled and non complying rural subdivisions.
 - In the case of controlled activity subdivisions this might related to subdivision of land or boundary adjustments where lots of over say 20ha are being created
 - In the case of a non-complying activity this might extend to any subdivision of highly versatile soils in part or in full.

Dwelling Density in the Rural Zone.

It is recommended that Rule B7.4 of the District Plan be reviewed and developed to permit third and subsequent dwellings on rural properties in defined circumstances.

Dwelling Proximity

It is recommended that consideration be given to;

- The amendment of Rule B7.6 in the District Plan to refer to separation between dwellings not on the same lot.
- The amendment of Section B11.1-2 of the District Plan to include dwelling separation distances between dwellings on separate lots as a matter over which the Council reserves its discretion.

Residential Zone

It is considered that the residential Objectives, Policies and Rules are well constructed and serve the purpose and context of the District Plan. The minimum lot size appears to be appropriate judging by the relative absence of applications for smaller lots. Such applications default to a discretionary activity (rather than non-complying) and consequently they can be approved on their merits.

It is recommended that consideration be given to;

1. Applications for subdivisions of residential lots to less than 400m² be accompanied by a site plan showing the dwelling footprint, an overall floor plan and elevations.
2. The introduction of a controlled activity rule for subdivisions complying with the rules of Chapter B1 (general Rules and Standards), B2 (Residential Zone), B8 (Natural Hazards), B9 (Transport) and B11 (Subdivision and Development).
3. The introduction of 'visual effects' as a matter of discretion for restricted discretionary subdivisions.
4. The introduction of an exception from the boundary setback requirement for semi-detached dwellings constructed across a common boundary.
5. Confirmation as to whether the rule reference under Rule B11.10-3 is correct.

Natural Hazards

It is recommended that in relation to natural hazard (flooding) consideration be given to the adoption of a public procedures manual that can be used to;

1. Confirm the location and nature of the additional material referred to both at the Regional and District Council level.

2. That as far as it is possible established guidelines to guide users of the District Plan on how to apply the definitions of Natural Hazard Areas 1 and 2 (flooding) given their precedence over the District Plan maps.

3. Provide certainty on the applicability of the 'modelled' and 'indicative' flood areas.

It is also recommended that Rule B82-2 relating to extensions of habitable dwellings of less than 40m² in the Taihape West Slip zone be clarified so as to preclude successive extensions over time resulting in a cumulative area of greater than 40m².

Finally, it is recommended that confirmation be established that habitable building extensions in the Taihape West Slip zone of over 40m² should be a fully discretionary activity.

Subdivision and Reverse Sensitivity

That consideration be given to a specific noise standard for bird scaring devices and wind machines within an appropriate distance from the Rural Living and the Residential zones of the District Plan.

Papakainga Housing

That a review of the provisions of the District Plan in relation to Papakainga projects be undertaken in the next District Plan review with particular regard to the work done by the Hastings District Council.

Tony Thomas

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Appendix 1: Extracts from the Resource Management Act 1991

35 Duty to gather information, monitor, and keep records

- (1) Every local authority shall gather such information, and undertake or commission such research, as is necessary to carry out effectively its functions under this Act or regulations under this Act.
 - (2) Every local authority shall monitor—
 - (a) the state of the whole or any part of the environment of its region or district—
 - (i) to the extent that is appropriate to enable the local authority to effectively carry out its functions under this Act; and
 - (ii) in addition, by reference to any indicators or other matters prescribed by regulations made under this Act, and in accordance with the regulations; and
 - (b) the efficiency and effectiveness of policies, rules, or other methods in its policy statement or its plan; and
 - (c) the exercise of any functions, powers, or duties delegated or transferred by it; and
 - (ca) the efficiency and effectiveness of processes used by the local authority in exercising its powers or performing its functions or duties (including those delegated or transferred by it), including matters such as timeliness, cost, and the overall satisfaction of those persons or bodies in respect of whom the powers, functions, or duties are exercised or performed; and
 - (d) the exercise of the resource consents that have effect in its region or district, as the case may be; and
 - (e) in the case of a regional council, the exercise of a protected customary right in its region, including any controls imposed on the exercise of that right under [Part 3](#) of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011—
and take appropriate action (having regard to the methods available to it under this Act) where this is shown to be necessary.
- (2AA) Monitoring required by subsection (2) must be undertaken in accordance with any regulations.
- (2A) Every local authority must, at intervals of not more than 5 years, compile and make available to the public a review of the results of its monitoring under subsection (2)(b).

360 Regulations

- (1) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:
 - (hk) prescribing, for the purposes of [section 35\(2\)](#) and (2AA),—
 - (i) indicators or other matters by reference to which a local authority is required to monitor the state of the environment of its region or district:
 - (ia) matters by reference to which monitoring must be carried out:
 - (ii) standards, methods, or requirements applying to the monitoring, which may differ depending on what is being monitored:
 - (hl) requiring local authorities to provide information gathered under [sections 35](#) and [35A](#) to the Minister, and prescribing the content of the information to be provided and the manner in which, and time limits by which, it must be provided:
 - (hm) prescribing, for the purposes of [sections 87E](#), [165ZFE](#), and [198C](#),—
 - (i) threshold amounts, which may differ for proposals of different types or in different locations; and
 - (ii) matters to which an authority is required to have regard in determining whether exceptional circumstances exist:

Appendix 2 Feedback from Federated Farmers.

I have seen the Proposed Eight Key Indicators outlined in the one pager for the Policy and Planning Committee today, and can confirm that the areas identified are of concern to our membership.

I have only been able to canvass a small section of our more vocal members to get a gauge on the matter, however in brief the following concerns were raised. I note that some comments are out of scope of the DP, however given there is some overlap between DP content and matters such as rates and Regional Policies, it may still be of relevance. Please note, if there is time available in the process, I would like to survey the wider Rangitikei Membership to get a more fulsome picture if possible. I would also appreciate the opportunity to continue to be involved in this process as it unfolds.

- Rooding – issues with high rates to rural ratepayers yet a growing reliance on the roads from other sectors (forestry) and also pressure from urban sprawl (relates to zoning rules – Rural Living Zone and also reverse sensitivity)
- Subdivision – always a divisive matter for our membership but concerns were raised about the inability of the Plan to enable farms to cut off sections of unproductive land that were under size. Also, a bit of contention here with concerns that the Council seemed to be propping up developers while not equally supporting rural businesses.
- Noise rules – as with concerns above about urban sprawl, comments were made about the need for the DP to ensure that farming businesses are still able to continue to operate viably. Noise rules need to be permissive to farming activities
- Regional Environmental Issues – particular concerns regarding the management of urban storm water and urban wastewater and ensuring that urban and rural were being treated equally. Also concerns about the Ratana scheme development in particular and the need for existing farmers to be able to continue to operate their businesses (one member in particular concerned they would have their land/livelihood taken from them).

Also further comments from myself on wider matters within the Eight Key Indicators paper:

- Rules regarding combination of soil types – this will be of interest to members. Federated Farmers generally takes a stand that the DP should be less burdensome and therefore less rules are better, but protection of class 1 and 2 soils is of concern also. Perhaps thought could be given to rules that are not hinged on soil type but instead give Council discretion to take soil type into consideration when making decisions to provide consent or otherwise. E.g. a tool rather than a rule, perhaps via a footnote?
- Dwelling density – this will also be of interest to our members. Rural businesses often have multiple dwellings on lots to provide accommodation to staff also.
- Dwelling proximity – also of interest to members. Important for consistency/transparency.

Appendix 3: Feedback from the Department of Conservation.

Rangitikei District Council State of Environment reporting ; working with stakeholders (including DOC) to contribute to efficiency / effectiveness of District Plan

- Link to Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for our Region:
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/wellington/2019-updates/>

Rangitikei River – Places : Makino , Te Rangipai ,Omatane, Puke and Mōkai

- Primary focus at these sites is weed control.
- Working towards eradication of highly invasive White Bryony in partnership with MPI.
- Control Old man’s Beard focus on keeping it out of Ruahine Forest Park. A survey of the whole Rangitikei and Manawatu districts for OMB is planned next year as per the CMS

Key Species

- *Dactylanthus taylorii*, Pua o reinga / Woodrose
- *Korthalsella lindsayi* Dwarf Mistletoe
- *Teucrium parvifolium* Native verbena
- *Tupeia antarctica* White mistletoe , (Tupia/Taapia/Pirata)

Mangaweka Scenic Reserve , Simpsons Scenic Reserve and Bruce Park

- Possum and rat control in the southern half of Mangaweka SR to protect *Dactylanthus* and Mistletoe.
- Possum and rat monitoring at Mangaweka SR.
- Control of Old Man’s beard at Mangaweka SR Bruce Park Simpsons Papanui and Otaihape
- Weeding at Mangaweka to protect *Celmisia* plants
- Maintain fences to keep stock out of Reserves.
- Maintenance of tracks to keep clear of vegetation at Mangaweka SR
- Simpsons SR Bridge maintenance
- Amenity maintenance
- Vegetation Maintenance

Bruce Park

- Control of *Cathedral Bells* at Bruce park
- Bruce Park Loop track Maintain track surface and vegetation
- Maintain RC Bruce Memorial Historic Site.
- Bruce Park Community engagement with the public and Iwi for Trap Lines and other conservation initiatives.
- Promotion of the Toyota Kiwi Guardian Trial, encouraging families to enjoy the outdoors and focus on nature.
- Recent confirmation of Long tailed bat presence here.
- Toilet here funded by RDC and jointly maintained.

Biodiversity Contingency funding is going to extend DOC’s work in this area – as is the CMS. We are likely to do a lot more work on the Mangaweka *celmisia* – trying to re-establish it in the wild.

We are likely to start doing some work around the dwarf galaxias found in the upper Rangitikei – not sure what – initially probably advocacy with key stakeholders

We know that there are long-tailed bats at multiple sites still in the Rangitikei, this may need to be given special consideration in terms of clearance of any trees and what is allowed in the District Plan (not sure if roost trees have been identified).

Community Conservation Work with RDC

- Meetings with Rangitikei Environment theme group chaired by Chris Shenton
- Koitiata area: planting with DOC RDC and Turakina School
- Planting at Taihape Memorial Domain (DOC reserve vested in RDC)
- Concessions and Permissions including an application RDC has lodged with DOC to release carp into wastewater treatment and a recreational pond(s) in the area to improve water quality.
- Statutory Land Management functions verifying ownership of Rangitikei D.C. properties for Graeme Pointon (RDC).
- Part-funding a DOC Community Fund project focused on the control of Old Man's Beard along the Rangitikei River valleys.

ON ALL SITES

- Explore and develop opportunities with whanau hapu and Iwi to share knowledge and skills.
- Explore and develop new possibilities and work with whaanau hapuu and Iwi on shared outcomes that make a difference.

DOC CONTACTS for other DISTRICTS in the RDC area

Central North Island region

Whanganui District

Jasmine Hessel jhessel@doc.govt.nz

Turangi District

Fiona Wilson fwilson@doc.govt.nz

Attachment 6

Report

TO: Policy/Planning Committee

FROM: Blair Jamieson, Strategy & Community Planning Manager

DATE: 4 July 2019

SUBJECT: Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – June 2019

FILE: 1-CO-4-8

1 Background

- 1.1 This report summarises the programmes, activities and focus areas of staff within the Policy & Community Planning Team. Added commentary is provided where necessary.
- 1.2 This report also covers applications for external funding made by Council.
- 1.3 This report covers the month of June 2019.


2 Economic Development

- 2.1 The review of Economic Development activities and outcomes rests with the Finance/Performance Committee.

3 Community Engagement & Development

- 3.1 The following highlights the key programmes, activities and progress of staff in this area.

Programme/ Activity	Progress For This Period
Township Signage	<u>Taihape</u> Completed. <u>Mangaweka</u> Staff await the Heritage Committee to provide their chosen icon/symbol for Mangaweka. <u>Hunternville</u> Completed. <u>Marton</u> The icon/symbol for the Marton township signage is another item on the agenda.

Programme/ Activity	Progress For This Period
	<p><u>Bulls</u> No progress by staff during this period. Cr. Dunne has a proposal from UCOL and has discussed this item with the Bulls Community Committee.</p> <p><u>Turakina</u> The signs are set for install between the dates of 8-15 July.</p> <p><u>Koitia</u> The signs are set for install between the dates of 15-22 July.</p> <p><u>Rātana</u> The sign has currently been removed due to it being defaced. Staff await the proposed tag-line from the Rātana Community Board</p> <p><u>Whangāehu</u> A letter has been sent advising the kōmiti marae and residents/hall committee of Whangāehu of the icon/symbol process, once direction has been determined a meeting will be organised with the residents and respective elected member.</p> <p><u>Scott's Ferry</u> The icon symbol has been agreed to by the residents, with the sign going into production. A sample of the agreed signage is below:</p> 
<p>Healthy Families Strategic Leadership Team</p> <p>Facilitator: Te Oranganui</p>	<p>No update during this period. A meeting is set to occur in July.</p>

4 Youth/Rangatahi Development

4.1 The following highlights the key programmes, activities and progress of staff in this area.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Youth Space - Taihape	The Lobby Taihape is continuing to be popular and well run by Mokai Patea Services.
Youth Space - Marton	The Lobby Taihape is continuing to be popular being run by staff and volunteers.
Youth Council	<p>The scheduled Youth Council meeting for 27 June was unable to meet quorum to a number of illnesses. Chair Erika Elers, and prospective member, Anaru Hawira attended the Council meeting held 27 June. Both had attended a day trip to parliament in Wellington the week before where LGNZ remits were one topic of conversation. They found it interesting seeing our Council discuss the remits from at local government level, helping to fill in the 'big picture' of our country's governance structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A makeup meeting for the Youth Council will not take place as due to school holidays. The July meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23 July.
Youth/TRYB Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the TRYB website is complete. Staff have had training in updating and amending the backend of the website. A demonstration will be provided to the meeting.
Networking Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taihape Youth Council members received meeting training. Project Marton Network meeting was attended. Whanganui-Rangitikei Regional Skills and Talent working group was attended Marton Emergency Accommodation meeting was attended Skate Ministry –possible future events and activities being considered.
Youth Opportunities and Support	<p>Rangitikei College students were facilitated in order to access sponsorship from Rotary Marton to attend Brave Thinkers; being a weeklong event in Palmerston North for years 12 and 13 who have an interest in business.</p> <p>Staff supported Rangitikei College with creating floral centre pieces, and lending Youth Award decorations and plants.</p> <p>Staff supported the Rātana Playground Committee with their funding applications.</p>

5 Iwi/Hapū Engagement & Development

5.1 The following highlights the key programmes, activities and progress of staff in this area.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Marae Engagement	Mr Jamieson and Mr Meihana met with a delegation from Taahuhu Marae (Ngāti Hauiti) to discuss their recent Building Warrant of Fitness assessment by Council staff.
Te Poho o Tuariki	Mr Meihana and Ms Gower met with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and local businesses to discuss the skills and talent shortages in the district.
Consenting Support	Mr Meihana attended and supported the Wellington Rd, Marton infrastructure meeting between staff, shared services and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. Mr Meihana attended the Taihape and Hunterville waste water treatment plant consent variation meeting between staff, shared services and the iwi of Mokai Patea.

6 Policy Engagement

6.1 The following highlights the external activities of staff in this area.

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Regional Collaboration of the 2019 Local Government Elections	Mr Jamieson and Mr Forster attended two meetings in relation to the local government elections. The first was facilitated by Horizons Regional Council, with a subsequent meeting held between staff and Mr Warwick Lampp, the Electoral Officer for Council.

7 Funding

7.1 An update on all funding applications is summarised in [Appendix 1](#).

7.2 The MBIE Tourism Infrastructure Fund declined Council's application for toilet facilities in Centennial Park and outside Marton Memorial Hall on the basis that the facilities were largely catering for the local community rather than in response to visitor growth. The 18 July 2019 elected members workshop will discuss this outcome.

8 Recommendations

8.1 That the report 'Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – June 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 11 July 2019 be received.

Blair Jamieson

Strategy & Community Planning Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Rautaki me te Hāpori

Appendix 1

Fund	Project description	How much	Desired outcomes and milestones	Lead Agency	Council role	Policy Team Role	Status	Final report due
Community Facilities Fund, Lottery	Capital contribution to the Bulls multi-purpose community centre (\$700,000 applied for)	\$500,000	To develop the centre in Bulls	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful - Reporting Required. Grant paid once evidence of Council having land title.	Following project completion
Mid-Sized Tourism Facilities Fund	Public toilets in visitor hotspots	\$140,000	Toilets in Mangaweka, Bulls River, Papakai Park and Bruce's Reserve	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful - Reporting Required	Dec 2017 - extension sought
JBS Dudding Trust	Capital contribution to the Bulls multi-purpose community centre	\$200,000	To develop the centre in Bulls + ongoing support to libraries	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful - Reporting Required	To be advised
Health Promotion Agency Community Partnership Fund	Support for the Swim for All Programme. Free swimming lessons for Taihape	\$5,000.00	Children up to 4 years of age will have access to free swimming lessons in Taihape (as is already the case with sponsorship in Marton)	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Successful - To be carried forward 2018/19	To be advised
Freshwater Improvement Fund	Contribution to the Upgrade of the Ratana Wastewater treatment	\$875,000	To dispose of treated effluent to land rather than Lake Waipu	Horizons	Support Agency	None	Successful - Pending Works	To be advised
Tourism Infrastructure Fund	Ablution and toilet facilities at Santoft Domain	tbc	To contribute to community-led upgrade: facilities for users of the Domain, both locals and people from Te Araroa Walkway	RDC	Fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Lodged	To be advised
Wanganui Community Foundation (Quick Response Grant)	Swim 4 All	\$5000 (\$7051 requested)	To run the Swim 4 All programme.	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Contributed to application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder.	Successful - Reporting Required	Nov-19

Lottery Heritage	Proposed new Marton Civic Centre - contribution to heritage assessment in preparing concept designs	\$ 50,000.00	Design options for Cobbler/Davenport/Abraham & Williams include assessment of heritage (external and internal)	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	None	Successful (but a lesser amount than requested)	Following project completion
Tourism Infrastructure Fund	Two Public Toilets for Martons two park developments	\$ 270,000.00	2x 24/7 Dual Bay Kitset Public Toilets in Marton	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	Prepared application, holds funds, manages project, reports back to funder	Declined	
Te Uru Rākau	Marton B&C Dam Development	\$ 73,000.00	Contribution for a native planting restoration programme	RDC	Lead agency, fundholder	None	Successful - Pending Works	To be advised
Upcoming		\$1,720,000						

Attachment 7

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING GROUP OF ACTIVITIES 2018/19			Jun-19
Major programmes of work outlined in the LTP 2018-28			
What are they:	Targets	Progress to date	Planned for the next two months
Community Partnerships	Contract with local organisations to develop and deliver events, activities and projects to enliven the towns and District	MOU partnering organisations workplans and agreed activities are being monitored. The 2019/2020 draft workplans have returned from community committee/board consideration.	Continued engagement with the MOU partnering organisations.
	Contract with local organisations to provide a range of information, such as: Up-to-date calendar of events, and community newsletters	MOU partners to deliver. Business as usual for staff which includes posting events on Rangitikei.com, FaceBook , as well as on Rangitikei Libraries & Information Centres.	Continued engagement with the MOU partnering organisations.
Economic development and district promotion		No progress to report.	Mass email-out to update work-live-play update planned for June/July. Populate database directories with photos where absent.
	Management of rangitikei.com		
	Development of Rangitikei Economic Development Strategy	Ongoing development of the Economic Development Strategy	Ongoing development of the Economic Development Strategy. The activities for this are reported at the Finance/Performance Committee.
		Ongoing development of the Economic Development Strategy	Ongoing development of the Economic Development Strategy. The activities for this are reported at the Finance/Performance Committee.
	Implementation of Economic Development Strategy		
Youth Development		The Rangitikei Youth Council are exploring the best methods including online platforms to best communicate and connect with the wider youth community.	Youth Council will meet regularly and formally adopt the workplan along with actualising goals . Networking with agencies and stakeholders will continue.
	Youth Committee and networking meetings		
		The Lobby Marton continues to have good uptake of youth users, with hours extended with volunteer support. The Lobby Taihape continues to have consistently steady numbers of users.	The focus for the year ahead is to increase the number of vetted volunteers, allowing the Lobby's to be open in the weekends and for longer periods in the school holidays. Youth Council members in the respective towns are investigating opportunities to increase patronage and volunteer numbers.
	Ongoing facilitation of the youth zones in Taihape and Marton		
Emergency Management	Civil Defence - increasing the District's resilience	Contract continues to remain in place with HRC .	Progress with community response plans
Key elements of the work outlined in Path to Well-being, Rangitikei Growth Strategy, MOU work plans and Annual Plan			
What are they:	Targets	Progress to date	Planned for the next two months
Advocacy to support the economic interests in the District at regional and national level Timely and effective interventions that create economic stability, opportunity and growth A wide range of gainful employment opportunities	Develop collaborative economic development and District promotion services across the Horizons region	Ongoing-activity.	Continued engagement between the regional collaborators on developing the economic development
	Progress solutions to water availability in area between Marton and Hunterville	Application to PGF nearly complete for the next stage	Submission of application to PGF and investigate feasibility of MPI funding for the next stage.

Attractive and vibrant towns that attract business and residents	Implement Town Centre Plans (provision of good infrastructure, well-maintained streets in the CBD of main towns) Continue to discuss the concepts around the Marton Heritage precinct, particularly with business/property owners	Marton - decision on concept design study and application to Lotteries heritage	Marton - finalise business case, receive proposal for detailed designs.
	Place-making support in Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Turakina, Hunterville	Nothing to update	Create an advertising campaign to begin in Spring recapping what placemaking is and how to apply. Targeting already established Placemaking groups.
	Events, activities and projects to enliven the towns and District. Five + high profile events and 20 community events. Council sponsorship of events aiming to increase visitor numbers (compared to 2017/18)	Events held by years end include: Rag poets, Marton market day, Marton Country Music Festival, Turakina Highland Games, Marton Christmas Parades, and artful bonanza. Bulls Christmas Parade	Adjustments in the Smartygrants system to reflect the changes sought by the Finance/Performance Committee for Round 1 2019/2020.
Up to date and relevant information for visitors and residents on a range of services, activities and attractions	Maintain and develop information centres in Marton, Taihape and Bulls and develop "libraries as community hubs" concept	Business as usual, including promotion latest material and activities and events. Taihape Library is running regular term time after school activities. We are continuing to promote local events/activities via our Social Media sites.	We are currently preparing for a refresh of our APNK public computers across our libraries. The new equipment will arrive at the end of July with a rollout of the new equipment in early August.
An up to date, relevant and vibrant on line presence with information about services, activities and attractions, the District lifestyle, job opportunities and social media contacts	Maintain a website that provides information about Council and community services and activities	Enhancements will continue during 2019 across the whole website, including more online applications and forms. Photos and content are regularly changed.	Options for more easy to use forms and online transactions will be the focus in the next few months. Council's Facebook page continues to be extensively used to promote events and keep residents up to date with events and Council programmes.
Opportunities for residents to remain socially and physically active into their retirement years, to enable them to stay in the District for as long as possible	Participate in Positive Ageing activities that aims to enhance quality of life for older people in the District	Contract with Mokai Patea Services around inclusion of supporting seniors within the Community Housing is being undertaken.	No actions set for this period.

Opportunities for people with children to access the quality of life they desire for their families	Undertaking youth activities, programmes, and continue to seek contributions from external sources.	Working with Youth Council members to adopt and execute the 2019 workplan. Finalising TRYB website. Sharing opportunities and training programmes with district youth. Secured a naming sponsor for this years youth awards now named John Turkington Forestry Rangitikei Youth Awards 2019. Successfully secured nine category sponsors for the \$500 cash prize per winner. Successfully applied to Ara Taiohi for funding for the youth awards evening. Nominations this year are via the online platform Smarty Grants. 76 nomination received, 117 youth highlighted. The Awards Evening was held on 23 May at Marton Memorial Hall. Youth Council assisted in the organisation of the event. Advertising for the MTFJ Outward bound scholarship has reached over 2600 people and had 327 engagements, with Nardia receiving email requests for more information. Two submissions for this have been received, further follow up meetings to be organised.	Support Youth Council in their accomplishment of the years' workplan. Investigate further youth events for the district. Investigate options to create a wider base of authentic youth engagement and involvement dostrict wide.
A more equal and inclusive community where all young people are thriving, irrespective of their start in life	Coordinate a Swim-4-All programme 2017/18 Investigate and open water safety strategy	Collating Swim 4 All accountability and invoices from participating schools. All invoices received. The total of the transport reimbursement exceeded our grants received by \$2808. Marton Chritian Welfare has	Reimburse all schools 100% of their travel expenses for the 2018-2019 Swim Season. Ascertain the schools that plan on participating in 2019-2020 swim season and estimated travel costs, in order to
	Healthy Families programme: take part in Governance Group, act as local Prevention Partnership, participate in Strategy Group	Reported through another item on PPL agenda.	Reported through another item on PPL agenda.
Cohesive and resilient communities that welcome and celebrate diversity	Planning for Ratana Centennial celebrations, 2018	Completed	Completed
	Implement Heritage Strategy Development of a heritage inventory of Maori narratives and collections Development of a heritage inventory of European/ non-indigenous settler narratives and collections	No progress during this period	No progress during this period
	Through Treasured Natural Environment Theme Group: - Continue to produce and distribute the Theme Group newsletter - Be involved with environmental projects as required	No progress during this period	To arrange the next Treasured Natural Environment Group Meeting.

Funding schemes which have clear criteria, which are well publicised, and where there is a transparent selection process	Facilitate at least an annual opportunity for community organisations to apply for funding under the various grant schemes administered by the Council	Two rounds of funding run each year for community organisations. Event sponsorship and Community initiatives. Individuals and organisations can also apply for the Creative Communities scheme.	Adjustments in the Smartygrants timetable to reflect the changes sought by the Finance/Performance Committee for Round 1 2019/2020.
	Publish the results of grant application process to a Council-run forum show-casing the results of grant application processes where successful applicants provide brief presentations and are open to questions	Results of all successful applications are presented to the Council, and Finance/performance Committees, in the form of applications, summaries and accountability forms, twice a year.	Adjustments in the Smartygrants timetable to reflect the changes sought by the Finance/Performance Committee for Round 1 2019/2020.
To see Council civil defence volunteers and staff at times of emergency (confidence in the activity)	Contract with Horizons to provide access to a full-time Emergency Management Officer	Contract continues to remain in place .	Contract continues to remain in place .
	Arrange regular planning and operational activities	Training delivered 22, 23, 24 March.	Exercise to promote understanding of roles

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Up to date and relevant information for visitors and residents on a range of services, activities and attractions	Maintain and develop information centres in Marton, Taihape and Bulls and develop "libraries as community hubs" concept	Business as usual, including promotion latest material and activities and events. Taihape Library is running regular term time after school activities. We are continuing to promote local events/activities via our Social Media sites.	We are currently preparing for a refresh of our APNK public computers across our libraries. The new equipment will arrive at the end of July with a rollout of the new equipment in early August.
An up to date, relevant and vibrant on line presence with information about services, activities and attractions, the District lifestyle, job opportunities and social media contacts	Maintain a website that provides information about Council and community services and activities	Enhancements will continue during 2019 across the whole website, including more online applications and forms. Photos and content are regularly changed.	Options for more easy to use forms and online transactions will be the focus in the next few months. Council's Facebook page continues to be extensively used to promote events and keep residents up to date with events and Council programmes.
Opportunities for residents to remain socially and physically active into their retirement years, to enable them to stay in the District for as long as possible	Participate in Positive Ageing activities that aims to enhance quality of life for older people in the District	Contract with Mokai Patea Services around inclusion of supporting seniors within the Community Housing is being undertaken.	No actions set for this period.

Opportunities for people with children to access the quality of life they desire for their families	Undertaking youth activities, programmes, and continue to seek contributions from external sources.	Working with Youth Council members to adopt and execute the 2019 workplan. Finalising TRYB website. Sharing opportunities and training programmes with district youth. Secured a naming sponsor for this years youth awards now named John Turkington Forestry Rangitikei Youth Awards 2019. Successfully secured nine category sponsors for the \$500 cash prize per winner. Successfully applied to Ara Taiohi for funding for the youth awards evening. Nominations this year are via the online platform Smarty Grants. 76 nomination received, 117 youth highlighted. The Awards Evening was held on 23 May at Marton Memorial Hall. Youth Council assisted in the organisation of the event. Advertising for the MTFJ Outward bound scholarship has reached over 2600 people and had 327 engagements, with Nardia receiving email requests for more information. Two submissions for this have been received, further follow up meetings to be organised.	Support Youth Council in their accomplishment of the years' workplan. Investigate further youth events for the district. Investigate options to create a wider base of authentic youth engagement and involvement dostrict wide.
A more equal and inclusive community where all young people are thriving, irrespective of their start in life	Coordinate a Swim-4-All programme 2017/18 Investigate and open water safety strategy	Collating Swim 4 All accountability and invoices from participating schools. All invoices received. The total of the transport reimbursement exceeded our grants received by \$2808. Marton Chritian Welfare has	Reimburse all schools 100% of their travel expenses for the 2018-2019 Swim Season. Ascertain the schools that plan on participating in 2019-2020 swim season and estimated travel costs, in order to
	Healthy Families programme: take part in Governance Group, act as local Prevention Partnership, participate in Strategy Group	Reported through another item on PPL agenda.	Reported through another item on PPL agenda.
Cohesive and resilient communities that welcome and celebrate diversity	Planning for Ratana Centennial celebrations, 2018	Completed	Completed
	Implement Heritage Strategy Development of a heritage inventory of Maori narratives and collections Development of a heritage inventory of European/ non-indigenous settler narratives and collections	No progress during this period	No progress during this period
	Through Treasured Natural Environment Theme Group: - Continue to produce and distribute the Theme Group newsletter - Be involved with environmental projects as required	No progress during this period	To arrange the next Treasured Natural Environment Group Meeting.

Funding schemes which have clear criteria, which are well publicised, and where there is a transparent selection process	Facilitate at least an annual opportunity for community organisations to apply for funding under the various grant schemes administered by the Council	Two rounds of funding run each year for community organisations. Event sponsorship and Community initiatives. Individuals and organisations can also apply for the Creative Communities scheme.	Adjustments in the Smartygrants timetable to reflect the changes sought by the Finance/Performance Committee for Round 1 2019/2020.
	Publish the results of grant application process to a Council-run forum show-casing the results of grant application processes where successful applicants provide brief presentations and are open to questions	Results of all successful applications are presented to the Council, and Finance/performance Committees, in the form of applications, summaries and accountability forms, twice a year.	Adjustments in the Smartygrants timetable to reflect the changes sought by the Finance/Performance Committee for Round 1 2019/2020.
To see Council civil defence volunteers and staff at times of emergency (confidence in the activity)	Contract with Horizons to provide access to a full-time Emergency Management Officer	Contract continues to remain in place .	Contract continues to remain in place .
	Arrange regular planning and operational activities	Training delivered 22, 23, 24 March.	Exercise to promote understanding of roles

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES GROUP OF				Jun-19
Major programmes of work outlined in the LTP 2018-28				
What are they:	Targets	Progress for this reporting period	Planned for the next two months	Year to Date
Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Rangitikei District Plan	Complete review	Completed		Completed
Implementation of the GoShift Initiative (i.e. electronic processing of building consents)	Implement Goshift following review of pilot programme	Still in progress		Still in progress
Implementation of the Building (earthquake-prone buildings) Amendment Act	Issuing notices of potentially earthquake-prone buildings	0		65 inspections done
Other regulatory functions				
What are they:	Targets	Statistics for this month	Narrative (if any)	Year to Date
Building Consents	Report on number of building consents processed, the timeliness and the value of consented work	45 BC granted, 100 % completed on time, value of work is \$1,359,161	3 new house builds valued at \$646,00, 3 relocated house valued at \$79,000. All the rest of the work was House alterations /additions /fires and polesheds etc.	373 BC granted, 79.09% completed on time, value of work is \$28,835,804
	Code of Compliance Certificates, Notices to Fix and infringements issued.	31 CCC issued, 100% on time, 0 NTF issued, no infringements issued		261 CCC issued, 100% on time, 5 NTF issued, no infringements issued
Resource Consents	Report on: a) number of land use consents issued and timeliness	0 Land Use RC granted, 100% on time, 0 Permitted Boundary RC granted 0% on time		9 Land Use RC granted, 77.78% on time, 6 Permitted Boundary RC granted 83.33% on time
	b) subdivision consents and timeliness	2 Subdivision RC granted, 50% on time		48 Subdivision RC granted, 72.92% on time

	c) section 223 and 224 certification and timeliness,	0 s223 and 0 s224 certificates granted		5 s223 and 3 s224 certificates granted
	d) abatement and infringements issued.	0 Abatement & 0 Infringement		1 abatement & 2 infringement
Dog Control	Report on dog registrations current and unregistered, dogs impounded, dogs destroyed and infringements issued.	941 Registered, 3964 Unregistered, 0 Infringements, 12 Impounded, 1 Deceased		941 Registered, 3964 Unregistered, 70 Infringements, 135 impounded, 21 Deceased
Bylaw enforcement	Enforcement action taken	none done		
Liquor Licensing	Report on number and type of licences issued	4 Specials, 3 Renew Managers		3 New On licence, 41 Specials, 6 Club Renewals, 2 Off Renewal, 4 On Renewals, 1 New Off, 28 Manager Renewals, 14 Managers New, 4 Temporary Authorities
Building Warrant of Fitness renewals	Report on overdue BWOFF, audits, Notices to Fix and infringements issued.	6 BWOFF renewals overdue, 10 Audits		99 BWOFF renewals have been overdue, 72 Audits, 19 NTF, 4 infringements issued
Swimming Pool Barriers	Report on number of pool barrier inspections done, Notices to Fix and infringements issued.	4 Inspections done this month, 1 NTF issued		73 Inspections done, 3 NTF issued
Earthquake-Prone buildings	Marton Area has been prioritised to have all assessments done by Dec 2018	None done this month		79 inspections done in Marton