Tena Koutou katoa,

Good afternoon and welcome to everyone both in chambers and online to our August Policy & Planning Hui for the Year.

Just to start things off, I would like to acknowledge Peter Beggs, our outgoing CEO as this will be his last meeting with us. Thank you, Peter for your leadership and guidance you have given us over the years around Policy and Planning and for being an excellent advocate for our council and the Rangitikei.

This month's hui is very much focussed on the draft Community Spatial Plan and the huge amount of work that has been undertaken by staff not only in providing opportunities for the community to have their input into this strategy but being able to bring it together in a cohesive manner. I would like to acknowledge the many residents, ratepayers, and caring citizens for taking up the opportunity in having your voices heard.

I also wish to thank staff for their work around providing options around the Smoke/Vape Free Policy and acknowledge the ongoing work with review of our Strategic Framework "Kowhai" document.

I look forward to another robust, intelligent, and thoughtful meeting and thought that this quote may bring a little smile to people's face!

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe!

He whakatauki!

Te tōia, te haumatia

Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce, and a way of doing things!

Nga mihi mahana

Piki Te Ora Hiroa Tiamana