

ORDER PAPER

RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Rātana ICT Hub
4 Taihauauru Street
Rātana Pa

Chair: Mr Charlie Mete

Deputy Chair: Mr Jason Hihira

Membership: Ms Grace Taiaroa
Ms Ruthie Lawrence
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa

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Notice is hereby given that a Rātana Community Board Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Rātana ICT Hub, 4 Taihauauru Street, Rātana Pa on Tuesday, 13 October 2026 at 6.30pm.

Order Of Business

1	Whakamoemiti.....	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Public Forum	4
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations.....	4
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	4
6	Confirmation of Minutes	5
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	5
7	Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings	11
	7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings.....	11
8	Chair's Report	13
	8.1 Chair's Report - October 2026.....	13
9	Reports for Information.....	14
	9.1 Mayor's Report - October 2026.....	14
	9.2 Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti	18
	9.3 Representation Review 2028	19
	9.4 Control of Dog Bylaw and Draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy	23
	9.5 Central Districts Water Update – October 2026	25
	9.6 Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land - Update	29
	9.7 Cemetery Update - October 2026	31
	9.8 Funding Schemes Update - October 2026	32
10	Meeting Closed	35

AGENDA

1 Whakamoemiti

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 11 August 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Rātana Community Board Meeting - 11 August 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 11 August 2026 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 11 August 2026

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Rātana ICT Hub
4 Taihauauru Street
Rātana Pa

Present

Mr Charlie Mete
Ms Grace Taiaroa
Mr Jason Hihira
Ms Ruthie Lawrence
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Online)

In attendance

Mr Te Arawa Ratana
HWTM Andy Watson
Mr Pa Rima Tamaiparea-Puki, Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua
Ms Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

Order of Business

1	Whakamoemiti.....	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Public Forum	3
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations.....	3
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	3
6	Confirmation of Minutes	3
7	Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings	3
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings.....	3
8	Chair's Report	4
8.1	Chair's Report - August 2026.....	4
9	Reports for Information.....	4
9.1	Mayor's Report - July 2026.....	4
9.2	Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti	4
9.3	Cemetery Update - August 2026.....	5
9.4	Funding Schemes Update - August 2026	5
9.5	Bus Shelter Mural Proposal	5

1 Whakamoemiti

The Board invited Mr Te Arawa Rātana to speak the Whakamoemiti to open the meeting at 6.30pm.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies received.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

Ms Lawrence requested a late item be added at the end of the agenda to discuss a proposal to replace the mural at the bus shelter.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/026

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 9 June 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Ms G Taiaroa/Ms R Lawrence. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

The Board discussed the two items on the actions list. The first item regarding water access at the urupa is still in progress. The new signage design for the urupa was approved by the committee, the signs will now be replaced and the item removed from the follow-up actions list.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/027

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings be received.

Ms R Lawrence/Mr C Mete. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - August 2026

The Chair gave a verbal report highlighting the following:

- Reminder that all burials need to be registered
- The Chair had reported several potholes on the road between SH3 and Rātana Pa to Council.
- The Chair noted that the first Papakaiainga House was nearing completion.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/028

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

Mr J Hihira/Ms R Lawrence. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - July 2026

HWTM was happy to take his report as read but noted the following items he wanted to highlight:

- An update on the Head Start/Amalgamation progress and next steps
- Central Districts Water – Going well with the Board in Place and the Chief Executive Chris Dyhrberg newly appointed.
- That the Dudding Trust applications had recently closed.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/029

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

Mr C Mete/Ms R Lawrence. Carried

9.2 Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti

Ms Taiaroa gave an update on the TRAK meeting earlier in the day highlighting the following:

- Discussion around the Local Government Reform process and concerns of members around losing local voice and the effects that may have on the local communities
- The Long Term plan was coming up soon
- Rates Rebates – distributing through the community
- Southern Marae Tour – this would be held on the 17th of September – schedule was being compiled and Ms Taiaroa would keep the Board informed when details became available

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/030

That the Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti be received.

Mr J Hihira/Mr C Mete. Carried

9.3 Cemetery Update - August 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/031

That the report Cemetery Update – August 2026 be received.

Mr C Mete/Ms R Lawrence. Carried

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - August 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/032

That the Funding Schemes Update – August 2026 be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Ms R Lawrence. Carried

9.5 Bus Shelter Mural Proposal

Ms Lawrence put a proposal to the Board for a replacement mural on the bus stop. Titled “Hands up, Choose Me”. Ms Lawrence gave some background information around the mural concept and her experience with public art projects. The artist who painted the original mural Justin-Leigh had previously been consulted about replacing the mural by Ms Taiaroa. The Board suggested that Ms Lawrence consult directly with Justin-Leigh to look at how they could collaborate on a replacement and to bring proposals back to the next meeting to put forward for Community Consultation.

Resolved minute number 26/RCB/033

That the Bus Shelter Mural Proposal item is added to the follow-up items to be reported back on by Ms Lawrence.

Mr C Mete/Mr J Hihira. Carried

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ratana Community Board held on 13 October 2026.

.....
Chairperson

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

Author: Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Ratana Community Board meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

2. Decision Making Process

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

Attachments:

1. Follow-up Actions Register [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	5-Oct-21	With regards to the Ratana Cemetery Extension: Staff to consider providing better facilities for volunteers who dig new plots. Update 08 Feb 22: The Board clarified that the request was for water access, for both contractors and visitors. The Board advised that they would like a water source that is aesthetically pleasing (i.e., not just a tap in a post). Update 09 Aug 22: The Board asked that this be reconsidered, as the owner of the adjacent farm has given verbal approval for the existing water line on his property to be used (the water does not need to be drinkable). Ms Bovey undertook to follow-up on this request. the CE will investigate options for this item.	CE - Carol Gordon	This request is being investigated by the Parks Team who will look at potential options in conjunction with a similar request from Taihape residents for their cemetery. This is being done across the District as part of the Long Term Plan.	In progress
2	14-Apr-26	Issues at the urupa - signage needs replacing as it has a spelling mistake and need to better highlight information on not placing flowers and other items on graves. Also need to follow up with RDC staff assigning plots to ensure they are passing on this information to purchasers.	Mel Bovey	Draft urupa sign for approval to June meeting. Update 11 June 2026 - the Board made some suggestions for changes, will be taken back to staff and emailed out to members once changes have been made. Update August 2026 Updated sign designs were approved by the Board - Ms Bovey to confirm the details with Parks - signs to be replaced.	In progress
3	11-Aug-26	Bulls bus mural replacement	Ruth Lawrence	Bus Mural - Ruth to contact Justin Leigh the painter of the original bus stop mural to collaborate on some designs for a replacement mural. Ruth to bring the designs back to the October meeting for the Board to seek feedback from the community on which design is used.	In progress
4	11-Aug-26	Grace to give an update on the Southern Marae Tour	Grace Taiaroa		
5	1-Oct-26	Rātana air quality issues	CE - Carol Gordon	Update from 01 October Council Workshop: Issue was raised with Horizons, this was dealt with by the Horizons regulatory staff – if there are ongoing issues with either this matter or other air quality matters please ring the Horizons Pollution hotline – 0508 800 800, this is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.	Ongoing

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - October 2026

Author: Charlie Mete, Chair

1. Reason for Report

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

Recommendation

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

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - October 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

It is with deep sadness the Rangitīkei District Council and I recognise the passing of Adrian Rurawhe. Adrian was an MP from 2014 to 2026 representing the Te Tai Hauāuru seat and was Speaker of the House of Government from 2022 to 2023. He was well respected and supported across party lines, such was the mana he held. Adrian was a direct descendant of the prophet TW Rātana of the Rātana faith and I know that he stood down from Parliament in 2023 to dedicate the next chapter of his life to Rātana, the Church and his wider whānau.

For me, Adrian was a colleague, a personal friend and an advisor that I could trust and turn to.

My and Council's thoughts are with his whānau.

For months now we have faced the deadline of amalgamation and councils around the country have literally spent millions crafting responses to demonstrate where they will unite. The pressure and blame Central Government has put on Local Government has been extreme. The result is that at the last possible moment Government have declined to name any Head Start positions. This is incredibly disappointing and I feel for those councils who had got to a Head Start position, formed relationships with other councils to amalgamate and then nothing happens. What we presume will happen now is that following the elections, whoever the Government is will pick this up and there will be wider reports on amalgamation in the future.

Appointment

I have used my delegation as Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act to appoint Cr Alan Buckendahl to the Finance/Performance Committee and the Community Grants Committee.

Due to my involvement with the tangi this week I will look to table a more substantial Mayor's Report at the meeting.

Mayor's Engagements

4 September – 8 October

4	Attended CDW Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting Attended memorial service in Taihape
5	Attended Hunterville Comedy Night Fundraiser
7	Attended Mayors & CE's MOU Meeting Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting
8	Attended monthly governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended meeting with members of Samoan Methodist Church Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
9	Attended meeting with Friends of Taihape Attended Taihape Community Board workshop

10	Attended Business Rangitikei Breakfast Meeting Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs online meeting Attended Council Workshop Attended exhibition opening at Marton Arts & Crafts
11	Attended LGNZ online briefing on rates capping Attended meeting with MP Suze Redmayne Attended meeting with ratepayer in Bulls Attended test Zoom with Maori Land Court prior to 17 September hearing
13	Attended Battle of Britain commemorative service at Whanganui Collegiate
14	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mana Whakahono a Rohe hui with Ngati Whitikaupeka representatives Attended Defence Updates Relevant to the Manawatu meeting Attended LGNZ online briefing re infrastructure and RMA reforms
15	Attended meeting with ratepayer in Marton Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Marton Historical Society AGM
16	Attended LGNZ online briefing re Preparing for Head Start decision announcements Attended Arohanui Hospital Strategy Refresh hui
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Workshop – Southern Marae Tour with Elected Members & Staff Attended BA5 in Taihape
19	Attended Spring Fling in Taihape
20	Attended movie event at Te Matapihi with Rotary
21	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Marton Christian Welfare AGM Attended LGNZ online briefing re mental health and rural healthcare
22	Attended Chief Executive Performance & Employment Committee Meeting Attended Rangitikei Technical Workshop Attended LGNZ online briefing from Minister of Local Government Attended Dinner with Minister of Local Government with MP Suze Redmayne
23	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Q&A with Mayors online meeting Attended monthly economic development meeting with staff
24	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Whanganui Community Foundation Annual Public Meeting Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting Attended LGNZ online briefing – lessons from Mauao tragedy
28	Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs meeting with staff Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council with staff Attended Meet & Greet with Property Brokers staff
29	Attended CDW Board RDC site visits Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Business Rangitikei AGM
30	Attended meeting with constituents in Bulls

October 2026

1	Attended Manawatu Chamber Breakfast Meeting with Minister Mark Mitchell Attended Tangi at Whangaehu Marae Attended LGNZ online briefing: Role of Elected Members in the new Planning System
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ITEM 9.1

2	Attended Tangi at Whangaehu Marae
3	Attended Tangi at Whangaehu Marae/Rātana Attended Hunterville Volunteer Fire Brigade Gold Star Awards
5	Attended LGNZ online briefing: Green Party/Infrastructure & RMA
6	Attended tri-weekly online meeting with CDW Shareholders Committee Chair Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs fortnightly online hui Attended Emergency Management Session: Function Managers & Governance Attended CDW Project Oversight Group Meeting Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
7	Attended monthly governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Commerce Commission online workshop for infrastructure providers Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting
8	To attend Election 2026 Transport Panel Meeting with Government

Attachments:

1. **Joint Shareholders Committee Minutes - CDW: 26 June 2026, 14 August 2026 and 04 September 2026 (under separate cover)**
2. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

Recommendation

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

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Baird	Buckendahl	Dalgety	Field	Hainsworth	Hiroa	O'Fee	Raukawa	Shartland	Wong
30-Jul-26	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
5-Aug-26	Hunterville CC	CB				PR							
10-Aug-26	Hunterville RWS	PR				PR							
11-Aug-26	TRAK meeting	PR			PR				PR		PR		
11-Aug-26	Rātana CB	PR							PR				
12-Aug-26	Taihapa CB	CB		PR									PR
12-Aug-26	Marton CC	CB	PR					PR					
13-Aug-26	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR
13-Aug-26	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR
13-Aug-26	Turakina CC	PR					AP					AP	
19-Aug-26	Bulls CC	CB								PR		AP	
20-Aug-26	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR
24-Aug-26	Youth Council Workshop	CB					PR				AP		
27-Aug-26	Assets/Infrastructure Meeting	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR
27-Aug-26	Risk/Assurance Workshop	PR	PR		AT	PR	AT						PR
27-Aug-26	Risk/Assurance Meeting	PR	PR		AT	PR	AT						PR
27-Aug-26	Finance/Performance Meeting	PR	PR	AP	AT	PR	AT					AP	PR
1-Sept-26	Erewhon RWS	PR		PR									PR
3-Sept-26	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR
10-Sept-26	Council Workshop	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AB	PR	PR
17-Sept-26	Council Workshop - Induction	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR
22-Sept-26	Chief Executive Performance	PR	PR	PR		PR			PR				
24-Sept-26	Assets/Infrastructure Workshop	CB	PR	AT	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR
24-Sept-26	Finance/Performance Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AT	PR						PR	PR
24-Sept-26	Community Grants Committee	PR		AT	AT	PR						PR	PR
28-Sept-26	Youth Council Workshop	PR					PR				AP		
1-Oct-26	Council Workshop	CB	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR

Present (and is a member of the committee) PR
 Apology AP
 Absent - no apology received AB

 Not a member of the committee
 Not a member of the committee (but still attended) AT
 Not present as on Council business CB
 Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used] ZM

9.2 Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti

Author: Grace Taiaroa, TRAK Member

ITEM 9.2

1. Reason for Report

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

Recommendation

That the Update on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti be received.

9.3 Representation Review 2028

Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To provide the Rātana Community Board with an overview of the upcoming Representation Review process.

2. Context

- 2.1 Council is required to undertake a review of representation arrangements at least every six years. Rangitīkei last did a review in 2022, therefore a review is required for the 2028 local government elections. A review is also required because the mandatory poll on Māori wards resulted in their disestablishment for the 2028 and 2031 elections.
- 2.2 Representation arrangements include the number of wards, boundaries and names of wards, number of elected members, and the consideration of community boards.
- 2.3 Currently the Rangitīkei District comprises of a Mayor (elected at large) and 11 councillors elected from three general and two Māori wards (Attachment 1):
 - 5 councillors represent the Central Ward
 - 2 councillors represent the Northern Ward
 - 2 councillors represent the Southern Ward
 - 1 councillor represents Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward
 - 1 councillor represents Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward.
- 2.4 The District also has two community boards:
 - Rātana Community Board (4 elected members, 1 appointed councillor)
 - Taihape Community Board (4 elected members, 2 appointed councillors)
- 2.5 The boundary of the Rātana Community Board is shown in the image below.

ITEM 9.3



3. Discussion

- 3.1 Council will be reviewing representation arrangements, including the Rātana Community Board through 2026/27. Council had its first workshop on 10 September 2026. The slides associated with that workshop are available online - [10 September 26-Workshop-Presentation](#) (pages 3 – 24).
- 3.2 Council's review must *consider "whether there should be community boards in the district and, if so, the nature of those communities and the structure of the community board"*.
- 3.3 The Board may wish to provide advice to Council on their views of the Rātana Community Board, including boundaries.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Board members are paid for in accordance with an annual determination set by the Remuneration Authority – For 2026/27 Chair \$5,095, Members \$2,548. The cost of the Board is met by a targeted rate to all properties within the Board area. For 2026/27 the cost per rating unit is \$137.16.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 There are no impacts on strategic risks.

6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 Representation is a core part of local government.

7. Mana Whenua Implications

7.1 Māori wards will be disestablished as a result of the 2025 poll.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

8.1 There are no climate change impacts.

9. Statutory Implications

9.1 The representation review is conducted in accordance with statutory requirements under the Local Electoral Act 2001. Community Boards are established under the Local Government Act 2002 and have statutory roles (section 52) which include:

9.1.1 Representing and advocating for their community's interests

9.1.2 Consider and reporting on matters referred by the Council or community

9.1.3 Maintaining an overview of Council services

9.1.4 Preparing annual submissions on local expenditure

9.1.5 Communicating with local organisations and groups

9.1.6 Any other responsibilities delegated by Council.

10. Decision Making Process

10.1 There are no decisions required, this report is for information only.

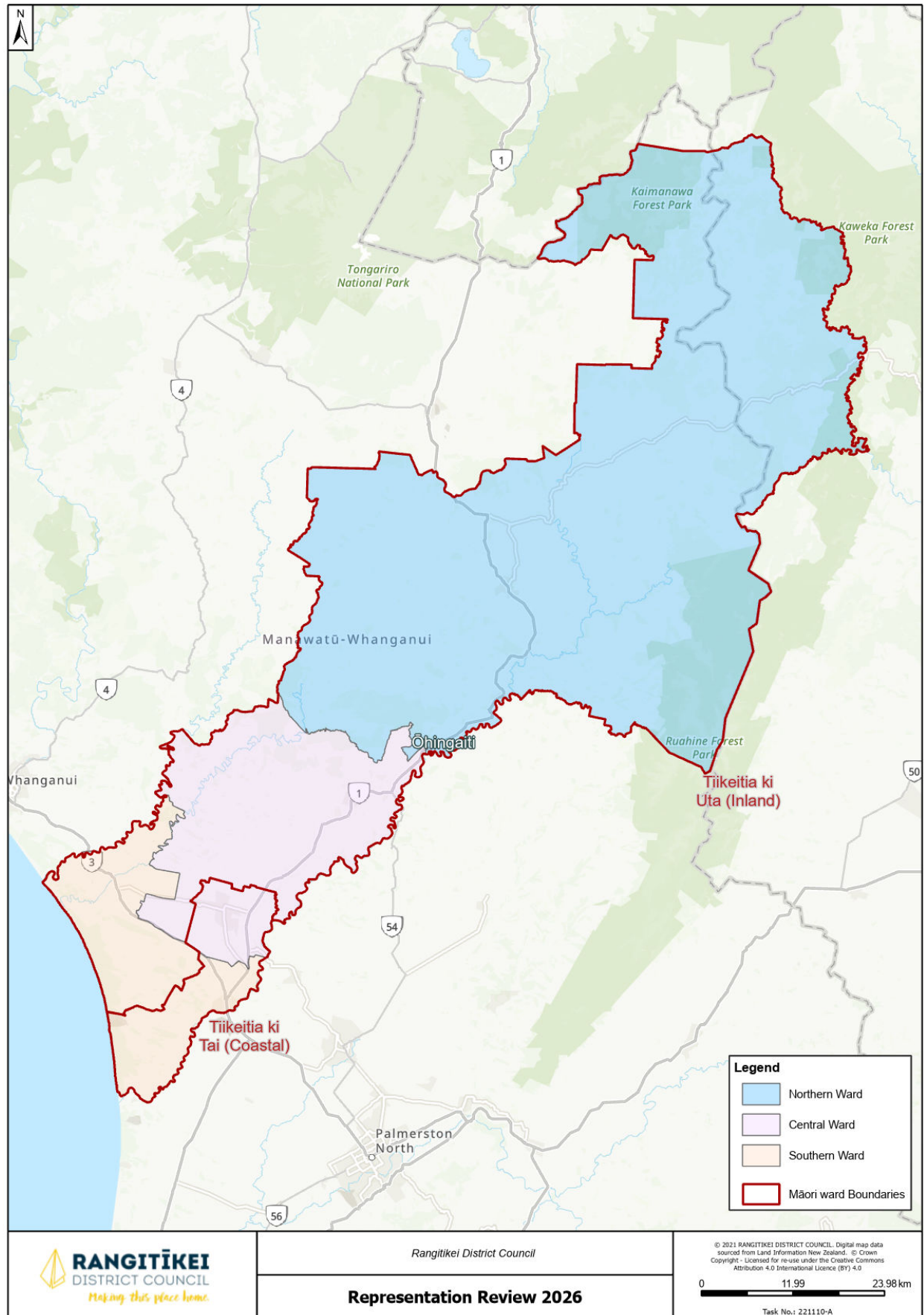
Attachments:

1. Current ward structure [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Representation Review 2028 be received.

ITEM 9.3 ATTACHMENT 1



9.4 Control of Dog Bylaw and Draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy**Author: Kezia Spence, Policy Analyst****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the draft Control of Dogs Bylaw (the Bylaw) and draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy (the Policy) to the Rātana Community Board and invite the Board to provide feedback or to make a submission.

2. Context

- 2.1 The purpose of the Bylaw is to give effect to the Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy by:
- Requiring owners to keep dogs under control in all public places
 - Prohibiting dogs, whether under control or not, from specified public places
 - Providing designated dog exercise and recreation areas
 - Providing minimum standards for the accommodation and care of dogs
 - Requiring dog owners to immediately remove dog faeces from public places or land not occupied by the owner
 - Sets the level of enforcement for dogs that are a nuisance and the impounding of a dog in breach of the bylaw
 - Sets the number of dogs at a residential address
- 2.2 The consultation for the Bylaw and Policy opened on the Monday, 14 September and closes on Friday, 16 October.
- 2.3 Further information on consultation can be found on the council website [Control of Dog Bylaw and Draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy: Rangitikei District Council](#).

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 4.1 There are no identified strategic risks associated with this report.

5. Strategic Alignment

- 5.1 The Bylaw and Policy align with the Social Wellbeing outcome and the Strategic Priority of 'working collaboratively to improvement community wellbeing' elements of Council's Strategic Framework.
- 5.2 The provision of safe spaces for dogs and their owners to exercise together that does not negatively impact other members of the community, as well as promoting responsible dog ownership and public education around dogs are important aspects of the Bylaw and Policy and align with the relevant parts of the strategic framework.

ITEM 9.4**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

6.1 There are no mana whenua implications associated with this report.

7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

7.1 There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

8. Statutory Implications

8.1 Council is required under the Dog Control Act 1996 to have a Policy in respect of dogs in its district. The Council must make any necessary Bylaws in order to give effect to the Policy. Any Bylaw authorised by the Act must be made in accordance with the LGA.

8.2 The review of the Bylaw and Policy will be done in accordance with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the LGA.

9. Decision Making Process

9.1 There is no decision for the committee at this meeting, officers will be in attendance to answer questions.

Attachments:

- 1. Statement of Proposal for the Draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy and Draft Control of Dogs Bylaw (under separate cover)**

Recommendation

That the report Control of Dog Bylaw and Draft Dog Control and Owner Responsibility Policy be received.

9.5 Central Districts Water Update – October 2026**Author: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the establishment of Central Districts Water and key work underway ahead of the organisation becoming responsible for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services in Rangitīkei from 1 July 2027.

2. Background

- 2.1 Central Districts Water is the new council-controlled organisation jointly owned by Horowhenua District Council, Palmerston North City Council and Rangitīkei District Council.
- 2.2 From 1 July 2027, Central Districts Water will be responsible for delivering drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services across the three council areas. Until then, each Council remains responsible for delivering water services to its communities.
- 2.3 Work is continuing across the three Councils and Central Districts Water to prepare the organisation, its people, systems and assets for the transition.

3. Transfer of Assets

- 3.1 A current priority for the three Councils has been progressing draft transfer schedules. These schedules document the land, resource consents, infrastructure and other water-related assets that will transfer to Central Districts Water.
- 3.2 This is an important part of preparing for the transition, ensuring there is a clear and agreed record of the assets and responsibilities Central Districts Water will take over from each Council.
- 3.3 On Tuesday 29 September 2026, staff from Central Districts Water and Rangitīkei District Council hosted Central Districts Water Board members on visits to key water sites across Rangitīkei, including Taihape, Mangaweka, Marton and Bulls.
- 3.4 The visits gave Board members an opportunity to see the water infrastructure in Rangitīkei first-hand, speak directly with the staff who operate and maintain it, and better understand the different challenges and complexities across our sites.
- 3.5 The visits were successful and provided useful local context as the Board continues preparing Central Districts Water for operation.

4. Significance and Engagement Policy

- 4.1 The Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders' Committee meets/met on Friday 9 October 2026 and will provide any final feedback on Central Districts Water's draft Significance and Engagement Policy.

ITEM 9.5

- 4.2 The Significance and Engagement Policy sets out how Central Districts Water will decide when an issue, proposal or decision is significant, and how and when it will engage with the community. The Policy is important because it will provide clarity about when communities can expect to have a say on decisions that could have a significant impact on water services, infrastructure or the people who use and pay for those services. It will also help ensure engagement is considered from the beginning of significant decision-making processes.
- 4.3 The Policy is required under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. The Act also requires water organisations to engage with their shareholders, consumers and communities when preparing the Policy.
- 4.4 Following consideration by the Joint Shareholders' Committee, the draft Policy will be released for public engagement either in late October or early November. This will provide Rangitikei residents and other Central Districts Water communities with an opportunity to provide feedback. When the feedback period is live, the Board will be informed. Central Districts Water can also meet with the Board during November if desired.

5. Preparing for Change

- 5.1 Over the upcoming summer period, a Central Districts Water awareness campaign will begin to help residents and water customers understand the upcoming change.
- 5.2 The education will focus on explaining:
 - 5.2.1 who Central Districts Water is and why it has been established;
 - 5.2.2 what services will transfer to Central Districts Water;
 - 5.2.3 what the change means for Rangitikei residents and property owners; and
 - 5.2.4 how people will pay for water services once Central Districts Water begins operating.
 - 5.2.5 That in March 2027 there will be a consultation on pricing and projects.
- 5.3 Until 1 July 2027, customers will continue to pay for water services through Council rates. From 1 July 2027, Central Districts Water will charge Rangitikei customers directly for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services, and these charges will no longer appear on Council rates bills.
- 5.4 Communications will increase as the transition approaches so residents know what is changing, when it is changing and where they can go for information or support.
- 5.5 This will include coming to Board meetings for the consultation in March, and again closer to 1 July 2027.

6. Discussion and Options Considered

- 6.1 This is a report for information. No options requiring a decision by the Board are presented.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from receiving this report for information.

- 7.2 The establishment of Central Districts Water will result in a significant change to how water services are funded and charged in Rangitīkei. Until 1 July 2027, water services will continue to be funded through Council. From 1 July 2027, water charges will be billed directly by Central Districts Water rather than forming part of Rangitīkei District Council rates.
- 7.3 The detail of Central Districts Water's charging approach will be developed through its Water Services Strategy ahead of commencement of operations. Central Districts Water will consult on its draft Water Services Strategy in early 2027.

8. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 8.1 The transition of water services to Central Districts Water involves a number of risks including continuity of service, accurate transfer of assets and information, compliance and ensuring customers understand the changes that will occur.
- 8.2 The Central Districts Water establishment programme currently underway is intended to manage these risks ahead of 1 July 2027.
- 8.3 No additional strategic risks arise from receiving this report for information.

9. Strategic Alignment

- 9.1 The establishment of Central Districts Water gives effect to Council's decisions on the future delivery of water services and the approved Water Services Delivery Plan.
- 9.2 The transition also aligns with Council's focus on working collaboratively and maintaining strong relationships with regional partners, communities, and mana whenua.

10. Mana Whenua Implications

- 10.1 Ngā Tapuwae o Hau has been established as the mana whenua rūpū supporting iwi and hapū across the three council areas through the establishment and transition to Central Districts Water.
- 10.2 Ngā Tapuwae o Hau is represented within the Central Districts Water governance structure, providing a mechanism for mana whenua perspectives to inform the establishment of Central Districts Water.
- 10.3 The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 also requires Central Districts Water's Significance and Engagement Policy to consider arrangements for engaging with relevant communities, including iwi and hapū.

11. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 11.1 There are no direct climate change impacts arising from receiving this report.
- 11.2 Climate change and resilience are relevant to the long-term planning, investment and management of water services infrastructure. These matters will continue to be considered by Central Districts Water through the development of its Water Services Strategy, infrastructure planning and future investment decisions.

12. Statutory Implications

- 12.1 The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 establishes a number of requirements for water services such Central Districts Water.

ITEM 9.5

- 12.2 The establishment and transfer work being undertaken by the three shareholder councils and Central Districts Water supports compliance with these statutory requirements.

13. Conclusion

- 13.1 Work to establish Central Districts Water and prepare for the transfer of water services on 1 July 2027 is continuing across the three shareholder councils and Central Districts Water.
- 13.2 Current priorities include confirming the assets and responsibilities that will transfer, developing Central Districts Water's Significance and Engagement Policy, preparing its Water Services Strategy and increasing community awareness of what the transition will mean for customers.
- 13.3 More information about Central Districts Water and the transition is available at www.centraldistrictswater.co.nz.

14. Decision Making Process

- 14.1 This is a report for information, no decision is required.

Recommendation

That the report Central Districts Water Update – October 2026 be received.

9.6 Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land - Update

Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

Authoriser: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

1.1 This is a report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council officers for the period ending July 2026.

2. Project: Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land

Project Manager: Steve Carne

Budget: \$8M

Reporting Period: July 2026

2.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Previous Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	● Amber	Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers for consideration
Scope	● Green	● Green	Strategy to reticulate Koitiata and discharge Ratana and Koitiata effluent via sea outfall at Koitiata was investigated and identified as an option to be included for consideration.
Schedule	● Amber	● Amber	Program to be confirmed
Budget	● Green	● Green	Budget is dependent on consideration of newly identified options and project outcomes.
Benefits	● Green	● Green	Benefits that can be achieved will be dependent on final option selection.
Stakeholder Support	● Amber	● Amber	New strategy not being discussed with the wider community and stakeholders until Council has considered Alternative Options Report

2.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers

In progress:

- Alternative options to be presented to Council for consideration.

2.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Koitiata Outfall Concept Strategy Investigation finalised	April 2026	
Stakeholder Consultation Starts	June 2026	

2.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$8M
Actual Spend	\$1.5M
Forecast Completion	\$9M

Variance: **Uncertain until alternative options are presented to Council for approval.**

2.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Community views and acceptance of alternative strategy	High	Early consultation re: alternatives and reasons why

2.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Consideration of alternative options available.

Recommendation 1

That the report Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land – Update be received.

9.7 Cemetery Update - October 2026

Author: Melanie Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This is a standing report that will update the Board on new burials within the Rātana Cemetery from the 04th of August to the 04th of October 2026.

2. There was one burial

- 1.1 2.1 Plot 346/ Block 1/ Row 16

Recommendation

That the report Cemetery Update – October 2026 be received.

9.8 Funding Schemes Update - October 2026**Author: Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor****1. Overview**

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitīkei District, these are:
- Community Initiatives Fund
 - Events Sponsorship Scheme
 - Creative Communities Scheme
 - Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitīkei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds. Council also approved carry-forward of unspent funds from 2025/26. The combined amount allocated for 2026/27 totals \$33,717.70.
- 2.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 24 September 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Bulls & District Friendship Club – \$2,750
 - Bulls and District Community Trust – \$1,500
 - The Marton & District Historical Society – \$2,500
 - The Marton and Surround ICT Hub Charitable Trust – \$2,500
 - Parkinson's New Zealand – \$2,000
 - Te Kai Whaka Ora – Marton Youth Trust – \$2,500
 - Whangaehu Hall Committee – \$1,500
 - Youth Services Trust Whanganui – \$500
- 2.4 The total amount allocated in Round one 2026/27 is \$15,750, with \$17,967.70 remaining for Round two 2026/27.
- 2.5 Round two for 2026/27 opens on 06 December 2026 and closes on 26 March 2027, with a decision being made in April 2027.

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds. Council also approved a carry-forward of unspent funds from 2025/26. The combined amount allocated for 2026/27 totals \$26,620.

- 3.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 24 September 26 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Bulls and District Community Trust – \$3,750
 - Hunterville Huntaway Festival – \$3,500
 - Mangaweka School Board of Trustees – \$2,000
 - Marton Country Music Festival – \$3,000
 - Rangitikei Shearing Sports Incorporated – \$3,500
 - Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society Incorporated – \$1,500
- 3.4 The total amount allocated in Round one 2026/27 is \$17,250, with \$9,370 remaining for Round two 2026/27.
- 3.5 Round two for 2026/27 opens on 06 December 2026 and closes on 26 March 2027, with a decision being made in April 2027.

4. Creative Communities Scheme

- 4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:
- Demonstrate growth over time
 - Develop and support local artistic communities
 - Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
 - Support diversity and inclusion
 - Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged
- 4.2 Creative NZ has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 4.3 Round one for 2026/27 is now open until Sunday 25 October 2026, with a decision being made Wednesday 18 November 2026.

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

- 5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.
- 5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.
- 5.3 The 2026/27 round is now open until Wednesday 31 March 2027, with decision being made in April 2027.

6. Further Information

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

7. Rangitīkei Grant Finder – Grant Guru

- 7.1 The Rangitīkei District Council has joined forces with one of New Zealand and Australia’s most powerful grant search engine, GrantGuru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop grants portal.

How it works

- 7.2 The Funding Finder hand-picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants available. It also provides advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding.
- 7.3 GrantGuru is regularly updated with new information and grants. It features all council grants and initiatives. It replaces the Generosity NZ portal which previously was available through the Rangitīkei Community Hubs.
- 7.4 Register via the website: <https://grantguru.com/nz/rangitikei>
- 7.5 Please reach out to our Funding Specialist if you require more information about Grant Guru, Charissa Lawlor, charissa.lawlor@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the report Funding Schemes Update - October 2026 be received.

10 Meeting Closed