



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2026

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Kokako Street Pavilion
2 Kokako Street
Taihape

Chair: Ms Gill Duncan

Deputy Chair: Mr Peter Kipling- Arthur

Membership: Ms De-Anna Green
Ms Melanie Pera
Cr Diana Baird
Cr Jeff Wong

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

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| Locations: | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape </td> </tr> </table> | <u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton | <u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls | <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape | |
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Notice is hereby given that a Taihape Community Board Meeting of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Kokako Street Pavilion, 2 Kokako Street, Taihape on Wednesday, 15 April 2026 at 5.30pm.

Order Of Business

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 1 | Welcome | 4 |
| 2 | Apologies | 4 |
| 3 | Public Forum | 4 |
| 4 | Conflict of Interest Declarations | 4 |
| 5 | Confirmation of Order of Business | 4 |
| 6 | Confirmation of Minutes | 5 |
| | 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes | 5 |
| 7 | Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings | 14 |
| | 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings | 14 |
| 8 | Chair's Report | 16 |
| | 8.1 Chair's Report - April 2026 | 16 |
| 9 | Reports for Information | 46 |
| | 9.1 Discussion of recent storm event from the Taihape perspective | 46 |
| | 9.2 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager | 74 |
| | 9.3 Letter - Nga Awa Block | 75 |
| | 9.4 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust..... | 76 |
| | 9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - April 2026..... | 77 |
| | 9.6 Mayor's Report - March 2026 | 79 |
| | 9.7 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026 | 98 |
| 10 | Discussion Items | 100 |
| | 10.1 Annual Plan Taihape Community Board Submission | 100 |
| | 10.2 AKONA and LGNZ | 101 |
| 11 | Meeting Closed. | 102 |

AGENDA

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

Jordan Winiata-Haines, Winiata Marae. Subject: Recent Storm event response.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

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

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

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

Attachments

1. **Taihape Community Board Meeting - 11 February 2026**

Recommendation

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

ITEM 6.1

MINUTES



ATTACHMENT 1

UNCONFIRMED: TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Kokako Street Pavilion
2 Kokako Street
Taihape

Present Ms Gill Duncan
Ms De-Anna Green
Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur
Ms Melanie Pera
Cr Diana Baird
Cr Jeff Wong

In attendance HWTM Andy Watson
Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager
Ms Sheryl Srhoj, Administration

Order of Business

1 Welcome..... 3

2 Apologies 3

3 Public Forum 3

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations..... 3

5 Confirmation of Order of Business 3

There was no change to the order of business. 3

6 Confirmation of Minutes 3

7 Confirmation of Minutes 4

 7.1 Taihape Community Board Workshop Notes..... 4

8 Chair’s Report 4

 8.1 Chair's Report - February 2026 4

9 Reports for Information..... 4

 9.1 Mayor's Report - December 2025 4

 9.2 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager 5

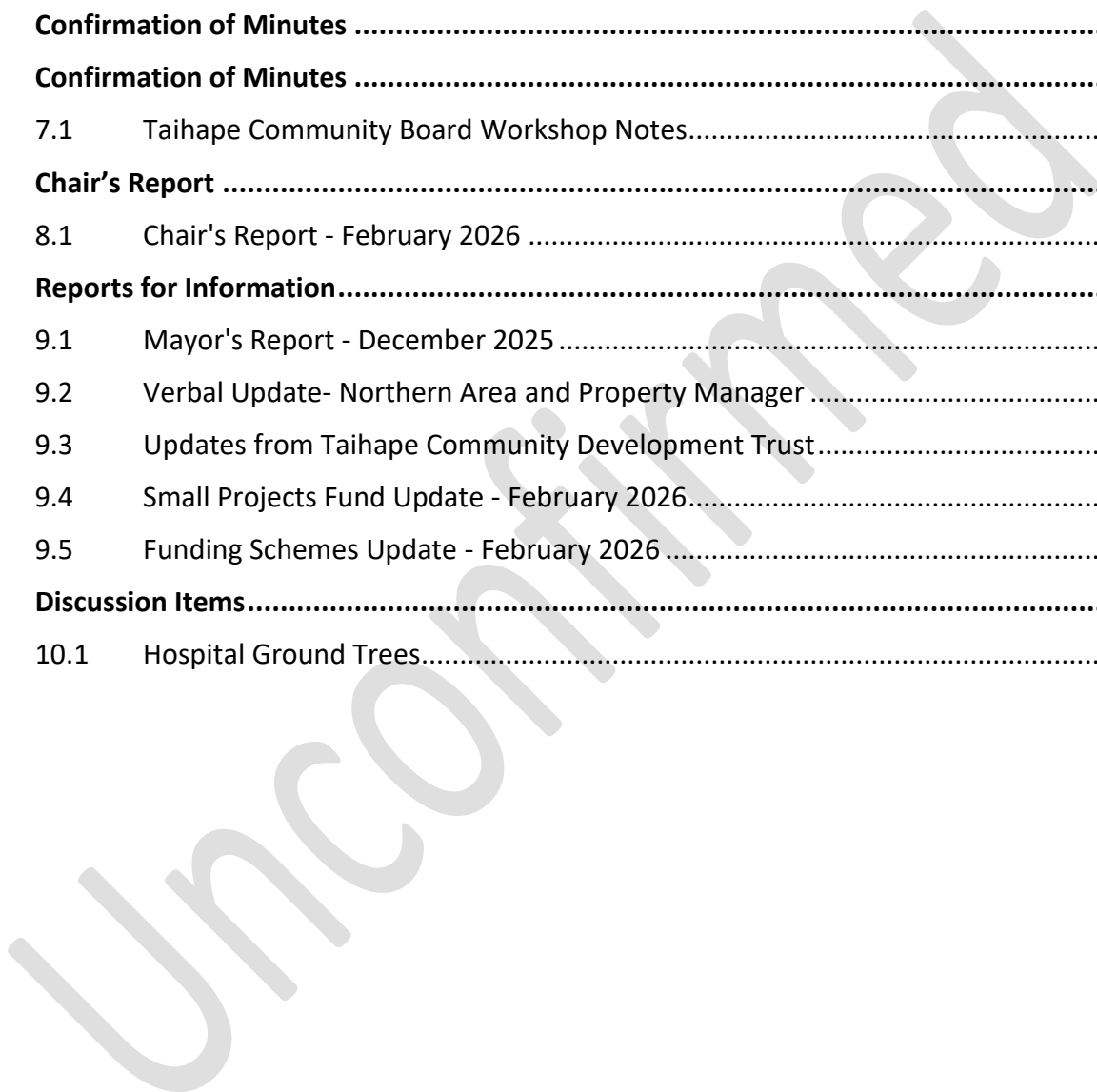
 9.3 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust..... 6

 9.4 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2026..... 6

 9.5 Funding Schemes Update - February 2026 7

10 Discussion Items..... 7

 10.1 Hospital Ground Trees..... 7



1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

2 Apologies

No apologies received.

3 Public Forum

Taihape Neighbourhood Support

On behalf of Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated, Ms Lynda McKnight-Wilson presented the Chair with a piece of artwork depicting a historic Taihape main street scene. The Board were very appreciative of the amazing artwork by artist Julie Oliver.

This was the second piece of art that the group had donated. The intention being that the artwork would be displayed in the Taihape Town Hall, once it reopened.

Taihape Rotary

Mrs Hodgson spoke on behalf of Taihape Rotary. She said that after 80 years, the Taihape Rotary Chapter would no longer exist due to the lack of membership numbers as required by law to continue as an official club. The Chapter were seeking the Boards permission to display 4 of their Honorary Boards at the Kokako Street hall.

The Taihape Chapter intends to complete the Taihape Rotunda project.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cr Wong and Mr Kipling-Arthur declared a conflict of interest in regard to Item 9.4 - Event Board Sign- Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/001

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 19 November 2025 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.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms D Green. Carried

7 Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Taihape Community Board Workshop Notes

As discussed at the Boards workshop, it was agreed that a meeting review be undertaken and that this be included as an item in the June Agenda.

Undertaking:

Item to be added to the June Order Paper.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/002

That the Taihape Community Board Workshop Notes be received.

Ms G Duncan/Mr P Kipling-Arthur. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - February 2026

The Chair spoke to her tabled report.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/003

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

Ms G Duncan/Ms D Green. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - December 2025

The Mayor took his report as read.

Further to his report, the Mayor noted the following items:

- Attended the Ratana 25th celebrations which unfortunately had clashed with the Taihape Shearing Sports event of which had taken place at Erewhon Station due to weather conditions.
- Met with representatives from Friends of Taihape to view new trackwork. Acknowledged the work that had been undertaken. Once completed this would be a valuable asset to Taihape.
- Spoke briefly on end stages of build projects – all of which were well supported by Council.

- Outlined the relevant points regarding the proposed Rates Capping Legislation
- Provided an update on the newly formed three waters entity called Central Districts Water.

Members reiterated the importance of communities having access to Councillors to discuss these and other matters. It was agreed that they support Council by continuing with the 'Talking Table' in Taihape. The Mayor would be more than happy to attend when possible.

(Cr Baird arrived at 6.05pm)

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/004

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

Ms G Duncan/Ms D Green. Carried

9.2 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager

The Northern Area and Property Manager provided a verbal update on the following activities;

Community Led Projects

Hautapu River Bridges.

The third bridge has been completed. Friends of Taihape have been successful in obtaining funding for the remaining 2 bridges.

Gumboot Park Rotunda.

A path is to be installed from the footpath to the rotunda entrance. The existing sign to be replaced with a refreshed one which will acknowledge the joint venture partners.

Taihape Grandstand Restoration Group

The Group met in January, where they discussed scope options for beneath the grandstand, compliance considerations, and funding opportunities. Staff have also commenced work on the agreement of roles, responsibilities and processes. A further meeting is scheduled for next week.

Property

Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment

Maycroft completed the preliminary design in November, however since the construction budget was exceeded the design review has been put on hold until such time as Maycroft make the necessary changes to bring the cost back within budget. The heating system is the primary cause of the cost increase with the rest coming from stage and lighting support requests from the community.

Ngā Awa

Council received nice feedback from the Equestrian Show Jumping. They noted it was an asset to their show and that they had lots of new competitors this year who loved the facility, with many comments about it being the nicest showering facilities they'd used for a horse show.

Cr Wong reported that he had received positive feedback regarding the condition of the Taihape Memorial Park grounds and Taihape cemetery.

Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements –

To improve current plant operations and increase consent compliance outcomes an investigation into possible short term operational improvements and longer term capital works improvements is being undertaken. A strategy for network inflow and infiltration has been developed and as part of this a house to house and manhole inspections program was completed in January. These works identified a range of improper stormwater connections to the wastewater network, which are the responsibility of the property owner to resolve. If successfully completed these works should reduce wet weather flow at the wastewater treatment plant by 10-15%. Other CCTV inspection works of sewers to identify 'easy to fix' sources of inflow and infiltration will be carried out in April - June, and at the conclusion of these works an Inflow and Infiltration strategy will be developed.

Following further discussions on the Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, the Chair asked that Council keep the Board informed of timelines in order for them to offer their support in communicating this process to the community.

Undertaking:

Board members asked that this be shared with the community, noting affected streets on social media and via Talk Up Taihape if timing allowed.

Roading

Taihape Napier Road was closed for a week at the start of February to allow road repavement work to be undertaken by contractors. A method has been used called Foam Bitumen Stabilisation, which is when the old road payment is broken down and reused for the new payment. There is a short video clip on Council's Facebook page if members would like to see more about this process.

Resurfacing will commence in town at the beginning of March.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/005

That the Verbal Update - Northern Area and Property Manager be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms M Pera. Carried

9.3 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust

No update was provided.

9.4 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2026

Event Board Sign- Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated

As agreed at the June 2025 meeting, the Taihape Community Board had set aside \$2,400 from the Small Project Fund to fund applications for any Northern and Southern Events Board signage for volunteer groups.

Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated were seeking funding of \$414.00 to cover signage costs for a promotional sign to be installed on the Northern Events Board.

Taihape Pool Project

Staff provided further information on the proposed painting project which Community Leisure Management were keen to undertake.

Cr Baird noted that pool staff had done a great job of brightening the interior walls and was supportive of this funding request. Other members agreed that it was important to support our local pool.

The Board were unanimous in their decision to fund the paint for this project from the Small Project Fund.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/006

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

Ms G Duncan/Cr D Baird. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/007

That the Taihape Community Board fund \$414.00, from the allocated \$2,400 to the Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated to cover signage costs.

Ms D Green/Ms M Pera. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/008

That the Taihape Community Board agree to fund the purchase of paint to the value of \$585.15 to paint the exterior Taihape Swim Centre block walls.

Ms M Pera/Ms D Green. Carried

9.5 Funding Schemes Update - February 2026

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/TCB/009

That the Funding Schemes Update – February 2026 be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms M Pera. Carried

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Hospital Ground Trees

After some discussion, the Board agreed that the appropriate process would be for this matter to be communicated directly to the Taihape Health Trust.

The Chair noted that this was a timely reminder for Board members to encourage locals to log any such issues through Councils Request For Service process.

Undertaking:

Cr Wong to refer this matter to the appropriate agencies.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

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

.....
Chairperson

Unconfirmed

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Taihape 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 Taihape Community Board Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

| Item | From Meeting Date | Details | Person Assigned | Status Comments | Status |
|------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 9-Apr-26 | New World AED update and payment | Peter KA | Opportunity to update. | In progress |
| 2 | 9-Apr-26 | Flag Tracks installed in Taihape | Gill | Highlighted by board | Completed |
| 3 | 9-Apr-26 | Marae Visits | Mel | Opportunity for board to discuss | In progress |

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - April 2026

Author: Gill Duncan, Chair

Taihape Community Board Chair's Report 15/4/2026

The most significant event for Taihape in the last two months would have to be the Valentines Weekend weather event that was a perfect storm for Taihape with the loss of cellphone communication and power, no Civil Defence call out or available SAT phone, and road closures that meant both ambulances out on calls, were not able to get back to Taihape, along with the enormous damage from the wild wind and weather felling trees. Taihape Neighbourhood Support's debrief after the event identifies multiple areas to be addressed that we can share with RDC and support for a smoother response next time.

Despite it all, the love was still felt through Winiata Marae opening their warm and welcoming arms to their whanau, the families along the Winiata Straight, in the first place, and then extending that to stranded Travellers by stepping into the front line. Huge thanks must go to their Team. To have such resourceful and generous support in our community lends a resilience we can all be very grateful for.

Our Community Board's March workshop highlighted many areas to address. Thank you to our members and supporting staff who have been busy gathering intel and making things happen such as replacement batteries for the New World AED.

The Taihape Health Hospital project continues with Judith McDonald, Piki Te Ora Hiroa and Marian Cleaver's tenacity. We need to help focus on this project that has outstanding potential for Taihape's health outcomes.

LGNZ March Zoom meeting, see attached report. I look forward to our whole committee joining these to understand NZ-wide LG concerns.

The Annual Plan,(AP), Submissions close on Friday 17th April. The 6.4% rates increase is explained in the consultation document, and I have had very little comment. Fuel prices, on the other hand, are on everyone's minds.

We have our own submission to approve tonight. Submitting on behalf of our community projects and positions is a great opportunity to support the AP process and Taihape.

And it's Gumboot Day this Saturday 18th April. I look forward to getting out there and showing off my superb Gumboot throwing skills, eat a hotdog and buy some homemade goodies at the stalls.

Attachments:

1. **The Value of LGNZ Membership 2026** [↓](#)
2. **Govt Fuel Plan** [↓](#)

Recommendation

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



The value of LGNZ membership 2026





| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| From the President | _____ | 3 |
| Top 10 advocacy wins from the past year | _____ | 5 |
| How LGNZ saves councils (and ratepayers) money | _____ | 9 |
| LGNZ's strategy | _____ | 14 |
| Everything LGNZ does for members | _____ | 15 |
| National Council 2025-28 | _____ | 20 |

From the President >

You will know by now that since December 2025, LGNZ has been on a path of reset and renewal. We know that we have our work cut out for us!

With a new President, Vice President and National Council, we are focused on ensuring LGNZ is responsive to members and effective in representing local government during a period of significant change.

A key priority has been rebuilding a constructive relationship with central government. Vice President Dan and I have met several times with the Prime Minister, Minister Watts and other senior Ministers. These conversations have been positive and focused on practical solutions. We have also met with the Leader of the Opposition and other political parties. Our role is to work constructively with whoever is in government, while ensuring local government's voice is heard and respected.

Equally important is ensuring LGNZ reflects the priorities of its members. We are here to listen and work with you. The feedback we have received from councils has helped shape the new LGNZ strategy outlined later in this document. That strategy places a strong emphasis on advocacy and influence to secure better long-term outcomes for local government.

Ultimately, our members – and the communities we serve – must see clear value in what LGNZ delivers. Later in the document we highlight how and where we save you and your community money via our advocacy.

We recognise councils are facing some of the toughest conditions in living memory. Cost-of-living pressures are real for communities, and councils are also managing a tsunami of reform across multiple policy areas. Every dollar matters. National Council has rejected the 9.5% fee increase planned by the previous National Council for this year. Instead we agreed 3.1%, recognising the pressure councils are under. LGNZ has put all costs under the microscope (including conference) and increased efficiency while protecting core member services.

This is also a time when local government needs a strong, united voice more than ever. LGNZ's work goes well beyond the direct services we provide to councils. Our advocacy helps protect councils from costs and risks that could otherwise fall directly on ratepayers.

Looking ahead, further reforms – from resource management to potential changes in local government structures and rating frameworks – will bring significant transition challenges for councils. Ensuring those costs and impacts are fairly managed will be a major focus of LGNZ's work.

In times of change, collective strength matters. LGNZ's influence comes from the breadth and unity of its membership. When councils stand together, our voice carries far greater weight.

Dan and I are always happy to talk with members about the direction of LGNZ and the work ahead. Please feel free to reach out if you would like a conversation or a visit. We're holding regular Zooms after National Council meetings and appreciating all your feedback.

We firmly believe LGNZ plays a vital role as the peak body for local government – and that role is strongest when we stand together.

Rehette Stoltz
President, LGNZ

LGNZ serves the long-term interests of local government >

We recognise this is a challenging time for regional council Chairs, councillors, Chief Executives and staff.

LGNZ’s position on Simplifying Local Government is clear and we have discussed this directly with Minister Watts and the Prime Minister:

- > Combined Territories Boards will be most effective if they have a single, clear purpose: to develop reorganisation plans.
- > Regional councillors have valuable experience of the current functions regional councils undertake. This experience will be essential in developing future models and in implementing current reforms, such as resource management.
- > LGNZ supports retaining current regional councillors’ governance over regional functions until either the end of this triennium or when regional reorganisation plans are finalised.
- > LGNZ also supports CTBs having direct access to regional councils’ valuable institutional knowledge, including having a Chair or councillor as members.
- > There should also be flexibility on who leads a CTB: a Mayor, a current regional council Chair (to retain valuable institutional knowledge), or an independent chair.

LGNZ’s President and Vice President have raised these points with both the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister. The Minister has told us there is flexibility and that one-size-doesn’t-fit-all for every region. Minister Watts has been clear that he wants to work with LGNZ to improve reforms.

LGNZ delivers for regional councils >

- > LGNZ delivers value for the regional sector through its political engagement, advocacy, and media presence.
- > Our role complements Te Uru Kahika’s technical and operational expertise when the two organisations work together. Te Uru Kahika strengthens regional council’s ability to deliver operational excellence, while LGNZ ensures regional expertise is connected to national decision making, especially when it comes to influencing political decisions.
- > *Before the Deluge* shows how this partnership works. Strong, evidence-based technical advice, effectively advocated for at the national level, delivered results for councils, communities and the Government.
 - + LGNZ supported the development of a government relations and comms approach
 - + LGNZ identified key officials to engage with, including when and on what
 - + LGNZ supported pitching stories to key infrastructure and political journalists
 - + LGNZ supported drafting letters and talking points for officials and ministers
 - + LGNZ met with ministers and officials as needed, including raising this topic in our regular ministerial meetings
- > LGNZ has recently collaborated with TUK to:
 - + Ensure our submission on the proposed rates capping formula reflected regional councils’ specific operating environment, and that TUK’s submission aligned with ours
 - + Advocate for regional councils to be able to utilise development levies as part of the new development levies regime
- > LGNZ delivered a targeted induction day for Chairs, which included engagement with Minister Watts.



Top 10
advocacy
wins from
the past
year >

01/ The Government eases seismic strengthening requirements

- > LGNZ advocated for the new regime that was announced last year. As Chair of LGNZ’s seismic strengthening group, Manawatū Mayor Michael Ford drove this advocacy, which was also the subject of a 2024 remit from his council.
- > **Strengthening requirements are now focused on high-risk buildings in risky seismic zones rather than applying everywhere in New Zealand.**
- > Strengthening deadlines have been extended by four years – and councils can extend these further.
- > The Government has estimated the change will save more than \$8 billion. Councils that are building owners will save directly – and they will also benefit indirectly from the removal of this handbrake on towns’ and cities’ vibrancy. Many commercial property owners will also benefit as they will not have to undertake expensive strengthening work or demolition and can tenant buildings.

02/ The building system will shift to proportionate liability, radically reducing councils’ potential liability.

- > For councils, this is one of the most significant reforms to the building regime in decades and something LGNZ has long advocated for. It’s been the subject of repeated remits and advocacy. This parliamentary term, we have raised it with Building and Construction Minister Chris Penk as well as generating visibility in the media.
- > Previously if builders went bankrupt, councils could end up liable, because any party could be held liable for the whole cost. For example, the leaky home crisis according to some estimates has generated as much as \$2 billion in liability for councils despite their role being limited to consenting or inspection.
- > Minister Chris Penk has said councils have paid out \$330 million over the last 10 years for building defects that they were not primarily responsible for.
- > **During 2026, the Government will replace joint-and-several liability with proportionate liability, where councils are only liable for their part of the process.** Proportionate liability means councils don’t have to pay for other parties’ failures, saving ratepayers billions in the event of another widespread failure.
- > Carrying less risk also means councils can make less risk-averse decisions.

03/ We stopped proposed transport emergency works changes that would have cost councils

- > The Government proposed narrowing what qualifies as emergency works, reducing the level of government subsidy and shifting more responsibility for recovery on to councils.
- > LGNZ’s Transport Forum led our fight against these changes, which would have seen councils facing higher recovery costs after storms and floods.
- > **The Government decided not to proceed and left existing settings largely unchanged. That means councils can still access co-funding for urgent repairs after natural disasters.**

04/ Our submission influenced the select committee’s recommendations on the System Improvements Bill

- > The select committee considering the System Improvements Bill adopted many changes LGNZ submitted on, including:
 - + **Changes to the initially proposed purpose of local government that will reduce councils’ risk of legal challenge over decision-making**
 - + **Adding community facilities and waste minimisation to the listed core services – and making that list non exhaustive**
- > Before the select committee process, we suggested these changes to the Minister, which were actioned:
 - + Removing the LGA requirements to publish ads in physical newspapers
 - + Removing the requirement for six-yearly service reviews

05/ Our Electoral Reform Working group gained wide buy-in to their recommendations – and substantial media coverage

- > **Ditching postal voting and moving to booth voting received support across the political spectrum** – one of the [working group’s key recommendations](#).
- > Three days after the local government elections, Mayor Hon Dr Nick Smith and the rest of the working group met with Minister Watts to discuss next steps.
- > The decline of the postal service means urgent change is needed before the 2028 elections – we are continuing conversations with all political parties.
- > Policy.nz was stood up for the 2025 elections thanks to LGNZ raising funds from councils to ensure it was viable. All candidates were invited to contribute to the site, which sets out who is standing and what they stand for.

06/ We influenced the development of emergency management legislation

- > **Over the past year, LGNZ has been part of the steering group guiding development of the legislation, which retains a locally led model of emergency management.**
- > We have welcomed the new bill and its objectives – while being clear that funding cannot only arrive after disaster strikes.
- > We have been clear on the challenges that setting minimum levels of service would create for some areas, and will work with NEMA and the Minister to ensure this does not lead to unmanageable cost pressures on councils

07/ Mayors, Chairs and councillors can access funding for a security system

- > After LGNZ provided information to the Remuneration Authority about security threats to Mayors, Chairs and councillors, they agreed to introduce a security system allowance for elected members.
- > **This mirrors the allowance already available to Members of Parliament.**
- > If a council adopts the allowance, eligible members can receive up to \$4,500 to install a security system at their home and up to \$1,000 per year for monitoring, repairs, and call-outs.
- > In 2024, an LGNZ poll of Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives at one of our events showed that nearly two thirds had faced aggressive and abusive behaviour online; 74% had experienced this behaviour during public, in-person meetings. A third of respondents said abuse and aggression happened during everyday activities like shopping or collecting children from school. We will be gathering new data in our triennial elected member census.

08/ Our intervention led to changes in DIA’s council “report cards”

- > In mid-2025, DIA released its first annual “report card” for each council, intended to show ratepayers how their council compares to other “like” councils. DIA initially proposed to release these figures without any local context.
- > **LGNZ successfully advocated for the report cards to flag high-growth councils, those recovering from natural disasters, and those particularly impacted by tourism, for example.**
- > DIA also eventually agreed to share, ahead of time, data from other councils in your “group”, to help councils plan for release.
- > They also agreed report cards could link to your council website, so you could add key local details.

09/ We are in the room on national direction for resource management.

- > **We have been engaging with officials behind the scenes on the development of the replacement resource management system, including the approach to its implementation.**
- > We worked with Buddle Findlay to develop our submission on the Planning and Natural Environment Bills

10/ The Ratepayers Assistance Scheme has gained strong political support

- > RAS aims to deliver cost-of-living relief through low-interest loans to ratepayers.
- > Like the Local Government Funding Authority, which LGNZ also spearheaded, the RAS is a potential gamechanger for local government. For councils, it’s an off-balance sheet financing vehicle that leverages the security of rates.
- > **The RAS would enable ratepayers to access finance at about 2% less than a standard floating mortgage rate for specific property improvements that have a public benefit** (like solar panels that would deliver substantial long-term savings even when repayments are factored in); it would allow households on fixed incomes to postpone their rates; and it would remove a barrier to housing development by supporting deferred development contributions.
- > The RAS is a collaboration between LGNZ, LGFA, Rewire Aotearoa and funding councils (Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Hutt City and Queenstown Lakes).



How LGNZ saves councils (and ratepayers) money >

LGNZ saves councils money by delivering services at scale.

LGNZ is a membership organisation designed to deliver shared services at scale and save your ratepayers money, so that council staff can focus on core local services. Without access to these services, councils either purchase them at commercial rates or put additional pressure on council staff time.



Submissions



LGNZ shares draft submissions, analysis and explainers with members on all key reforms.

- > We incorporate member feedback in our final versions.
- > Councils do not have the capacity to submit on every single consultation: LGNZ ensures local government’s key concerns are represented.

Access to draft submissions saves councils tens of thousands of dollars. For example, our [resource management submission](#) was informed by David Allen, a partner at Buddle Findlay and one of New Zealand’s leading legal experts on resource management. Councils could use this expert advice in your own submission, rather than commissioning your own specialist input. Elected members and staff could also hear directly from David and ask questions at an Ako hour in December.

LGNZ’s submissions on resource management, local government systems reform and rates capping contained specialist legal and economic analysis that would cost your council **\$90,000** to commission. In addition to that cost, to produce these three detailed submissions yourself, a council would need to invest at least **200 hours of staff time**.

So far in 2026, we have shared 10 submissions. Based on past trends, we would expect to submit on at least another eight major bills or consultations before the House rises pre-election. Without LGNZ, councils either face scaling your policy team up and down to meet peaks in demand or outsourcing work to expensive consultants.

Each submission is worth between **\$30K-\$100K+** depending on its complexity. This value is represented by:

- > Influencing officials and Ministers before legislation is drafted. This includes LGNZ participation in working parties and reference groups.
- > Engaging with council expert staff to ensure alignment with members.
- > Developing explainers and position pieces to support your submissions and test early thinking.
- > Commissioning specialist input and advice, including from New Zealand’s most reputable economic and legal experts.
- > In-house expertise to develop submissions.

The total value of our work responding to government reforms to date in 2026 is valued at between \$300,000 and \$1 million – with at least another four submissions anticipated before parliament breaks



Professional development



Ākona saves councils significant training costs by giving unlimited access to online governance training, avoiding the need to purchase **equivalent commercial courses that typically cost \$800-\$1,200 per person per module**. The most popular courses since the elections have been:

- > Responsibilities of the chair
- > Council assets
- > Intergenerational costing
- > Asset maintenance

Ako hour sessions alone save at least \$100 per person per session, compared with the equivalent cost of short governance webinars from external providers. Sessions are recorded and available for replay at any time.

You can commission specific in-person **workshops for your council for \$5,000-\$7,000, which is roughly half the price of comparable commercial governance training** (typically \$10,000-\$12,000 per day).

Councils avoid expensive consultancy costs because Ākona provides sector-specific learning design and advice. External governance training consultants typically charge \$140-\$160 per hour plus design costs that can run into thousands of dollars.

On-demand training reduces wasted spend and staff time by allowing members to choose from **27 catalogues of governance topics**, rather than paying for generic courses that include irrelevant material. From asset management and risk to political acumen, writing and delivering speeches, climate adaptation, and personal safety, topics were all requested by members.

Long-term value is built through reusable learning resources (micro-modules, recorded sessions, templates and guides), ensuring skills and knowledge are retained rather than lost after one-off training events – maximising your return.

If you asked a third party to develop everything available to your council on the Ākona platform, it would cost your council **more than \$1 million**.



Guides and data



LGNZ produces and regularly updates guides for elected members and councils, for example:

- > Elected member governance guide
- > Tax guide for elected members
- > Mayors and Chairs governance guide
- > Recruiting and managing your Chief Executive
- > Council declaration guide
- > Representation reviews guide
- > Standing Orders template and guide

If a council commissioned these guides independently, it would cost **\$25,000 to \$50,000 per publication.**



Media advice



Members have free access to our expert advice. We provide crisis media support for councils, particularly when multiple councils are involved, and individual tailored guidance and advice on specific issues.

We have established working relationships with all media outlets.

If you contracted in specialist advice, it would cost a council thousands of dollars per issue – starting at **\$280 an hour.**



General advice



Members can pick up the phone for advice on specific challenges. LGNZ fields many calls from councils when you want a sense check or when things go wrong. This ranges from questions about the Local Government Act, conflict between the Mayor/Chair and a councillor or Chief Executive, or other curly issues. We are impartial and work confidentially to deescalate conflict so councils avoid costly legal disputes. Calling us can save a council significant money and time (and public reputational damage). We've seen it all before – and we know what works.

- > You would spend **\$150.00 to \$280.00 per hour** getting this advice from a commercial provider – and much more if you need to involve lawyers.

LGNZ strategy 2026



Elevator pitch >

Local Government New Zealand is the national peak body for councils and local democracy. We bring local voices into national policy, influence decisions early, and work with government to deliver practical solutions. Our legitimacy comes from a strong membership base.

Long-term goals >

Our long-term goals have been reset in 2026 by National Council. They drive LGNZ’s work and are integrated into everything we do.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>O1.</p> <p>LGNZ effectively influences central government.</p> | <p>O2.</p> <p>New Zealanders value councils. Local decisions matter and councils are financially sustainable.</p> | <p>O3.</p> <p>Strong Te Tiriti partnerships deliver positive outcomes for people, place and the economy.</p> | <p>O4.</p> <p>More people participate in local government</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

We deliver long-term goals through influence, connection and support

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p> INFLUENCE/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Shape policy early, before it is developed, through relationships with officials, Ministers, all political parties. > Work with all political parties, key stakeholders and local government to advance our advocacy priorities (listed below) in the short and long term. > Improve policy through the legislative process. > Spearhead solutions to local government’s intractable problems. > Use media to set the agenda and raise local government’s voice. > Give members the right tools to boost local government’s influence > Integrate a te ao Māori lens throughout our advocacy. | <p> CONNECTION/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bring members together at our sector, All-of-local-government and conference events to hear from key speakers and Ministers, share ideas and connect. > Use events as an opportunity for members to influence key decision makers and officials. > Make sure members are in the loop on everything LGNZ does, with input into decisions and submissions. > Support Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and the Community Boards Executive Committee to connect and equip elected members and progress their kaupapa. > Connect women in local government online and in-person pre-conference. | <p> SUPPORT/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Build elected members’ capability and knowledge through our Ākōna professional development. > Launch a formal qualification for elected members in partnership with Victoria University. > Advocate to protect elected members’ safety and security. > Deliver initiatives like Street Lights Profiles and the Road Efficiency Group that support best practice and generate efficiency and financial savings for councils. > Develop and update key guides and templates for councils. > Provide confidential support to councils in difficulty. > Develop and deliver value-add services, including shared services, that meet councils’ needs. |
|--|---|--|

Our advocacy priorities >

Members generated these priorities and then ranked them at our February All-of-local-government meeting:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>O1.</p> <p>Financially sustainable and cost-effective local government</p> | <p>O2.</p> <p>Meeting current and future infrastructure needs</p> | <p>O3.</p> <p>Resilient communities, economies, and environments</p> | <p>O4.</p> <p>A responsive and accountable local government system</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

Each priority will be driven by a reference group. Regional, Metro and Rural & Provincial sectors will each have the opportunity to create sector goals under each priority.



Everything LGNZ does for members >

INFLUENCE

Our advocacy

- > We meet regularly with the Prime Minister and key Ministers. The Minister for Local Government has been clear both at sector meetings and behind the scenes that he wants to work with LGNZ.
- > Our non-partisan approach and regular access to the government-of-the-day means we can influence policy before and after it lands.
- > We also meet with the Coalition partners and Opposition parties.
- > We work with officials behind the scenes to change policy as it's developed.
- > Our media strategies put local government issues in the spotlight, including encouraging people to vote.
- > We make useful data available to members, for example our new *Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights* delivered by Infometrics ([see the December issue](#)). Councils would pay in excess of \$20,000 a year for an individual council.
- > We produce analysis that supports advocacy, like work to [quantify unfunded mandates](#) or our set of [Funding and Financing tools](#).
- > We spearhead specific projects, like the Ratepayers Assistance Scheme, which would allow ratepayers to borrow cheaply for specific property improvements (like solar panels), rates postponement and development contributions.
- > We share draft submissions, analysis and explainers with members on all key reforms.
- > We create member working groups to drive change: for example, our Transport Forum, which successfully advocated against proposed emergency works changes; and our Electoral Reform Working Group, which has achieved significant political and media buy in to its final recommendations (which we are continuing to progress).
- > We deliver long-term policy work, like our proposals to reform how local government elections are run – where there's agreement across the political spectrum change is needed due to persistently low voter turnout.

CONNECTION

Our member events and networks

- > Our sector and All-of-local-government meetings allow members to come together and hear from Ministers and expert speakers. We held stand-alone sector meetings in November 2025, followed by AOLG and Metro/Regional/Rural & Provincial sector meetings in February, with very strong attendance.
- > Our SuperLocal25 conference was held from 15-17 July at Te Pae in Christchurch, attracting nearly 800 attendees. Overall satisfaction data lifted significantly compared to 2024, with strong feedback on the value of the programme, breakout sessions and networking. We achieved significant media coverage, with 18 journalists from 11 media outlets onsite. We are well into planning SuperLocal26 in Rotorua in July.
- > We provide strong support and high-quality hui for our Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and CBEC networks.
- > We also hold a very popular breakfast for women elected members ahead of SuperLocal (last year featuring former Minister Tracey Martin).

SUPPORT

Our professional development and guidance

Ākona is our professional development programme, with free access to all elected members and specifically designed to prepare members for every triennium milestone.

- > It includes a growing range of e-modules and live online Ako hours, ranging from asset management to responsibilities of the chair, dealing with media and much more. Using Ākona delivers councils substantial professional development savings.
- > In July, we launched pre-elected learning for anyone considering standing for council. This interactive course stepped any potential candidates through what it means to be an elected member and was very popular, with 2,252 sessions by 1,118 active users.
- > More than 400 elected members attended our induction, from Mayors School to Elected Member inductions in 13 locations and Chairs Induction. We had outstanding feedback, especially compared to previous inductions, with an average satisfaction score of 4.6 out of 5, which is incredibly high. After attending induction, 91% of attendees felt either “very confident” or “confident” about their role. This is the result of months of planning.
- > Later this year, LGNZ and Victoria University will launch a formal qualification that elected members can achieve by presenting a portfolio of their everyday work.








Members are strongly supportive of our work to advance elected member safety, which included:

- > The launch of our very popular [How to stay safe guide](#) last May.
- > Minister for Women Nicola Grigg launching a well-received toolkit targeted at women leaders at our 1 May All-of-local-government meeting.
- > Submissions in support of the Government’s legislation against stalking, and against protesting outside people’s homes. These submissions allow us to speak directly to central government politicians about the risks local elected members face.

We also have a range of programmes that support members:

- > Te Korowai, LGNZ's continuous improvement programme for councils
- > Road Efficiency Group, which is a partnership between LGNZ, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and all road controlling authorities that provides data to improve decision making, supports best practice asset management and tests asset management plans.
- > Our Street Lights Profile supports councils in lowering electricity bills from dimmable streetlights and generates revenue for LGNZ.

We prepare and update guides for councils, including:

-  [Standing Orders templates and the Standing Orders Guide](#)
-  [Guidance for Mayors and Chairs;](#)
-  [Elected members guide to governance and local government](#)
-  [Recruiting and managing council CEs](#)
-  [The community boards' guide](#)
-  [The tax guide for elected members](#)
-  [Elected members' guide to the Local Government \(Rating\) Act](#)

We provide confidential support and advice to councils in difficulty.

ITEM 8.1
ATTACHMENT 1



National Council 2025-28 >



Mayor Rehette Stoltz
LGNZ President and Regional sector representative



Mayor Dan Gordon
LGNZ Vice President and Zone 5 representative



Mayor Ken Couper
Zone 1 representative



Mayor Toby Adams
Zone 2 representative



Mayor Craig Little
Zone 3 representative



Mayor Fran Wilde
Zone 4 representative



Mayor Tamah Alley
Zone 6 representative



Mayor Grant Smith
Metro sector representative



Mayor Mahé Drysdale
Metro sector representative



Mayor Sophie Barker
Metro sector representative



Deputy Chair Bonita Bigham
Regional sector representative



Chair Deon Swiggs
Regional sector representative



Mayor Faylene Tunui
Rural sector representative



Mayor Tania Tapsell
Provincial sector representative



Councillor Dinnie Moeahu
Te Maruata Co-Chair



Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria
Te Maruata Co-Chair



Councillor Alex Crackett
Young Elected Member Chair



New Zealand’s Fuel Response Plan 2026

Phase 1: Watchful

What’s happening
 The fuel market is operating effectively and fuel is available nationwide. However, prices are rising due to global market changes.

This phase is about supporting the market and making sure Kiwis have good information.

What the Government will do

- Monitor fuel stocks and shipments
- Publish twice-weekly stock updates
- Monitor global supply and maintain engagement with international partners
- Coordinate closely with industry players to ensure markets continue to work well
- Understand and prepare to reduce its own demand
- Provide information to the public, including on how to reduce fuel bills

What you can do

- Access fuel as you normally would
- Regularly check MBIE’s website
- Be aware of EECA’s information on fuel-saving measures

Phase 2: Precautionary

What’s happening
 The market continues to operate effectively and fuel is available nationwide, but there are signs of significant supply disruptions.

This phase is about shoring up supply, closer coordination between Government and industry, and managing demand.

What the Government will do

- Continue to monitor fuel stocks and shipments, and publish twice-weekly stock updates
- Work with international partners to keep fuel flowing to New Zealand
- Coordinate closely with key industry players to ensure fuel is effectively distributed
- Review regulations to enable reduced fuel use
- Implement a public sector fuel response plan
- Provide information to the public on how to reduce fuel bills and conserve fuel in the national interest

What you can do

- Access fuel as you normally would
- Consider combining trips, and/or other modes
- Regularly check MBIE’s website
- Follow EECA guidance on additional measures to help save fuel day-to-day

Phase 3: Managed *UNDER CONSULTATION*

What’s happening
 Supply is tighter and the Government is making sure fuel gets where it is needed most.

This phase uses Government powers, implemented by industry, to protect critical services. Measures will be lifted as soon as conditions allow.

What the Government may do

- Prioritise uninterrupted supply to life-preserving services, and help direct fuel supply to others according to priority, for example via purchasing limits
- Provide regular public updates, listen to industry and communities, and adjust accordingly
- Regularly assess how things are going, and get back to Phase 2 as soon as possible

What you can do

- Be confident that ambulances, fire services, hospitals, and food supply chains are covered
- Follow any purchase limits
- Check the daily update to understand how long measures will be in place

Phase 4: Protected *UNDER CONSULTATION*

What’s happening
 There is a bigger or sustained supply disruption, and there are formal rules to ensure fuel is distributed fairly.

This phase is about protecting critical services, and making sure everyone else gets a share. Measures will be lifted as soon as conditions allow.

What the Government may do

- Prioritise uninterrupted supply to all life-preserving services, and more strictly direct how fuel is distributed to other customers
- Maintain daily public updates, listen to industry and communities, and adjust as appropriate
- Regularly assess progress, and get back to Phase 2/3 as soon as possible

What you can do

- Know that essential services like food supply and emergency response are fully protected
- Use service stations as directed
- Check the daily update

Fuel response plan 2026

Phase 1: Watchful

What's happening

The fuel market in New Zealand is operating effectively and fuel is available nationwide. However, prices are rising due to external factors such as global market shifts and supply chain pressures.

This phase is about working closely with fuel importers, distributors and users, and making sure Kiwis have good information about what's going on so they can make informed decisions about what works best for them.

What the Government will do

- Monitor fuel stock levels and incoming shipments.
- Publish twice-weekly stock updates, so New Zealanders have accurate, up-to-date information on fuel supply.
- Work with fuel companies, airlines, and other key industry players to ensure markets continue to work well.
- Maintain engagement with international partners.
- Review and, if necessary, remove non-essential regulations to allow reduced fuel use where possible (such as changing fuel specifications).
- Understand and prepare to reduce its own demand, in case it needs to do so at Phase 2.
- Provide information to the public, including on how to reduce fuel bills.

What you can do

- Fill up vehicles as you normally would. There is no need to purchase more than you need – this helps to ensure that everyone, including those providing critical services, can access fuel when they need it.
- Stay informed by regularly checking MBIE's website for the latest information. The Government will provide clear, timely and accurate information to help you make well-informed decisions.
- Be aware of EECA information on additional measures that can help save fuel day-to-day.

Fuel response plan 2026

Phase 2: Precautionary

What's happening

The market continues to operate effectively and fuel is available nationwide, but there are signs of significant supply disruptions. These might include delays in deliveries or limitations on how quickly fuel is restocked in certain areas.

This phase is about closer coordination between Government and industry, shoring up supply, and taking steps to manage demand responsibly, both within the public sector and across the wider community. New Zealanders will continue to receive clear, accurate and timely information.

What the Government will do

- Continue to monitor fuel stock levels and incoming shipments.
- Continue to publish public stock updates twice weekly so New Zealanders have accurate, up-to-date information on fuel supply.
- Work with fuel companies, airlines, and other key industry players to ensure effective regional distribution of fuel.
- Work with international partners to keep fuel flowing to New Zealand.
- Review and, if necessary, remove further non-essential regulations to allow reduced fuel use where possible.
- Implement a dedicated public sector fuel response plan to manage its own demand, ensuring that government services continue to operate effectively while using resources responsibly.
- Provide information to the public on how to reduce fuel bills and conserve fuel in the national interest.

What you can do

- Access fuel as you normally would. There is no need to purchase more than you need – this helps to ensure that everyone, including those providing critical services, can access fuel when they need it.
- Consider combining trips, where it is practical to do so, to make the most of your travel, and consider other modes of transport if they are accessible and available to you.
- Follow EECA guidance on additional measures to help save fuel day-to-day.
- Stay informed by regularly checking MBIE's website for the latest information. The Government will provide clear, timely and accurate information to help you make well-informed decisions.

Fuel response plan 2026

Phase 3: Managed

UNDER CONSULTATION

What's happening

Supply is tighter and the Government is making sure fuel gets where it is needed most.

This phase is about using Government powers, developed in close coordination with industry and frontline service providers, to protect critical services. This phase will be implemented by industry.

Measures will be lifted as soon as conditions allow.

What the Government may do

- Prioritise uninterrupted supply to all life-preserving services.
- Help direct fuel supply to customers according to priority (e.g. emergency services, hospitals, and water and power infrastructure) so critical providers can access what they need.
- Introduce purchasing limits to keep supply available for everyone, under the following indicative priority bands:
 - *Band A: life-supporting services* – uncapped supply – e.g. emergency services, courts, corrections, hospitals, lifeline utilities and defence
 - *Band B: economically-important services* – e.g. critical transport services (e.g. road freight for supermarket and grocery supply chains, international air links), food supply and primary production during time-critical periods
 - *Band C: essential services* – e.g. public transport, essential infrastructure maintenance, and rural GPs and district nurses
 - *Band D: other commercial customers* – this comprises all other commercial and business fuel uses
 - *Band E: general retail sales to consumers.*
- Provide regular public updates on stocks, incoming shipments, and what to expect.
- Listen to industry and communities, and adjust the approach as appropriate.
- Regularly assess conditions and try to get back to Phase 2 as soon as possible.

What you can do

- Be confident that ambulances, fire services, hospitals, and food supply chains are fully protected.
- Help by following any purchase limits, only buying what you need, and leaving supply available for others.
- Check the regular updates to understand how long measures will be in place.

Fuel response plan 2026**Phase 4: Protected*****UNDER CONSULTATION*****What's happening**

There is a bigger or more sustained supply disruption and there are formal rules in place to ensure fuel is distributed fairly.

This phase is about protecting critical services, and making sure everyone else gets a share.

Measures will be lifted as soon as conditions allow.

What the Government may do

- Prioritise uninterrupted supply to all life-preserving services.
- More strictly direct how fuel is distributed across all other customers.
- Set rules about when and how customers purchase fuel.
- Maintain regular public updates and give clear notice before any changes to the rules.
- Listen to industry and communities, and adjust the approach as appropriate – we would rather adjust quickly than stick to an approach that isn't working.
- Regularly assess how things are going, and try to get back to Phase 2 or 3 as soon as possible.

What you can do

- Know that essential services like food supply and emergency response are protected
- Use service stations as directed
- Check the regular updates for the current stock position and to understand how long these measures will be in place

Fuel response plan 2026

The process to move between phases of the plan

What will prompt a move between the phases?

The Fuel Security Ministerial Oversight Group will be responsible for deciding whether a shift between phases is appropriate, with the group required to consider a move when there is a change in any of the six assessment criteria.

These criteria will be used to assess a movement up or down a response phase. If there is a change in any of these criteria, the Ministers will meet to make their assessment and a decision on whether a move is appropriate. The assessment criteria are:

1. export restrictions – if any of New Zealand’s source refineries introduce or relax export restrictions
2. changes to New Zealand’s fuel stock levels of plus or minus three days since the most recent published update
3. a fuel company informs the government that they are unlikely or unable to fill future orders
4. a breach, or a notification of an imminent breach, of the minimum storage obligations
5. any significant policy changes in Australia or from the International Energy Agency
6. a significant disruption to regional distribution.

How will you know if decisions to move between phases will be made?

A group of senior Ministers will decide whether New Zealand needs to move between phases. Ministers may decide that New Zealand needs to be at different phases in the plan for different fuels: for example, we could move to Phase 2 for diesel but stay at Phase 1 for petrol.

Ministers will consider a broad range of information. There is no single change that will automatically move us up or down a phase. Ministers will assess the full picture each time and publicly explain any decision to change phases.

Ministers will exercise care and judgement in making decisions – we will only move up a phase when there is a clear and genuine need, and we will move back down as soon as conditions allow.

At the moment, it doesn’t look likely that we’ll need phases 3 or 4, but it’s best to be prepared in - having a plan in place gives Ministers the ability to make evidence-based decisions rather than reacting under pressure. New Zealanders also need confidence that we are ready to act in a measured way if circumstances change..

What could a decision to move phases be based on?

Ministers will receive advice on the following, which will inform decision-making:

- Whether fuel is getting to New Zealand as expected – e.g. whether countries that supply our fuel have restricted exports, or whether shipments are being delayed
- What fuel companies and airlines are telling us – e.g. whether they are having difficulty sourcing supply or whether they are seeing pressures at specific airports or terminals
- How our fuel stocks are tracking – whether levels are stable, falling, or increasing
- What’s happening internationally – whether our key partners, like Australia, are taking action and how these actions affect New Zealand
- Whether specific communities are being affected – e.g. whether fuel stations in a specific region are consistently struggling to get supply.

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Discussion of recent storm event from the Taihape perspective

ITEM 9.1

Author: Gill Duncan, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Discussion of recent storm event from the Taihape perspective.
2. Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor will be in attendance at the following Taihape Community Board meeting to discuss/update the Community Response Plan for Taihape.

Attachments:

1. [Taihape Support Storm Debrief](#) ↓
2. [Community Response Plan - Taihape](#) ↓

Recommendation

That the report Discussion of recent storm event from the Taihape perspective be received.

Taihape Community Response Group

Notes of February weather event debrief held at 5.30pm Wednesday 11 March 2026

Present: Michael Andrews, Elizabeth Mortland, Paul McKay, Lynda McKnight-Wilson, Curly Troon, Marty Loughnan, Ngawini Martin, Sgt Harry Hughes, Michael Leggett, Lulu Simi, Tracey Peters, Brent Richards

Apologies: Gary Johnson, Paul Chaffe, De Anna Green

Purpose: debrief of civil defence response to the recent weather event emergency, 15-16 February.

Eliz thanked people for attending the meeting and thanked Winiata Marae for their assistance over the weather event. The meeting requested that full reimbursement of costs should be paid to the Marae.

Eliz presented a timeline of the response:

- Taihape Information Centre received RT call from Paul that Nadene (RDC EOC Welfare) was trying to get hold of Paul Chaffe re an Intercity bus stuck in Taihape.
- Gaylene (RDC Taihape) spoke with Nadene at 11.55am.
- Approximately 40 people on bus that had been stuck in Taihape since 3.00am – were looking for somewhere they could get off the bus for toilets etc. Nadene did not know location of bus.
- Gaylene rang Eliz advising that she was going to locate the bus and direct them to the Kokako Street Hall – having a kitchen, adjacent to the Nga Awa toilets and showers, with suitable parking for a large bus. She was going to take provisions to the Hall.
- Sheryl Srhoj and Gaylene located bus at BP Taihape. The bus driver advised that they had been talking to someone from a marae and they were likely going there. He advised that Lulu (Winiata Marae) had gone to the supermarket to get food, etc.
- Gaylene waited with driver for Lulu to return. Lulu arrived back and had spoken with Eliz. Lulu advised that Winiata Marae had capacity feed the busload and there was bedding available for sleeping. Lulu also advised they had capacity and resources to take more people than the bus load.
- Intercity driver, in discussion with their management, determined they would take the passengers to Winiata Marae, where there was food and bedding.
- Gaylene advised Nadene of outcome at 12.05pm.

Winiata Marae's openhearted and generous response was most appreciated by the people that needed assistance. However, this meant that Taihape deviated from the agreed Taihape Community Response Civil Defence Plan which states that the old Hospital is the primary civil defence centre for the Taihape community – it has

emergency power, a commercial kitchen, central heating, showers/bedrooms/breakout spaces.

Ngawini suggested that we need to review the old Hospital as a CDC as the future of the old Hospital is in question. She pointed out that we should keep the Health Centre separate from the Welfare Centre.

When an emergency is declared, who can open the old Hospital and operate the kitchen and power?

It was decided that we need a core/executive group of TRCG. Michael Andrews, Paul McKay and Lulu offered to form the core group – called the Matrix. They will meet at 11.00am on Wednesday 18 March at Eliz's house, 1 Titi Street.

Discussion was held regarding alternatives to the old Hospital. It was suggested that Kokako Street Hall would be the best option. Winiata Marae could bring bedding, if required. Brent advised that the Presbyterian Church is looking at storing water and food – they could put up a shed behind the Church. They are planning to remove some pews and putting in stackable chairs. Tracey advised that the Anglican Church Hall would also be available.

Have we got the correct representation on TCRG? No?

This event highlighted that the public needs to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days. Preparedness starts at home. People should stay at home as they should not just be walking round – it isn't safe.

Outreach is only undertaken when people are isolated.

A community civil defence noticeboard is needed in the main street.

The planned power outage on Sunday should not have happened that day.

Intercity should have stopped their buses coming to Taihape.

Mokai Patea Services visited all the Council flat residents.
Taihape Health Limited has identified the vulnerable and contacted these people.

The roads should have been closed earlier – and road closure signs enforced!
Alternative routes should be highlighted as being unsuitable.

Neighbourhood Street/Rural groups – Contact people need to check on their members/ neighbours.

RDC's Taihape CD cache consists of 15 stretchers, 15 stretcher toppers, CDC paperwork, 1 x Starlink. This has been stored in Marton, but there are plans to move this permanently to Taihape – and this meeting wants this to happen sooner rather than

later. RDC staff and volunteers need training in how to set up and operate the systems. The following people put their names forward for this training: Paul McKay, Lulu Simi, Marty Loughnan, Harry Hughes, Curly Troon. Eliz will forward these names to Paul Chaffe. Is a generator needed to operate Starlink?

Discussion was held as to a safe place to store the CD trailer. Curly advised that the Fire Station is unable to store it safely. The old Hospital was considered to be not appropriate for a storage place. Behind the Town Hall was suggested. Does all the equipment need to be kept together in the trailer – could, for example, the stretchers be stored at the Church/Kokako Street Hall and the Starlink/generator be stored very safely elsewhere?

Communications – phones/internet were out of action. Michael Leggett spoke about the need for UHF radios – run on 12 volts – 5km range. We could have a Taihape channel – Channel 78. Paul advised that LandSAR has six radios and six batteries. Communication is needed even if there's no new news/information.

Paul Chaffe will do CD training in Taihape. Eliz will set a date for an evening where he will run Initial Training for: Brent, Paul McKay, Marty, Lulu, Ngawini, De Anna. He could then follow up with Foundation Skills training if there is sufficient interest. Civil defence training is available free online with Takatu.

Eliz has been asking for some time for someone to step into the role of driver of TCRG (and MCRG) so that she can step down. Lulu has agreed to consider doing this.

Funding: It was agreed that Taihape Neighbourhood Support apply for funding for a civil defence cache for Mangaweka. Paul had advised that a basic cache (including storage bin) would cost @ \$2,477. Items include long-life food rations, gas cookers and supplies, blankets, bedding, air mattresses, lanterns, radios, batteries, First Aid kit, sanitation supplies. Eliz needs written quotes for all items in order to put in a funding application. Lottery Community funding applications open on 8 July. Charissa Lawlor (RDC) could be a help to Eliz in putting this application together.

Next Meeting: 5.30pm Wednesday 3 June – old Hospital dining room.

Agenda: review Taihape Community Response Civil Defence Plan – as per suggestions made as in these Notes of the debrief.

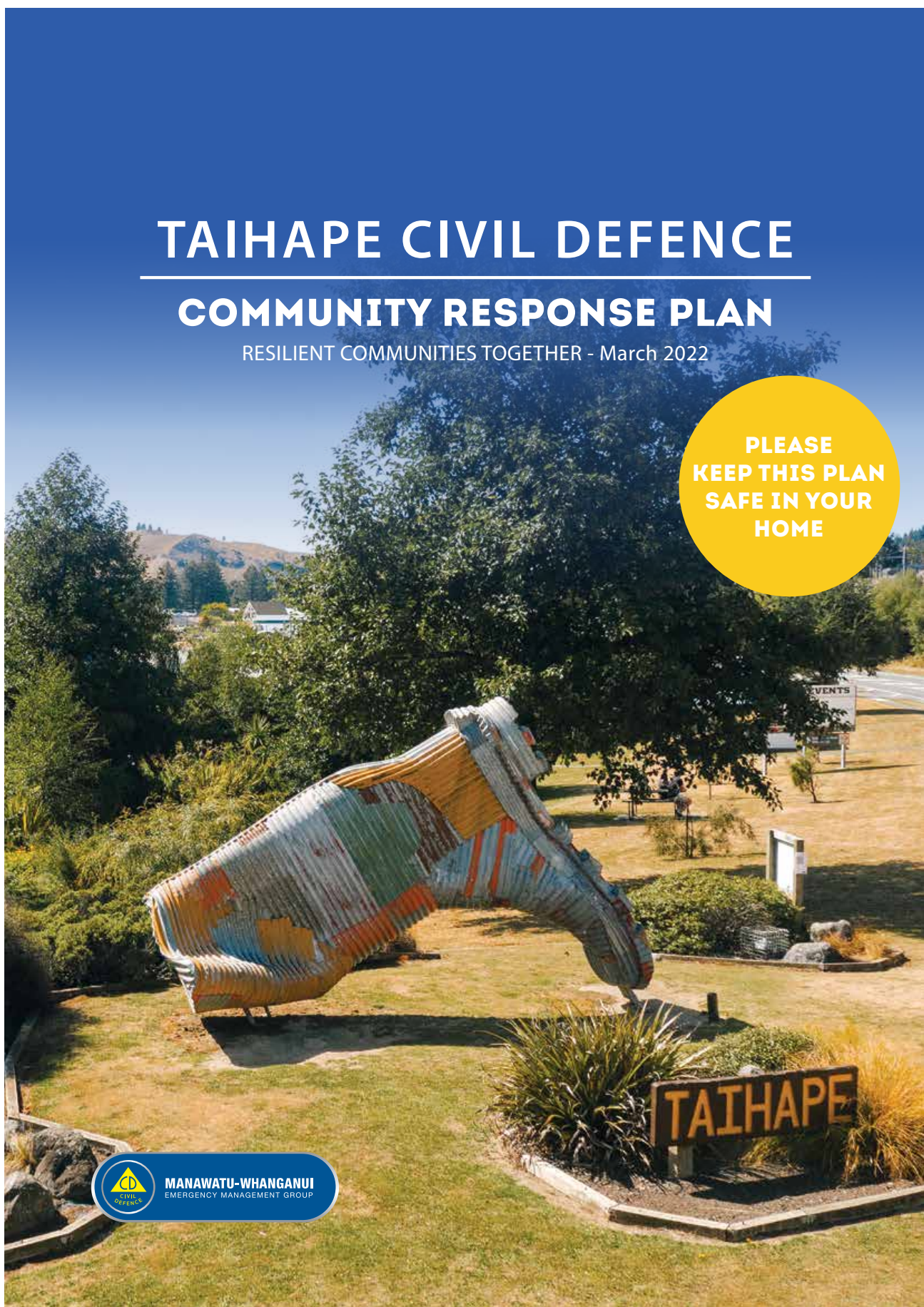
Followed by Social gathering – to build up/bond TCRG/MCRG members
Bring some nibbles and whatever you want to drink.

ITEM 9.1
ATTACHMENT 2

TAIHAPE CIVIL DEFENCE COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER - March 2022

PLEASE
KEEP THIS PLAN
SAFE IN YOUR
HOME



The Taihape Community Response Group and this Plan was organised by the Rangitikei District Council in relationship with Taihape Neighbourhood Support and the Taihape Community Development Trust.

2 TAIHAPE CIVIL DEFENCE COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction 4
- 2 Plan Purpose 4
- 3 Community Overview 5
- 4 Geographical Map 6
- 5 Significant Threats To Taihape 6
- 6 Alert And Warning Systems 7
- 7 Emergency Response Guidelines 8
- 8 Declarations 8
- 9 Response Group Committee 9
- 10 Emergency Response Group 10
- 11 Agency And Other Group Responsibilities 11
- 12 Plan Activation 12
- 13 Plan Activation Process 13
- 14 Evacuation Process 14
- 15 Emergency Centres 15
- 16 Communication 15
 - Getaway Kits 16

- Appendix 1 Hazard Map 17
- Appendix 2 Hazards 18
- Appendix 3 Warnings for New Zealand 19
- Appendix 4 Priority Contacts 20

- Notes 21

Taihape A&P Show – last Saturday in January
Big Day Out – Saturday, Waitangi Weekend – biannually – 6 February
Gumboot Day, Taihape – last Saturday in January
Taihape Birthday – 15 September
Mangaweka Day – first Saturday in March
Fakes & Forgeries Art Exhibition, Mangaweka – biannually – Oct/Nov

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

In preparation of surviving a civil defence emergency the community should undertake to be personally prepared with survival kits of water, food, lighting, heating, radios, spare batteries, phone power packs and medical supplies. Visit www.getthru.govt.nz for more detail on survival information.

2. PLAN PURPOSE

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

4. GEOGRAPHICAL MAP

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



5. SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO TAIHAPE

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

- Cyclones Landslip Flooding
- Earthquake
- Pandemic
- Volcanic eruption/dust Snow
- Animal disease outbreak
- CBRE – SH1/rail – Chemical Biological Radiology Explosive

A more detailed list of hazards and their effects on the community is contained in Appendix 1. Refer to map on page 17.

6. ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS

The Rangitikei District Council is a member of the Horizons Regional Council Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and receives warning of adverse natural events from Central Government, the Meteorological Service, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and from other agencies. See Appendix 3 for a description of warnings received and disseminated in New Zealand.

Warning systems in place for Taihape are as follows:

National Warnings:

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

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

Natural Warnings:

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

Local Warnings:

All television and radio networks will provide public information. Public should listen to the radio and follow instructions.



Image: Stuff.

7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDELINES

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

The broad headings of the levels of response are:

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

8. DECLARATIONS

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

1. The Mayor of the Rangitikei District
2. An elected member of the Rangitikei District Council authorised to act on behalf of the Mayor, or if the Mayor is absent
3. The Manawatu-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Controller.

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

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

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

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

Ministry of Health - control the outbreak of infectious diseases.

THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROLLER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER ALL PERSONNEL

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

9. RESPONSE GROUP COMMITTEE

The organisations listed below form the Taihape Community Civil Defence Response Group. This group will meet at least annually with the community to discuss and review the Plan and liaise with the Rangitikei District Council's Civil Defence Officer to effect any changes. The role of this Group is to assist in the initiation of an early response, disseminate warnings within the community covered by this Plan, identify and set up a welfare centre or emergency control centre if required, report on the situation, and review and update the Plan.

- Taihape Voluntary Fire Brigade
- Police
- St John
- Taihape Health Centre
- Mokai Patea Services
- Rangitikei District Council
- Taihape Neighbourhood Support
- Work & Income
- Heartlands
- Taihape Older & Bolder
- Church leaders
- Taihape Area School
- St Joseph's School
- Search & Rescue
- Taihape FoodBank

10. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP

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

Protection under the CDEM Act

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

Reimbursement for costs

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

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

Prior to an emergency:

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

During an emergency:

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

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

After an emergency:

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

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

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

11. AGENCY AND OTHER GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of the emergency services is clearly defined by legislation. In the event of this Plan being activated due to an emergency occurring, the roles and responsibilities of the community groups are set out as below. However, it is acknowledged that these roles are intended to be flexible if required.

Police

- Maintain law and order
- Protect life and property
- Assist the coroner
- Co-ordinate movement control
- Search and rescue

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

- Fire fighting responsibilities
- Containment of releases and spillages of hazardous substances
- Urban search and rescue
- Limitation of damage

St John Ambulance

- Provision of emergency medical care

Council

- Civil defence welfare

12. PLAN ACTIVATION

This Plan may be activated by the following:

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

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

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

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



13. PLAN ACTIVATION PROCESS

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

Initial actions

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

1. Emergency services
2. Communication Plan will be activated.

ONCE EMERGENCY SERVICES RECEIVE ADVICE OF THE EVENT, THEY WILL:

DO THIS

- Activate the Communication Plan and other notification processes
- Set up the Civil Defence Centre at the former Hospital

The Community Response Group will;

- Liaise to determine what actions should be taken
- Notify all other members of the response group
- Brief them on the warning that has been received and current situation
- Consider who will be affected and where
- Prepare the former Hospital for the establishment of a Civil Defence Centre, if required
- Notify the Civil Defence Controller with actions taken

WHERE AN UNEXPECTED SUDDEN EVENT OCCURS:

REMEMBER

The person in charge of the lead agency should activate this Plan

14. EVACUATION PROCESS

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

- Warnings via radio
- PA systems on emergency services vehicles
- Local procedures – car horns, telephone trees, door to door knocking.

IF YOU RECEIVE A WARNING!

Do this:

- Listen to your local radio station and follow instructions (Brian FM and Peak FM will transmit Civil Defence information in Rangitikei)
- Check the Civil Defence noticeboard in the main street
- Activate your pre-determined telephone tree to warn others
- Prepare to activate your household emergency plan

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

IF YOU ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE THEN...

Do this:

- Assemble with your Getaway Kit and your Emergency Survival Kit at the former Hospital, or as advised on the day.
- For country residents, assemble at your local agreed assembly point.

THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROLLER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER ALL PERSONNEL.

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

15. EMERGENCY CENTRES

An emergency control centre or welfare centre may be established for any event if it is required. The Civil Defence Centre will be set up at the former Hospital.

The Community Response Group should, when possible, inform the Rangitikei District Council when it is contemplating setting up a Welfare Centre. In the absence of any means to contact the Rangitikei District Council the Community Response Group can set up a welfare centre to receive evacuated persons from within the Taihape area.

16. COMMUNICATION

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

This Plan must also be communicated to the community.

Communication within and between communities:

Communication typically relies on the following communication pathways:

- Telephone
- Cell phone
- E-mail
- Radio Networks
- Pagers
- Radio telephone
- Face to face (neighbours calling on neighbours)
- Camp ground information to campers (announcements/signage)
- Civil defence community noticeboard (outside the Town Hall)
- Social Media

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

- VHF radios or satellite phones.
- Alternative communication within the community when the normal means of communication has been disrupted, ie face to face contact, noticeboard in main street, whistles, alarms, loud speakers.

Communication of this Plan to the community

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

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

GETAWAY KITS

Everyone in the house should have a packed getaway kit in an easily accessible place which includes:

- Torch and radio with spare batteries
- Hearing aids and spare batteries, glasses or mobility aids
- Emergency bottled water and easy-to-carry food rations
- Extra supplies of special dietary items
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- For infants or young children – formula and food, nappies
- Change of clothes (wind/waterproof clothing and strong outdoor shoes)
- Toiletries – towel, soap, toothbrush, sanitary items, toilet paper
- Blanket or sleeping bags
- Face and dust masks
- Pet supplies
- Important documents:
 - Identification (birth and marriage certificates, driver’s licences, passports)
 - Financial (insurance policies and mortgage)
 - Precious family photos

If we have to evacuate we will:

- Take our Getaway Kit
- Turn off electricity and water at mains
- Turn off gas only if we suspect a leak or if asked to do so by the authorities
- Take our pets with us
- LOCK OUR PROPERTY

Do Not Use Phones Unless URGENT

Emergency Survival Kit

- Torch with spare batteries or a self-charging torch
- Phone power pack
- Radio with spare batteries
- Wind and waterproof clothing, sun hats, strong outdoor shoes
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Pet supplies
- Emergency toilet – bucket, toilet paper and large rubbish bags
- Face and dust masks

Check all batteries every 3 months

Animals

Your animals are your responsibility. You need to include them in your emergency planning and preparation. Check out www.mpi.govt.nz and www.sPCA.nz.

Food and water for a week or more

- Non-perishable food (canned or dried food)
- Food, formula, nappies and drinks for babies and small children
- Water (at least 3 litres per person, per day) for drinking
- Water for washing and cooking
- A primus or gas barbeque to cook on
- A can opener

Consider stocking a two-week supply of food and water for prolonged emergencies such as a pandemic. Check and replace food and water every twelve months.

How to store water

Wash bottles thoroughly in hot water. Fill each bottle with tap water until it overflows. Add five drops of household bleach per litre of water (or one teaspoon for 10 litres).

Store in a cool dark place and replace the water every 12 months.

APPENDIX 1: HAZARD MAP



TAIHAPE CIVIL DEFENCE COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN 17

APPENDIX 2: HAZARDS

Significant threats to Taihape include but are not limited to:

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

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

APPENDIX 3: WARNINGS FOR NEW ZEALAND

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

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

APPENDIX 4: **PRIORITY CONTACTS**

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| FIRE | All emergencies Taihape Fire Station | Dial 111 |
| POLICE | All emergencies Taihape Police Station | Dial 111 |
| AMBULANCE | All emergencies Taihape Ambulance Station | Dial 111 |
| MEDICAL ASSISTANCE | All emergencies Taihape Health Ltd | Dial 111 06 388 0926 |
| LOCAL CIVIL DEFENCE CONTACTS | Emergency Management Officer | 0800 422 522 |
| DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION | Emergencies only | 0800 DOCHOT 0800 362 468 |
| RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL | Call Centre Civil Defence Emergency | 0800 422 522 0800 422 522 |
| TAIHAPE SERVICE CENTRE | Council staff | 06 388 0604 |
| NATIONAL POISON CENTRE | Dunedin | 03 479 7284 0800 764 766 |



CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
GROUP PLAN 2016 - 2022

PRINTED APRIL 2022

9.2 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager

Author: Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager

ITEM 9.2

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Ms Prince will provide an update to the committee on council and requested items from the Taihape Community Board.

Recommendation

That the Verbal Update - Northern Area and Property Manager be received.

9.3 Letter - Nga Awa Block**Author: Gill Duncan, Chair****1. Reason for Report****1.1 Sarah Wells letter re: Nga Awa Block, (below)**

Subject: Utilities Block Taihape

Hi Andy,

I hope all is well with you. Well done for what seemed like great management of the weather event this week.

I just wanted to let you know I am very concerned about how the Ngā Awa block is being used in Taihape. I have been there on a number of occasions for kid's sport and we are unable to use the car park due to the large number of camper vans there.

Moreover, the toilets and facilities are unavailable for tamariki to use - campers are using the facilities during peak times making them unavailable for our community and children.

On Wednesday night, the Woman's rugby team were training, kids tennis was on and the car park was full of camper vans - around 18.

This was not a one off.

I do not believe a small charge will resolve this matter. I know there will be other opinions on this matter but it is my hope council will please consider prohibiting freedom camping from this part of Taihape.

Kind Regards,
Sarah.

Recommendation

That the Letter – Nga Awa Block be received.

ITEM 9.4

9.4 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

1.1 Standing item to provide updates from the Taihape Community Development Trust.

Recommendation

That the Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust be received.

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

- 1.1 The allocation of the 2025/26 Small Projects Fund for the Taihape Community Board is \$7,146 this includes the carry-over funds of \$930.

2. Breakdown

- 2.1 Payment for cat traps - \$132.06
- 2.2 Payment CCTV cameras - \$1,000
- 2.3 Payment picnic tables - \$750
- 2.4 Payment for paint for the CLM - \$585.15
- 2.5 Earmarked funds \$414 Taihape Neighbourhood Support Incorporated from tagged funds.
 - 2.5.1 Remaining funds available are \$4,678.79.

Attachments:

1. **Small Projects Fund - Taihape Community Board** [↓](#)

Recommendation

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

| | Income | Expenditure | Amount Paid | Tagged future expenses | Amount |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|---|--|
| 2025/25 Earmarked payments | | | | Northern and Southern Taihape Events Board signage for volunteer groups. Taihape Museum or other interested parties with funding for local historic story boards Rural Workshops | \$2,400 \$414 tagged for Taihape neighbourhood support 2,400 190 |
| Financial Year 2025/26 | | \$6,216 | | | |
| Carry forward 2024/25 | | \$930 | | | <i>Note CPI to still be added</i> |
| | 13-Aug-25 | Four cat traps | 132.06 | | |
| | 13-Aug-25 | CCTV cameras | \$1,000 | | |
| | 8-Oct-25 | Picnic tables | \$750 | | |
| | 19-Nov-25 | CLM Paint | \$585.15 | | |
| Total Funds available 2024/25 | | \$4,678.85 | | | <i>Note unknown the amount for shortfall</i> |

9.6 Mayor's Report - March 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

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

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

ITEM 9.6

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

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

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

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

ITEM 9.6

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

Thursday afternoon session -

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

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

viii) Simon Upton – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 2 - Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor's Engagements

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

February 2026

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

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

March 2026

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

ITEM 9.6

Attachments:

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

Recommendation 1

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

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

[note: may be slight variations on delivery]

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

**ITEM 9.6
ATTACHMENT 1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ITEM 9.6**ATTACHMENT 1**

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 25 March 2026

TITLE: Presentation of the Part I Public Joint Shareholders Committee - Central Districts Water Recommendations from its 13 February 2026 Meeting

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

3-26 Initial Shareholders' Committee Policies

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

The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

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

9.7 Funding Schemes Update - April 2026**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Overview**

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

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Scotts Ferry Community Committee
 - Marton Returned Services Association (Incorporated)
 - Alzheimer's Whanganui
 - Scout Association of New Zealand
 - The Parkinson's New Zealand Charitable trust
 - Itty bitty kitty committee
 - Cancer Society of NZ Whanganui Rangitikei Waimarino Centre Inc
 - Taihape Art Club (Society)
 - Manawatu Multiple Sclerosis Society Incorporated
 - Marton & Surrounds ICT Hub Charitable Trust Board
 - Marton & District Historical Society Incorporated
- 2.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closed on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
- Hunterville Huntaway Festival
 - Hunterville Squash Racquets Club Inc
 - Bulls & District Community Trust
 - Marton Country Music Festival

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

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

4. Creative Communities Scheme

4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:

- Demonstrate growth over time
- Develop and support local artistic communities
- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged

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

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

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

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

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

5.3 The round will be opened 11 August 25 and closed 29 March 2026. Decision will be made by the Sport NZ Travel Committee in April 2026.

6. Further Information

6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – April 2026 be received.

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Annual Plan Taihape Community Board Submission

Author: Gill Duncan, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Opportunity to discuss Taihape Community Board Submission
 - 1.1.1 Including item: TCB Submission for Playground toilets budget
- 1.2 Annual Plan Consultation with the community will be held at 3.00pm prior to the Taihape Community Board meeting.

Recommendation

That the Taihape Community Board request that Council receives the Annual Plan submission and that the officer analysis and decision by Council be reported back through the Taihape Community Board.

ITEM 10.1

10.2 AKONA and LGNZ

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Staff will be in attendance to go through Akona and development opportunities with board members.

Recommendation

If needed:

11 Meeting Closed.