

2 FEBRUARY 2020

# Rating changes will support whānau and regional development

Tabled at Te Roopu Ahi Kaa  
on 11 February 2020

## HON NANAIA MAHUTA, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MAORI DEVELOPMENT

Proposed changes to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 will reduce rating barriers for owners of Māori land who want to use and develop their whenua. There is around 1.4 million hectares of Māori freehold land and much of it is unused or under developed.

“Owners of Māori land have aspirations to use and develop their whenua, but they face a number of unique challenges including unpaid rates arrears. This package of changes will break the deadlock where rates arrears prevents development from happening, and the emphasis will be more on enabling whenua to be developed in order to meet rating expectations,” says Local Government and Māori Development Minister Nanaia Mahuta.

Under the proposal, local authority Chief Executives will have the power to write off rates arrears on all land (including general land) if they consider the rates are unrecoverable, including rates arrears inherited from deceased owners of Māori land. Most of the rates arrears on Māori freehold land are on unused land and the majority of this is from non-payment of penalties rather than the original rates bills.

Minister Mahuta says, “While the retention of Māori land is paramount, inheriting rates arrears on land that can’t be sold discourages landowners from engaging with their whenua. This proposal would give current owners a ‘clean slate’ so they can start afresh. Owners will be able to bring proposals to their local council without the fear of having to pay rates arrears before starting any kind of development.”

Most unused Māori land will be made non-rateable, including Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata which is Māori land that has been set aside for conservation purposes. This will mean any rates arrears on unused or Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata will be removed. “At present, the rating policy on wholly unused land or Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata varies from council to council. The proposed legislative changes will ensure that there is greater consistency across the country and provide greater clarity on what kind of Māori land is non-rateable”, says Minister Mahuta.

To encourage the development of Māori land, including the building of houses, a statutory rates remission process will be put in place for Māori land under development. “This will encourage local authorities to provide landowners some rates relief while owners are in the transition phase of making their whenua more productive. The development of whenua Māori will ultimately benefit the whole community. The changes will also put owners of homes on Māori land on the same footing as other home owners and retirement village residents when it comes to accessing the rates rebate scheme” she said.

This will be done by giving multiple homeowners on one block of Māori land the option to be rated individually. This will ensure low income homeowners are eligible for rates rebates. “Some of these changes are about ensuring equitable rating practices for Māori and general land, while other changes are designed to release Māori landowners and local authorities from being stuck in a situation that neither party can easily resolve,” says Minister Mahuta.

The rating changes are part of the Government’s ongoing commitment to support whānau development through whenua. The cross-Government programme includes targeted amendments to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, new and enhanced Māori Land Court services, the launch of a whenua knowledge hub and website, regional advisory services and investment. The Minister expects a Bill to amend the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 will be introduced in the first half of 2020.

Wai 2180 Taihape: Rangitikei ki Rangipō Inquiry, Hearing Week 10, February 17-20 2020, Ōmahu Marae

Monday	17-Feb	Tuesday	18-Feb	Wednesday	19-Feb	Thursday	20-Feb
8:30-9:30am	Pōwhiri			8:45-9am	Karakia	8:45-9am	Karakia
SESSION 1 9:30-11:00 Avail time: 90.00	<i>Kaweka Gwavas Customary Interests Report</i> #O2 Te Maire Tau & Martin Fisher	9:00-12:00	Proposed Site Visit to Big Hill Station  Returning to Marae for Lunch 12-1	SESSION 1 9-10:30am Avail time: 90.00	Ngāti Hinemanu Ngāti Paki Terry Steedman TBC Patricia Cross TBC	SESSION 1 9-10:30am Avail time: 90.00	Claimant Closing Submissions on Landlocked Lands Generic Closing Submissions Bennion Law 60 Claimant Closing Submissions Tamaki Legal 30
Time Taken: 90.00 Time left: 0.00	Summary #O2(e) 30 Tribunal Questions 45 Sykes & Co 15			Time Taken: 0.00 Time left: 90.00	Time Taken: 0.00 Time left: 90.00	Time Taken: 0.00 Time left: 0.00	
11:00-11:20	KAPU TĪ			10:30-10:50	KAPU TĪ	10:30-10:50	KAPU TĪ
SESSION 2 11:20-1:00 Avail time: 100.00	Sykes & Co 45 Tamaki Legal 15 Morrison Kent 15 Afeaki 20 Watson 5			SESSION 2 10:50-1pm Avail time: 130.00	Florence Karaitiana TBC Bill Beamish TBC	SESSION 2 10:50-12:15pm Avail time: 85.00	Sykes 60 Hockly 30
Time Taken: 100.00 Time left: 0.00				Time Taken: 0.00 Time left: 130.00		Time Taken: 90.00 Time left: -5.00	
1:00-2:00	HE KAI	12:00-1:00	HE KAI	1:00-2:00	HE KAI Chambers Conference	1:00-2:00	HE KAI
SESSION 2 2:00-3:20pm Avail time: 80.00	Watson 55 Cole 25	SESSION 3 1:00-3:00 Avail time: 120.00	Tangata Whenua Evidence  Mokai Patea Treaty Claims Trust Maraea Bellamy, Richard Steedman Te Rangiangoa Hawira 120 Joint Statement #P1 Appendix A #P1(a)	SESSION 3 2:00-3:20pm Avail time: 80.00	Lewis Winiata TBC Kathleen Parkinson TBC	SESSION 3 2:00-3:50pm Avail time: 110.00	Morrison Kent 20 Watson 60 Afeaki Chambers 30
Time Taken: 80.00 Time left: 0.00		Time taken: 120 Time left: 0.00		Time taken: 0 Time left: 80.00		Time taken: 110 Time left: 0.00	
3:20-3:40	KAPU TĪ	3:00-3:20	KAPU TĪ	3:20-3:40	KAPU TĪ		4pm - Poroporoaki
SESSION 3 3:40-5:00pm Avail time: 80.00	Cole 5 Crown 60	SESSION 4 3:20-5:00pm Avail time: 80.00	Mokai Patea Treaty Claims Trust cont'd  Wai 378, 382, 400 Greg Toatoa 40 Wero Karena 40 Jerry Hapuku (presenting together) Morrison Kent	SESSION 4 3:20-5:00pm Avail time: 80.00	Jordan Winiata-Haines TBC Joseph Te Rito TBC		
Time taken: 95 Time left: -15.00	Tangata Whenua Evidence Wai 378, 382, 400 Arapata Hakiwai 15 Bayden Barber 15 Morrison Kent	Time taken: 80 Time left: 0.00		Time taken: 0 Time left: 80.00			

**TABLED DOCUMENT**

Tabled at Te Roopu Ahi Kā99  
on 11 February 2020

# REPORT

TO: Policy/Planning Committee  
FROM: Nardia Gower, Strategy & Community Planning Manager  
DATE: 28/01/2020  
SUBJECT: Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – January 2020  
FILE: 1-CO-4-8

**TABLED DOCUMENT**

## 1 Background

Tabled at Te Roopu Ahi Kaa  
on 11 February 2020

- 1.1 This report summarises the programmes, activities and focus areas of staff within the Policy & Community Planning Team. Added commentary is provided where necessary.
- 1.2 This report also covers applications for external funding made by Council.
- 1.3 This report covers the month of January 2020.

## 2 Economic Development

- 2.1 The alignment of the draft Economic Development Strategy with Councils Strategic Vision is being considered by the Executive Management team.

## 3 Community Engagement & Development

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

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Township Signage	<u>Taihape</u> Completed.  <u>Mangaweka</u> Staff await the Heritage Committee to provide their chosen icon/symbol for Mangaweka.  <u>Huntermville</u> Completed.  <u>Marton</u> The Marton Community Committee resolved to adopt the Barley image for the township signage. The committee recommended to Council that Council approach the Project Marton Committee requesting the replacement of their

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
	<p>heart signs with that of the district branded Township Sign. Those negotiations are underway.</p> <p><u>Bulls</u> Staff await the design of the Bulls Signage from the Bulls Community Committee/Bulls and District Community Trust co-design; as approved by Council.</p> <p><u>Turakina</u> Completed.</p> <p><u>Koitiata</u> Completed.</p> <p><u>Rātana</u> Pending Installation.</p> <p><u>Whangaehu</u> A community hui was held in late October 2019 and a signage group formed with members to report back on image ideas.</p> <p><u>Scott's Ferry</u> Pending Installation, scheduled for February 2020.</p>
<p>Healthy Families Strategic Leadership Team</p> <p>Facilitator: Te Oranganui</p>	<p>Nothing to report for this period</p>
Programme/Activity	Upcoming
<p>Township Signage</p> <p>District Signage</p>	<p>All township signage to be complete and installed by July 2020.</p> <p>Develop District Signage concepts to Council for comment.</p>

## 4 Youth/Rangatahi Development

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

<b>Programme/Activity</b>	<b>Progress For This Period</b>
Youth Space - Taihape	The Lobby Taihape continued to be run through the MoU agreement with Mokai Patea Services over the school holiday period, except for the period 24 December 2019 to 6 January 2020. Attendance during the two months remained steady with the occasional quiet day.
Youth Space - Marton	The Lobby Marton continued to be run by staff and volunteers over the school holiday period except for statutory holidays. Attendance during the two months remained steady with the occasional quiet day.
Youth Council	Last year nominations were open until the end of February, with a total of 21 applications received. For the 2020 Council, nominations closed on 6 December 2019. 3 were received for 7 vacancies. This reflects the natural preoccupation with NCEA and then holidays. Nominations are being reopened until the end of February. The Youth Council's first meeting is scheduled for 22 March, as part of their training weekend at River Valley
Youth/TRYB Website	TRYB website. Staffing constraints have resulted in limited updating by staff.
Networking Meetings	No network meetings were held in January
Youth Opportunities and Support	Discussions with LGNZ regarding the possibility of establishing a national platform for Youth Councils/Committees and their associated council officers to collaborate, share resources, and submit to central government on matters of interest to youth, has resulted in a discussion group established on SOLGM's list serve service for council staff working with youth. A platform for direct communication between Youth Councils/Committees is still being explored.
<b>Programme/Activity</b>	<b>Upcoming</b>
Youth/TRYB Website	Update and promote
Youth Council	Youth Council applications considered with final decision made early March.
Youth Opportunities and Support	Youth Awards 2020 open for nominations in March. Youth Awards evening to be held during national Youth Week 9 - 17 May

## 5 Iwi/Hapū Engagement & Development

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

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Internal Organisation development	Māori Competency Framework for internal employees is under development. Internal processes being finalised regarding identifying iwi consultation requirements. Mangaweka Bridge Cultural Assessment hui held with Ngāti Hauti, OPUS and infrastructure staff from both Rangitīkei and Manawatū District Councils
Oranga Marae Programme	Hui have been held with both Parewanui and Nga Hau e Wha to identify development aspirations for each marae. Each hapu are now required to complete a marae development plan before re-engaging with Council. The process for each Oranga Marae project takes approximately 10 – 12 months depending on the commitment level of each marae.

## 6 Policy and Bylaw Programme

6.1 The following highlights activities of staff in this area. The work programme for Policy and Bylaw 2020 is attached at [\*\*Appendix 1\*\*](#).

Programme/Activity	Progress For This Period
Water Related Services Bylaw	A report went to Council on 30 January 2020. The draft Bylaw was adopted for public consultation, which commenced on 4 July 2020. Oral submissions will be heard by the Policy and Planning Committee on 19 March.

## 7 Funding

7.1 An update on all funding applications is summarised in [\*\*Appendix 2\*\*](#).

## **8 Recommendations**

- 8.1 That the 'Policy & Community Planning Project and Activity Report – January 2019' to the Policy/Planning Committee on 13 February 2020 be received.

Nardia Gower

Strategy & Community Planning Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Rautaki me te Hāpori

**APPENDIX 1**

## Policy Work Schedule 2020

Policy/Bylaw/Work	Responsible	Rationale	Main Legislation	Dates	Workshop/Comment
Significance and Engagement Policy	Policy	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	2020/21	
TAB Venue Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Gambling Act 2003	Council adopted September 2019	
Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Gambling Act 2003	Council adopted December 2019	
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Building Act 2004	Report Policy Planning March 2020	
Water Related Services Bylaw	Policy/Infrastructure	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	January 2020 Council Adopt for Public Consultation	Staff to figure out stormwater mapping
Speed Limits Bylaw	Policy/Roading	Statutory	Land Transport Act 1998	Late 2020 Policy Planning	Yes - Dates TBC
Food Business Grading Bylaw	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	Late 2020 Policy Planning	
Youth Strategy	Policy/Youth Advisor	Strategic Direction for Youth	N/A	Initial Staff Scoping	Yes - Dates TBC
Naming of Streets and Roads	Policy/Roading/Regulatory	Operational	Local Government Act 1974	2020 Policy Planning	Consult on names for a register
Flying Drones on Council Parks - Interim Guideline	Policy/Roading/Regulatory	Operational	Civil Aviation Authority	Late 2020	
Street Tree Policy	Policy/Parks and Reserves	Operational	N/A	Late 2020	
Local Approved Products Policy	Policy/Regulatory	Operational	Psychoactive Substances Act 2013	Early 2020 Policy Planning	



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING GROUP OF ACTIVITIES 2019/20						Jan-20	
Major programmes of work outlined in the Annual Plan 2019/20							
What are they:	Programme/Activity	Status	Progress for this reporting period	Start Date	Completion Date	Planned for the next two months	
Community Partnerships	Contract with local organisations to develop and deliver events, activities and projects to enliven the towns and District					Bi-monthly catch-up with the township coordinators	
	Contract with local organisations to provide a range of information, such as: Up-to-date calendar of events, and community newsletters					Bi-monthly catch-up with the township coordinators	
	Investigate contribution to the Marton and Districts Historical Society for their expenses (to be brought back to Council for a decision)	Background information being gathered	Nothing to update			Schedule meetings with key stakeholders	
	Investigate funding assistance for the new Hunterville St John Operational building						
Economic development and district promotion	Management of Rangitikei.com	Live-Work-Play database major update started. R.com Facebook actively employed to promote district. All other activity suspended while website under review.	Listings update continuing. One post per week uploaded to R.com Facebook.			Reported through Finance/Performance committee.	
	Implementation of Economic Development Strategy		The draft Economic Development Action Plan. Draft Strategy was discussed with New Elected members			Revise draft strategy aligning with Councils overall Strategic Vision to present to Council for further consideration.	
Youth Development	Youth Committee and networking meetings		Youth Council applications closed. Not as much uptake as last time due to early closing. (Last round closed in February 2019) Reopened Youth Council Applications			Appoint Youth Council Members for 2020, undertake training weekend and create workplan.	
	Establishment of a Youth Zone in Bulls	This is in development phase as part of the New Community Centre build				Engage with Bulls Youth and Ohakea regarding design of space.	
	Ongoing facilitation of the Youth Zones in Talhapa, and Marton		Well Utilised			Reported through Policy/Planning Committee	
Emergency Management	Civil Defence - increasing the District's resilience		Contract continues to remain in place with HRC.			Progress with community response plans	
Key elements of the work outlined in Path to Well-being, Rangitikei Growth Strategy, MOU work plans and Annual Plan							
What are they:	Programme/Activity	Status	Progress for this reporting period	Start Date	Completion Date	Planned for the next two months	
Advocacy to support the economic interests in the District at regional and national level Timely and effective interventions that create economic stability, opportunity and growth A wide range of gainful employment opportunities Attractive and vibrant towns that attract business and residents	Develop collaborative economic development and District promotion services across the Horizons region		Ongoing-activity.			Continued engagement between the regional collaborators on developing the economic development portfolio within Council.	
	Progress solutions to water availability in area between Marton and Hunterville		PGF application approved.				
	Implement Town Centre Plans (provision of good infrastructure, well-maintained streets in the CBD of main towns) Continue to discuss the concepts around the Marton Heritage precinct, particularly with business/property owners		Nothing to update	Marton - decision on concept design study and application to Lotteries Environment and Heritage, from which a \$50,000 grant was approved to partly fund this work.			Public consultation to happen.
	Place-making support in Marton, Bulls, Talhapa, Turakina, Hunterville			Nothing to update			Create an advertising campaign for 2020 recapping what placemaking is and how to apply. Targeting already established Placemaking groups.
	Events, activities and projects to enliven the towns and District. Five + high profile events and 20 community events. Council sponsorship of events aiming to increase visitor numbers (compared to 2017/18)			Events held by year end include: Rag poets, Marton market day, Marton Country Music Festival, Turakina Highland Games, Marton Christmas Parades, and artful bonanza, Bulls Christmas Parade. Workshop on Grants process was held with elected members. Resolved for Community Assessors to make decision on applications and funding allocations and for SmartyGrants to be used for the administration process.			Up skill staff on Smarty Grants, training assessors and advertising Grants
Up to date and relevant information for visitors and residents on a range of services, activities and attractions	Maintain and develop information centres in Marton, Talhapa and Bulls and develop "libraries as community hubs" concept		Business as usual, including promotion latest material and activities and events. We received some great feedback from participants in our Summer Reading Programme which will help to ensure the programme continues to run and meet the needs of the children participating.				
An up to date, relevant and vibrant on line presence with information about services, activities and attractions, the District lifestyle, job opportunities and social media contacts	Maintain a website that provides information about Council and community services and activities		Enhancements (both content and design) will continue during 2020 across the whole website, including more online applications and forms. It was excellent to see our website was ranked number 17 in the ALGIM rankings.			Leah Johnston started in the Comms & Graphic Designer role, one of her main focus areas will be the website.	
Opportunities for residents to remain socially and physically active into their retirement years, to enable them to stay in the District for as long as possible	Participate in Positive Ageing activities that aims to enhance quality of life for older people in the District		Contract with Mokai Patea Services around inclusion of supporting seniors within the Community Housing is being undertaken. Council staff have engaged with senior community housing tenants to assess who would like a support service.			Finalise senior community housing tenants who would like a support service.	

Opportunities for people with children to access the quality of life they desire for their families	Undertaking youth activities, programmes, and continue to seek contributions from external sources.		Supporting community-led project for the development of youth and family friendly areas in both Marton and Ratana. Youth Council application process extended to end of February 2020			Support Youth Council 2020 including training weekend in March. Open Youth Award 2020 Nominations in March with evening event to coincide with NZ Youth Week 9 - 17 May Meet with Bulls Youth to discuss their vision for the youth space in the new Bulls Community Centre
A more equal and inclusive community where all young people are thriving, irrespective of their start in life	Coordinate a Swim-4-All programme 2019/20 investigate and open water safety strategy		Received some participation forms from schools that plan on participating in 2019-2020 swim season and estimated travel costs. Application to Kiwi Sport was declined. Application to Whangarei Community Foundation pending.			Continue to seek funding to support programme Inform Governance Group of new appointment of Strategy and Community Planning Manager.
Cohesive and resilient communities that welcome and celebrate diversity	Healthy Families programme: take part in Governance Group, act as local Prevention Partnership, participate in Strategy Group		No Council appointee to this Governance Group following resignation of Strategy and Community Planning Manager			
	Implement Heritage Strategy Development of a heritage inventory of Maori narratives and collections Development of a heritage inventory of European/ non-indigenous settler narratives and collections		No progress during this period			No progress during this period
Funding schemes which have clear criteria, which are well publicised, and where there is a transparent selection process	Through Treasured Natural Environment Theme Group: - Continue to produce and distribute the Theme Group newsletter - Be involved with environmental projects as required		No progress during this period			To arrange the next Treasured Natural Environment Group Meeting.
	Facilitate at least an annual opportunity for community organisations to apply for funding under the various grant schemes administered by the Council		Two rounds of funding run each year for community organisations. Event sponsorship and Community initiatives. Individuals and organisations can also apply for the Creative Communities scheme. Workshop on Grants process was held with elected members. Reserved for Community Assessors to make decision on applications and funding allocations and for SmartyGrants to be used for the administration process.			Up skill staff on Smarty Grants, training assessors and advertising Grants
To see Council civil defence volunteers and staff at times of emergency (confidence in the activity)	Publish the results of grant application process to a Council-run forum show-casing the results of grant application processes where successful applicants provide brief presentations and are open to questions		Results of all successful applications are presented to the Council, and Finance/performance Committees, in the form of applications, summaries and accountability forms, twice a year.			
	Contract with Horizons to provide access to a full-time Emergency Management Officer		Contract continues to remain in place.			Contract continues to remain in place.
	Arrange regular planning and operational activities		Committee meeting held on 2 September 2019. Council will participate 17 October National Shake out.			Exercise to promote understanding of roles.