

# ORDER PAPER

## TE ROOPUU AHI KAA MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 December 2024

**Time:** 11.00am

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Tumuaki:** Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa, (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

**Tumuaki Tuarua:** Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha)

**Nga mema:** Mr Chris Shenton (Ngāti Kauae/Tauira), Mr Thomas Curtis (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti), Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake), Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri), Ms Leanne Hiroti, (Ngā Ariki Turakina), Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangi), Ms Grace Taiaroa (Rātana Pā), Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines (Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki), Cr Coral Raukawa, Cr Gill Duncan, HWTM Andy Watson

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**Notice is hereby given that a Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at 11.00am.**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 Karakia / Prayer**

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 Public Forum**

Mr Monty Gurnick, Community Adviser for the Department of Internal Affairs, will be in attendance to discuss funding for marae development and grant funding opportunities.

### **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 Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting held on 8 October 2024 are attached.

#### Attachments

1. Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting - 8 October 2024

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting held on 8 October 2024 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

# MINUTES

## UNCONFIRMED: TE ROOPUU AHI KAA MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 8 October 2024

**Time:** 11.00am

**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Tumuaki:** Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

**Nga mema:** Mr Thomas Curtis (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti),  
Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake)  
Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri) (Zoom)  
Ms Leanne Hiroti (Ngā Ariki Turakina)  
Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangi)  
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
Cr Gill Duncan  
HWTM Andy Watson

**Manuhiri:** Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive  
Mrs Carol Gordon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs  
Ms Katrina Gray, Manager Strategy and Development  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

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## 1 Karakia / Prayer

Ms Hiroa opened the meeting at 11.00am and welcomed everyone to the hui.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/040**

Apologies were received from Kim Savage

Ms P Hiroa/Dr K Gray-Sharp. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/041**

That the minutes of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting held on 13 August 2024 **without amendment** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Ms G Taiaroa/Mr T Curtis. Carried

## 7 Follow-up Actions

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings

#### Item 3 - Representation Letters

Ms Hiroa undertook to check in with Mr Shenton.

#### Item 2 - Archaeological Information

Staff noted that this is on the list to complete but the delay is due to a matter of priorities for the komiti.



### Item 1 - MOU with Iwi

Mrs Gordon update the komiti that staff have looked through previous MOUs and contracts with iwi across the district, noting that Ngāti Apa have a working relationship with Council. There are projects specific to iwi and marae and these are separate and sit in the Assets/Infrastructure group.

Members were requested that any AGMs or upcoming celebrations to send the dates through to Ms Spence to collate.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/042**

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings' be received.

Ms L Hiroti/Ms M Heeney. Carried

## **8 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui October 2024**

The Chair read her report.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/043**

That the 'Chair's Report –October 2024' be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr K Gray-Sharp. Carried

## **9 Reports for Information**

### **9.1 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024**

#### Marton Swimming Pool

The Mayor updated the komiti that Council has made the decision to close the Marton swimming pool for the summer and that Council will be taking a long-term holistic approach to the pool.

#### Regional Growth Summit

There was a Regional Growth Summit held at Te Matapihi in which Minister Shane Jones pledged to discuss with His Worship the Mayor and Council around support for the Ratana.

#### CE Recruitment

The Mayor noted that the CE recruitment process is underway, and JacksonStone have been selected to complete the recruitment.

Civil Defence

Mr Chaffe has been completing community consultation for the community response plans for civil defence. Mr Curtis noted that he recently attended a civil defence meeting, and it is surprising the number of organisations involved in this space.

Roading

Council is submitting in support of the Horowhenua and Tararua District Councils regarding the tolling of the roads.

The komiti had concerns with the roading in Utiku and that the road in this area is eroding underneath due to water coming down from the hills and that there are large areas of slumping.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/044**

That the Mayor's Report – 26 September 2024 be received.

HWTM A Watson/Ms P Hiroa. Carried

**9.2 Applications to the Marae Development Fund**

Mrs Gordon explained that the reason to include this as a formal report allows for this discussion to go back to marae to ask for applications. The total amount available is \$32,000 but it is up to the komiti on how this is distributed.

Staff will update the wording in the policy to define what in-kind is meant in this policy. The komiti noted that in-kind is not just financial but refers to other resources to support the project being completed.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/045**

That the Applications to the Marae Development Fund Report be received.

Cr C Raukawa/Mr T Curtis. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/046**

That, in accordance with the Marae Development Fund Policy, the Komiti seek applications from Marae across the district.

Ms P Hiroa/Ms M Heeney. Carried

**9.3 External Current and Upcoming Consultations**Fast Track Process

The komiti questioned the influence Council had on the projects for the fast-track process.

Ms Gray advised that this was a similar process to the Covid-19 fast track process and that the approach was using an expert panel to inform and receive feedback. The windfarm in the district has been engaging with Council at a governance level and at an operational level.

The komiti acknowledged that some of the submissions may be a token gesture and that agencies are not looking for feedback but it's still important for Council to submit within this space.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/047**

That the report 'External Current and Upcoming Consultations' is received.

Mr T Curtis/Dr K Gray-Sharp. Carried

#### 9.4 Class 4 Gambling Policy and TAB Venue Policy Review

Ms Taiaroa left the meeting at 12.06pm and returned at 12.10pm during this item.

The komiti discussed problems with gambling and the social impacts this has on the community. It was noted that the komiti thought the policy was a sinking lid however it is a capped number instead. Ms Gray responded that the policy does contradict itself and there has been confusion across staff and councillors also believing the policy was a sinking lid.

The recommendation from the Komiti will go to the next Policy/Planning meeting to be considered.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/048**

That the report 'Class 4 Gambling Policy and TAB Venue Policy Review' is received.

Dr K Gray-Sharp/Mr T Curtis. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/049**

That Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa recommend to the Policy/Planning Committee Option 3 to replace the current gambling venue (class 4) policy to move to a sinking lid approach with a new policy and Option 2 for the TAB Policy to allow consultation.

Mr T Curtis/Dr K Gray-Sharp. Carried

#### 9.5 Project Updates Report - September 2024

The komiti noted that there is a hui invitation for the Ratana discharge to land project to hear of the progress being made.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/050**

That the 'Project Updates Report – September 2024' be received.

Ms M Heeney/Ms L Hiroti. Carried

## 10 Discussion Items

### 10.1 Local Water Done Well

A regional hui is being held in Palmerston North that all members of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa have been invited too. This hui is to receive information on the current Local Water Done Well for the region.

The timeline for Local Water Done Well is short and Council will have to decide on the proposed alignment with other councils by December.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti held on 10 December 2024.

.....  
Chairperson

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa 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 Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	8-Oct-24	Runanga o Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa - AGM on 8 December, will contact them after the AGM about their role in this committee.	Piki Te Ora	Noting the AGM is on 8 December there may be a verbal update at the meeting.	In progress
2	13-Aug-24	What MoUs or contracts have we got with iwi across the district - collate these into a table initially. Are there gaps? Opportunities to look at where monetary payments should occur for provision of information or involvement by iwi in meetings etc	Jo / Carol / Fran	Now that Fran Pere is on board there is a focus on understanding current MOUs and finding a consistent approach to these for now and in future. A further discussion on this will take place at the next TRAK meeting.	In progress
3	11-Jun-24	Workshop on maps and archeological information for future workshop	Carol / Kevin / Katrina	Daniel and Richard be asked to attend a future workshop. This will be scheduled for 2025.	
4	20-Jun-23	TRAK representation letters for this triennium, follow up on the missing ones.	Kezia	8 October 2024 - Komiti agreed this action stays on the list.	In progress
5	11-Apr-23	Continue to approach Ngāti Waewae to progress a relationship between them and Council.	HWTM / Carol / Karen	The next stage is to progress a meeting with HWTM and Ngāti Waewae to consider a river accord approach. Still progressing.	In progress

## **8 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui December 2024**

**Author:** Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Chair

The Chair will provide a tabled or verbal report.

#### **Recommendation**

That the 'Chair's Report –December 2024' be received.

## ITEM 9.1

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Marae Development Fund

**Author:** Jo Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs

**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Deputy Chief Executive

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report is for the komiti to consider a request made to the Marae Development fund for the 2024/25 year.

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 The Marae Development Fund Policy is attached for reference, which specifies that in September / October each year applications to the fund would be called for and sets out the criteria and process. The report calling for applications came to the meeting on the 08 October 2024.
- 2.2 Following a carryover from the 2023/24 year there is a total of amount in the fund of \$32,021.

#### 3. Applications Received

- 3.1 The Komiti has received one request for the Marae Development Funding from Opaea Marae requesting \$15,000 for fencing around the marae.
- 3.2 Any approved applications from Te Roopuu Ahi need to be provided as a recommendation from the komiti to the Chief Executive who will submit a formal recommendation to Council for consideration.

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no further financial implications as the Marae Development receives annual funding through Council's budgeting processes.
- 4.2 A carry forward was identified for the unspent budget from the 2023/24 year, and this is included in the total funding available.

#### 5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 The impact on Council's risks is considered low, where:
  - 5.1.1 Failure to Honour the Commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – if the budget continues to be unspent this could have an impact on Marae across the District.

#### 6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 The annual allocation of funds to Marae Development aligns with Council's Strategic Direction in particular with "being a trusted partner with iwi" and "working collaboratively to improve community wellbeing" being the key drivers from the strategic framework.



**7. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 7.1 Members of the komiti are asked to consider all applications, therefore there are no additional implications identified.

**8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 8.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report, any improvements to Marae undertaken using this fund will only have a positive impact.

**9. Statutory Implications**

- 9.1 There are no statutory implications identified.

**10. Decision Making Process**

- 10.1 This report is not considered significant under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Budgets are considered during the development of the Long Term and Annual Plans.

**Attachments:**

1. Request from Opaea Marae [↓](#)
2. Marae Development Fund Policy [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report Marae Development Funding be received.

**Recommendation**

That the Komiti does/does not (delete one) allocate \$\_\_\_\_\_ funding to Opaea Marae and requests the Chief Executive submit a formal recommendation for Council's consideration of this request.



Opaea Marae  
675 Spooners Hill Rd  
Taihape

22 October 2024

Rangitikei District Council  
Te Roopu Ahi Kaa  
46 High St  
Marton

Tena Koutou

On behalf of the Opaea Marae Komiti we would like to apply for the Marae Development Funding \$15,000.

We require fencing around our marae to ensure the safety and security of our whanau from any vehicles trying to enter the facilities during events. There have also been instances where the gates have been left open when visiting the Urupa, leading to livestock damaging the newly renovated marae ablution facilities and grounds. Our financial difficulties have made it challenging to complete this necessary work in a timely manner, as price increases have affected our ability to prioritize projects and maintenance.

The Marae Development Funding would greatly alleviate the financial burdens we are currently experiencing.

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dianne Saunders'.

Dianne Saunders  
Opaea Marae Komiti Chairperson

POLICY & ELIGIBILITY

# MARAE DEVELOPMENT FUND POLICY

IWI/MĀORI DEVELOPMENT

- LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS
- FUNDING RATIONALE
- ELIGIBILITY
- GENERAL INFORMATION

**Introduction**

Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Rangitikei District Council (Council) is obliged to consider how it will meet current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure and how it can foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of council.

This Policy will contribute to that purpose by supporting the ability of mana whenua and Māori in the District to engage with Council and to maintain appropriate infrastructure for their communities in a cost-effective and efficient way.

Mana whenua, through whakapapa as ahi kaa in Rangitikei are responsible for Marae preservation, maintenance and development.

The Marae Development Fund is Council's commitment to respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua with respect to Marae. This will benefit hapu, the District and the nation. It will contribute to a guarantee of the protection of the culture and heritage embodied in Marae facilities and relationships. This is critical to community infrastructure and ability to exercise whanaungatanga.

Council also acknowledges Marae as a social asset for the community as a whole.

The policy and procedures for the operation of the Marae Development Fund are as follows.

**The Fund**

From 2011/12 the Council's Long Term Plan contains an annual funding allocation base of \$15,000 (increased by inflation each year).

The Fund is administered by the Group Manager – Democracy and Planning. Funding is determined by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.

Other relevant Council staff are the "Strategic Advisor: Mana Whenua".

Council will work with other funders and stakeholders towards cross sector collaboration to support short, medium and long term aspirations of Marae, in a strategic way for all Marae in the District.

Council's strategic approach is to survey the needs of all Marae and to develop overarching project management in conjunction with other participating funders to resource development needs.

The objectives and levels of funding are determined by considering identified issues that affect the Marae in the District. The initial objectives will target Health and Safety matters, including fire and earthquakes. The assessments will be used to obtain quotes based

on expert information that takes into account the specifications of each task and to allocate funding to a schedule of works to address needs in a coordinated manner. In these cases a signed agreement will be produced between respective Marae trusts and Council to deliver building services, installation of specialised equipment and management systems to meet compliance, under the project management and oversight of Council.

### **Eligibility for the Fund**

To be eligible for the Fund, the applicant Marae will:

- i. Be a Marae within the Rangitikei District, as defined by the Council boundary.
- ii. Be governed by a charter under Te Ture Whenua Act administered by the Māori Land Court.
- iii. Have the capacity to make the required contribution to the cost of the work to be carried out.
- iv. Deposit the Marae contribution to Council for the work before equipment is ordered and before work commences (if financial).
- v. Agree to Council's support in funding coordination, project management and oversight, including coordination between the building services and any suppliers.
- vi. Submit all invoices for services, materials and equipment by contractors and suppliers to Council to be approved based on inspection to confirm that the work is of the correct standard.
- vii. Any other applicant, as approved by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.
- viii. Following the completion of the work a report needs to be provided back to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā reporting on how the funds were used, if this is not provided no further application can be accepted from that Marae.

### **General information**

Council is taking a strategic approach to Marae development. Individual applications are not considered under this policy. However, all enquiries are welcomed from all Marae constituents on any Marae development issue. Advice is available as to the process required to benefit from this policy.

This policy is dynamic and will apply to the issues that are identified through ongoing Council strategic processes as affecting Marae. In each round prioritisation decisions will consider the capacity of a Marae to engage with the policy; and what Council may need to consider doing to enhance the capacity of Marae to engage with the policy.

### **Process for Applications**

In September / October each year the Group Manager Democracy and Planning (or delegate) will bring a paper to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā seeking applications to this fund. The komiti need to consider all the applications and provide a formal recommendation from the komiti to Council to consider.

## ITEM 9.1

## ATTACHMENT 2

Final approval is given by the Chief Executive (or delegate) by way of a formal recommendation to Council from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, based on a schedule of tasks and the costings, for work to be funded under the policy.

The komiti can make recommendation to Council, that any unspent funds at the end of the financial year be carried over to the next financial year.

For any further information or questions, please contact in the first instance, Jo Manuel, Manager - Mana Whenua and Community Hubs - [joanne.manuel@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:joanne.manuel@rangitikei.govt.nz).

Appendix – Authorised Entities

- Ngāti Parewahawaha
- Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa
- Ngā Ariki
- Ngāti Kauae/ Tauira
- Kauangaroa
- Whangaehu
- Rātana Community
- Ngāti Hauiti
- Ngāti Hinemanu/ Ngāti Paki
- Ngāti Tamakōpiri
- Ngāti Whitikaupeka
- Ngāti Te Ohuake
- Ngāti Rangituhia

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Update on Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth

**Author:** Tiffany Gower, Senior Policy Planner

**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Manager Strategy and Development

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Offices will provide a powerpoint presentation to Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti on the progress made on Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth since the September presentation.

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 Officers are in the pre-notification, development phase of Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth (PPC3). This proposed plan change is the first in Council’s sectional review of the Rangitikei District Plan.
- 2.2 The purpose of PPC3 is to provide for urban growth across the Rangitikei District for the next 30 years. PPC3 will focus on the Residential and Rural Living Zones of the District Plan. Other zones and sections of the District Plan will be reviewed in turn over time.

#### 3. Discussion and Options Considered

- 3.1 Officers will provide an update on the progress on this plan change via a powerpoint presentation. Komiti members can ask any questions they may have during the presentation.

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There is budget for the District Plan Review (including this plan change) in Council’s Annual Plan 2024/25, and Council also received funding from the Better Off Fund for this plan change.

#### 5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 The main risk would be that ‘Trust and Confidence is Tarnished’ in relation to Council’s Reputation. Plan changes can receive a lot of interest from key stakeholders and the general public. It is important that Council runs a robust and comprehensive plan change process to address this risk.

#### 6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 PPC3 may have implications for Cultural, Environmental, Social, and Economic Wellbeing. The well-beings are invariably considered as part of the plan change process through technical reports (e.g. ecological assessments and archaeological assessments) and through consultation with affected landowners, key stakeholders, and the wider public.
- 6.2 A trusted partner with iwi. The plan change will follow the Schedule 1 process outlined in the Resource Management Act 1991, which includes special consultation with iwi.



Officers will work to ensure that as this plan change is developed Council will meet its commitment to being a trusted partner with iwi.

- 6.3 PPC3 aligns with Council's 'Strategic Priority of Facilitating Growth'. One of the purposes of this plan change is to ensure that urban growth is appropriately provided for over the next 30 years.

## **7. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 7.1 Officers will work with mana whenua to ensure that they have opportunity to input into PPC3 including understanding its implications for them. This will be in accordance with Schedule 1 requirements, and also in line with Council's commitment to be a trusted partner with iwi.

## **8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 8.1 Climate change is factored into the consideration of how future growth areas might be serviced. Furthermore, the avoidance of known hazard prone areas (e.g. land within a flood area) is preferred when assessing land for rezoning. Where there is no alternative land available, then climate change is considered as part of assessing the impact of the natural hazard and the viability of rezoning land affected by it for residential purposes.

## **9. Statutory Implications**

- 9.1 The plan change process will be in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## **10. Decision Making Process**

- 10.1 Officers will proceed with the preparation of the plan change. The plan change will follow the process outlined in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## **Recommendation**

That the report 'Update on Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth' be received.

**10.2 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024****Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor****Abuse Under Care**

On 12 November I attended the apology from the Crown in Wellington for the “Abuse Under Care following the Royal Commission of Enquiry”. The Enquiry had previously found that many young people were abused, sexually assaulted and tortured while under state care. Many of these actions had occurred at hospitals, children’s homes and faith based institutions and in private homes where children were based with state carers. The Enquiry found that many young people had raised questions to authorities that were not listened to, or were punished further for reporting or questioning. There are many reports documenting the Enquiry and their findings are online. However I wish to make a few points –

- The survivors carry the effects and trauma suffered for their lifetime.
- For the huge number of survivors and supporters that listened to the apology and the stories from survivors at Parliament or at several centres around New Zealand it was emotional and raw.
- The lead coordinator Minister Erica Stanford apologised to a silently listening and grieving audience. Minister Stanford is acknowledged by all for genuinely caring and doing all that she can to support.
- There were a series of apologies from the various public sector leaders including MSD, Police, Oranga Tamariki, Education and Public Service. The Solicitor General Una Jagose KC gave an apology that was received with anger and hostility because on many occasions she was thought to have been unhelpful and criticised the honesty of the survivors’ stories.
- These apologies were followed by the apologies from Prime Minister Luxon and the Leader of the Labour Government which were accepted by most as genuine.
- With the apologies came the Crown responses. There will be compensation to the survivors although the mechanism and cost still has yet to be worked through. There will be a series of reforms for each Government Department and money will be allocated to search for the “missing people” i.e. the unidentified graves, and on 12 November next year there will be a public holiday to reflect and report on progress made.
- Apparently there are a number of street names in public recognition places relating to perpetrators of this abuse and these will be removed.
- So what does it mean for the Rangitikei? Lake Alice, which sits in our district, was named and regarded as the foremost centre of the abuse. There will be some sort of memorial here which is yet to be finalised. Our district will probably feature in the search for unidentified graves much like the search by our RSA Vet Barry Rankin for the unidentified graves of RSA veterans buried at our cemetery on State Highway 1.

Yes, abuse did occur at Lake Alice Hospital along with many other places throughout New Zealand and we must acknowledge that history. However there were many staff there at Lake Alice with the highest standards of behaviour who were genuinely caring for people and who were unaware of the abuse that was occurring. A huge number of young people were placed into adoption with people that loved them, cared for them and recognised them as family. Let us not forget these people who made sacrifices to support others.

**Gentle Annie Road**

With the closure of the Tangiwai Forestry Mills, cutting of the Ernslaw Forests has to continue. These logs unprocessed are now sent for export resulting in 1000 tonnes per day being trucked over the Gentle Annie Road that links Taihape and the Hawkes Bay. This is not a state highway - it is a demanding road not suitable for this volume of traffic and this may continue for many decades. Quite simply the road will deteriorate markedly and there will be accidents as there are many lined narrowed corners where large trucks cannot pass each other. The cost of upgrading and maintaining this road will be beyond the finances of our Council. These logs could go by rail but currently because of the extra distance it is cheaper to transport by road. I have asked for a meeting on 25 November with the key members being the forestry owners, KiwiRail, Ports of Napier, NZTA, Road Transport Contractors and representatives from both our Council and Hastings District Council to discuss this. That meeting will take place in Bulls.

There needs to be a solution and if one is unable to be attained at that meeting I will ask for a meeting with Minister Simeon Brown to discuss the possibilities of extra funding or the possibility of a toll levied on the forestry sector.

**Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Whanganui**

On the weekend of 8/9 November I was invited to a series of events in Whanganui to celebrate the reopening of the Sarjeant Art Gallery. It started with a powhiri on the Friday afternoon at Putiki Marae, followed with a 4.30am dawn ceremony on the Saturday morning to bless the building and a "Shimmer & Shine" social event on the Saturday evening. The Sarjeant Gallery is a nationally recognised taonga for New Zealand and was closed 10 years ago due to earthquake concerns. The plan for strengthening, restoration and the construction of a new wing dedicated to Tā Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa KNZM, who was a loved and respected kaumātua and inspirational leader of the Whanganui people, took 10 years and came at a cost of \$70m. Finding that funding was a challenge and was a partnership between Whanganui, the Crown with the Provincial Growth Fund and many investors.

**Spring Fling Taihape**

The Spring Fling this year was on the same day as the opening of the Sarjeant Gallery in Whanganui where I had attended the dawn blessing and evening function. Unfortunately that meant it was difficult to spend the whole day in Taihape so Beth and I were there for only a couple of hours. The highlight of the day was receiving the Historic Places plaque in recognition of the Grandstand. Andrew Coleman the CE of Heritage New Zealand made the trip to present the plaque and speak. He congratulated the district and included congratulations for the Mangaweka Cantilever Bridge and the Taihape Picture Theatre. Andrew is an Old Boy of Taihape and he used the occasion to meet up with his family and friends and have a class reunion attended by many of his classmates. Heritage is incredibly important to us all and the registration of the Grandstand as an Historic Place has been made possible by the Heritage Group from Taihape headed by Community Board Chair Peter Kipling-Arthur. Being honest, I thought the Spring Fling missed a few opportunities this year. There was no signage on the main street and attendance seemed to be down. I congratulate Pania for doing the

hard work but I wonder if I, our staff and community needed to get alongside her to provide support for the Trust.

### **Armistice Day**

I celebrated Armistice Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with the RSA Service at Marton Park. This year was especially poignant as it came with the recent announcement of the death of Sir Robert “Bom” Gillies, the last survivor of the famed Māori Battalion. The volunteers of the Māori Battalion, who numbered 3600 men, fought in the Second World War in places such as Cassino and followed the Māori contingent that left New Zealand to serve in WWI in 1915. The Armistice Day Memorial speech was written and read by Luci Downes a senior Rangitīkei College pupil and with her permission, I attach that speech for you to read - it was very moving and thought provoking. Lest we forget.

### **Local Water Done Well**

Local Water Done Well is the new National Party solution to the (“three waters”) delivery options for waste-water (sewerage), drinking water and stormwater services provided by Councils. Please refer to our Council website to see the regular updates and information. The changes to Local Government are the most significant changes in decades if not for all time.

Over the last week I organised a series of drop-in meetings during the day followed by evening meetings in Bulls, Marton and Taihape which had very little interest. I am prepared to speak to any group or anyone in the district if you missed these chances.

Government timelines for decisions are challenging and the key points are –

- Council decides on a preferred option to deliver water services on 12 December.
  - The options are –
    - i) Maintain sole control as our Council either by current in-house management or by forming our own CCO (Council Controlled Organisation);
    - ii) Have a joined up approach with other Councils in our region (preferably by way of a CCO);
    - iii) Adopt a consumer trust model.

*If you want to know more about the relative merits of these or who we could partner with please reach out.*

- Council will consult early next year (February/March) on our preferred solution and other options.
- By September we provide Government our plan for approval. Government can say that they don’t approve and make decisions for us!
- Council continues to provide these services as happens now until 2027/28 and then the new water entity takes over.
- It has been a frustrating process with further Government legislation due in December.
- Most Councils in New Zealand, I suspect, will form regional CCO’s with other Councils. This will give access to long term funding through LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency). The

Councils will then appoint one member to a Governance Board with probably both an independent chair and an iwi voice. This Board would then appoint directors of the new water entity based purely on expertise. However, none of this is yet set, but is in my opinion a likely outcome.

### A couple of updates

- As you will all know we have closed the Marton Swimming Pool because of the failure of the principal laminated beam. Council has decided that we will focus on the long term solution and hopefully have the pool reopened for next season. To make that possible we have already contracted a company to look at the structural integrity of the building, the repair of the roof and to provide us information on the future of not only the main pool but the roof surrounding the children's pool. I am hoping that we get reports back from that before Christmas to be able to present a way forward early next year. Myself and Council regard the Marton Pool as a key part of our community and I want us to move as quickly as we can. I know staff are looking at possible alternative arrangements for swim lessons and I hope to be able to update the community on this early in the new year.
- The Dudding Trust met recently and made decisions around who will receive money in this financial year. At the moment those results haven't been announced and successful organisations will be contacted in the very near future by the Trustee. What I can say is that we are distributing around \$900,000 to the wider Rangitikei community. The Rangitikei district is not eligible for a number of other funds and in this regard we absolutely rely on the foresight of Mr Dudding and I hope to be in the position to be able to congratulate successful recipients in the near future.
- In the last Mayor's report I made comment that we are going through a recruitment process to select a new Chief Executive. Council have now reduced what was a very long list because we had a significant number of people interested in the position and we are hoping to be able to appoint late this year for someone to take up the role early next year. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Kevin Ross who took on the role of what was an interim Chief Executive position last August. Staff have loved working with him and he has been able to successfully deal with a number of long standing issues.
- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs TUIA – I am looking to continue with the TUIA programme in 2025 and will be interviewing prospective candidates shortly for nomination. It has been a pleasure to work with this year's TUIA Nyssa Nepe and watch her grow as a future leader. Nyssa will present a report to Council on her experience in the programme in December.
- There have been recent announcements by Government that they will put approximately \$10m of funding (as cash funding) into Ratana to deal with infrastructure and needed building issues. The announcements were made from the Offices of Minister Potaka and Minister Jones. To my mind this helps addresses the number of times politicians from both sides of the House have made promises to Ratana during January celebrations and delivery of those promises has been a long time coming.
- Ratana will again celebrate the birthday of TW Ratana on 25 January 2025 and this will be an enormous occasion. The numbers could swell to 30,000 plus people who will want to accompany the new Māori Kuini Ngā Wai hone i te pō onto Ratana for her first official visit. We will be inviting our Elected Members to be part of that process and I will be spending 2-3 days at Ratana in support. I thank staff for the amount of time that they need to spend planning support in terms of water, wastewater, rubbish collection etc for the event.

**ITEM 10.2**

- There has been a recent meeting of the Users of the Taihape Memorial Park Group and I just want to highlight the patience that Charity Davis and Charlotte Oswald have taken waiting for Council to develop their long term plans for the Park. The playground group have now been given approval that they can start with a known location, essentially where the old toilet block is on Memorial Park. This toilet block will need to be demolished and replaced with something that is fit for purpose. I know they are looking at taking a couple of options to the community and I know they will be seeking interest from any party who can help them with the funding. If you think that you can help please get in touch with Charity directly or approach myself or one of the Councillors.
- I am looking to attach to this report, but may not have completed in time, my report from the recent Zone 3 meeting held in Napier. To do justice to this report I want to take some time and comment on the relevant speakers and am hoping to get it attached in time.
- Similar to the Zone meeting in Napier I will be attending the Combined Sector Rural & Provincial Meeting in Wellington on 21/22 November and I hope to also be able to table a report on that meeting. These meetings are incredibly important as they are our direct interaction with Crown and the speed and complexity of decisions we are being faced with by Government at the moment and how they significantly affect Local Government is unprecedented.

**Schools**

- Last weekend I attended the celebration at Huntley School marking 10 years of girls attending the school.
- We are still waiting on the notification from the Ministry of Education around the rebuild of the Taihape Area School but I am hopeful we should receive this reasonably soon.
- I am currently attending prizegivings where my diary allows on requests from schools and at the end of year prizegivings for Rangitikei College and Taihape Area School there will be announcements around 4 successful scholarships that Council makes available to Year 13 students.

**Mayor's Engagements****November 2024**

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended monthly catchup meeting with Police
2	Attended Hunterville Shemozzle to help set up Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs TUIA end of year celebration in Lower Hutt
4	Attended MTFJ Governance Group Online Meeting Attended JBS Dudding Trust 2024 Trustee & Advisory Board Annual Meeting
5	Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended meeting of Councillors and Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa Management Team re LWDW Attended MTFJ 6 Monthly Review Online Meeting

	<p>Attended GHD function in Palmerston North</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
6	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended monthly Governor's Q&amp;A session with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended drop-in LWDW meeting at Taihape</p> <p>Attended Zoom with Minister Potaka regarding Ratana Infrastructure</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting at Taihape</p>
7	<p>Attended Marton Office &amp; Library Project meeting with Elected Members and Staff</p> <p>Attended Ngati Rangi Hui Te Waiū-o-te-ika (Whangaehu Awa) in Ohakune</p> <p>Attended BA5 meeting in Marton</p>
8	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended CE Recruitment meeting with subcommittee</p> <p>Attended Powhiri at Putiki Marae for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p>
9	<p>Attended 4.30am dawn ceremony for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p> <p>Attended Taihape Spring Fling</p> <p>Attended Heritage New Zealand plaque presentation for Taihape Grandstand</p> <p>Attended Shimmer &amp; Shine evening function for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p>
10	Attended Powhiri NZSF Surgical Exercise VIP Opening at Whanganui Hospital
11	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Armistice Day Memorial Service at Marton Park</p> <p>Attended Sub-regional Briefing #2 LWDW with Elected Members</p>
12	<p>Attended Public Apology to Survivors of Abuse in Care in Wellington</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended drop-in LWDW meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Creative Communities Scheme Meeting</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Bulls Community Committee meeting</p>
14	Attended Zone 3 Meeting in Napier
15	Attended Zone 3 Meeting in Napier
16	Attended Huntley School event celebrating 10 Years of Girls
17	Attended Regional Garden Tour Taihape
18	<p>Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p>

**ITEM 10.2**

	Attended drop-in LWDW meeting in Marton Attended quarterly regional relationship meeting with NZTA Attended public evening LWDW meeting in Marton
19	Attended Taihape Area School Scholarship Interviews Attended Memorial Park User Group Meeting Attended Historical Society Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
20	Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Attended Moawhango Wind Farm Community Drop In Session
21	Attended LGNZ Combined Sector Meeting in Wellington
22	Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Meeting in Wellington
23	Attended Bulls Rose & Flower Show
25	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Hui regarding Taihape Napier Road Attended online meeting with Crown Response Unit regarding Unmarked Graves Project
26	Attended MPs site visit to Whangaehu Bridge – Te Araroa Trail Attended LGNZ Roundtable Zoom – Electoral Reform Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
27	Attended CE Recruitment Shortlist Review meeting
28	Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Council Meeting
29	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend Earle Creativity & Development Trust Awards Ceremony To attend Federated Farmers End of Year Event

**Attachments:**

1. **LGNZ Four Monthly Reporting** [↓](#)
2. **Armistice Day Speech - Luci Downes** [↓](#)
3. **Heritage NZ Plaque - Taihape Grandstand** [↓](#)
4. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)
5. **Additional Mayors Report** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – 28 November 2024 be accepted.





# LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024





## Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ's work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It's structured around LGNZ's purpose: to serve local government by **championing**, **connecting** and **supporting** members.

Many councils have found it useful to put this report on the agenda for their next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam and Susan are also happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it, on request.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

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## Introduction

This busy four months included our SuperLocal conference in Wellington, which attracted more than 700 people and dominated the news agenda all week. This was partly thanks to headline-grabbing comments from the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister, but also because of the LGNZ team's proactive generation of many other topics in the media spotlight at our conference, from four-year terms and tourism levies to localism and regional deals.

Alongside preparing for and delivering SuperLocal, our small team managed a huge range of other work, which is covered in this report. Highlights include:

- Launching our third rates rise toolkit in July, including NZIER's research uncovering the costs of unfunded mandates for councils. Unfunded mandates are costs that local government ends up carrying as a result of central government legislation.
- In October, launching our Electoral Reform Working Group's issues paper exploring the current state of participation in local election and asking for feedback.
- Local Government Minister Simeon Brown announcing a framework for Regional Deals that aligns with many of the elements LGNZ called for in our May proposal.

As you'll see below, we've had many meetings with Ministers, the Prime Minister and other politicians across a wide range of topics. And we've engaged in a range of policy issues, with our work driven by the high-level advocacy priorities that members and National Council agreed earlier this year:

- Funding and financing
- Water
- Resource management reform
- Transport
- Climate change

Right now, we're preparing for the 21 November Combined Sector meeting, focused on the Government's local government reform programme. It features a strong range of speakers including the Local Government Minister, Regional Development Minister, Opposition Finance Spokesperson, Australian local government speakers on their rates capping experience, and a briefing from the Treasury on New Zealand's fiscal situation.

During the meeting, we'll also be launching a funding and financing toolkit, showcasing a range of tools that could be used (alongside rates) to boost local government's financial position and help councils deliver for ratepayers. Watch out for an email direct to your inbox on 21 November with all the details. We'll be advocating strongly for these tools – and sharing resources so you can too.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan

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## Champion

### Local government funding and financing

#### Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

In July we released work we had commissioned from NZIER on the impacts of unfunded mandates on local government. NZIER's research highlighted:

- that many central government reforms have resulted in increased costs for ratepayers;
- that central government does not adequately estimate or address what its reforms cost councils;
- that constant policy changes lead to high sunk costs for councils with no tangible outcomes; and
- the true costs of government reform are hidden because councils absorb them by reducing other service delivery.

Our third rates rise toolkit packaged this research with slides and key messages that members could use. The release generated significant media interest and engagement from members.

#### Tourism and cost recovery

From 1 October, the Government raised the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) from \$35 to \$100 to ensure visitors contribute to the upkeep of the facilities, services and natural environment they use and enjoy during their stay. LGNZ is advocating for councils to have a greater say in how the additional funding is spent on tourism-related initiatives. We are also continuing to advocate for the Government to enable cost recovery tools (such as a local tourism bed night charge).

#### Revenue capping and other measures

At SuperLocal, the Government announced that they would investigate performance metrics, benchmarking, and revenue capping for councils modelled on New South Wales and Victoria. The policy team has been engaging with local government experts from New South Wales and Victoria to understand how these policies have worked for them and what the impact has been. We will provide insights from these discussions and research on these policies with members soon, including at the November Combined Sector meeting.

#### Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

We are working on a toolkit for release at the November Combined Sector meeting that details a range of 24 funding and financing tools that would benefit councils (but potentially require enabling legislation). This toolkit will include:

- Basic information about each tool, how it can be used and what it might deliver
- Data to support our approach and inform members' conversations
- Messages local government can use

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- A draft op ed and draft letter to an MP that can be customised

The toolkit launch will be supported by media and advocacy activity, in the same way that the rates rise toolkits were.

### Regional deals

We were pleased that the Government made announcements around its Regional Deals framework at SuperLocal, and that our advocacy has been taken on board with the framework largely reflecting our position. This framework includes partnership, new funding tools and a commitment to long-term planning, and is modelled on LGNZ's proposal released earlier this year.

We know funding tools and regulatory relief will be made available in the regions that secure deals. We have been advocating for those benefits to be available for all of local government (where that makes sense).

Our focus now is on ensuring that the regional deals model has room to evolve and deepen – as it's become clearer that the first iteration will be limited in scope.

### Government relations

We appeared before select committees in support of our submissions on the water services preliminary arrangements and fast-track bills.

We've also had productive meetings with Hon Chris Bishop and Hon Casey Costello.

The meeting with Minister Bishop included Hastings District Council Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and chief executive Nigel Bickle. They were able to provide the Minister with their reflections on the recent Kāinga Ora review and some examples of what they were doing locally to promote better housing outcomes, as part of our effort to position local government as a key partner in resolving the housing crisis.

The meeting with Minister Costello was about what role councils may play in reform of vaping regulations, and resulted in an agreement that LGNZ would further engage with health officials on what a system in which councils have greater control over where vape retailers are located could look like.

In early July we hosted MPs who were former local government elected members or staff for a casual evening function at parliament. Six MPs joined Sam and the LGNZ team for some good conversations and bridge-building across party lines.

We have reached out to ACT leader and Minister of Regulation David Seymour to work with him and his party on streamlining the regulatory burden on councils, and on the ACT commitment in its coalition agreement with National to look at improving housing incentives on councils through GST sharing.

At our July meeting with Minister Brown, we raised concerns regarding NZTA's proposed changes to emergency works funding. We also discussed the Ratepayers' Assistance Scheme (RAS), which is an

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innovative financing scheme that LGNZ has been developing with a group of Metro councils, the Local Government Funding Agency and Cameron Partners. The purpose of the RAS is to make local government policies and charges more affordable for ratepayers. RAS would provide ratepayers with:

- Flexibility to decide when to pay local government charges; and/or
- Very competitive finance terms (below standard mortgage rates).

The recess period gave us the opportunity to connect with staff in the Beehive. These conversations have provided insights into the Government's perception of local government and help myth-bust staffers' perceptions (where that's been required).

In late September, we met with the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister together, as part of our series of regular quarterly meetings. Talks took a practical approach to tackle the challenges facing local government. Before the meeting, we asked mayors and chairs for practical cost-cutting ideas to relieve pressure for ratepayers and help councils operate more efficiently. Here's a selection of the ideas you shared:

- Simplify audits with a tiered, risk-based system
- Review Long Term Plans less often
- Let councils set their own fees for things like parking and animal control
- Review District Plans and conduct Representation Reviews less frequently
- Encourage shared services between councils
- Better align local and central government decisions
- Create a "Fast Track" process for land rezoning
- Address the contributors to civil construction price increases.

The Prime Minister and Local Government Minister were interested to hear about possible changes.

In early October, we again met with the Minister for Local Government. The Minister was open to receiving further advice from us on how to cut costs for councils, including a proposal to change Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act to make it less cumbersome and more accessible for the community. The Minister was open to coming to our sector meetings in February and May next year.

The Government announced a raft of proposed changes to the building consents system in late October and we are meeting with Hon Chris Penk in early November.

## Media

The June Infrastructure Symposium, including Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop's speech at our networking function the night before, received very strong media coverage, with stories in The Post, BusinessDesk, NBR and RNZ focused on our support for more funding tools to pay for infrastructure. We also used the opportunity of the Infrastructure Symposium to further our advocacy against proposed changes by NZTA to emergency works, which was a lead story on 1News. Other media interactions in July focused on elected members' behaviour and Christchurch City Council's exit from LGNZ.



SuperLocal24 generated widespread national coverage, making it one of the top stories of the week. The Prime Minister's politically charged speech, rate increases, and large media attendance contributed to the event being so widely covered. The overall media result was the result of significant planning by LGNZ. We developed a range of proactive stories and pre-briefed media on issues important to members, which ensured balance in stories and coverage of our proactive angles.

Feedback from media about the conference experience was very positive.



6 press conferences



33 accredited media



400+ media items



9 proactive story topics

Earlier in August, LGNZ led out positively on the Government's Local Water Done Well announcement. LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry spoke to [1News](#) and said while it was a welcome step, we need to temper expectations about the effect on rates short-term. LGNZ National Council members Tim Cadogan and Neil Holdom spoke to [Stuff and Three News](#) about the need for certainty from all sides so councils can get on with business. Concerns still playing out in the media centre around [credit ratings](#) of the LGFA and the new CCOs, which S&P put a statement out about. LGNZ engaged with S&P at the end of last week and will share updates in the coming months.

Confirmation of time-of-use or congestion charging was also announced in August, with LGNZ Transport Forum Chair Neil Holdom putting LGNZ's support [on the record](#) saying, "it's a prudent and pragmatic step that LGNZ has long advocated for".

Coverage of our unfunded mandates research launch included LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry speaking to [The Post](#), [RNZ](#) and [Newsroom](#) about the report and joining [ZB's Early Edition](#) to highlight the cost of flip-flops on policies when the government changes. Then in [The Post](#), Ex-Chief Press Secretary for the National Party Janet Wilson reflected on our research, reiterating the impossible situation for councils as "rates as a share of GDP have hovered around 2% for 20 years" and "central government ... have all the power, with local councils forced to carry out its wishes."

Also in August, rates invoices began to hit letterboxes. LGNZ has consistently raised this as a national issue in the media and ensured there is good data to support these conversations with communities. Infometrics CE and economist Brad Olsen commented in [The Post](#), giving this perspective on rates rises – "if you look at the amount of money that people pay in their rates versus what they pay to central government, you're talking chalk and cheese."

In mid-July, in response to the Government's announcement it would not progress the Future for Local Government report, we issued a media statement saying "LGNZ developed our own response to the FFLG review, in collaboration with members, and that underpins all our advocacy. We won't give up advocating for these key changes."

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Earlier in July, a disturbing story was front page in the [Herald on Sunday](#) with former Mayor of Nelson Rachel Reese telling her story after an intruder entered her home back in February. This targeting of former and current elected members is rising, and a poll at LGNZ's Combined Sector meeting in April showed 53% of elected members say it's worse than a year ago. LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene spoke to NZ Herald about members' concerns and highlighted the work LGNZ has been doing to support members – including previously championing a removal of candidate addresses from election advertising, and our roundtable zooms with the likes of NZ Police and Netsafe.

Also in July, LGNZ President Sam Broughton joined the [On The Tiles](#) podcast to discuss our city and regional deals framework and what we could learn from the likes of Australia and the UK.

The Government's building consents reform was welcomed by LGNZ: Sam was interviewed on RNZ and Newstalk ZB. A few days later, when the International Visitor Levy went up, we proactively called for the Government to share the increase with councils to support tourism costs. This advocacy was picked up by the radio stations.

In October, LGNZ was in the media spotlight as we advocated for central government funding of emergency responses. This was part of [our response](#) to the Government's announcement following the North Island Severe Weather Events report. Our President Mayor Sam Broughton and National Council member Mayor Rehette Stoltz shared the workload, with Sam speaking to outlets like [Newsroom](#) and Radio NZ, while Rehette had interviews with TVNZ's Breakfast news and Newstalk ZB.

We marked one year until local body elections by [calling](#) for candidates to start thinking about getting prepared. LGNZ Deputy CE Scott Necklen chatted with Newstalk ZB and RNZ on the subject. During our YEM Hui in Christchurch last month we shone the [spotlight](#) on young leaders in local government, pointing to YEM numbers doubling over the past three elections. We used speakers at the YEM hui to tell a breadth of stories about the importance of this network.

With the Electoral Reform issues paper being released this week, we set up an interview with the Electoral Reform Working Group's Chair Mayor Nick Smith and Jack Tame on [Q & A](#). Securing an interview with one of the only longform political news programmes was a crucial part of our work to raise these issues in the political sphere – and to ensure the work helps inform the Government's decisions. Following our Electoral Reform [article](#) on Sunday, we also organised interviews with Mayor Rehette Stoltz (who is also part of the Working Group) on [Hosking Breakfast](#) and Radio NZ to discuss some of the issues.

LGNZ also [spoke out](#) about the Government's proposal for self-certification for building professionals, speaking to [Three News](#) and Newstalk ZB about the issue of long-term security over the indemnity insurance – to ensure that neither councils nor affected homeowners are saddled with costs if an issue occurs.

Amid public calls for tougher booze rules, Sam Broughton also spoke with both [The Press](#) and [Stuff](#) about how Local Alcohol Policies work.



### Electoral Reform Working Group

The Electoral Reform Working Group, chaired by Mayor Nick Smith, developed an issues paper that was launched in late October. It sets out the current state of participation in elections. It explores:

- Understanding of local government and why it is important
- How easy it is to vote, especially with the decline of post
- Knowing candidates and what they stand for
- Administration and promotion of elections
- Four-year terms including their implementation and transition

From mid-October to 5 January, we will seek feedback on the paper from members, key stakeholders, and the wider public. This will include presentations at all zone meetings.

Engagement on the issues paper will inform a draft position paper, which will be engaged on from March-May, before a final paper is drafted. National Council will be asked to adopt that final position paper, which will be launched at SuperLocal25.

### Remits

This year, to better prioritise resource allocation to remits, National Council adopted a two-step process for remits agreed at LGNZ's AGM. As part of this process, the AGM ranked remits in order of priority, with the following results:

1. Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives
2. GST revenue sharing with local government
3. Local government Māori wards and constituencies should not be subject to a referendum
4. Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings
5. Representation Reviews
6. Community Services Card
7. Graduated Licensing System

At its September meeting, National Council decided to take the maximum approach for the first four remits. This means commissioning advice or research, or in-depth policy or advocacy work. National Council decided to take a less resource-intensive approach to the remaining remits, which could involve writing a letter to the relevant minister or agency. However, remits may get additional resource if they align with other existing work programmes.

LGNZ's policy team will shortly be in touch with all councils who proposed successful remits to agree on next steps.



### Māori wards

Forty-five councils established or resolved to establish Māori wards since the law change in 2021. The Coalition Government enacted legislation that required those 45 councils to make decisions to retain or disestablish their Māori wards by Friday 6 September. If councils chose to keep the wards, they have to fund a poll at next year's local elections.

Two councils decided to disestablish their Māori wards: Upper Hutt City Council and Kaipara District Council. The other 43 decided to retain their wards and a number of these decisions were unanimous, including: Far North, Porirua, South Taranaki, South Wairarapa, Hauraki, Stratford, Marlborough, Whakatāne, Rangitikei, and Ruapehu.

Some councils indicated they would investigate the implications of refusing to hold a binding referendum. Palmerston North City Council will present a report at an upcoming council meeting; Whakatāne District Council has sought legal advice; and Far North District Council has asked the chief executive "to investigate options of not conducting a binding poll at the next local body election in 2025".

LGNZ is supporting councillors affected by this legislation. Connected to this is our work around supporting Iwi Māori to stand for (re)election in 2025 and promoting voter participation.

### Water services reform

The passing of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act in August marked the second stage of the Government's *Local Water Done Well* reforms. This Act provides the framework and preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. There is a requirement for councils to develop and adopt Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs) by 3 September 2025. Successful elements of [our submission](#) include the expansion of streamlining provisions for water service entity creation, the scope and timeframe for WSDPs, and the Secretary for Local Government's role in making regulations. However, we were unsuccessful in securing a longer timeframe for WDSP development or greater support for councils in implementing this legislation, including funding.

The Government has announced the third stage of these reforms, which will shape the final bill, due to be introduced by the end of 2024. We released an [explainer](#) covering the key elements of this reform in *Keeping it Local*.

We're engaging with the Commerce Commission on how transitional and permanent economic regulation would work under Local Water Done Well. The Commission will be presenting at the November Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings to support members to develop a greater understanding of what economic regulation is and how it operates in other sectors.



### Resource management reform

RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop outlined the Government's plans for stage two of its resource management reform at SuperLocal. These will be progressed via a package on national direction and a second piece of legislation amending the RMA. There will be new national direction issued for infrastructure, housing, and natural hazards, as well as amendments to a wide range of existing national direction, with seven new national direction instruments and amendments to fourteen existing ones in total.

The changes cover four areas:

- infrastructure and energy,
- housing,
- farming and the primary sector, and
- emergencies and natural hazards.

Also included are measures to put into effect the Government's Going for Housing Growth and Electrify New Zealand reforms.

The expansion in national direction must be undertaken in close consultation with local government to be workable, and we will raise this with the Minister and officials. We have met with Simon Court to discuss the NPS-Infrastructure, which he is taking responsibility for developing. This was a positive meeting and further engagement with officials is likely to follow.

The Government has announced that two pieces of legislation would be passed to replace the Resource Management Act as part of stage three of their three-stage approach to resource management reform. One piece of legislation will deal with managing "environmental effects arising from activities", while the other one will "enable urban development and infrastructure".

Cabinet has agreed to 10 core design features for the new resource management system. These will guide the work of an Expert Advisory Group (EAG), which was also announced by the Minister. This group will report back to the Minister before the end of the year with a "blueprint" for new legislation.

Resource management lawyer and former Environmental Defence Society director Janette Campbell will chair the EAG, which also features local government experience in Christine Jones (General Manager – Strategy Growth & Governance at Tauranga City Council) and Gillian Crowcroft (former Auckland Council and Auckland Regional Council staffer).

We will be keeping a close eye on how development of the new RM "blueprint" unfolds between now and the end of the year, ahead of our final catch-up of the year with Minister Bishop in December.

### Transport

In August, the Government announced that legislation to enable congestion charging schemes would be introduced by the end of the year. This is a significant and long-awaited announcement,

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particularly for metro councils. We will submit on the legislation when it makes its way to Select Committee.

We submitted on the Commerce Commission's review of Auckland Airport's pricing decisions for the 2022-2027 period. We expressed concern about the flow-on effects that Auckland Airport's proposed increased charges to airlines could have for ticket prices, regional connectivity, and the competitiveness of New Zealand's aeronautical sector.

In August, Sam and Transport Forum chair Neil Holdom met with the NZTA board just ahead of an in-person meeting of the Transport Forum.

In September, the Government released its 2024-27 National Land Transport Programme, which is largely in line with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024. It includes significant funding increases for major roading projects and road maintenance, balanced by a decrease in funding for active and public transport initiatives.

Following the release of the National Land Transport Programme 24-27, we have been building a picture of the impact on members, including through a discussion at the in-person meeting of the Transport Forum. While funding decisions were largely as anticipated (based on the signals from the GPS Transport earlier this year), some members were surprised about the extent of funding cuts for safety improvements and public/active transport. The lack of alignment between the NLTP and LTP planning cycles has also created instances in which projects in LTPs no longer have expected co-funding from central government, meaning councils need to find alternative funding sources or scale the project back.

The impact of the reversal of speed limit reductions will be a focus over the coming month, particularly the fiscal impact given the need for new signage around schools. The new Government's speed limit rule includes:

- Reversing Labour's blanket speed limit reductions on local streets, arterial roads, and state highways by 1 July 2025.
- Requiring reduced variable speed limits outside schools during pick up and drop off times by 1 July 2026.
- Enable speed limits up to 120km/h on Roads of National Significance where it is safe.

We will be engaging with councils to get a picture of the overall fiscal impact of these changes.

### Climate change

We submitted supporting the intent of the Government's draft Second Emissions Reduction Plan (2026–30). We also highlighted that most of the actions would require direct or indirect contributions from councils.

We sponsored the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network's (ACAN) annual hui again this year, which was held in the Bay of Plenty in October. ACAN is a network of council staff working in climate adaptation focused roles. We engage closely with ACAN on all our climate adaptation work.



The Finance and Expenditure Committee has completed its [inquiry into climate adaptation](#). The high-level objectives and principles it set out will inform the development of New Zealand's climate change adaptation policy framework. The report acknowledges the leading role councils will play in climate adaptation, and adopted much of what was proposed in [LGNZ's submission](#). The report does not resolve crucial questions relating to roles and responsibilities or how to decide who pays for adaptation and retreat.

The Department of Internal Affairs is consulting on an exposure draft of regulations for natural hazard information in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs). The regulations have been drafted to support local authorities in implementing changes to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act that are due to come into effect on 1 July 2025. LGNZ submitted on the amendment Bill in February 2023. We supported the Bill but said we would like to see a few changes, many of which have now been incorporated into the updated Bill and proposed regulations. These regulations, in conjunction with the legislative changes that are due to come into effect next year, will provide certainty for councils about sharing natural hazard information in LIMs and reduce their risk of legal liability.

### Localism

At SuperLocal, Susan launched our Choose Localism guide and research showing public attitudes to councils and localism.

To produce this research, we worked with Curia to poll members of the public. [The data](#) looks at perceptions around the effectiveness of councils, how councils could improve their effectiveness, and who should deliver services.

[Localism: A Practical Guide](#) sets out a wide range of tools and approaches councils can use to make a localist future a reality and apply a localism lens across their day-to-day work. This is a high-quality, comprehensive piece of work featuring many council cases studies. When we launched the guide to members during SuperLocal, this email had a 65% open rate (which is incredibly high by direct-email standards). We will be posting a physical copy of this guide to all Mayors and Chairs later in November.

### Other policy issues

#### Earthquake prone buildings

In August we submitted on the Building (Earthquake-prone Building Deadlines and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, which delivers on the Government's commitment to extend remediation deadlines for earthquake-prone buildings. We expressed strong support for the legislation and outlined local government's expectations for the upcoming wider review of earthquake prone buildings.

We have also engaged with MBIE to make sure there is suitable local government representation in the wider review's steering group, particularly individuals from the South Island and/or medium risk councils.

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We understand that decisions on the MBIE steering group for the review of the earthquake strengthening regime are imminent. We put forward a number of names to represent local government on this group, and are following up with MBIE to determine if any of them were ultimately chosen.

#### **Emergency management system improvement**

We engaged on the Government's response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry's report and wider emergency management system improvement as a member of the steering group. We facilitated engagement between the project group and a group of Mayors, Chairs and CEs, to test the group's current proposals. A Cabinet paper will set out a new Emergency Management Bill (to be introduced next year) along with budget bids and other system changes.

The Government's response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry's report, and wider emergency management system improvement, has been released. We have been contributing to this work as a member of the Steering Group. This response will form the basis for the development of a new Emergency Management Bill to be introduced next year, along with budget bids and other system changes. The key recommendation is to retain the locally led, regionally coordinated approach – but with NEMA taking on a standard setting and assurance role. This could require increased investment by councils, but at this stage there are no additional funding mechanisms proposed.



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## Connect

### Member visits

In June, Susan and Sam visited 14 councils. These visits are vital for connecting with members, helping them understand what LGNZ delivers, and hearing their feedback and ideas. Visits resumed in early September with visits to a range of Zone 2 councils. Susan visited the Chatham Islands in late September, with Susan and Sam's other member visits scheduled for October and November.

NC members and LT members have also appeared at several member council meetings via zoom to support their consideration of the LGNZ four-monthly report.

### SuperLocal24

This year's conference was the "place to be" for local government, with the PM, many Ministers and the Leader of Opposition all speaking alongside impressive international and New Zealand keynote speakers. SuperLocal dominated media and public discourse that week.

We had nearly 800 people attend – and generated 394 media mentions across a huge range of topics (bed tax, PM speech, regional deals, localism, women in local government, four-year term, SuperLocal award winners, and much more).

We asked attendees to complete a feedback survey. While feedback was again positive, there were slightly more negative/neutral comments this year, partially driven by the political polarisation prompted by the PM's speech.

We are incorporating feedback into our planning for SuperLocal25, which will be held in Christchurch (supported by the councils in the region). In response to comments about this year's conference length and timing, we will be starting SuperLocal25 on the Wednesday morning (with the AGM prior) and wrapping up the conference by the end of Thursday, with the awards dinner on the Thursday night.

### Combined Sector meetings

We received a huge amount of positive feedback on the programme and organisation of the Infrastructure Symposium on 14 June. Nearly 200 people attended, with Peter Nunns of the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihangā and Sir Bill English particularly popular speakers.

Our November Combined Sector meeting will take a deep dive into the Government's local government reform, including benchmarking, efficiencies and rates capping. Confirmed speakers include Local Government Minister Simeon Brown, Regional Development and Assoc Finance Minister Shane Jones, Labour Finance spokesperson Barbara Edmonds, Auckland Mayor Wayne

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Brown (via zoom), and New South Wales and Victorian speakers on their experience of rates capping.

We are planning for the 2025 Combined Sector meetings, with the theme for February to be around accountability and demonstrating value, and May to be around delivering infrastructure for growth.

### 2025 calendar

We released our [calendar of events for 2025](#) in October. This will be updated with Zone 5/6 events shortly.

### Te Maruata

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere have met regularly, and also initiated a regular Teams drop-in session Piki te Ora that enables members to come in and kōrero, share thoughts and ideas on their mahi and what is happening in their rohe.

Te Maruata's pre-conference hui was attended by approximately 100 people. The hui is the annual face-to-face event for the wider membership but also welcomes non-members who have a strong connection to LG and Kaupapa Māori. The Rōpū welcomed Green MP Hūhana Lyndon, and MP Willie Jackson and MP Shanan Halbert were also in attendance. The programme included a workshop on sharing issues, ideas and solutions given the current climate, and a panel on "how to move the waka forward" with a particular focus on action on the ground, rangatahi participation and civics education.

### YEM

Our Young Elected Members held a successful pre-SuperLocal hui in Wellington attended by around 40 YEM. It included a presentation from Dr Jess Berentson-Shaw on how to communicate effectively to achieve change, and a workshop on how to increase young people's participation in local government.

The annual YEM Hui took place in Christchurch regardless of Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ. This is because the YEM Committee decided earlier this year to shift away from having a host council, with the Committee taking on full responsibility for hosting. We worked closely with Cr Deon Swiggs (Environment Canterbury and member of the YEM Committee) on planning for the event. Former Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel delivered the keynote address, with the theme of the hui being "mā mua kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua" – driving change through community leadership. The programme was about councils empowering community leaders to make real change and equipping YEM with the key skills needed to make good decisions around council tables. Tikanga sessions were organised to support members to prepare for the whakatau at the commencement of their hui.

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### Women's lunch

Before SuperLocal, we hosted a lunch for women that was attended by more than 100 elected members including nearly every woman Mayor. Finance Minister Nicola Willis was a very effective speaker and the event was well covered by media, with [this local democracy reporter story](#) carried prominently by every major outlet. The lunch also included a workshop. We are now considering next steps for this work.

### CBEC

Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ means that Co-Chair of CBEC Simon Britten stepped down in July, with Sarah Lucas becoming the sole Chair.

CBEC has been focused on the Community Boards Conference which, for the first time, was held in conjunction with the LGNZ SuperLocal Conference. While organising the two conferences at the same time was challenging, the Community Boards Conference went well. At their September meeting CBEC resolved not to hold a community board conference in 2025. Instead, they are investigating the possibility of having a dedicated session at the 2025 Super/Local conference that would attract community board members. They are also looking at facilitating smaller zone or regional-based seminars for community boards.

CBEC is continuing to develop a work plan to implement recommendations around community board members' satisfaction and their relationships with their councils. A key part of the work plan is developing a guide to assist councils and community boards to build effective relationships. This will include a model agreement to enable councils and boards to set out mutual expectations.

Sarah Lucas has been actively assisting community boards going through representation reviews.

Work is progressing on the development of an approach to enable the Remuneration Authority to fairly recognise and compensate those community boards with additional responsibilities.

### Metro Sector

The Metro Sector held a workshop in September to discuss metro-specific priorities and agree on actions that will complement and support LGNZ's broader advocacy work programme over the next year. Members agreed that the key priorities for metros are centred around enabling growth and economic prosperity, and achieving these priorities requires removing obstacles and improving things that currently slow us down. This is reflected in the following agreed areas of focus:

1. Improve alignment of central and local government investment cycles to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more bipartisan agreement on key infrastructure decisions.
2. A strategic approach to supporting economic development and growth.
3. Lift governance and accountability in order to improve LGNZ's impact in the Metro space.



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### Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector

The online meeting of the Regional Sector in June covered a number of key issues for the sector, including emergency management system improvement, Taumata Arowai's work on wastewater performance standards, and work on the climate adaptation framework. Their October online meeting focused on the Finance and Expenditure Committee's Inquiry on Climate Adaptation, the Regional Sector's views on how Core Services should be defined in upcoming legislative changes, and NZTA's Public Transport programme's priorities.

The Regional Sector's ever-popular Regional Tour prior to SuperLocal explored a range of flood protection, recovery, and biosecurity and biodiversity initiatives across the Hawke's Bay and Wellington regions.



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## Support

### Ākona

Ākona users continue to grow, with another 138 people logging in for the first time since July. We have started a monthly email that highlights new Ākona courses and content. Please let us know if you're not receiving it.

In July we launched a new course on the CE Relationship – featuring the insight of Mayor Sandra Hazelhurst, Nigel Bickle, Nigel Corry and Chair Daran Ponter. This course was developed after receiving multiple requests from members. In August we launched a course on Leading Complex Communities, which will eventually include at least two Ako hours with expert host Jo Cribb.

The Climate Change course (released two months ago) caught the attention of the Aotearoa Council Climate Network, who were impressed with the content and keen to encourage elected members to engage with the learning. To support that mahi, a cloned copy of the Climate Change course was made available to sustainability staff from all member councils two weeks ago.

Five Ako hours were run from June-August, including a session that was arranged in response to the change in Māori ward legislation. Another three Ako hours were scheduled during September/October. These sessions are becoming increasingly popular, whether through attending the live sessions or viewing the recordings later.

We are working to confirm logistics and continue development of materials for Induction 2025 before the end of 2024. A draft design was produced and tested with members across October along with a prototype for an upgraded Ākona platform and programme that delivers a more personalised learning experience. The response from testers was very positive and the tīma have now begun development, starting with the production of pre-elected materials ready for release in March 2025. Existing courses have been reviewed in preparation for the shift in format with their redevelopment due to begin in November.

### Roundtable zooms

Our second zoom in this series on sovereign citizens was popular and provoked a lot of conversation and positive feedback. We then held a well-attended zoom for elected members on physical security in early August. Our next zoom on 24 September featured the Security Intelligence Service speaking about the new threat assessment for New Zealand, which contained specific commentary on the vulnerability of local government. The presentation provoked a lot of member questions.

These recordings and all other security-related resources can be found in a [special section of Ākona](#).

### Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

Work continues on the development of this strategy. Related kaupapa include:

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- **Toitū te Reo** – This annual symposium launched in Hastings at the start of August and is a partnership between Heretaunga District Council and Ngāti Kahungunu, with the support of many others. Three LGNZ team members attended.
- **Tangihanga of Kiingi Tuuheitia Pootatau te Wherowhero VII** – The Māori King passed away on 30 August and his tangi was held from 31 August-5 September at Tūrangawaewae. LGNZ acknowledged the King's passing on social media and issued a media release acknowledging the ascension of the King's daughter to the throne, to become Te Arikunui Kuiini Ngā wai hono i te po Pootatau te Wherowhero VIII. The team will firm up a plan to connect with the Kiingitanga in the coming months, in support of the Kōtahitanga vision.

### Governance guides/support

LGNZ has worked with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Party to update the LGNZ standing orders template. The update will ensure legislative consistency and introduce plain English. A draft has been circulated for member feedback and the final draft is now being legally reviewed. The changes made to the template involve updating it to include legislative amendment from the past three years and introducing plain English where possible. The templates, which include a territorial/unitary council version, a regional council version, and a community board version, are expected to be ready in early 2025.

### MTFJ

MTFJ members and networks gathered for the Annual Breakfast meeting at the SuperLocal conference. At this event, Social Development and Employment Minister Louise Upston confirmed \$9 million in funding for the next financial year. Justin Lester of Dot Loves Data launched a revamped youth employment data dashboard, which sets out a council's local landscape in terms of youth and NEETs.

We would like to acknowledge Mayor Max Baxter's service and mahi for MTFJ. Max stepped down from the role in early October. MTFJ held a thank-you and farewell afternoon tea in his honour to celebrate his contribution.

Mayor Alex Walker has been elected as the new MTFJ Chair.

### Moata Carbon Portal

This month we've extended the Moata portal subscription for Queenstown Lakes District Council for another 12 months. We've also provided a demo of the portal and had conversations on carbon accounting with Horowhenua District Council.



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Mott MacDonald, LGNZ and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aotearoa Carbon Crunch event in Auckland on 12 September, with approximately 100 industry players and council staff attending the breakfast event.

Ko Hikurangi Tōku Maunga  
Ko Waiapu Tōku awa  
Ko Nukutaimemeha Tōku Waka  
Ko Ngati Pourou Tōku Iwi  
Ko Mangatū Marae  
Nō Whatatutu Ahau  
Kei Tūtaenui Tōku Kāinga ināianeī  
Ko Rangitikei College Tōku kura  
Ko Luci Tōku ingoa

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

Morning everyone my name is Luci Downes I'm a year 12 student at Rangitikei College, and hopefully a future lawyer but most importantly I'm the descendant of young men and women who served for our beautiful country, it's due to these men and woman that I have had the fortune to of not having to grow up in a country that is ravaged by war something thousands of people my age in other countries have to experience. To me Remembrance day is a reminder that for my freedom and future many had to fight, Remembrance day to me is also a reminder of my tupuna who Gave their lives to the forces. More Closely to my heart Remembrance day is a Reminder of My Papa Warrant Officer Timoti Tihore who enlisted at the age of 17 and didn't stop serving the Army till he passed away in 2022. It's his lemon squeezer and Medals that I wear on me today. In this day and age Remembrance Day is incredibly important because it's a powerful reminder of the bravery and selflessness of those who fought for our freedom. It's a time to honour their sacrifices and express our deep gratitude. Let us never forget the heroes who gave everything for us. Remembrance Day is a global commemoration of the end of World War One, which began on July 28, 1914, with Aotearoa , Australia, Britain, France, and Russia fighting against Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. The war lasted four years, with many soldiers dying and even more injuries. On November 11, the first two minutes of silence are observed to remember those who served their countries. Remembrance day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by millions of people, emphasising the importance of cherishing possessions and loved ones, and the importance of remembering the past, present, and future. To conclude my Speech today let me read you a extract from one of the most well known poems of the Anzacs.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow*

*Between the crosses, row on row,*

**ITEM 10.2    ATTACHMENT 2**

*That mark our place; and in the sky*

*The larks, still bravely singing, fly*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago*

*We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,*

*Loved and were loved, and now we lie,*

*In Flanders fields.*

Thank you.





ITEM 10.2 ATTACHMENT 4

	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
2	Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
206	3-Sep-24	ERWS	AP								PR			PR	
207	11-Sep-24	Bulls CC	AP	PR						AT			PR		
208	18-Sep-24	RA meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR					
209	25-Sep-24	TRAK Workshop	PR				AP	PR					PR		
210	25-Sep-24	Youth Council	PR				PR							PR	
211	26-Sep-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR	AT		AT	PR	PR	PR		PR	
212	26-Sep-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
213	3-Oct-24	TCC Meeting	PR		AP										
214	7-Oct-24	HRWS Meeting	PR			PR			PR						
215	7-Oct-24	HCC Meeting	AP			PR			PR						
216	8-Oct-24	TRAK Hui	PR				PR	PR					PR		
217	8-Oct-24	Ratana CB	CB					PR							
218	9-Oct-24	Taihape CB	CB				PR							PR	
219	9-Oct-24	Marton CC	PR	AP							PR				
220	10-Oct-24	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		AP	
221	17-Oct-24	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
222	29-Oct-24	ORWS	PR				PR								
223	31-Oct-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	AP	AT		AT	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
224	31-Oct-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
225	13-Nov-24	Creative NZ Committee	PR				PR								
226	13-Nov-24	Bulls CC													Minutes not recieved
227	20-Nov-24	PPL Meeting	AP	PR			PR	AP	PR		PR			PR	
228	20-Nov-24	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	AP		PR	

**LGNZ SECTOR MEETINGS – 21-22 NOVEMBER 2024****DAY 1 – COMBINED SECTOR MEETING**

- The morning opened with a discussion from Alex Walker, Central Hawkes Bay Mayor and Tim King, Tasman District Council Mayor.
- Conversation from membership around Minister Simeon Brown's address and noting that he preferred a strong concept that "200,000 connections would be required to gain true efficiencies within Three Waters".
- There were questions raised in discussion re the priority of water work decisions by entities when the capacity to do the work is challenging, i.e. who will make the call on what the priorities for the water entity will be.

**Hon Mark Mitchell - Minister Emergency Management**

- He acknowledged the East Coast councils and Cyclone Gabrielle and acknowledged the leadership of the total sector.
- "Legislation needs to be fit for purpose, presently there are gaps in the legislation".
- As part of that thought process he highlighted that iwi and hapu always step up but don't have any formalised role within legislation.
- Central Government needs to empower/support Local Government – they are the best placed ones to act.
- I asked the question to the Minister around possible assistance to set up IL4 Emergency Response solutions throughout the country and quoted the example of the cost effective centre setup in Gisborne that could be replicated by Civil Defence. The Minister acknowledged my question and said that we have his support for that principle.

**Michael Lovett – DIA (Deputy CE of Local Government Branch for LWDW)**

Made the following points, many of which are known already to councils -

- He puts the solution back onto councils – they need to have financially sustainable solutions that will require Government oversight.
- He quoted the second tranche of legislation on Three Waters and said that the third tranche of legislation will be out next month.
- He referenced the five different models available, i.e. including CCO options.
- Funding/pricing operations will be left to the CCO's.
- Not all of the five different models available to CCO's will receive preferential rates under LGFA.
- He emphasises price harmonisation is not required under CCO's but could be a vision for an entity over time.
- He saw no need to consolidate all debt and asked groupings to talk to DIA around this.
- He again pointed out that the LGFA funding was up to 500% of income.
- DIA see real benefits in CCO's forming and he referred also to Minister Simeon Brown's speech regarding the 200,000 connections.
- From DIA's perspective there will be three core documents –
  - The Statement of Expectation;

- The Water Services Strategy; and
- The Water Services Annual Report.
- The key component is the ringfencing of Three Waters income and that this income cannot go back into the general council accounts.
- The Water Service Delivery Plans must satisfy three areas –
  - Financial sustainability;
  - Implementation plan; and
  - Anticipated or proposed model.
- He indicated that Crown Facilitators can be of use in the decision making at a cost of \$1,000 per day which he commented was far cheaper than the cost of consultants currently being used.
- The Commerce Commission will be the economic regulator and will have sign off on the information.
- The Commerce Commission will be levy funded probably at an anticipated rate of \$3-\$4 per head/per annum/per connection.

**Allan Prangnell** - CE Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai

- Yes there will be levies
- Many different supplier types such as the Metro, Provincial, Rural Schemes, Private and Community Maraes
- Should be different rules to reflect scale
- There are brochures available through Taumata Arowai regarding specific drinking water supplies for spring and bore supplies. One of the solutions is point of treatment at household levels for rural schemes
- 300+ wastewater treatment plants
- Over 50% serve under 1000 people
- 300+ serves 3.3m people
- Standards due out soon
- Standard conditions may replace RMA consent process

**Mark Patterson** – Minister for Rural Communities

- Communities (Rural) challenges/issues opportunities
- Rates cap discussion is on the table
- Government does understand that there is pressure
- Referenced the need for other income stream, referenced Minister Jones
- Brought up the question of amalgamation of councils – “scale gives efficiency”. Central Government will not drive this – but Three Waters may lead to these thoughts.
- Keenly aware of the impact of forestry – loss of sheep/beef into pines
- “Need to build more capacity in energy” (talking Minister Jones’ story)
- “Bio fuels will be the new future”.

**DAY TWO - RURAL AND PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – 22 NOVEMBER**

Rural and Provincial are the largest grouping of councils in New Zealand with only the large city or metro councils absent. Metro was actually meeting on the same day and at times joined in our discussions. Rural and Provincial is a chance for all of Local Government to meet with Central Government Ministers and to hear from speakers discussing Government policy. I will summarise the key speaker presentations and give my thoughts in *italics*.

1. The address by **Simeon Brown**, Minister of Local Government, Infrastructure, Roothing, Three Waters (Local Water Done Well) -

- He acknowledged respectfully Local Government and added that “yes you have, like us, inherited a significant challenge”.
- Again referenced the need to get back to basics/core infrastructure and that Government has outlined its expectations previously. *This is a direct reference to the removal of the four wellbeings and a reminder that Government is watching you.*

The Minister again outlined Local Water Done Well (LWDW), highlighting -

- Looking for local solutions i.e. councils to solve.
- Councils have a requirement to deliver a framework/plan for water services now and for the future.
- The LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency) position is a game-changer, allowing for low interest loans over a long time at 500% of income for those councils who comply.
- That Government legislation has ringfenced Three Waters income (rates etc apportioned to Three Waters) to LWDW.
- Now is the time for councils to step up.
- These plans and CCO’s are now 3 months into a 12 month timeframe to comply.
- CCO’s will separate Three Waters from council business.
- Business as usual is no longer an option.
- There is a strong expectation from Government that regional CCO’s will be formed.
- Councils may not have harmonised pricing from Day One!
- Councils should already be discussing pathways with their neighbouring councils.
- Crown Facilitators are available for advice and can also help to solve issues.
- The Commission *over time* will price check.
- Taumata Arowai will set standards and decisions due by August 2025 and Taumata Arowai will be funded by levies on councils!
- Mentioned the use of modular designs for wastewater plants to minimise consenting costs.

*So what does all of this mean?*

1. *There is a very strong message to say that councils must form CCOs with other councils and if you don’t they will force you to.*

2. *There will be a levy charged on councils to fund Taumata Arowai – this is a change from Labour’s position.*
3. *That the new entities will probably have different charges for wastewater and water across different councils in the same entity and that there may be different charges across a single council, i.e. the charges for Marton water and wastewater could potentially be cheaper than the charges in Taihape.*
4. *Regional councils will face standard consent conditions being put in place to lower consenting costs. This makes sense to me, but there will need to be some local environmental exceptions.*
5. *Expectation is that they would be strongly advised to work with Crown Facilitators now, something I believe we should do.*

- Cabinet has agreed to invite all councils to submit on regional deals based on economic growth, increasing GDP and housing.
- Councils that are advanced in Three Waters collaboration will be helped to obtain a regional deal!

*There are some challenges here. Firstly, the time to register for regional deals is ridiculously short (18 December) and councils, including us, are under so much pressure it probably won’t happen, and there is a direct threat with Three Waters – forget regional deals if you don’t form a regional water entity.*

*It is also worth noting that they are regional deals with a regional sign-off, Government has shown no interest in engaging with rural councils on their own.*

- The Minister again emphasised the need for tolling on roads. *This will be in part a reaction to the huge number of current submissions on tolling by Tararua and Horowhenua councils which probably signals Government’s response to those submissions.*

## 2. Keynote Speaker **Wayne Brown** -

- Highlighted that Auckland is, and should be, a special case as it is one-third of the population.
- *“We have had CCO’s dumped on us” – this is a reference to the number of Auckland CCO’s that Wayne is trying to get rid of.*
- Government will make decisions for you if you don’t act.
- Local Government is declining in influence, noting that they can’t even set their own parking fines.
- There are efficiencies in size – *this repeats the Government’s position on CCO’s.*
- *“The ratepayer should be the last option for paying for things” - this is a reference again to look at things like tolls, fees and charges, private/public partnerships and sponsorships etc. This is something that is far, far more difficult for rural councils to consider but it is worth noting.*

3. Panel Discussion on **CouncilMark** -

- Now named Te Korowai and used as a benchmarking tool. *This was effectively a reference that CouncilMark hasn't worked, as personally I think was evident in our case, and a reorganisation of how benchmarking could continue in the future, something that I also respect is important.*

4. **Minister Shane Jones** -

- Thanked us for the Regional Growth Summit at Te Matapihi.
- There is slightly less than \$1b left in the Infrastructural Fund.
- As a Minister he will work on how we adapt to climate change. He is not interested in other discussions! – *this is a reference to the fact that in his opinion we need to concentrate on economic growth and other forms of energy, mining etc and that will come at some environmental risk.*
- He has concern with regard to the number of new reserves for fisheries and he wants to increase the economy helped by agriculture and we can't do both.
- Minister made several comments with regards Fast Track Legislation . He made the point that Fast Track is possibly not a long term process or solution but is needed now. He also noted the comment that many of the applications for Fast Track have in fact been made by councils.
- That he and Government have used \$60m to deep drill 7kms in the central plateau region to see if there can be a new energy source for New Zealand.
- Crown Regional Infrastructure will have a report on their website and there will be a series of public meetings - he regards this as a brave step forward.

5. **Rates Capping – The New South Wales Experience** - led by Cr Darriea Turley President of Local Government NSW

- Rates capping is where the maximum rate increases communities will face is set at a particular level and how that can change over time.
- This presentation was organised because the New Zealand Government is strongly showing an interest in in putting rates capping in place for New Zealand – *this is again in response to the high rate rises that in Government's view have been caused by non-back-to-basics expenditure.*
- Rates capping or pegging only applies in NSW to general rates and does not include Three Waters charges.
- Rates caps tend to be set by an independent body to Local Government.
- Difficulties arise where the rate caps are often set below the level of inflation e.g. a rates cap of 0.79% was set for the year where inflation was currently running at 3%.
- NSW found that it led to greater uncertainty over the reliance on national grants and difficulty with staffing retention.
- I note that the Rural and Provincial meeting started with the Victoria Australia Experience on Rate Caps which I have yet to hear but will try and look into.

6. **Digital water metering and use of the internet in a smart way with metering to gain efficiency** – led by Chorus

Benefits of water metering are -

- Data driven decisions
- Identification of leaks quickly
- Lowering of consumption
- Fairness of charging
- Gains in efficiency
- Hastings District Council have been through this process and have found that the installation of water meters actually turned out to be cost-neutral. *This is where the regional CCO's must head in my opinion and I therefore support them in principle.*

7. **Labour's views and presentation to the sector** - Kieran McNulty

- We as Labour have been disappointed with the way Government has patronised Local Government.
- Central Government likes placing the blame on Local Government.
- We are disappointed with the way Government has dismissed all recommendations on the Future of Local Government reports.
- The rating system is unsustainable – new revenue streams must be found.
- Labour would not repeal National's Three Waters position but may look to refine it.
- *In the Q&A from Kieran he was informal, honest and direct and was impressive but I note it is easier to be this way in opposition.*

8. **Fiscal Outlook** - Treasury

- Take out message is the outlook is improving but will take considerably longer than initially thought.

9. **LGNZ** – Susan Freeman-Greene

- Again the take out single message is there will be a funding/financing toolkit loaded in memberships' emails following this meeting.



**10.3 External Current and Upcoming Consultations****Author:** Janna Harris, Corporate Planner**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Manager Strategy and Development**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update to Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa on the opportunities Council has to submit to consultations run by external agencies.

**2. Current and Upcoming Consultations**

- 2.1 The updated list of current and future opportunities to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached.

Consultations proposed for submission

- 2.2 Officers developed a submission for the consultation on increasing the use of remote inspections in the building consent process in support of the Taituarā submission (available on Council's website - [Submissions made to other Organisations: Rangitikei District Council](#)). Officers are also developing a submission for the Local Electoral Reform Issues Paper.
- 2.3 Submissions are currently being accepted on the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill. At the Council meeting on 28 November Council committed to submitting on this bill. Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa have the opportunity provide any comments that the Komiti would like to be considered to be included in Council's submission.
- 2.4 The bill proposes the following principles to be included in legislation:
  - Principle 1: The Government of New Zealand has full power to govern, and Parliament has full power to make laws. They do so in the best interests of everyone, and in accordance with the rule of law and the maintenance of a free and democratic society.
  - Principle 2: The Crown recognises the rights that hapū and iwi had when they signed the Treaty/te Tiriti. The Crown will respect and protect those rights. Those rights differ from the rights everyone has a reasonable expectation to enjoy only when they are specified in Treaty Settlements.
  - Principle 3: Everyone is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination. Everyone is entitled to the equal enjoyment of the same fundamental human rights without discrimination.

- 2.5 Further information on this bill can be found on the New Zealand Parliament website: [Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill - New Zealand Parliament](#).

- 2.6 The Komiti may wish to make a recommendation to Council on the direction Council's submission should take.

Upcoming consultations

- 2.7 There are a number of consultations expected to land in December 2024 including:

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- Remote Building Inspections Bill
- Resource Management Act Amendment Bill #2
- Making it easier to build granny flats amendments
- Local Water Done Well Bill #3
- Land Transport (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill
- Amendments to the Local Government Act 2002

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report, external submissions are submitted on within existing budgets.

**4. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 4.1 Changes to government legislation are transformational
- 4.1.1 There is a risk that legislative changes results in significant changes for Council. Council mitigates this risk by keeping track of all potential changes, and takes up opportunities to submit on the consultations that will affect Council.

**5. Strategic Alignment**

- 5.1 Topics of consultations from external agencies have the potential to have an impact on the services Council delivers, which could have an impact in Council's ability to deliver on the strategic priorities.

**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 6.1 The Parliament Justice Committee is accepting submissions until 7 January 2025 on the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill.

**7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 7.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

**8. Statutory Implications**

- 8.1 There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

**9. Decision Making Process**

- 9.1 This report is for information purposes only, no decisions are required to be made.

**Attachments:**

1. **External Current and Upcoming Consultations** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report 'External Current and Upcoming Consultations' be received.

**Current and Upcoming Consultations**

Name of Initiative	Agency Engaging	Due Date	Description	RDC Action
<b>Currently Open for Submissions</b>				
<a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-increasing-the-use-of-remote-inspections-in-the-building-consent-process">Consultation on increasing the use of remote inspections in the building consent process</a> <a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-increasing-the-use-of-remote-inspections-in-the-building-consent-process">https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-increasing-the-use-of-remote-inspections-in-the-building-consent-process</a>	MBIE	29-Nov	MBIE is seeking feedback on options which include: requiring building consent authorities to use remote inspections as the default approach, requiring building consent authorities to have the systems and capability to conduct remote inspections, non-regulatory initiatives to lift inspection productivity, and creating a new offence to deter deceptive behaviour during a remote inspection and give building consent authorities more confidence to inspect remotely.	Submitted
<a href="https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/development-and-financial-contributions-policy">Development and Financial Contributions Policy</a> <a href="https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/development-and-financial-contributions-policy">https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/development-and-financial-contributions-policy</a>	Manawatu District Council	Nov-29	Development contribution fees for a standard property are \$26,342 in the Feilding Urban area, \$19,696 in the Feilding Intensification area (CBD), and \$7,355 in the Village and Rural areas. However, interest and construction costs have increased significantly over recent years. The Council needs to significantly increase development contribution fees to cover costs, and proposes two options on how to calculate development contribution fees.	None
<a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/7c437bb2-da7f-453e-0edc-08dcd5e62cc?Tab=history">Statutes Amendment Bill</a> <a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/7c437bb2-da7f-453e-0edc-08dcd5e62cc?Tab=history">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/7c437bb2-da7f-453e-0edc-08dcd5e62cc?Tab=history</a>	Parliament Governance and Administration Committee	1-Dec	Part 5 amends the Building Act 2004: under clause 20, a territorial authority must notify the chief executive when it grants a waiver or modification relating to access to residential pools. Part 24 amends the Local Government Act 2002: under clause 100 the requirement in section 90D of the Local Government (Rating) Act (for reporting the amount of rates written off each financial year) is moved into Schedule 10 so that it contains all annual report requirements. Part 41 makes minor amendments to the Water Services Act 2021 with no effect on its provisions.	

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<a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/building-code-fire-safety-review-2024">Building Code fire safety review 2024</a> <a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/building-code-fire-safety-review-2024">https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/building-code-fire-safety-review-2024</a>	MBIE	Dec-06	In its review, MBIE wants to: address issues regarding fire provisions in the Building Code, see how they can make it easier for people to make decisions when considering fire provisions in the Building Code, and maintain or improve the health, safety and fire safety facilities for people who use buildings.	None
<a href="https://tewaihang.govt.nz/news-events/testing-our-thinking-on-the-national-infrastructure-plan">National Infrastructure Plan discussion document</a> <a href="https://tewaihang.govt.nz/news-events/testing-our-thinking-on-the-national-infrastructure-plan">https://tewaihang.govt.nz/news-events/testing-our-thinking-on-the-national-infrastructure-plan</a>	Infrastructure Commission	Dec-10	The Infrastructure Commission is beginning work on developing a National Infrastructure Plan. They are asking for feedback on a discussion document that describes what they expect the Plan will cover and the problem it's trying to solve, as well as the approach the Commission is proposing to take to develop it.	None
<a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/seeking-feedback-on-moving-towards-a-financially-sustainable-mail-service">Seeking feedback on moving towards a financially sustainable mail service</a> <a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/seeking-feedback-on-moving-towards-a-financially-sustainable-mail-service">https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/seeking-feedback-on-moving-towards-a-financially-sustainable-mail-service</a>	MBIE	Dec-10	The discussion document seeks feedback on proposed changes to the Postal Deed of Understanding: reducing minimum delivery frequency to two days a week in urban areas, three days a week in rural areas, reducing the number of postal outlets, allowing greater use of cluster and community boxes as delivery points.	None
<a href="https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-trade-waste-bylaw">Draft Trade Waste Bylaw</a> <a href="https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-trade-waste-bylaw">https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-trade-waste-bylaw</a>	Tararua District Council	Dec-16	Amendment to the 2018 bylaw include adding considerations for Council when determining an application for consent; adding a new clause that requires anyone wishing to discharge trade waste to contact Council to determine if a trade waste discharge is permitted, conditional or prohibited, adding a clause to provide for a consent holder receiving a written notice to be given a reasonable time period to comply with any varied consent condition; and adding a clause for requiring a meter as a condition of a consent for the measurement of the rate or quantity of discharge of trade waste.	None
<a href="https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-traffic-and-road-use-bylaw">Draft Traffic &amp; Road Use Bylaw</a> <a href="https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-traffic-and-road-use-bylaw">https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-traffic-and-road-use-bylaw</a>	Tararua District Council	Dec-16	The proposed changes to the 2018 bylaw include prohibiting parking vehicles on footpaths and berms, parking heavy motor vehicles in residential areas (without permit)	None

<a href="#">consultation/draft-traffic-and-road-use-bylaw</a>			and restricting engine braking in areas with 70 km/h limits or less.	
<a href="#">Draft Waste Management &amp; Minimisation Bylaw</a> <a href="https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-waste-management-and-minimisation-bylaw">https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultation/current-consultation/draft-waste-management-and-minimisation-bylaw</a>	Tararua District Council	Dec-16	The proposed changes to the 2018 bylaw include extending the term 'prohibited waste' to include all batteries, asbestos, gas containers, fluorescent lights and aerosol cans and setting out the actions Council may take where a person does not comply with the requirements of the Bylaw in relation to the waste and diverted materials collection service that applies to them.	None
<a href="#">Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill</a>	Parliament Justice Committee	Jan-07	Bill to amend or remove references to te Tiriti principles from legislation NB – National committed to support the Bill to Select Committee, support beyond this stage (and therefore future progress of this Bill) is uncertain.	Submit
<a href="#">Proposed Regulatory Standards Bill</a> <a href="https://consultation.regulation.govt.nz/rsb/have-your-say-on-regulatory-standards-bill/">https://consultation.regulation.govt.nz/rsb/have-your-say-on-regulatory-standards-bill/</a>	Ministry for Regulation	Jan-13	The proposed Bill aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and poor regulation, through making it transparent where regulation does, or does not, meet principles of responsible regulation.	None
<a href="#">Local Electoral Reform issues paper</a> <a href="https://www.lgnz.co.nz/policy-advocacy/key-issues-for-councils/local-electoral-reform/">https://www.lgnz.co.nz/policy-advocacy/key-issues-for-councils/local-electoral-reform/</a>	LGNZ	Jan-19	Discussion paper setting out five key issues affecting voter participation.	Submit
<b>Upcoming Consultations</b>				
Remote Building Inspections Bill	MBIE	Dec	Proposals to make virtual building inspections the 'default' option.	tbc
Resource Management Act Amendment Bill #2	MfE	Dec	This amendment Bill will (indicative list): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable housing growth, including making the Medium Density Residential Standards optional for councils and secondary units – i.e. granny flats</li> <li>• speed up consenting timeframes for renewable energy and wood processing</li> <li>• support the government's "Infrastructure for the Future" plan</li> <li>• speed up the process for making national direction under the RMA</li> <li>• amend national direction on highly</li> </ul>	tbc

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			productive land to allow more productive activities including housing - exclude LUC-3 • introduce emergency response regulations to enable effective responses to emergencies and contribute to long-term recovery. Plus potentially other targeted amendments suggested by Councils and other key stakeholders.	
Making it easier to build granny flats amendments	MBIE, then Parliament	Dec	Making it possible to build 60m2 secondary dwellings without building consent.	tbc
Local Water Done Well Bill #3	DIA, then Parliament	Dec		tbc
Land Transport (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill	Ministry of Transport, then Parliament	Dec	Bill will Sets out the legal framework for time of use charging. While initially a category 3 bill, to be passed by December 2024, Cabinet agreed in July that the Bill be progressed on a slower track and accorded a category 5 priority on the 2024 Legislation Programme (to proceed to select committee by the end of 2024). See Cabinet paper: <a href="https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Time-of-Use-Charging-Cabinet-Material-Proactive-Release.pdf">https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Time-of-Use-Charging-Cabinet-Material-Proactive-Release.pdf</a>	tbc
Amendments to the Local Government Act 2002	DIA, then Parliament	Dec	Removing references to the four wellbeings: see Minister's release 21 August 2024. <a href="https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/back-basics-local-government">https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/back-basics-local-government</a>	tbc

**10.4 Mana Whenua Verbal Report- December****Author:** Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor**Authoriser:** Jo Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs

A verbal update will be provided to the Komiti on the Mana Whenua role and introduction to councils new Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor, Fran Pere.

**Recommendation**

That the 'Mana Whenua Verbal Report- December report be received.

**10.5 Economic Strategy update****Author:** Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Manager Strategy and Development**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Komiti with an update on the development of the Economic Strategy.

**2. Context**

- 2.1 At the 13 August Komiti meeting, Council Officers introduced the workplan to develop an Economic Strategy.
- 2.2 The draft workplan was discussed and step 2 of the work plan was to engage with stakeholders and mana whenua.
- 2.3 On 25 September Genevieve Doube from Beca held a workshop with the Komiti to assist with the development of the draft Strategy.
- 2.4 The Komiti provided valuable insights and feedback during the workshop which has been collated and is being incorporated in the development of the draft Strategy. This work is still ongoing, and once a draft is ready it will be provided to the Komiti for further feedback.

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- 3.2 Any financial implications relating to the adoption of the strategy and action plan will be documented alongside the report.

**4. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 4.1 There are no strategic risks relating to this item.

**5. Strategic Alignment**

- 5.1 Economic Wellbeing is a community outcome in Rangitikei District Council's strategic framework, giving this item strong strategic alignment.

**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 6.1 Council Officers have held a workshop with this Komiti previously and encourage further feedback from mana whenua to be provided to Council Officers.

**7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 7.1 There are no climate change impacts or considerations relating to this item.

**8. Statutory Implications**

- 8.1 There are no statutory implications relating to this item.



**9. Decision Making Process**

- 9.1 There are no decisions required as a result of this report and the report is for information purposes only.

**Recommendation**

That the report “Economic Strategy update” is received.

**10.6 Project Updates Report - November 2024****Author: Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer****Authoriser: Kevin Ross, Chief Executive****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects (based on budget) currently being delivered by Council's Project Office.

**2. Key Highlights from Current Projects****Wastewater Projects****2.1 Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 2.2 Investigative work on the 5 shortlisted options previously identified involving disposal scenarios related to land only (1 No.), land-river combination (3No.) and deep bore groundwater recharge options. (1No.) are now well underway with a programmed completion of these investigations in late February 2025.
- 2.3 The anticipated March 2025 publication of new Draft national Wastewater Discharge Standards by water industry quality regulator Taumata Arowai will have a significant impact on the project's direction and outcomes. Close dialogue contact with Taumata Arowai is on-going and it is anticipated Taumata Arowai will produce interim advice in mid-December for Councils such as RDC in the middle of consent renewal projects.
- 2.4 At the very recent project quarterly update meeting with Horizons Regional Council, they made it clear that in spite of the uncertainty related to the Standards as described above, they expect RDC to progress the project without delay, given the plans are operating on expired consents.
- 2.5 Council needs to balance Horizons' expectations of progress with the pragmatic approach of not doing investigative work unnecessarily due to the changes that may come through in the Standards.
- 2.6 Current investigative works that have been prioritised by the Project Team include assessing suitability of the land purchased by RDC for land disposal of effluent, investigating the feasibility of retaining some treatment capability of the existing ponds at Marton and Bulls by way of their refurbishment and better understanding the feasibility of the groundwater discharge option.
- 2.7 Dialogue with ANZCO is about to commence to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of incorporating their discharge into the Bulls plant inlet.
- 2.8 Value engineering inputs on the shortlisted will consider, amongst other things, demand management scenarios involving inflow/infiltration reduction and water metering installation as well as staged implementation.
- 2.9 Identification of a preferred option is programmed for mid-2025.
- 2.10 A community awareness and engagement campaign is currently being formulated which will have preparatory information released in the 2025 calendar year but needs to be coordinated with other campaigns around Local Water Done Well reforms.

**3. Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land (Project Manager – Blair King)**

3.1 An update on costs, consenting and likely impact of the nationally led water reforms was provided via a Hui on 30 October to Ratana representatives. Key topics included:

- How irrigation of the treated wastewater onto the different areas of farmland purchased at Whangaehu Beach Road will be managed, and the siting of the proposed 30,000m<sup>3</sup> storage pond. WSP have agreed to update the maps used to illustrate the buffer and expected irrigation zones for attendees. There was some discussion on the type of planting with general agreement these details can be finalised once the main irrigation system is built.
- The project budget approved by Council based on August 2023 estimates was \$7m. We are redoing part of the design to minimise expected inflationary cost of close to 20% due to continued delays with the consenting process. Part of this work is assessing the costs for using a 140mm pipeline rather than 160mm pipeline due to significant savings in construction time and cost but higher costs for pumping. Design work is also continuing to enable application for Building Consent for the required Large Dam.
- The Government led review of how three waters are managed is unlikely to impact on the delivery of this project given the joint goal between Horizons, Ministry for Environment and Council was removal of the current discharge feeding into Lake Waipu.
- Planned changes to the existing wastewater ponds are mostly on partial desludging to improve capacity and some nitrogen removal, however it was noted the total annual nitrogen from the treated wastewater is still significantly less than the usual nitrogen fertiliser application required by farms.

3.2 WSP met with two of the consent submitters to see if their concerns could be addressed. An example of what is sought by submitters is a wetland to be constructed, as part of the irrigation area along with other improvements at the current wastewater ponds. These requests to utilise consent conditions from other discharge approvals add complexity and cost to the design and on-going management, with little or no overall benefit to the final quality of the wastewater being irrigated. It is likely a paper will come to Council for a decision once the costs of a hearing and timing delays versus what the costs of the concessions sought are known.

**Water Projects****4. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 4.1 The trial pilot plant has been in operation for about 5 months now and the initial test results have been positive in the proposed process' ability to reduce hardness and also iron and manganese that are evident in the source water.
- 4.2 It has been noted that silica sand is being released from the Tutaenui Bore when run for extended periods directly into the water treatment plant.

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- 4.3 Based on the results of testing thus far, some pre-treatment to reduce the silica sand levels will be required in the new process. Technologies and options for this are now being incorporated into the pilot plant trials.
- 4.4 A trial with different enhanced membranes is showing very encouraging results for reduction in hardness levels and also removal of iron and manganese without a pre-treatment process. This new membrane trial is on-going.
- 4.5 The pilot plant has thus far been testing only water from the older Tutaenui bore. It will soon be swapped over to test the new reservoir Bore supply.
- 4.6 Useful operational data to enable reliable estimates of operational costs related to power and membrane cleaning are being developed as part of the pilot trial process.
- 4.7 Procurement of the bore pump and associated pipework for the new Reservoir Bore is now a matter of priority for the project, as is test running this and the Tutaenui Bore at full capacity to verify design flows.
- 4.8 It was previously proposed that to best manage the community's perception in the change in taste of the water from the existing reservoir to the groundwater source, the changeover from one source to another be done gradually over a 6-9 month period so that the change is less noticeable. This length of time may not be required now given the indicative performance of the new membranes.
- 4.9 It is envisaged that the new source and treatment process train will not become operable until May 2025.
- 4.10 The proposed process generates a significant quantity of backwash and wastewater, significantly more than the current treatment process. To reduce the extent of wastewater produced, options for utilising the existing clarifier and filters to enable recycling of this wash-water stream into the treatment process are being considered.
- 4.11 Membrane procurement and fabrication will only commence once Council staff are fully satisfied with the results from the trial plant.
- 4.12 Electrical contractors are working closely with PowerCo on our requirement for new transformers. Main switchboard and generator have been procured.
- 4.13 Consent application for the water take was lodged on 15 July 2024. Horizons had responded with a request for additional information on 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025. Staff are currently working on responding to this request.
- 4.14 GFS is currently preparing a project design document that will include proposed product warranties along with system performance guarantees. This will be presented to the Council before placing orders for the membranes.
- 4.15 Staff are working towards a communication strategy and holding an open day at the site for the public.

**Community Facilities****5. Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 5.1 Staff have engaged a contractor for demolishing the house on Grey Street during the Christmas break with little to no disruption to staff. Power to the house has already been disconnected.

- 5.2 Having studied the emergency management centres at Ruapehu and Gisborne, staff are of the opinion that a build similar to the Ruapehu centre would suit better for the needs of our district. Staff are in the process of collating the Emergency Management Centre inventory so the required building footprint can be determined.
- 5.3 Staff are working with an external consultant to oversee the design and build contractor procurement exercise. The expression of interest (EOI) was posted on Government Electronic Tender System (GETS) on 4 Nov 2024 and the submissions are due on 28 Nov 2024. Staff have also conducted a collaborative workshop with registered vendors on 12 Nov 2024 to identify and understand various project risks. It proved to be an engaging and interesting discussion and has identified few additional information the market would require in order for them to do a more concrete submission.
- 5.4 Due to conflict of interest reasons, staff have had to identify a new planner for the project.
- 5.5 Appointing a design and build contractor will allow us to revisit council requirements, finalise what will be in scope, and the architectural concept of the building.

**6. Taihape Grandstand (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 6.1 An update will be provided in the Public Excluded portion of this meeting.

**7. Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 7.1 Maycroft have completed the preliminary site investigations along with an asbestos survey.
- 7.2 Preliminary fire compliance inspection was done on 21 Oct 2024.
- 7.3 Initial seismic report, building fabric report, Fire and services reports are expected later this week. The initial brief from the fire consultant has indicated that keeping the upper-level seating in the hall would add considerable fire and accessibility requirements and in turn costs. Considering the low occupancy of the first-floor offices, retaining this space should be relatively straightforward.
- 7.4 Since the initial seismic design and cost are not expected until mid-Dec 2024, staff are working with a quantity surveyor (QS) and a structural consultant to review the information in parallel. The intention is to present a set of information for the December council meeting, that has already been reviewed by relevant specialists.
- 7.5 The costs being prepared for the December council meeting shall be purely for the seismic strengthening works. Depending on the strengthening costs, staff would then work to determine the rest of the design scope.

**8. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation**

- 8.1 RDC engaged experts to complete a full asset condition assessment of the entire Marton pool facility.
- 8.2 This condition assessment includes all the buildings, the pool, the pool pipework and all associated filter and heating equipment. The engineers already completed a two-day site investigation that covered all the items mentioned above.
- 8.3 A 3-dimensional point cloud survey of the inside of the facility, drone photographs of the roof and pressure testing of the pipework underneath the pool has also been completed.

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- 8.4 All this investigation data will be used to produce a report that will document short-, medium- and long-term repairs and renewals for Council consideration.
- 8.5 Council's pool operating contractor, CLM, is planning on running three week-long intensive Water Safety and Learn to Swim programs at the Rangitikei College pool in January. CLM has diligently been working on a proposal for this, which will be presented to RDC staff before the end of November for input and comments.

**Miscellaneous****9. Scotts Ferry**

- 9.1 Council staff are working on finalising the MOU that will determine the activities, responsibilities and conditions when the Council owned tractor will be used in conjunction with the pump owned by a local farmer to reduce the risk of flooding at Scotts Ferry.
- 9.2 Council staff will improve on regular communications while the MOU is being finalised to make sure everybody remains committed to the final outcomes.
- 9.3 Staff had further discussions with Horizons Regional Council regarding access options making use of the existing stop banks. Horizons Regional Council was enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with RDC on a combined solution.
- 9.4 Unfortunately, the earliest exit point from the stop bank is a considerable distance from the entrance onto the stop bank, and the work required to make use of the stop bank as a potential vehicle access route could be as much as \$500,000. Due to the costs this option will not be investigated any further.

**10. Taihape Hautapu Bridges (Project Manager – Pio Rowe)**

- 10.1 Due to higher than anticipated costs, the budget has been affected and as a result, two out of three bridges will be built. Construction on Bridge 4 has started and anticipated to be completed by 28th November.

Next steps after constructing both bridges:

- 10.2 Designing Engineer to inspect both completed bridges on 29<sup>th</sup> November.2024
- 10.3 Designing Engineer issue required documents to RDC on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- 10.4 RDC inspection booked for 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**11. Financial Implications**

- 11.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

**12. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 12.1 No impacts on strategic risks

**13. Strategic Alignment**

- 13.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

**14. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 14.1 All Mana Whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

**15. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

15.1 There is no climate change impact.

**16. Statutory Implications**

16.1 No statutory implications

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Project Updates Report - November 2024' be received.

## **11 Meeting Closed.**