

# ORDER PAPER

## TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 June 2025  
**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:** Ms Gaylene Nepia (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 Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Tuesday, 10 June 2025 at 11.00am.**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 Karakia/ Prayer**

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 Public Forum**

### **4 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

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

### **5 Confirmation of Order of Business**

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 Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 8 April 2025** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 8 April 2025**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 8 April 2025 **[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 RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 8 April 2025

**Time:** 11.00am

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

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**Tumuaki:** Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa

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

**Nga mema:** Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake)  
Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri)  
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
Cr Gill Duncan  
HWTM Andy Watson (Zoom)

**Manuhiri:** Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive  
Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive  
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy  
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs (Zoom)  
Ms Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor  
Mr Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor  
Cr Jeff Wong

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## 1 Karakia / Prayer

Cr Hiroa opened the meeting at 11.02am.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/001

That the apologies be received from Dr Katarina Gray – Sharp and Ms Leanne Hiroti.

Ms K Savage/Ms G Taiaroa. 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

Amendments:

- That the sentence at section 7.1 needs to be rephrased for greater clarity.
- That the korero regarding Wilson Park be included.

Matters arising:

- That the LINZ decision for the macron be sent to the Komiti.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/002

That the minutes of Te Roopu Ahi Kā Meeting held on 10 December 2024 **as amended** 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 M Heeney/Ms M Raukawa. Carried



## 7 Follow-up Actions

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings

#### Item 4 – Ngāti Waewae

A meeting with their representatives will be held and Mrs Gordon and Ms Pere are invited to this.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/003

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

Ms M Raukawa/Ms M Heeney. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui April 2025

The Chair read her report to the Komiti.

The Komiti noted that during their pre-hui they had a good korero regarding the items on the agenda for the day.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/004

That the 'Chair's Report – April 2025' be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

## 9 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Report from Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor

The Komiti acknowledged the work that Ms Pere has completed in the role so far.

It was noted the positive welcome that Ms Pere had undertaken at the citizenship ceremony at the end of last year.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/005

That the report 'Report from Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor be received

Ms K Savage/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

### 9.2 Local Water Done Well

**ITEM 7.1**

It was noted that this report was included in their last order paper and since then Council has gone out for consultation on Local Water Done Well. There is a hearing next week with only one submitter speaking, 89 submissions in total were received and deliberations will be held on the 22 May.

It was undertaken by members that this conversation could be continued as an iwi collective from within the three districts.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/006**

That the report 'Local Water Done Well' be received

Ms K Savage/Ms M Raukawa. Carried

### **9.3 Economic Strategy Update**

Mr Calkin noted that the draft strategy is not ready to share at this stage but the strategy on the page shows the direction the strategy is heading.

The Komiti acknowledged that their feedback had been taken on board from the last workshop. Some members highlighted that as the northern area of the Rangitikei finish their treaty settlement claims that the economy for the district may look different.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/007**

That the report 'Economic Strategy Update' is received.

Ms M Raukawa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

### **9.4 External Consultations Update**

Officers responded to questions that the RMA reform is expected later in the year and Council will submit when this is available.

The Komiti highlighted the electoral changes and the impact this may have on the Māori seat boundaries in the central government elections. Officers were unable to confirm the impacts at this hui.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/008**

That the report 'External Consultations Update' be received.

Ms M Heeney/Ms K Savage. Carried

### **9.5 Project Updates Report - March 2025**

Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Currently officers are undertaking investigative work on the land and understanding the potential impacts of wastewater standard changes to this project.

#### Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land

Officers are in the process of the new consent and a full hearing will be held at the end of year.

#### Taihape Wastewater

Members raised the consent with the Taihape Wastewater consent expiring in 2027. Officers have begun putting the work together for a new discharge consent application, however this is very early in the process.

#### **Resolved minute number 25/IWI/009**

That the report 'Project Updates Report – March 2025' be received.

Ms K Savage/Ms M Heeney. Carried

### **9.6 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025**

Cr Duncan left during this item at 1.07pm.

The Mayor responded to questions that the Civil Defence centre in Marton is a separate build from the Marton Offices and Library.

#### **Resolved minute number 25/IWI/010**

That the Mayor's Report – 27 March 2025 be received.

HWTM A Watson/Ms M Heeney. Carried

## **10 Discussion Items**

### **10.1 Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitikei?**

The Mayor offered that he can be made available to attend consultation meetings with iwi.

#### **Resolved minute number 25/IWI/011**

That the discussion item Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitikei be received.

Ms K Savage/Ms M Heeney. Carried

**The meeting closed at 1.23pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 10 June 2025.**

.....

**Chairperson**

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā 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 Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions					
Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	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 / Katrina / Fran	Email sent out on 20 May with details of MoUs in table form as initially identified in the action. Next steps will be to look at opportunities.	In progress
2	20-Jun-23	TRAK representation letters for this triennium, follow up on the missing ones.	Kezia	This is completed.	Completed
3	11-Apr-23	Continue to approach Ngāti Waewae to progress a relationship between them and Council.	HWTM / Carol / Karen	A letter has been sent to Ngati Waewae offering a relationship. A hui is yet to be scheduled.	In progress

## **8 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui June 2025**

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

The Chair will provide a tabled or verbal report.

#### **Recommendation**

That the 'Chair's Report – June 2025' be received.

**ITEM 8.1**

## 9 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Mana Whenua - Strategic Advisor Report

**Author:** Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor

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

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on key activities, structured around the following performance criteria: Cultural Development, Engagement and Council Projects.

#### 2. Context

##### 2.1 Cultural Development

- 2.2 **Internal Te Reo Lessons** - Internal Te Reo Lessons – continue to provide staff with regular opportunities to develop their language skills and deepen their understanding of tikanga Māori and mātauranga Māori. In May, lessons focused on the theme of the Māori new year – Matariki mā Puanga. Staff were introduced to traditional stories from the perspectives of Te Taiuru iwi of Taranaki, Rangitīkei and Whanganui, utilising the online resource – Puanganui-o-te-rangi. Participants are progressively building confidence in pronunciation, basic greetings and farewells, office-related language, and basic mihimihi. These weekly lessons are held in council chambers.

- 2.3 **Arā mai rā he Tete Kura** - The Mana Whenua – Strategic Advisor co-facilitated a Māori Leadership workshop at Poupatatē Marae on Tuesday 13th May, with officers from Palmerston North City Council, Manawatū District Council and Horowhenua District Council, where officers were given the opportunity to experience a marae visit and participate in workshops focused on key Māori themes and how these themes can be meaningfully integrated into council activities. This also provided an opportunity to develop new relationships and strengthen collaboration with neighbouring councils.

##### 2.4 Council Projects – Engagement

- 2.5 **Developing Relationship with External Partners – Horizons Regional Council** – On Tuesday, 27 June, a meeting was held with the Iwi/Hapū Advisors from Horizons Regional Council. The meeting provided an opportunity to introduce respective roles and responsibilities. Discussions also took place on how the relationship could be further developed to benefit and complement each other's work going forward and to support positive outcomes for iwi and hapū in the district.

- 2.6 **Recreational Spaces – Bulls Domain/Haylock Park** – Initial engagement has taken place, with a second round of iwi engagement hui scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, 3 June with Ngāti Parewahawaha
- Wednesday, 4 June with Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa

- 2.7 **Urban Growth Development** – Initial engagement hui has taken place with Ngā Wairiki-Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Parewahawaha with regular updates being provided via email. Ngāti Hauiti have also been contacted, and we look forward to their response to confirm a date for engagement.

**ITEM 9.1**

- 2.8 **Local Water Done Well** – As part of the transition team for Rangitīkei District Council, regular team meetings have been attended with the wider transition teams from Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils, alongside weekly in house meetings.
- 2.9 On Monday 12 May, Rangitīkei District Council hosted the 5th transition team workshop at Te Matapihi, continuing the planning for the transition of a new water service delivery model under Local Waters Done Well (LWDW). Additionally, on Friday 16 May, a combined workshop for elected members and council staff was held in Whanganui. This workshop included presentations from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and the Commerce Commission, who spoke to their respective roles within the process. Time was also allocated for cross-council interaction, allowing attendees to share ideas and aspirations, and to provide feedback from each council's recent consultation.
- 2.10 More information will be provided in the Local Water Done Well Report for Information.

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications.

**4. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 4.1 There are no impacts on strategic risks associated with this report. The topic has a number of strategic risks.

**5. Strategic Alignment**

- 5.1 A trusted partner with iwi is a community outcome in Council's strategic framework. This report has strong alignment with Council's strategic framework.

**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 6.1 Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making processes, to consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to participate, and to provide relevant information.
- 6.2 Mana whenua implications are noted throughout this report

**7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

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

**8. Statutory Implications**

- 8.1 Council developed the performance measure around Māori Responsiveness in the Long-Term Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

**9. Decision Making Process**

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

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Mana Whenua - Strategic Advisor Report' be received.



## 9.2 Māori Responsiveness Framework

**Author:** Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor

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

### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides background information on the development of the Māori Responsiveness Framework, established in 2018. The report outlines the design process and how the framework has been used to summarise progress made in the programmes, activities and outcomes since implementation.
- 1.2 The report has been prepared to provide information and to note that the framework is due for review. Furthermore, the Mana Whenua-Strategic Advisor intends to use the revised framework to prepare a report summarising the progress made towards the outcomes sought through the Māori Responsiveness Framework.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Council is committed to working with Māori and Tangata Whenua to build capacity and capability, not least to support the requirements given effect to by the Treaty Settlements. In addition to meeting the requirement under the Local Government Act to have a 'Statement on the development of Māori capacity to contribute to Council decision-making', Council is committed to having meaningful working relationships with Māori in the District.
- 2.2 Given the aspirations of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā (2017) for a 'Strategic Liaison: Iwi/hapū' role to facilitate effective communication with Tangata Whenua and manage relationships; a framework has been developed to assist in managing expectations and contributions, and to monitoring and improving the performance of Council in its contributions to Iwi/hapū development

#### Design Process

- 2.3 On 8 August 2017, Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members engaged in focused discussions around the development of Māori Capacity to contribute to decision-making processes. These discussions identified key actions to support three goals:
  - 2.3.1 Building stronger relationships – Council – Iwi/Hapū
  - 2.3.2 Building stronger relationships – Council – Te Roopū Ahi Kā member
  - 2.3.3 Building Cultural Awareness
- 2.4 On 2 November 2017, a combined workshop with Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members and Council was held to contribute to the development of Māori capacity.
- 2.5 On 2 February 2018, a draft Māori Responsiveness Framework was presented, with four guidelines and standards - Māori Responsiveness Framework outcomes:
  - 2.5.1 Governance and Relationships
  - 2.5.2 Culture and Identity

## 2.5.3 Prosperity and Wellbeing

## ITEM 9.2

## 3. Resources and Infrastructure

<b>GOVERNANCE &amp; RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>CULTURE &amp; IDENTITY</b>	<b>PROSPERITY &amp; WELLBEING</b>	<b>RESOURCES &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b>
<b>COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TE ROOPU AHI KAA KOMITI</li> <li>COUNCIL COMMITTEES (tangata whenua reservation)</li> <li>STRATEGIC LIAISON: IWI/HAPŪ</li> <li>LONG TERM/ANNUAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>DISTRICT PLAN DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS</li> </ul>	<b>COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DISTRICT PLAN PROTECTION PROGRAMMES (wāhi tapu &amp; culture)</li> <li>ART IN PUBLIC PLACES</li> <li>IWI NARRATIVES</li> <li>TE AO MĀORI (event relevance)</li> <li>NATIVE PLANTINGS &amp; REVEGETATION</li> </ul>	<b>COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POLICY &amp; STRATEGY</li> <li>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE</li> <li>YOUTH/RANGATAHI DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>LIBRARY/EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES</li> </ul>	<b>COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LAND &amp; WATER DECISIONS</li> <li>MARAE DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS</li> <li>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</li> <li>EVENT INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT</li> </ul>

- 3.1 On 10 April 2018, the Māori Responsiveness Draft Framework was refined with additions from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members.
- 3.2 Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, on 20 March 2018, at the Rangitīkei Māori Development workshop, concluded the consultation process for iwi/hapū on the inclusions, aspirations and expectations for this framework.
- 3.3 In November 2018, a summary of progress against the four outcomes using the Māori Responsiveness Framework was presented by the Mana Whenua – Strategic Advisor at a committee hui.
- 3.4 On 10 August 2021 several metrics from the Māori Responsiveness framework were removed as they were not providing useful information. It was resolved to establish a working group to review the Māori Responsiveness Framework.
- 3.5 On 14 December 2021 it was noted that the revised framework was a good improvement. The revised framework was received. (refer to the Attachment).
- 3.6 Whilst this document has been developed for Council and Iwi/hapū in the Rangitīkei the following parties contributed to the document's formulation:
- Marama Laurenson Strategic Lead: Culture and Community Whanganui District Council
  - Jackie Evans Hastings District Council
  - Lequan Meihana Strategic Advisor – Mana Whenua Rangitīkei District Council (2018-2022)
- 3.7 The document has been either reviewed or contributed to by the following parties:
- Pahia Turia – Ngā Wairiki
  - Robert Gray – Ngāti Rangituhia
  - Charlie Mete – Rātana
  - Katarina Hina – Ngā Wairiki Ki Uta
  - Coral Raukawa-Manuel - Ngā Ariki Turakina

- Terry Steedman - Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngati Paki
- Thomas Curtis – Ngāti Hauiti
- Hari Benevides – Ngāti Tamakopiri
- Tracey Hiroa – Ngāti Whitikaupeka
- Chris Shenton – Ngāti Kauae/Tauria
- Naumai Wipaki – Ngai te Ohuake
- Kim Savage – Ngāti Parewahawaha
- Hayden Turoa – Ngāti Raukawa
- Jo Tocker - Ngāti Hari/Ngāti Hikairo

#### 4. Performance Measures

- 4.1 The use of performance measures in this framework act as an indicative management tool - to build up a corporate sense and reporting measure for how the principles of tangata whenua are incorporated into all arms of Council.
- 4.2 It is intended that the Māori Responsiveness Framework is a living and breathing document and greater clarity around the performance measures will occur over time (in conjunction the Long-Term Plan etc.).
- 4.3 Whilst the inclusions, aspirations and expectations of Iwi/hapū have been received for this framework. Council will need to assess the targets for each of the performance measures given. The Policy/Planning Committee would be an ideal vehicle for this initial assessment, providing their recommendations back to Council for consideration.

#### 5. Māori Responsiveness Survey/Review

- 5.1 Each year Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members are asked to provide their level of satisfaction with the Māori Responsiveness Framework (across each outcome area). The survey responses form part of Council's reporting on the statement of service provision (SSP) – the tracking of the levels of service and performance measures set out in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, which is reported on regularly to Council.
- 5.2 Satisfaction with the Māori Responsiveness Survey is identified as a key performance measure, with a target of 80% or more "overall satisfaction". Results from the survey are reported via the SSP report to the Finance/Performance Committee and forms part of Council's Annual Report which is independently audited.
- 5.3 A review of the Responsiveness Framework itself is recommended as part of a workshop with the Komiti. A date for the review will be confirmed to ensure the process is well-planned within an appropriate timeframe.
- 5.4 *To Note: The survey will be sent out to all Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members following this meeting.*

#### 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications.

#### 7. Strategic Alignment

- 7.1 A trusted partner with iwi is a community outcome in Council's strategic framework. This report has strong alignment with Council's strategic framework.

#### 8. Mana Whenua Implications

**ITEM 9.2**

8.1 Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making processes, to consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to participate, and to provide relevant information

8.2 Mana whenua implications are noted throughout this report

**9. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

9.1 There is no direct climate change considerations associated with this report.

**10. Statutory Implications**

10.1 Council developed the performance measure around Māori Responsiveness in the Long-Term Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

**11. Decision Making Process**

11.1 There are no decisions required in this report.

**Recommendation 1**

That That the report for information – Māori Responsiveness Framework be received.

**Recommendation 2**

That a review date for the Māori Responsiveness Framework be confirmed and scheduled within the current calendar year.

**9.3 Local Waters Done Well - Update June 2025****Author:** Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This report for information provides an update on Local Water Done Well (LWDW) and includes information from the recent Council deliberation meeting and next steps.

**2. Context**

- 2.1 At the Council meeting held Thursday 22 May 2025, Rangitīkei District Council cemented its desire to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils to establish a Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation.
- 2.2 It unanimously resolved to progress newly ignited conversations with Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council, alongside Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils - should they choose to.

**3. Consultation**

- 3.1 Rangitīkei District Council consulted with residents in March on three models for the future of water services delivery in Rangitīkei, as required by Local Water Done Well.
- 3.1.1 Model 1: A Multi Council-Controlled Organisation with Whanganui District Council and Ruapehu District Council (Council's preferred model).
- 3.1.2 Model 2: Keep the status quo – inhouse delivery.
- 3.1.3 Model 3: A Multi Council-Controlled Organisation with as many Councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region as possible.
- 3.2 At the time of consultation, Model 3 - the development of a Council-Controlled Organisation with as many Councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region as possible, was not viable. This was because other Councils had indicated a preference for alternative models.

**4. A Multi-Controlled Organisation with as many Councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region as possible**

- 4.1 In early May 2025, Rangitīkei, Ruapehu, and Whanganui District Councils were approached about collaborating with Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council to form a larger entity.
- 4.2 A key element of this guidance is that a Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation servicing 50,000 connections would achieve the greatest cost efficiencies for bill payers.
- 4.3 The number of connections deemed economically sustainable has varied. The previous Government's 'four entities' model was based on a view that connections servicing at least 800,000 people were needed to achieve the maximum efficiency.
- 4.4 A helpful view has been provided recently by the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA). It sets out the financial covenants for water CCOs which wish to join the LGFA, with the most flexible position being for those CCOs with more than 50,000 connections.

**ITEM 9.3**

The proposed three-council CCO has approximately 31,000 connections. (for a total population of about 78,750).

- 4.5 Rangitīkei District Council's decision is subject to its potential partners making their decision clear in the coming month:

4.5.1 Palmerston North City Council will make its decision June 4th.

4.5.2 Horowhenua District Council will make its decision June 4th.

4.5.3 Ruapehu District Council will make its decision June 25th.

4.5.4 Whanganui District Council will make its decision in early July.

**5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 An overview of the LGFA covenants is provided above.

**6. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 6.1 Failure to honour the commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – updates have been provided to the komiti regularly and a further workshop is planned to be held in June.
- 6.2 Trust and confidence is tarnished – Elected member decision making has been open and transparent.
- 6.3 Changes to government legislation are transformational – the LWDW programme of work is transformational to the way waters are delivered.

**7. Strategic Alignment**

- 7.1 The continued delivery of waters services is important to Council's strategic direction.

**8. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 8.1 Rangitīkei District Council is committed to continuing discussions with iwi and hapū, prioritising the values and priorities of tangata whenua in any future water services delivery arrangement.
- 8.2 These discussions should also acknowledge and align with statutory obligations of Te Waiū o Te Ika, Te Awa Tupua, and Ngāti Apa Settlement 2010.
- 8.3 Council staff are working towards coordinating an engagement hui with the Rangitīkei district's iwi and hapū in June to provide further detail and the opportunity for questions and discussions.
- 8.4 At the Council meeting held Thursday 22 May 2025, Rangitīkei District Council resolved to continue discussion with the district's iwi and hapū, in collaboration with our region councils, on how best to combine iwi and hapū responsibilities as kaitiaki of the waterways and land with the Council's responsibilities for a safe and efficient provision of water services.

**9. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 9.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report. It is noted the delivery of three waters services do have climate change considerations.

**10. Statutory Implications**

- 10.1 The Local Water Done Well project is being undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements.

**11. Conclusion**

- 11.1 Once all decisions have been made, staff will finalise its Water Services Delivery Plan which must be submitted to Government by September 3, 2025. We will inform Rangitīkei residents as soon as the final grouping of councils is clear.

**12. Decision Making Process**

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

**Recommendation**

That the report for information – Local Waters Done Well – Update June 2024 be received.

**9.4 Rangitīkei Tomorrow - Economic Strategy Draft****Author:** Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to provide the komiti with the initial draft of the Economic Strategy.

**2. Context**

- 2.1 In August 2024 Council Officers introduced the work to create an Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2.2 On September 2024 Council Officers held a workshop with the komiti to help develop the strategy. Key messages from this discussion noted that wellbeing is holistic and cannot focus on economic alone. That economic wellbeing is much broader than money, Māori have much wider values that are not tied to money. This includes social cohesion, equity, health, connection to place and opportunity to have choice.
- 2.3 At the most recent komiti meeting held April 2025, Council Officers advised members of a reshaping of the Strategy to focus development on a traditional economic strategy. At this meeting, Council Officers shared the *Strategy on a Page* and talked to the goals and priorities of the strategy without having a finalised draft to share.
- 2.4 The draft Strategy is attached to this report.

**3. Discussion**

- 3.1 The first section of the Strategy (pages 2–8) is focused on background information, current economic context and economic indicators.
- 3.2 The following section (pages 9-11) is focused on Council's role and existing programmes of work that impact the local economy.
- 3.3 The next section (pages 12-13) is an analysis of the challenges and opportunities that exist in the district.
- 3.4 Page 14-27 is the full strategy. This starts with a vision, goals and priorities which is then broken down further with details of the specific priorities and an example of it in action from businesses and organisations throughout the district. This final page of the Strategy outlines implementation and potential success measures.
- 3.5 The action plan (pages 28-33) outlines what specific steps will be taken under each priority to enable or encourage economic growth. The action plan outlines what role Council will take and sets out the timeframe for the action to be delivered.

**4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The implementation of the strategy itself has no direct financial implications however some individual actions require funding. This could be through external funding, partnerships with other parties or a direct cost to Council which would be assessed through the usual business case process.



**5. Impact on Strategic Risks**

5.1 There are no strategic risks relating to this item.

**6. Strategic Alignment**

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

**7. Mana Whenua Implications**

7.1 Council Officers have held a workshop with the komiti and provided regular updates on the progress of the Economic Strategy and encourage further feedback on the draft strategy.

**8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

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

8.2 Any climate change impacts and considerations relating to each action within the action plan will have its own assessment completed relating to the impacts on climate change.

**9. Statutory Implications**

9.1 There are no statutory implications relating to this item.

**10. Decision Making Process**

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

10.2 Next steps are for Council Officers to collect feedback on the draft strategy and action plan from various committees including Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, make any necessary amendments and take the final draft to Council for adoption.

**Attachments:**

1. **Rangitikei Tomorrow Economic Strategy and Plan DRAFT** [↓](#)

**Recommendation 1**

That the report 'Rangitikei Tomorrow – Economic Strategy Draft' is received.

# *Rangitikei Tomorrow*

**Working towards an economic  
resilient and thriving Rangitikei**

**Economic Strategy and Action Plan**



*make this place home*





## Introduction

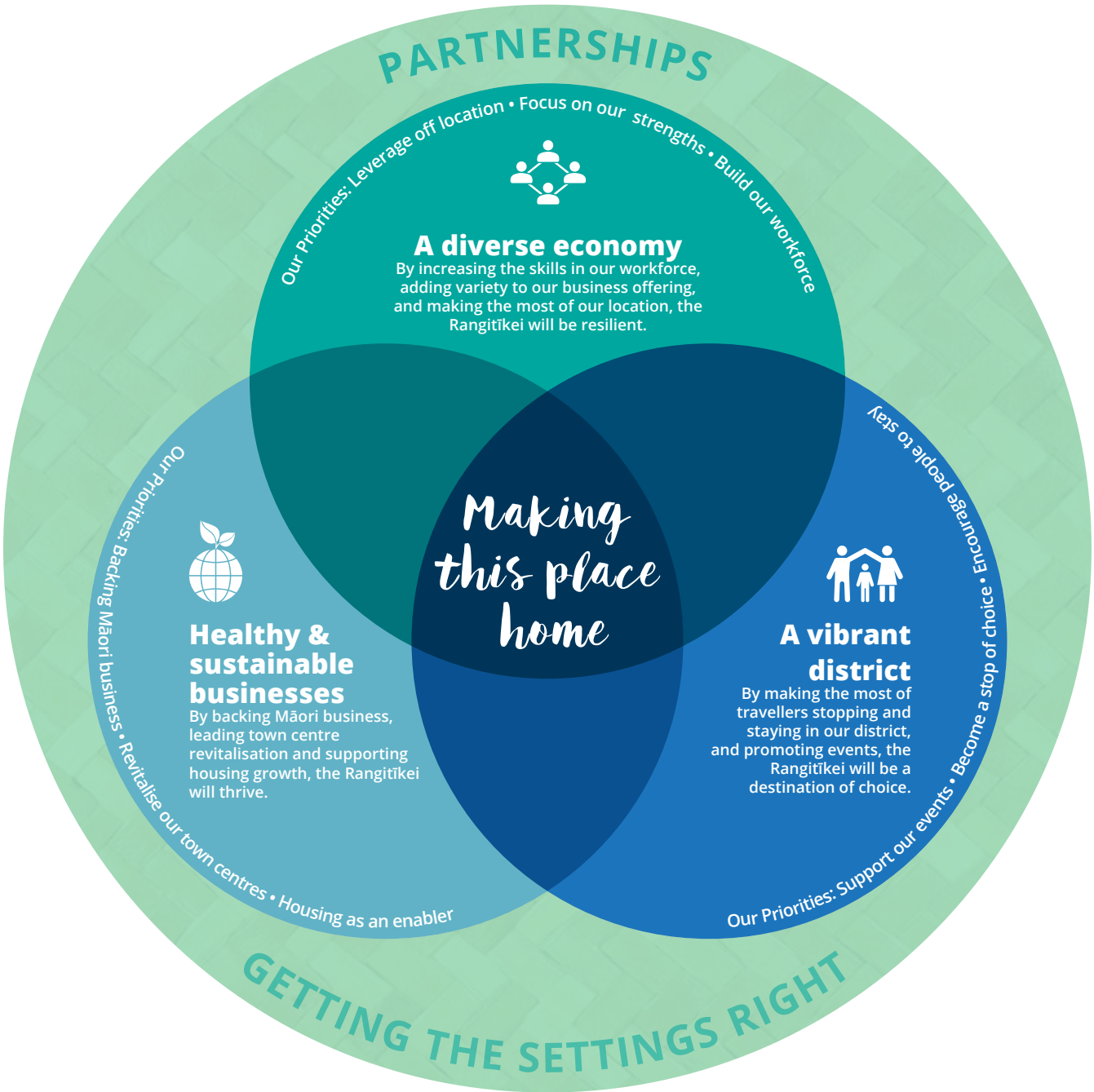
A strong local economy is foundational to a prosperous, vibrant, and resilient community. When the economy is thriving, residents see better job opportunities, higher wages, and a holistically better standard of living.

Rangitikei is home to many successful local, national and global organisations who enrich and support Rangitikei as a fantastic place to live, work, and do business.

The future is exciting for Rangitikei. The district is well-positioned to capitalise on opportunities for future economic development and growth, but we need to be prepared.

Rangitikei Tomorrow presents an ambitious economic vision for Rangitikei. It identifies key goals and priorities that will ensure the district remains well positioned for growth, and sets out how we plan to cultivate these opportunities with a comprehensive action plan.

# Plan on a page





## How Rangitikei Tomorrow was created

Rangitikei Tomorrow was developed in multiple stages. Initial work focussed on a stocktake of the current economic outlook and profile of Rangitikei, including understanding economic indicators such as GDP, income, and industry composition. This initial data was presented to key partners and stakeholders for discussion.

Through a series of workshops, Rangitikei iwi, business and sector leaders, and Rangitikei District Council Elected Members provided valuable insights into the real life experiences that fuel Rangitikei economic data.

**Key themes from these workshops are briefly outlined below:**

### *Iwi and Te Rōpū Ahi Kā*

- Individual wealth is generated through equitable access to education, employment and training.
- People are our biggest resource.
- By procuring local contractors, Rangitikei District Council has the opportunity to make a difference to the local economy.
- Regulatory settings are important for enabling economic growth - i.e. by enabling zoning rules for commercial activities.
- Recruiting skilled workers is a challenge in a large district with a small population.
- Using the word 'wellbeing' means strong interconnections between all aspects of wellbeing. All aspects of wellbeing need to be weaved together - economic wellbeing cannot stand on its own. A good example of this is Ngā Puna Rau o Rangitikei, a collective of hapū and iwi connected to the Rangitikei awa catchment that works to manage and protect the awa. Their initiatives deliver environmental benefits for the Rangitikei awa catchment, while also delivering economic outcomes through local employment opportunities.
- Distribution of resources is important for the wellbeing of the whole community. It is important that everyone who calls Rangitikei home benefits from economic growth and development.
- Addressing inequity and striving for social cohesion are important elements of any economic growth and development strategy. If we aspire for all Rangitikei communities to truly thrive, we need to connect with the people are just trying to make it to the next day
- Economic wellbeing is about the opportunity to have choice. It does not necessarily mean financial wealth or a traditional career, it could mean serving the community, or the flexibility to stay at home and care for whānau.

### *Rangitikei businesses, sector leaders, and Elected Members*

- The farming sector is facing significant challenges: The rise of AI, the need to automate and diversify, rising costs of doing business coupled with lower profit margins all threaten the profitability and sustainability of farming as a primary income source.
- Town centre development is important to attract talent and money into the economy. Earthquake prone building regulations are limiting development opportunities.
- Cost of living is an advantage for Rangitikei. The Rangitikei district offers great lifestyle at a more affordable price. These advantages should be capitalised and promoted more.
- Diversification of the economy (i.e. growing our tourism offering, or increasing manufacturing capabilities) is necessary but will require long-term effort and investment.
- Opportunity to better 'tell our story'. The beauty of Rangitikei, and the affordability of life here is undersold.
- Council procurement practices could better support local businesses by being directive about the benefits of local procurement.



## National and regional strategic context

### National

The Government has been clear about economic growth and development as a key priority. This approach differs from the wellbeing model introduced by the previous Labour Government.

Rangitikei Tomorrow has been scoped and shaped within the context of the 2025 political environment. However, as this document should endure and extend beyond the priorities of the Government of the day, we have ensured Rangitikei-specific nuance and the unique opportunities and challenges facing the district are prioritised.

### Accelerate 35 (previously, Accelerate 25)

Accelerate 35 a regional economic development initiative that focuses on growing a prosperous Manawatū-Whanganui. It was established in response to a Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Growth Study undertaken in 2015 and facilitates collaboration and collective involvement in regional economic growth opportunities.

The initiative's mission is to "fast-track the major strategic priorities that will propel Manawatū-Whanganui forward". It plans to do this by assembling, inspiring and empowering talented teams to lead the strategic priorities that matter to them.

### Te Pae Tawhiti

Te Pae Tawhiti is an intergenerational strategy for Māori economic development in the Manawatū-Whanganui region over the next twenty-four years. Its purpose is to provide direction and support for Māori to pursue economic development as whānau, hapū, iwi enterprises and communities, individually and collectively. Te Pae Tawhiti believes collaboration through Māori alliance will almost certainly accelerate economic growth that benefits both Māori and non-Māori in the Manawatū-Whanganui region.



High Country looking north towards Mount Ruapehu

## The Rangitīkei District

Located in the Central North Island, Rangitīkei is part of the Manawatū-Whanganui region. The district covers 4,479 square kilometres and supports a strong primary sector - from the sand country of the south coast, to the magnificent hills of northern Rangitīkei.

Whanganui and Palmerston North are within a commutable distance from Southern Rangitīkei. Wellington, New Plymouth, Taupō and the Hawke's Bay are within a 2 – 3 hour drive.

Rangitīkei has the advantage of access to State Highways 1 and 3, both of which provide significant inter-regional freight, commuter, and visitor traffic.

At least 28.5 million tonnes<sup>1</sup> (approximately 10% of Aotearoa New Zealand's total volume) of freight moves through the wider Manawatū-Whanganui region, relying on Rangitīkei road and rail infrastructure. For example, the Taihape-Napier Road provides Hawke's Bay with a key link from Rangitīkei and vice versa.

The extensive Rangitīkei rail network transports freight around the North Island with at least 1.6 million tonnes passing through Marton per year.

Air Force Base Ōhakea is located just across the Rangitīkei River in the Manawatū District. The Airbase's defence infrastructure carries national significance with a growing workforce, many of whom call Rangitīkei home. Base Ōhakea undoubtedly supports continued population growth in Southern Rangitīkei.

Rangitīkei has been growing at a rate of around 170 people per year, resulting in increased housing pressure. Marton and Bulls have experienced the biggest growth pressure, followed by Hunterville and Taihape.

In 2024, roughly 16,650 call Rangitīkei home.



# RANGITĪKEI

*the way life should be*



## Our economy (as at 2024)



**\$901.9m**

**GDP**

\$901.9m which is up 2.1% on 12 months and vs 1.4% growth for NZ



**Projected population**

Current population

**16,650**

Projected population by 2034

**17,578**



**Income**

Average income of a Rangitikei resident = **\$62,000**

Average Rangitikei household income = **\$117,000**

### Top 5 industries contributing to the Rangitikei economy

Agriculture, forestry and fishing	30%
Manufacturing	11.9%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	6.0%
Public administration and safety	5.7%
Construction	4.7%

### Skills

(Rangitikei vs Aotearoa New Zealand)

	Rangitikei	NZ
Highly-skilled	38.3%	38.5%
Skilled	9.5%	13.2%
Semi-skilled	12.2%	13.6%
Low-skilled	40.1%	34.7%

### Year on year industry contribution



#### Top 5

Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$19.3m
Public administration and safety	\$4.9m
Information media and telecommunications	\$3.4m
Manufacturing	\$1.2m
Health care and social assistance	\$0.9m

#### Bottom 5

Financial and insurance services	-\$4.5m
Retail trade	-\$3.9m
Transport, postal and warehousing	-\$2.6m
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-\$1.8m
Professional, scientific and technical services	-\$1.7m

### Housing

Average house price = **\$421,000**

Housing affordability regionally = **3.5x household income**

Housing diversity (data from 2023 census)

<b>4.9%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>47.7%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	5+ Bedroom

### Number of businesses



Rangitikei - owned

**2160**

(down 18 on last year or 0.8%)



Māori businesses

**102**

(as at March 2021)

Average business size = **3.2 filled jobs**  
(vs 4.3 for NZ)



### Tourism

**16,000**

Daily movements / number of vehicles through the district.

Captured at the bridge which marks the entrance to Bulls and distinction between Manawatū and Rangitikei Districts

Yearly expenditure from tourism sector = **\$71.6m**

Number of people employed by the Rangitikei tourism sector = **395**

Number of bed stays = **70,100\***



### Young people Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

**14.8%**

Rangitikei



**12.1%**

NZ

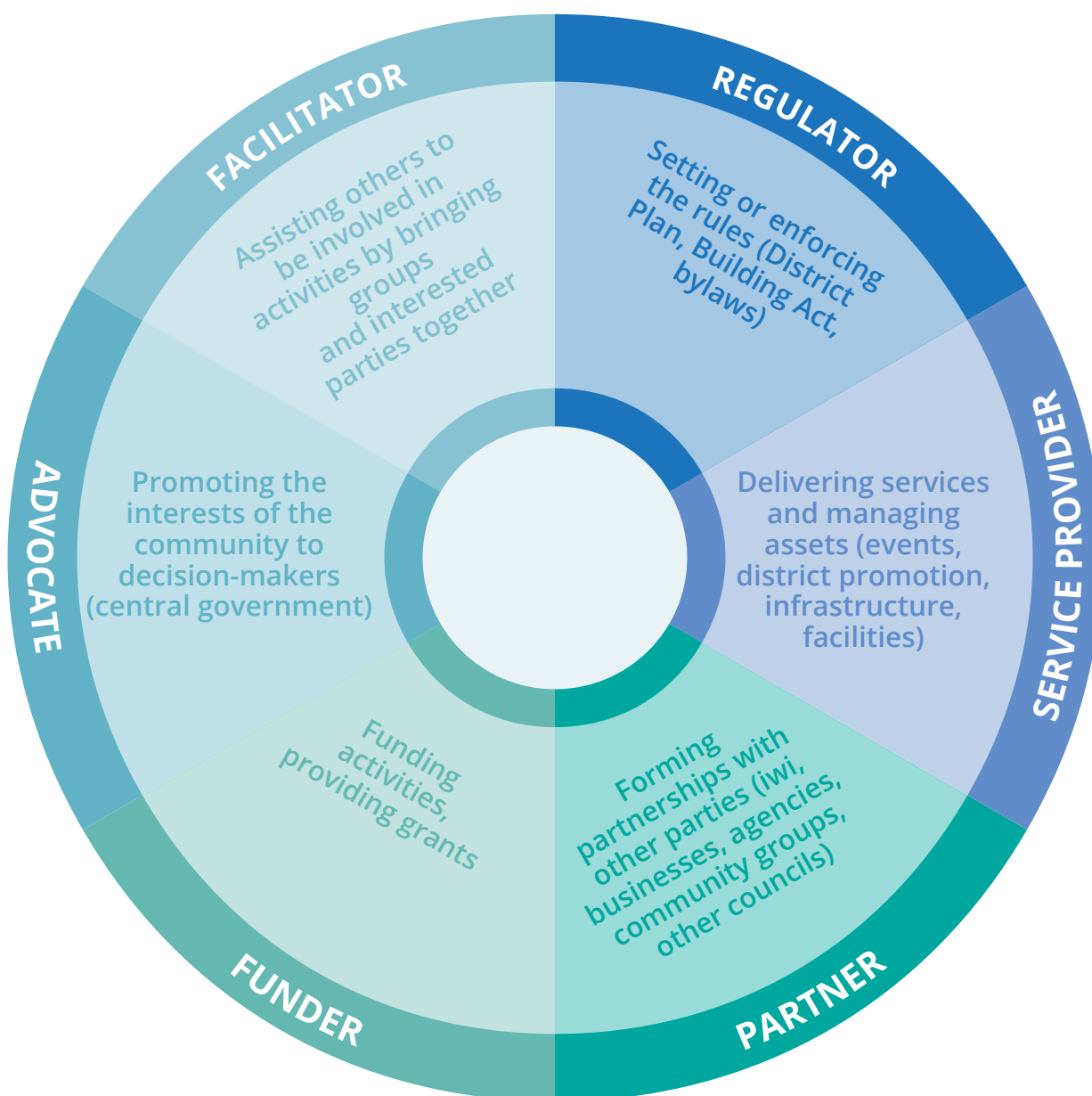
\* (i.e. In any given year, 70,000 people come and stay in Rangitikei for a night: 1 night = 1 bed stay)

## How Rangitikei District Council contributes to Rangitikei economic growth

Although Rangitikei District Council aspires to be an efficient contributor to Rangitikei economic growth and development, it is important to note the success of Rangitikei Tomorrow is fundamentally centred around all partners working together.

Council acknowledges the wide range of people, businesses, iwi, agencies, and stakeholders involved in economic growth and development in Rangitikei. Working collaboratively is vital to achieving the best outcomes and building a prosperous future.

This strategy does not attempt to cover the roles and activities of all these parties, it focuses on the path forward for Rangitikei District Council. The following outlines how Council currently contributes to the Rangitikei economy as a facilitator, regulator, service provider, partner, funder, and advocate.



## Existing programmes that contribute to economic growth

[illegible]

Programme	Description	Council's role
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## Economic Challenges for the Rangitikei District

### *Struggling town centres*

Our town centres are going through a period of change, with vacant shops, buildings in need of maintenance, and limited new development. The retail sector is declining, with reductions in revenue and employment. Earthquake-prone building requirements are resulting in some buildings being unsafe for occupancy. Thriving town centres are important for attracting businesses and people to our towns.

### *Reliance on the primary sector*

The primary sector contributes to over 30% of the district's GDP, primarily from sheep and beef. A further 5% of GDP is associated with manufacturing activities that are a direct secondary activity from the primary sector (e.g. meat processing). The overreliance on primary industries makes Rangitikei susceptible to heavy fluctuations as this sector experiences highs and lows.

### *Ageing population*

Rangitikei has an ageing population. The median age is 41 years, higher than the Aotearoa New Zealand median of 38 years. Fewer working age people provide a smaller local workforce and talent pool for businesses. There is also a high risk of youth migration to urban areas with perceived greater opportunity. However, there are opportunities to leverage off an ageing population such as the provision of housing and services targeted at their needs.

Thriving  
town centres  
are important  
for attracting  
businesses  
and people to  
our towns.

### *Skilled workers*

Knowledge and skills are generally a reflection of individual opportunities within the labour market. High engagement in the labour market is the most common method for increasing personal wealth. Statistics show that Rangitikei sits below national averages for qualification metrics, meaning opportunities within the labour market for these people could be more limited. Increasing the rate of school leavers going on to pursue higher education is a key challenge.

### *National and global economic outlook*

The Aotearoa New Zealand economy is emerging recession. The recession was created by intentional strict monetary policy after inflation peaked at 7.3% in 2022. Since September 2022, per capita GDP has dropped 4.6% for Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole, making this a larger recession than the global financial crisis.

Recent indications are that the turning point has been reached with annual inflation back within target, interest rates beginning to fall, and consumer and business confidence improving. The outlook for the Aotearoa New Zealand economy is more positive in 2025, although recovery is going to be sluggish with unemployment yet to peak and the current lag between falling interest rates and resultant discretionary spending.

The global economy is a little less certain with power shifting and new alliances being formed. This is generating tension between global superpowers such as the USA and China which will create both challenges and opportunities for Aotearoa New Zealand businesses.

It is important for Rangitikei to keep a close watch on the national and international economic context. It will help us anticipate changes to demand for local goods and services, identify new opportunities for economic growth, assist decision making around infrastructure investment, and ensure we capitalise on opportunities to attract investment from business, individuals, and central government.

## Economic Opportunities for the Rangitīkei District

### *Location*

Located in the Central North Island, Rangitīkei has many opportunities for growth. Southern Rangitīkei is within commuting distance to Palmerston North and Whanganui which provides the opportunity for residential growth and access to a wider pool of workers for local businesses.

Rangitīkei also has the advantage of access to both State Highway 1 and 3, connecting the district regionally in all directions. Both highways sustain a significant volume of inter-regional freight and motorists. The Taihape-Napier Road also provides a key link with Hawke's Bay.

The extensive Rangitīkei rail network (i.e. The North Island Main Trunk Line and the Marton New Plymouth Line) provides ample opportunity to increase industrial activity associated with rail freight, as well as establishing passenger rail services.

### *Māori economy*

Building Rangitīkei Tomorrow in partnership with iwi is vital to ensuring diverse views and perspectives.

Rangitīkei iwi are in various phases of their Treaty Settlement processes. There are already significant investments in Māori economy (such as in primary industries, environment, education, and health), and this will continue to grow significantly over time. In addition, the Rangitīkei Destination Management Plan highlights opportunities associated with Māori tourism experiences.

### *Lifestyle*

Rangitīkei offers an enviable small-town lifestyle, with affordable housing, exceptional landscapes, and central location. There is opportunity to get the word out about the benefits of living in Rangitīkei. A growing population supports the economic health of the community by increasing local revenue, supporting business growth and creation, and boosting the general busyness and vibrancy of our town centres.

### *Diversification of the primary sector*

Rangitīkei has a strong primary sector, with a wide range of climates, topography, and soil types. Opportunities for diversification of the primary sector are broad, including clean energy, cropping, horticulture, and on-farm tourism . Further research into these opportunities is required to appropriately unlock them - including understanding market demand, diversification opportunities and pathways/barriers.





## Our Vision

### *Making this place home*

Rangitikei District Council's vision, making this place home, reflects our desire for Council to play its part in ensuring our district is a great place to live, work, and do business.

Rangitikei Tomorrow sets out the economic growth strategy that will support Council to achieve this vision.

## Our Foundation

### Partnerships

Rangitikei economic growth is reliant on developing strong partnerships.

Working with iwi, sector groups, economic development agencies, and central government to establish initiatives centred around building Rangitikei wealth and wellbeing is vital to the success of Rangitikei Tomorrow. Each partner a role to play, and by working together we can build holistic, long term and sustainable outcomes.

### Getting the settings right

Council has a wide range of levers available to make a difference to the local economy and ensure the settings are right for economic growth.

These include infrastructure investment, procurement, funding, delivery of events, planning, business support and advocating for investment, working together with economic players, and setting and implementing the regulatory framework.

## Our Economic Goals



### ***A diverse economy***

By increasing the skills in our workforce, adding variety to our business offering, and making the most of our location, Rangitikei will be economically resilient.



### ***Healthy and sustainable businesses***

By backing Māori business, leading town centre revitalisation, and supporting housing growth, Rangitikei will thrive.



### ***A vibrant district***

By making the most of travellers stopping and staying in our district, and promoting events, Rangitikei will be a destination of choice.



## A diverse economy

By increasing the skills in our workforce, adding variety to our business offering, and making the most of our location, Rangitikei will be economically resilient.

### Our priorities

- Focus on our strengths
- Build our workforce
- Leverage our location



Rangitikei is a primary sector powerhouse, making up 30% of the district's GDP (2023). The primary sector also provides inputs to secondary industries, such as meat processing, which creates an additional 6.5% of GDP in Rangitikei.

The primary sector - in particular sheep and beef and dairy - will continue to be the backbone of the Rangitikei economy moving into the future.

Primary industry dominance makes the Rangitikei economy vulnerable to instability within the sector. In the past few years, primary industries have been through significant challenges, such as high interest rates, cost increases, falling demand and prices, and increasing regulation. Therefore, it is important for Rangitikei to diversify for economic resilience.

A diversified economy creates a wider range of jobs and offers increased choice and employment opportunities. Discussions with local businesses have indicated that finding skilled workers can be difficult, therefore, to support the diversification of the Rangitikei economy, an increased focus on skills development is required.

Leveraging off location and affordability represents a key opportunity for Rangitikei to diversify its economy and capture future growth. In addition, proximity to key logistics infrastructure and suitable land availability make Rangitikei an ideal location for industrial growth.



## FOCUS ON OUR STRENGTHS

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Primary industries, particularly agriculture, are the powerhouse of the Rangitikei economy and provide the biggest opportunity for diversification. Finding opportunities to add value to raw exports or achieve on-farm diversification is key. Diversification will create more highly skilled jobs and increase the profitability of what we produce. Supportive rural service activities, such as food packaging or contracting businesses, are also an important part of a thriving primary sector.

Rangitikei is already starting to break into new sectors such as clean energy. Rangitikei has significant potential for solar and wind development due to topography, climate, and access to the national grid. The forestry sector has also grown significantly in recent years, with carbon forestry providing opportunities, particularly for Māori landowners with marginal land. However, there is concern from some of our rural communities around protecting

local farming business from large scale forestry conversion.

On-farm diversification will also develop resilience. Expanding into destination experiences such as farm stays, cultural experiences, and boutique accommodation have immense potential. Many tourist buses travel through the Rangitikei regularly and this foot traffic could be more effectively leveraged. Council's role is to develop partnerships and get the regulatory settings right to enable the change already being driven by iwi, individuals, businesses, and agencies.

It is important to note the retention of existing businesses alongside growth opportunities is essential for long term economic health, retaining local and loyal employment for our people, providing local services, and putting money into the local economy.



📍 Crop fields at Waitatapia Station



MTFJ successful placement - Ngaire-anne at work.

## BUILD OUR WORKFORCE

Building a skilled workforce is key to supporting individual economic prosperity and the diversification of our economy. Higher qualifications and educational attainment provide greater opportunities in the labour market and higher incomes offer greater choice in how residents live their lives in Rangitikei.

Rangitikei currently sits below the New Zealand average for qualification metrics and income. Local businesses struggle to recruit skilled staff, and for diversification within our economy to be achievable, access to skilled labour is essential.

To address this skill shortage, there are a number of providers delivering education, training, and skills development programmes in Rangitikei. One provider is Te Puna. Established in 2020,

Te Puna provides iwi, hapū and hāpori with a range of tools and opportunities to achieve their education and employment aspirations. The initiative works with a range of partners to deliver courses and services from the Te Poho o Tuariki assessment centre.

Council's role in building our workforce is to foster relationships between education providers, employers, and agencies - connecting them to the right people at the right time. Council holds valuable knowledge of industries with skilled worker shortages and sets the regulatory environment to develop Rangitikei as a great place to call home.



## LEVERAGE OUR LOCATION

Many opportunities for economic diversification could be realised through the central location of Rangitikei and its connection to primary industries, tourism, and opportunities for population growth.

Rangitikei has strong accessibility to the wider North Island:

- **Road:** Access to State Highways 1 and 3
  - Commutable distances to Whanganui and Palmerston North
  - Key centres such as Napier, Wellington, New Plymouth and Taupo only 2 – 3 hours drive
- **Railway:** The North Island Main Trunk Line and Marton New Plymouth Line.

This accessibility has potential to be better leveraged in a range of different ways.

- Logistics and manufacturing are key industries where our district's locational advantage would be attractive for investment. Recent focus has been on industrial rail opportunities; however, further work is required to understand the unique proposition to make the most out of our locational advantage.
- Rangitikei is still establishing itself as a tourism destination. The natural environment combined with our location makes the district an obvious choice for tourism-based activities utilising both road and rail.
- The district needs to be open and ready for business, with enough zoned and serviced land available in the right place to meet market needs.
- Building relationships with iwi, our neighbouring councils, Central Government agencies and other stakeholders is essential to maximise opportunities for all parties.



Marton Industrial Development Area offers seamless connectivity for freight movement across the country.

Staff surveying the Makirikiri Road site



## Healthy and sustainable businesses

By backing Māori business, leading town centre revitalisation, and supporting housing growth, Rangitīkei will thrive.

### Our priorities

- Backing Māori business
- Revitalise our town centres
- Housing as an enabler



Healthy and sustainable businesses are essential to economic prosperity in Rangitīkei. Businesses provide employment opportunities for the local community and support individual prosperity, which is often invested back into the community.

Businesses also provide local services for the community and contribute to town vibrancy by filling buildings and attracting even more people to shop and spend locally. Rangitīkei is home to a proportionally high number of small businesses compared to the national average. There is great opportunity to celebrate these businesses as key contributors to the vibrancy of Rangitīkei.

## BACKING MĀORI BUSINESS

Māori businesses are a core component of our business landscape with significant growth opportunities. There were 102 Māori owned businesses<sup>1</sup> in Rangitīkei in the year to March 2021, accounting for 14% of all businesses. The share of Māori businesses in Rangitīkei was greater than in Aotearoa New Zealand (11%).

Māori business represents a significant opportunity for growth, particularly as Rangitīkei iwi complete their Treaty Settlement processes.

By supporting Māori business development, we support a holistic and integrated approach to economic activity that supports wider wellbeing and long-term sustainability. From small businesses and solo entrepreneurs to collective enterprises, there is untapped potential. By backing, enabling, and supporting economic development, council supports the growth of Rangitīkei as a diverse, dynamic and innovative place to do business.

Māori business  
represents  
a significant  
opportunity  
for growth







📍 Newly repainted Marton Post Office

## REVITALISE OUR TOWN CENTRES

Vibrant town centres are foundational to the enjoyment, sense of place and economic success of Rangitikei. Town centres are hubs of economic activity where our communities come together, and we celebrate our local identity.

However, Rangitikei retail sector is struggling. The large number of run-down and earthquake-prone buildings throughout the district are creating vacancies and exponentially impacting external investment. Active intervention is needed to ensure our retail sector is nationally competitive, and an attractive and lucrative place to do business.

Vibrant town centres are key to retaining youth, attracting skilled workers to the district, and encouraging tourists to experience and stay in Rangitikei.

Our town centres are hubs for local events, festivals, and markets, offering opportunities to celebrate and showcase our local identity to a wider audience.

Thousands of people pass through Rangitikei every day. Welcoming town centres entice them to stop, spend, and invest in the Rangitikei economy.

Streetscape upgrades in Taihape, Marton and Bulls are a great first step towards greater town vibrancy in Rangitikei. It is also important that we get our regulatory settings right to enable an increasingly diverse range of activities to establish.

## HOUSING AS AN ENABLER

Affordable and high-quality housing is an essential enabler as the Rangitikei economy grows and diversifies.

A lack of quality housing in Taihape is creating a barrier for businesses to find skilled workers. While living in Rangitikei and working outside is possible in Southern towns (i.e. Marton and Bulls) due to commutable distances to main centres (such as Palmerston North and Whanganui), this is not as easy in the Northern part of the district. Without quality housing in Northern Rangitikei, there is less likely to be long-term business investment and skilled worker migration. Quality housing in Northern Rangitikei is key to unlocking economic development in this part of the district.

Looking to housing opportunities across


Rangitikei, our housing stock is predominantly three-bedroom stand-alone dwellings.

Housing diversification, including increasing appropriate town centre living is necessary to provide for future growth. For example, with our population projected to continue ageing, provision of suitable elderly housing to enable this demographic to live centrally within our town centres is needed.

Working with iwi to support the development of papakāinga housing throughout Rangitikei is another key lever that will diversify our housing stock and bring people back into these areas.

Housing affordability in comparison to our neighbours is a key attractor/point of difference. Sufficient housing supply is essential to ensure house prices remain affordable, enabling first home buyers to enter the market and subsequently invest their discretionary income back into the Rangitikei economy.

Housing affordability in comparison to our neighbours is a key attractor/point of difference.



*Hereford Heights in Marton demonstrates how housing can drive economic growth. By developing over 80 new residential sections, the subdivision has attracted a diverse mix of residents—from families seeking larger homes to retirees wanting low-maintenance living. This growth in housing supply has directly supported population increase, fueling demand for local services and amenities. The construction phase created jobs and boosted related industries, while the completed homes have encouraged further investment and development in the area. As a result, Hereford Heights has played a key role in strengthening the district's economy through thoughtful, inclusive, and strategic housing expansion.*



## A vibrant district

By making the most of travellers stopping and staying in our district, and promoting events, Rangitikei will be a destination of choice.

### Our priorities

- Support our events
- Encourage people to stay
- Become a stop of choice



Tourism in Rangitikei is an area with significant economic opportunity. Tourism represents 2.5% of the district's GDP, compared with 3.5% nationally and has been growing at a slower rate than average.

Our natural landscape, excellent accessibility, and unique cultural identity offers an exciting base for tourism development.

Strengthening Rangitikei tourism will put more money into the local economy, provide job opportunities, and attract more people to the district.

The Rangitikei District Council Destination Management Plan (2022) sets out investment and work programmes in this area. The two key themes are:

- **Manaaki tangata – care for our people**
- **Manaaki whenua – care for our land**





*Gumboot Day Taihape*



*Harvest Festival*



*Fest-a-Bull*



*Shemozzle 2023 - Photo Suraya Holland*

## SUPPORT OUR EVENTS

Events provide a range of benefits for our communities, including economic growth. Events deliver an immediate economic benefit to the district by bringing in spending from out-of-town visitors. Successful events also provide long term economic benefit by raising the profile of Rangitikei and its local businesses, encouraging people to return to shop, visit or live after the event.

Rangitikei hosts a range of regionally significant and successful events throughout the year: The Shemozzle, Marton Market Day, Taihape Spring Fling, and Turakina Highland games.

These events attract thousands of visitors from across the wider region who provide economic benefit and vibrancy to our towns. Continuing to support and amplify these events through considered marketing campaigns is a key opportunity.



## ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STAY

Destination experiences are a key opportunity for business growth and diversification in Rangitikei. People travel through Rangitikei everyday as they travel around New Zealand. Encouraging them to stop for an activity or stay for a night will support local business and enable tourism sector growth.

Leveraging our natural environment and offering cultural experiences are key opportunities identified in the Rangitikei Destination Management Plan (2022). These opportunities include boutique rural accommodation, back country scenic roads, activities on our river, or experiences in our stunning and diverse landscapes.

Key to supporting destination experiences across the district is town centres that are vibrant, attractive and equipped with amenities. Appropriate places to stay, well equipped toilets, and quality food and beverage stores all support Rangitikei as a tourism destination.

Opportunities include further research regarding accommodation opportunities and shortages, and strategic ways council can market Rangitikei as a tourism destination.





📍 *Hunterville Huntaway Dog Statue*



📍 *Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre*



📍 *Taihape Gumboot Statue*



📍 *Walker Park - Bulls*

## BECOME A STOP OF CHOICE

Rangitikei is centrally located with both State Highway 1 and 3 running through the district. At least 15,000 vehicles travel through Rangitikei every day.

Enticing these travellers to stop is a key opportunity for local business growth and employment, particularly for towns such as Taihape, Mangaweka, Hunterville, Bulls and Turakina. Each of these towns has a unique offering depending on traveller needs. Clearly defining this offering, and effectively marketing it, is key to encouraging increased foot traffic.

Essential to becoming a stop of choice is providing vibrant town centres, with welcoming entrances, where people want to stop and spend time. It is also important we provide high quality and well maintained visitor services such as toilets, playgrounds, clear signage, and easy parking.

## Implementation

Successful implementation of **Rangitikei Tomorrow** is dependent on collaboration between Council, iwi, business, agencies, and the community. While the actions outlined in the Action Plan below focus on Council's roles and influence, working collectively will generate the best long-term outcomes for Rangitikei.

Monitoring progress will deliver insights on the success of actions and ensure that we stay on track. Success will be evaluated by assessing the effectiveness of each action, with learnings implemented into future initiatives.

Actions and projects delivered under Rangitikei Tomorrow will have their own success measures - appropriate to the purpose of the action. Examples of success indicators could be:

- Increase in GDP across the district at a rate faster than the region and/or country
- Increase in the employment market
- Decrease in the number of NEET's
- Improved diversity in the economy
- More council procurement spend going to Rangitikei-based and owned businesses

The adoption and implementation of **Rangitikei Tomorrow** does not commit Council to any additional funding. Some of the actions can be funded through the existing work programmes, while some actions may require additional funding. Additional funding could be secured through grants, donations or increased investment from Council into economic development initiatives. Additional funding requirements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.



## Action Plan

### *A diverse economy*

#### Focus on our strengths

Action
Review successful programmes that have supported primary sector diversification and resilience in other regions.
Work with the primary sector, iwi, businesses and stakeholders to develop and implement a diversification strategy for Rangitikei.
Support Business Rangitikei to develop a sustainable business network where businesses in the district thrive.
Complete a needs and opportunity assessment to understand existing commercial business offerings and gaps in the market.
Ensure Council's procurement policies consider the wider benefits of local procurement in decision making.
Work alongside local businesses to outline a pipeline of Council projects that will enable local businesses to successfully tender for work.







#### Build our workforce




Action
Work in partnership with key stakeholders to design a workforce development, attraction and retention programme tailored to industries that Rangitikei wants to attract.
Support our young people to become work ready through the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme by working with them to achieve micro-credentials (e.g. driver licencing, healthy and safety accreditations).
Create a recruitment network to match workers to job opportunities within the Rangitikei as part of the MTFJ Programme.







#### Leverage our location

Action
Commission a 'value proposition' study that identifies opportunities for growth of key sectors that would benefit from the competitive advantage of our location (e.g. logistics, warehousing, manufacturing).
Promote Rangitikei as a location based on the outcomes of the 'value proposition' study.
Undertake a 'lost opportunity' study regarding regional industrial growth.
Monitor supply and demand of business land and buildings.
Invest in three waters infrastructure to ensure that supplies have the capacity to accommodate business growth (particularly industrial growth).
Rezone land as required to ensure a continuous 30 year commercial and industrial land supply.

ongoing, short, medium, long

Council's role	Timeframe	
Facilitator		Short term
Facilitator		Short term
Partner		Ongoing
Facilitator		Short term
Service Provider		Medium term
Partner		Medium term

Council's role	Timeframe	
Facilitator		Medium term
Partner		Short term
Partner		Short term

Council's role	Timeframe	
Facilitator		Medium term
Facilitator		Long term
Facilitator		Medium term
Facilitator		Ongoing
Service Provider		Ongoing
Service Provider		Ongoing

## Healthy and sustainable businesses

### Back Māori business

#### Action

Continue to advocate for access to landlocked land.

Connection between new business growth and iwi.

Review the sustainable procurement settings within the Rangitikei District Council Procurement and Contract Management Policy to ensure sufficient weight is given to Māori business opportunities from Council investment.

Respond to Māori economic growth aspirations in ways identified by Māori.

### Revitalise our town centres

#### Action

Investigate opportunities for the establishment of grants and incentives to support building owners to maintain and upgrade retail frontages (such as façade improvements).

Review rates remission settings for commercial building owners completing façade improvements, strengthening or redevelopment of buildings.

Lead streetscape upgrade projects in the town centres of Marton, Bulls, and Taihape.

Provide education and resources to building owners that guide the improvement, strengthening or redevelopment of buildings in the town centres.

Invest in ongoing maintenance to ensure Council-owned assets are contributing positively to the town image.

### Housing as an enabler

#### Action

Work with building owners to encourage appropriate (above ground or secondary) residential development in town centres to support mixed use environments.

Monitor residential land supply and demand.

Rezone land as required to ensure a continuous 30 year residential and rural lifestyle land supply.

Review the District Plan approach for papakāinga development.

Review the District Plan approach for infill, retirement, and medium density housing.

Invest in three waters infrastructure to enable projected residential growth.

Work collaboratively with local developers to encourage a variety of housing types, including retirement housing.

ongoing, short, medium, long

Council's role	Timeframe	
Partner	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Service Provider	⌚	Medium term
Partner	▶▶▶	Ongoing

Council's role	Timeframe	
Funder	⌚	Short term
Funder	⌚	Medium term
Facilitator	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Facilitator	⌚	Medium term
Service Provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing

Council's role	Timeframe	
Partner	📅	Long term
Service Provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Service Provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Regulator	⌚	Medium term
Regulator	📅	Long term
Service Provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Partner	▶▶▶	Ongoing



## ***A vibrant district***

### **Support our events**

#### **Action**

Provide direct and indirect support for events that enhance community engagement and visitor attraction.

Encourage events and activations in public spaces – town centres, parks.

Continue to support events through Council's Events Support Scheme, prioritising those that stimulate local business activity and showcase the Rangitikei.

Build the profile of Visit Rangitikei and promote events through:

- Visit Rangitikei web page
- Visit Rangitikei social media platforms.
- Council platforms.

### **Encourage people to stay**

#### **Action**

Work with the tourism sector to develop a trade offering.

Develop a marketing narrative for the Rangitikei and invest in marketing and promotion activities.

Update the Visit Rangitikei website and promote it as the key visitor guide for Rangitikei.

Undertake a visitor accommodation study that identifies shortages and opportunities.

Work alongside mana whenua and the community to tell local stories e.g. interpretation panels along local walkways.

Work with organisations developing cycleways to support and promote the visitor economy

Strengthen information centres as key hubs for promoting local and regional attractions.

Work collaboratively with the North Island Main Trunk Railway Group to promote the reinstatement and development of passenger services on the North Island Main Trunk Line.

### **Become a stop of choice**

#### **Action**

Enhance the entrances to our towns to increase available amenities, align with the unique identity of each Rangitikei town, and improve the sense of arrival.

Improve pedestrian connections and wayfinding within towns to encourage visitors to walk around the town.

Invest in and maintain infrastructure that supports travellers (e.g. seating, toilets, bus stops, signs charging stations, convenient parking, open space, town centres).

ongoing, short, medium, long

Council's role	Timeframe	
Funder	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Partner	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Funder	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Service Provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing

Council's role	Timeframe	
Facilitator	🕒	Short term
Service Provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Service Provider	🕒	Short term
Facilitator	⌚	Medium term
Partner	⌚	Medium term
Partner	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Service provider	▶▶▶	Ongoing
Advocate	⌚	Medium term

Council's role	Timeframe	
Service Provider	⌚	Medium term
Service Provider	⌚	Medium term
Service Provider	📅	Long term









**RANGITIKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**9.5 Update on Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth****Author:** Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth (PPC3).

**2. Context**

- 2.1 Council is currently preparing PPC3. The purpose of this plan change is to provide for urban growth across the district over the next 30 years.
- 2.2 This plan change will focus on the Residential and Rural Lifestyle zones of the District Plan. PPC3 will look at how to better provide for intensification of urban development (where appropriate), amend any provisions in these zones that are not working and/or are not achieving their desired outcomes, and will propose to rezone land to provide for greenfield growth where there is an identified need.

**3. Discussion**

- 3.1 Council has been investigating “growth areas” that may be suitable to propose to rezone. These growth areas were identified in “Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond” Council’s Spatial Strategy and Community Plan, which was adopted by Council in 2023.
- 3.2 Council was initially investigating areas in Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Hunterville, Mangaweka, and Turakina. Mid-2024 Council decided to focus on growth areas for Marton, Bulls, and Mangaweka. Marton and Bulls are the towns where most of our urban growth is occurring e.g. of the 552 residential lots created between January 2019 and December 2023, 530 lots were in either Marton or Bulls. Mangaweka provides an opportunity for new greenfield growth in the northern part of the district.
- 3.3 Urban expansion of the other three towns and settlements can be part of a future plan change. Noting that Taihape and Hunterville still have residentially zoned land which has development potential. Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond assessed Taihape as having enough residential land for the next 13-26 years (depending on demand) and Hunterville for the next 10-20 years.
- 3.4 A range of technical assessments have either been complete for the growth areas or are well underway, including:
  - The assessment of Council’s Three Waters infrastructure to understand capacity for growth (i.e. where upgrades or new infrastructure will be required);
  - Ecological Assessment of the growth areas;
  - Geotechnical Assessment of the growth areas;
  - Integrated Transport Assessment of the growth areas and surrounding environment; and
  - Archaeological Assessments for Bulls and Marton growth areas.

- 3.5 Officers have met with representatives from Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Parewahawaha. Officers have reached out to and would like to meet with Ngāti Hauiti.
- 3.6 Officers have provided Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Parewahawaha with the draft Archaeological Assessment of the Bulls growth areas for them to read and to provide any comments, questions, or highlight any gaps. Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa will be provided with the draft Archaeological Assessment of the Marton growth areas when this is complete in the next few weeks.
- 3.7 Officers will be working with Council's Policy/Planning Committee to confirm which growth areas they would like to pursue to rezone via the plan change.
- 3.8 Officers will also be working on revising the provisions for the Residential and Rural Lifestyle zones over the next month. At this stage these will aim to improve clarity of, and fix known issues with, the provisions rather than more drastically changing the provisions.
- 3.9 Clause 3 and Clause 4A consultation (outlined under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991) will likely take place in July 2025. In accordance with Schedule 1, a draft of the proposed plan change will be provided to iwi authorities including Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Parewahawaha via Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Hauiti and Ngāti Tamakōpiri for their comments. Officers will be available to talk through the draft and work through any issues. Officers seek direction from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on whether there are other iwi authorities that should be consulted with.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications. Council has already allocated and approved budget for PPC3 and Council also received Better Off Funding to support this project.

#### **5. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 5.1 There are strategic risks associated with PPC3, including:
  - Failure to honour the commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
  - Insufficient capability and capacity to fulfil agreed commitments; and
  - Changes to Government legislation are transformational.
- 5.2 Council is committed to honouring the Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Officers are working to ensure that consultation is undertaken with iwi and hapū potentially impacted by the plan change to ensure their interests are captured as the plan change is drafted.
- 5.3 The Strategy Team has limited resource, and Council prioritises how that resource is utilised to ensure that key projects such as PPC3 progress.
- 5.4 Officers are continuing to monitor legislation and work to understand how the changes being proposed and put in place by the Government impact this plan change.

#### **6. Strategic Alignment**

- 6.1 PPC3 aligns with Council's strategic priorities which includes "facilitating growth".

#### **7. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 7.1 As outlined in the discussion above, officers are working with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Parewahawaha, and Ngāti Hauiti to identify and understand the implications of this plan change on them.

**ITEM 9.5****8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 8.1 Climate Change implications have been factored into the relevant technical assessments to ensure that known risks are identified and accounted for when proposing to rezone land.

**9. Statutory Implications**

- 9.1 The plan change will follow the process prescribed under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**10. Decision Making Process**

- 10.1 There are no relevant decision-making processes at this time for PPC3.

**Recommendation**

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



**9.6 Where's the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co @ Rangitikei update****Author:** Janna Harris, Corporate Planner**Authoriser:** Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Komiti with an update on the progress of the Where's the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co @ Rangitikei consultation process.

**2. Context**

- 2.1 Council adopted the document 'Where's the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co @ Rangitikei' at its meeting held on 27 March 2025. This document covered the following topics for consultation:
- Key Topic 1: Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
  - Key Topic 2: Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy
  - Key Topic 3: Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26
  - Key Topic 4: Your View on the Planned Programme of Works for the Annual Plan 2025/26
- 2.2 Key Topic 4 was seeking feedback on the Annual Plan 2025/26, while the other topics were seeking feedback on the simultaneous consultations.
- 2.3 Council consulted on Where's the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co @ Rangitikei from 4 April to 5 May 2025.
- 2.4 Council received 23 submissions, including 1 late submission. Three of the submitters chose to speak to their submission at the oral hearing which Council held on 18 May 2025.
- 2.5 Where's the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co @ Rangitikei deliberations are scheduled for Thursday, 5 June 2025. All submissions, along with the officers analysis of submissions can be viewed on Council's [website](#) and are attached to the Deliberations Order Paper under separate cover.
- 2.6 Submissions on the draft WMMP, Dangerous Affected, and Insanitary Buildings Policy, and Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26 are being deliberated on by Council at its meeting on 5 June, and officers are recommending these for adoption at this meeting. The Annual Plan 2025/26 will be updated following the Deliberations and will go to Council for adoption on 26 June 2025.
- 2.7 A verbal update on the outcome of the 5 June meeting will be provided at this Komiti meeting.

**3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 This report is for information purposes only, there are no financial implications associated with this report.

**ITEM 9.6****4. Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 4.1 This report is for information purposes only, there are no strategic risks associated with this report.

**5. Strategic Alignment**

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes only and is generally consistent with Council's Strategic Framework, notably that Council is a trusted partner with iwi.

**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 6.1 The Komiti are asked to advise if there are any mana whenua implications associated with this report.

**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.

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Where's the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co @ Rangitikei Update' be received.

**9.7 External Consultations Update****Author:** Janna Harris, Corporate Planner**Authoriser:** Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on the opportunities currently available to submit on consultations run by external agencies.

**2. Context**Consultations submitted on

- 2.1 Since the last Te Rōpū Ahi Kā meeting Council has submitted on the following consultations:

- Feedback on the Local Electoral Reform Draft Position Paper,
- Term of Parliament (Enabling 4-year term) Legislation Amendment Bill,
- Proposed National Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards,
- Strengthening New Zealand's Emergency Management Legislation, and
- Counter-objection to the Electoral Commission.

- 2.2 These submissions can be viewed on Council's [website](#).

Consultations proposed for submission

- 2.3 The updated list of current opportunities to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached (Attachment 1). This attachment contains further information, including links to the relevant websites for all current consultations.

- 2.4 Council is currently considering submitting on the following consultations that are open for submission:

- Proposed changes to drinking water acceptable solutions run by Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai, submissions are due 13 June,
- Regulatory Standards Bill run by Parliament Finance and Expenditure Committee, submissions are due 23 June,
- Updating RMA National Direction packages 1-3 run by Ministry for the Environment due 27 July, and
- The Ministry for the Environment has also indicated they will begin consultation on package 4 (Going for Housing Growth) of the Updating RMA National Direction early June.

- 2.5 Package 1 of the RMA National Direction is focused on "Infrastructure and development" with the aim of making it easier for councils to plan and deliver infrastructure. This package contains the following proposals:

- New National Environmental Standards (NES) for Papakāinga,
- New NES for Granny Flats,

**ITEM 9.7**

- New National Policy Statement (NPS) for Infrastructure,
- New NPS for Natural Hazards,
- Amendments to the NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation,
- Amendments to the NPS on Electricity Transmission,
- Amendments to the NES for Electricity Transmission Activities, and
- Amendments to the NES for Telecommunication Facilities.

2.6 Package 2 of the RMA National Direction focuses on the “Primary Sector” with an aim of enabling growth in the primary sector. This package contains the following changes to current NESs, NPSs and Regulations:

- Amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement,
- Amendments to the NPS for Highly Productive Land,
- Amendments to the NES for Commercial Forestry,
- Amendments to the NES for Marine Aquaculture,
- Amendments to the Stock Exclusion Regulations, and
- Amendments to mining and quarrying provisions in various NPS’s and NES’s.

2.7 Package 3 of the RMA National Direction focuses on freshwater. The package contains the following proposals:

- Amending the NPS for Freshwater Management, and
- Amending the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations.

2.8 Further information on these proposals can be found on the Ministry for the Environment’s [website](#).

2.9 Te Rōpū Ahi Kā may wish to provide comment to include in Council’s submissions or choose to submit their own submission on the above consultations.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report, Council submits on external consultations within existing budgets.

### **4. Impact on Strategic Risks**

4.1 Changes to government legislation are transformational:

4.1.1 There is a risk that legislation changes result in significant changes for local government. Council mitigates this risk by keeping track of all potential changes and takes up opportunities to submit on consultations that will affect Council or our community.

### **5. Strategic Alignment**

5.1 Some of the listed topics of consultation have the potential to have an impact on the services Council delivers, which could have an impact on Council’s ability to deliver on our strategic priorities.

**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 6.1 National Direction package 1: infrastructure and development proposes to introduce new National Environmental Standards for Papakāinga. National Direction packages 2 and 3 propose amendments to, or the introduction of, a range of NESs, NPSs and regulations that are of interest to mana whenua (e.g. coastal environment, and marine aquaculture, and freshwater management).
- 6.2 The Komiti are asked to advise of any other mana whenua implications associated with this report.

**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 There are no decision making processes associated with this report as this report is for information purposes only.

**Attachments:**

1. External Consultation Update - June 2025 [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report 'External Consultations Update' be received.

**Current Consultations**

Name of Initiative	Agency Engaging	Due Date	Description	Proposed RDC Action
<b>Currently Open for Submissions</b>				
<a href="#">Proposed Improvements to New Zealand's Graduated Driver Licensing System</a>	Ministry of Transport	9 June	Proposed changes: Remove the full test; Introduce a clean driving record requirement to the restricted licence; Reduce the demerit threshold for novice drivers to have their licence suspended; Introduce a zero-alcohol limit for novice drivers; Improve NZTA's oversight of approved advanced driver courses; Reduce the number of vision tests (but not for drivers 75 years old).	None
<a href="#">Drinking Water Acceptable Solutions</a>	Water Services Regulator - Taumata Arowai	13 June	Changes are proposed to the current Acceptable Solutions compliance options for rural supplies that provide water for farm use (e.g. irrigation, stock) as well as for people to drink, and drinking water supplies that serve 500 people or fewer. For some suppliers, following the requirements of an Acceptable Solution may be a more straightforward and cost-effective way to meet their responsibilities than completing a drinking water safety plan and following the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.	Submit
<a href="#">Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill</a>	Parliament Transport and Infrastructure Committee	13 June	The policy objective is to streamline the land acquisition process under the Public Works Act 1981 for critical infrastructure projects listed in new Schedule 2A of the Bill. These projects are public works listed in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, and Roads of National Significance that are identified in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 and that are not already listed in Schedule 2 of that Act.	None
<a href="#">Education and Training (Vocational Education and Training System) Amendment Bill</a>	Parliament Education and Workforce Committee	18 June	The purpose of this bill is to redesign the vocational education and training system to restore regional decision making and increase industry involvement in education and training. Te Pūkenga will be disestablished.	None



<a href="#">Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Bill</a>	Parliament Transport and Infrastructure Committee	23 June	Would reduce the time and cost of building a granny flat by permitting small stand-alone dwellings up to 70 square metres to be built without a building consent if certain conditions are met.	Tbc
<a href="#">Regulatory Standards Bill</a>	Parliament Finance and Expenditure Committee	23 June	Would reduce the amount of unnecessary and poor-quality regulation by increasing transparency and making it clearer where legislation does not meet standards.	Tbc
<a href="#">Draft guidance on IPP3A</a>	Office of the Privacy Commissioner	25 June	The Privacy Amendment Bill introduces a new Information Privacy Principle 3A (IPP 3A), is currently undergoing its third reading before Parliament. Once passed, IPP 3A is expected to have effect from 1 May 2026. It will require agencies who collect personal information indirectly (i.e from sources other than the individuals concerned) to notify the relevant individuals of certain information, like where agencies collect the information directly from the individuals. The draft Guidance describes what IPP-3A means.	None
<a href="#">Valuers Bill - New Zealand Parliament</a>	Primary Production Select Committee	27 June	Bill modernises the Valuers Act. This is a revision Bill - it modernises language and concepts without making any policy change.	None
<a href="#">Give your feedback on two important plans for nature: Have your say</a>	Department of Conservation	30 June	Two plans are being consulted on: The next implementation plan for New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy and The Predator Free 2050 Strategy.	None

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<a href="#">Proposed changes to the Code of Welfare for Sheep and Beef Cattle</a>	Ministry for Primary Industries	15 July	The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is consulting on proposed changes to how sheep and beef cattle are farmed in New Zealand. Proposed changes to the code include: incorporating dairy sheep into the code, amended behavioural provisions for sheep and beef cattle, and new minimum standards for animals in off-paddock facilities and feedlots. NAWAC is also proposing a regulation to prohibit the use of electro-immobilisation devices.	None
<a href="#">Consultation on updating RMA national direction</a>	Ministry for the Environment	27 July	The Government aims (1) to make it easier for councils to plan and deliver infrastructure by making four new national direction instruments, (2) to enable growth in the primary sector by making changes to eight existing national direction instruments, and (3) to amend freshwater national direction to better reflect the interests of all water users, and on whether changes should be implemented under the existing RMA or under new resource management legislation. Webinars are offered.	Submit
<b>Upcoming consultations</b>				
<a href="#">Consultation on updating RMA national direction</a>	Ministry for the Environment and Ministry for Housing and Urban Development	Expected early June	Package 4: Going for Housing Growth The Government is seeking feedback on how the proposals in the first pillar of the Going for Housing Growth programme could fit into the new resource management system. Pillar 1 aims to free up land for development and remove unnecessary planning barriers.	Tbc

**9.8 Mayor's Report - May 2025****Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

Good afternoon

**LOCAL WATER DONE WELL**

There have been so many meetings since the last report to Council, most of which have been in regard to Local Water Done Well (LWDW) concerning how council delivers drinking water, waste water and stormwater. In previous reports council elected to form a regional CCO with Whanganui and Ruapehu councils and ourselves. Council, at its LWDW Deliberations Meeting held on 22 May 2025 decided as a preference to form a regional wider CCO with Palmerston North, Horowhenua and ourselves leaving the option for Whanganui and Ruapehu to join with us. Points I raised prior to that decision being made are as follows –

1. Government wants councils to form regional CCO partnerships to gain efficiencies and to lower future rate rises. They are insistent that these relationships are in place by September (i.e. made before Local Government elections in October).
2. Internal Affairs (Government) claim the efficiency gains for all councils will lie between 10 and 30% and that no council will be worse off in terms of rates by joining a CCO.
3. Councils will retain ownership by way of shareholding in the new entities after passing to the entity the assets and receiving back a credit for the loans against that asset.
4. Some councils in New Zealand will look to go alone and not form regional entities. If they do, then water services must by law be ring-fenced into separate council entities and face a high level of scrutiny and legislation. Government reserves the right to assign councils to other groups if they feel that is needed.
5. Regional entities will benefit by receiving long term loan funding at the best national rates available. This alone also serves to drive lower rates for councils in the short term.

**ALL OF GOVERNMENT MEETING – WELLINGTON – 1 MAY**

What I will try and do is list the pertinent points against each speaker.

- A. Welcome and background – President Sam Broughton, Selwyn District Mayor
  - The weather was horrific with many flights to Wellington cancelled and extensive flooding in his district of Selwyn, so attendance was a challenge.
  - MC was Ceinwen McNeil, Director from Aurecon.
  - Campbell Barry, Vice-Chair LGNZ did some of the introductions.
- B. Susan Freeman-Greene, CE LGNZ
  - She has announced her resignation so LGNZ will be looking for a new Chief Executive.
  - Her session was about addressing abuse and harassment, particularly in Local Government.
  - Maori and women disproportionately attacked by social media and suffer verbal abuse.
  - LGNZ have released a new guide/toolkit on how to say safe entitled “Free to Lead”.

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- Councils need to ensure that they meet their own health and safety obligations for staff and councillors.
  - Session was supported by Nicola Grigg, Minister for Women.
- C. Fiscal Policy & Infrastructure Financing – Dominick Stephens, Deputy Secretary and Chief Economic Advisor for Treasury
- He talked about the difference between shocks and cycles and their effects on the economy.
  - Shocks are things such as droughts/floods, covid etc.
  - He noted that some of those shocks come from overseas actions, e.g. war in Ukraine – these are different to natural cycles.
  - Net core debt in New Zealand is rapidly rising. Government's response in the past in times of shocks is to spend more to buffer these effects.
  - Net core debt as a percentage of GDP in 1972 sat at 5% - it is now likely heading in the future to 40%?
  - Government needs to be aware that investment by Government (Fiscal Policy) is to smooth shocks and is inflationary by nature.
  - Note - expanding the school lunch programme came out of a Government Fiscal covid response.
  - This was an interesting presentation and 15 minutes was not enough time for the audience to understand and assimilate.
  - When Government uses fiscal support, Government therefore must run surpluses in the good times. We note that this has not been happening.
  - Building resilience in the private/public sector, i.e. councils, is incredibly important.
  - Fiscal policy has a role when monetary policy is not coping.
- D. Infrastructure for Growth – Peter Nunns, GM Infrastructure Commission
- Interesting quote in Q&A – *“every \$1 dollar spend in capex results in a 33c increase in opex spend”*.
  - The above will be an issue for our council with the new builds for earthquake prone buildings. There will be an increase budgets particularly because of the cost of depreciation funding.
  - There were a series of slides illustrating comparisons between New Zealand and other OECD countries. The message here was we are slipping behind and will need a reset.
  - Again, this presentation should have been longer. The first safety presentation by Susan Freeman-Greene of over an hour was too long.
- E. Sam Stubbs – Managing Director, Simplicity
- This was on unpacking financing of infrastructure – the long term solution.
  - There has been a tidal wave of investment dollars in New Zealand. The sequence of overseas investment was –
    - English money
    - American money – think of the period around the war
    - Lately Japanese money
  - Kiwi Saver \$\$ investments continue to grow. You assume that this Kiwi Saver money will be continued to be invested in New Zealand.
  - Kiwi Saver will in the future have \$250 billion to invest – this will solve our investment needs.

- Message here is that the next 25 years for New Zealand will be prosperous??
  - Aussie started this process earlier – they have 5 times our population but 50 times the investment in savings per capita.
- F. Anthony Walker – Standard & Poors
- This discussion was what is behind our credit rating downgrades.
- G. LGNZ Update – Sam Broughton (Chair) / Susan Freeman-Green (CE)
- The appointment of a replacement for Susan has been commenced but that appointment will be finalised by the new National Council after Local Government elections.
  - Scott Necklen will be the Acting CE to fill the gap.
  - Rates cappings – Government has been clear it wants to see control of rate increases but National Council wants to hold firm on no rates caps.
- H. Minister's Address – Hon. Chris Penk
- To speed up the economy there are changes coming to simplify the Building Acts and Public Works Acts.
  - We think too often council is left as the last man standing regarding consents (e.g. leaky homes). Therefore councils become risk adverse whereas Government wants to rebalance that liability. What the Minister is referring to is where builders can opt to go out of business to avoid a liability for leaky homes etc and then start again under a new registration business. This is good news for the sector!
  - Minister hopes to see an aggregation of councils re building authorities, potentially another new CCOs set up like LWDW? At this stage he is wanting a voluntary aggregation.
  - The BCA authority not now needed to a single residential unit where infrastructure is available by an accredited builder. In these cases council would have no liability.
  - Building companies with a qualified track record could self-certify.
- I. There were two case studies revealed of which the second one was the most interesting. This is where sports facilities done well have resulted in community growth.
- J. Te Ahu a Turanga – new road replacing the Manawatu Gorge, lessons learned –
- This told the success of working early with Iwi. James Kendrick, Nga Tuhoe, spoke passionately and well.
  - Iwi engagement on this project had a budget of \$10m – only needed less than \$4m because engagement was early and genuine.
- K. Minister's Address – Simon Watts
- Q&A session only – points raised –
    - i) I am impressed with collaboration, LWDW, in the North Island.
    - ii) We will allow councils, LWDW, to go alone unless they are deemed not to be financially sustainable.
    - iii) "I (Minister) am leading a policy approach to rates capping design". There are different designs to this in other countries.
    - iv) We need to address the inflationary process on rates rises – they are too high.
    - v) But rates capping should not restrain growth – there is a way through that.



- vi) In response to a question regarding funding of tourism in places such as Queenstown – “I want tourism to drive economic growth and one size doesn’t fit all, I will work with Local Authorities”.

*Mayor’s Comments –*

- *Government wants Back to Basics principles from councils*
  - *Government wants Local Government to deal with unemployment via the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme*
  - *Government wants councils to deal with educational truancy. The question is how does this align with a Back to Basics principle?*
- The Minister also accepted that Central Government does drive costs for Local Government and again the response is “a need for dialogue and one size doesn’t fit all”.
  - The Minister then spoke about Regional Deals –
    - i) These deals will provide for certainty of funding for large capex programmes.
    - ii) The first Regional Deal will be signed off before Christmas.
    - iii) “There is a cost in doing nothing and a cost in delay of projects”.
    - iv) City Regional Deal will bring partnerships between Local Government and Central Government.
  - “There is no Government talk on amalgamation but we will support councils who want to consider it”.

#### **TE RUNANGA O NGATI HINEMANU ME NGATI PAKI OPENING OF FRESH WATER SCIENCE LAB**

On 17 May I attended the opening of the Fresh Water Science Lab at Winiata Marae. This is the first Iwi lead water testing lab in the country and I congratulate them for it. They have gone through a process of teaching their rangatahi how to collect water samples, how to prepare them and test them in the lab. Again this is impressive. This process has been supported and backed by Auckland University in association with Downer NZ.

#### **HUNTERVILLE POLICING**

Recently the local police and Area Commander Neil Forlong advised me that with the local officer in Hunterville transferring there would be a review undertaken as to how policing would be serviced in Hunterville. No decisions have been made at this point. When a decision is made by the Regional Commander there will be further consultation. I then advised the Hunterville Community Committee and suggested a public meeting. The meeting on 21 May was attended by Neil Forlong and Sgt David Fraser, our MP Suze Redmayne, myself, Carol Gordon our Chief Executive, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson and about 40 residents. Total support from the community was for a local police manning and presence. This was a genuine discussion covering roles and who the funders are – in this case NZTA Highway Control are a principal funder. We will now wait for the next steps.

#### **MARTON POOL**

As everybody is aware the Marton swimming pool suffered serious damage with one of the main leading trusses dropping by nearly a metre. The pool has been closed while council undertakes a review. Some of the salient points are –

- a) There has been an exhaustive look at the total future of the pool as to what is required to make it safe, comply with regulations and be fit for the next 40-50 years. The consultants that we had doing this work, Create, have expertise in this field and have produced a lengthy report giving a variety of options, ranging from a quick fix repair to the beams at a cost of under \$1m to a total refit of the building dealing with virtually all the issues and a possible

reconfiguration of the 50m pool to a 25m pool with other hydro therapy/learn to swim options etc.

- b) Fortunately a community member has approached council and offered to substantially fund the repair of the roof. This comes at a cost of in excess of \$2m and we as a community and council are deeply appreciative of the gesture made. If the replacement of the roof and strengthening of the walls proceeds to tender, the funder has agreed, in view of transparency, to make their details known. Council is looking to tender the strengthening of the walls, the total replacement of the roof including a new clear-lite type product to let in light and help with heating. This is Stage 1.
- c) As part of that work there will need to be a number of building issues looked at to comply with existing regulations and council will consider how that can be internally financed.
- d) We will also actively look for other external funders and agencies such as Lotteries. If there are other businesses that would consider supporting us please get in contact with me.
- e) I was always hopeful that we would have this project underway this coming summer. That is my aim but many people tell me that timeframe is unlikely. As we know more we will talk to the community.

### HEALTH SERVICES

The provision of health services in our district needs review. In the northern part of the district I commend Mokai Patea Services for the work they have done with Taihape Health to look at providing those services. Recently I sent a letter to the Minister asking for clarification on why the transfer of facilities from Te Whatu Ora to Mokai Patea Services has been delayed and requested a meeting. The Minister is Simeon Brown now and he has recently written to me agreeing to a meeting in Parliament on 4 June. This is a huge step forward. I will update a more detailed report and give Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa the opportunity to speak further on this as part of my Mayor's Report. She is the expert and I applaud her dedication to this project.

## Mayor's Engagements

May 2025

1	Attended LGNZ All of Government meeting in Wellington Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs meeting
2	Attended the second TUIA Powhiri and Wananga at Taheke Marae Rotorua
4	Attended the Annual Plan Community meeting at Scotts Ferry
5	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group meeting
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up Attended annual Audit NZ meeting Attended Tripartite Monthly Mayoral online meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
7	Attended interview with Breeze Radio Station on Bulls Township Attended meeting with Chief Executive

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	<p>Attended monthly Governors Q&amp;A session with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended Youth Award Nomination Assessments meeting</p> <p>Attended quarterly NZTA Regional Relationship meeting</p>
8	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Marton Office &amp; Library fortnightly governance meeting</p> <p>Attended LWDW Elected Members Hui in Palmerston North</p> <p>Attended Business After 5 function in Marton</p>
9	<p>Attended Accelerate35 Lead Team Meeting in Palmerston North</p> <p>Attended online Mayoral Meeting</p> <p>Attended Meet &amp; Greet with Rangitikei College Principal Penny Keet</p> <p>Attended Mayors &amp; CE's Online LWDW meeting</p>
10	<p>Attended working bee at Marton Historical Society</p>
12	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Arohanui Hospice team</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Transport Forum online meeting</p>
13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Andy Justice – Kiwiburn 2025 Debrief</p> <p>Attended LWDW online meeting with DIA</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
14	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Bulls Community Committee meeting</p>
15	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Annual Plan Hearing meeting</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended SLUI Advisory Group meeting in Palmerston North</p>
16	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended LWDW Workshop in Palmerston North</p>
17	<p>Attended Te Runanga O Ngati Hinemanu Me Ngati Paki Opening of Fresh Water Science Lab at Winiata Marae Taihape</p>
18	<p>Attended Marton Car Show</p> <p>Attended Marton Historical Society day across the district museums</p>
19	<p>Attended breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended relationship meeting with Horizons governors and RDC elected members</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs' Matters fortnightly catch-up</p> <p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs F26 online update</p> <p>Attended meeting with Sport Whanganui representatives about rangatahi sport in district</p>

	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
21	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended public meeting in Hunterville re Hunterville Policing
22	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Marton Office & Library fortnightly governance meeting Attended Assets & Infrastructure meeting Attended LWDW Deliberations meeting Attended LWDW Mayoral Steering Group online meeting
23	Attended staff Pink Ribbon High Tea
26	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
27	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended site visit at Taihape Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
28	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Creative Communities Scheme meeting
29	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Council Meeting
30	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend new staff Whanaungatanga To attend fortnightly Economic Development meeting with staff To attend LWDW Mayoral Steering Group meeting

**Attachments:****1. Elected Member Attendance - May** [↓](#)**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – May 2025 be accepted.

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
27-Mar-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
3-Apr-25	Turakina CC	CB		PR										
7-Apr-25	Hunterville RWS	PR			PR			PR						
8-Apr-25	TRAK	PR					PR					PR	AT	
9-Apr-25	Taihapa CB	CB				AP							PR	
9-Apr-25	Marton CC	PR	PR							PR				
9-Apr-25	Santoft Domain	CB		PR										
10-Apr-25	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP		AP	PR	AP	PR		PR	
10-Apr-25	Policy/Planning	PR	PR			AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR		PR	
14-Apr-25	Hunterville CC	PR			PR			PR						
15-Apr-25	Community Grants	PR		PR	PR	PR			PR		PR		PR	
15-Apr-25	Sport Travel Fund	PR	PR							AP				
16-Apr-25	Council Hearing	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	
30-Apr-25	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	AP	PR						PR		PR	
30-Apr-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
14-May-25	Bulls CC													Minutes not completed
15-May-25	Council Hearing	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	
22-May-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
22-May-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	

Present (and is a member of the committee)	PR
Apology	AP
Absent - no apology received	AB
Not a member of the committee	
Not a member of the committee (but still attended)	AT
Not present as on Council business	CB
Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used]	ZM



**9.9 Project Updates Report - May 2025****Author:** Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive**Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council staff.

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

- 2.2 Responding to the contents of the Taumata Arowai Discharge Standards, the project team has refined the shortlisted options as follows –

- Option 1 - 100% Discharge to land- treatment plant at the RDC-owned site.
- Option 2 - Combined discharge to land and river – treatment plant at Bulls.
- Option 3 - Combined discharge to land and river – treatment plants at Marton and Bulls.
- Option 4 - 100% Discharge to river – standards as per the draft Wastewater Discharge standards (moderate dilution environment).
- Option 5 - 100% Discharge to river – discharge requirements as per the Horizon One Plan (i.e. the treatment assumptions in the long list options report).

Variants on Options 1 and 4 involving storm water inflow and infiltration reduction works, and reduced plant design flows are also being investigated.

- 2.3 A Design Report on each of these Options is anticipated to be supplied before the end of May 2025.
- 2.4 Costing of these options are anticipated to be completed by early June.
- 2.5 The team will be ready to identify a preferred option by the end of June. However, it has been decided that the identification of the preferred option will not be carried out until the Wastewater Discharge Standards are finalised. Taumata Arowai advised that this is anticipated for early August.
- 2.6 It is proposed that a preferred option will be identified immediately after this and that the preferred option will be presented to the last current Council meeting in late August for ratification.
- 2.7 Taumata Arowai have also advised on 13 May that RDC may fall within the Interim provisions of Standards re operating on expired consents and that Horizons' insistence

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of consent lodgement before June 30, 2026, may not be valid. We are currently seeking clarification from Taumata Arowai on this point before advising Horizons.

- 2.8 Review of the Discharge Standards indicates waterway discharges will require a far lower treatment standard than the current Horizons One Plan requirements and hence significantly lower capital cost involved in such a discharge arrangement. This was a component of the presentation by Steve Carne to the Assets and Infrastructure Committee meeting on 10 April.
- 2.9 Prioritised investigative works carried out by the team thus far have concluded that the RDC purchased land will not be able to dispose of more than 65% of current design flows. A land disposal solution will require more land, adding significantly to its costs. The associated costs may make this option unfeasible. This is currently being assessed by the project team.
- 2.10 Autosamplers are currently being installed to provide better definition on possible trade waste flow components of the flows entering the Marton and Bulls treatment plants.
- 2.11 Dialogue with ANZCO Bulls is ongoing to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of incorporating their discharge into the Bulls plant inlet. ANZCO Bulls would become a trade waste customer of RDC under this scenario. Iwi have indicated that a single discharge at this point would be viewed more favourably by them as part of the consenting process. Discussions will evolve further once the additional components of capex and Opex due to the ANZCO Bulls flow are determined.
- 2.12 Value engineering inputs on the shortlisted options have considered demand management scenarios involving inflow/infiltration reduction and reduction of water consumption.
- 2.13 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 – Steve Carne)

- 3.1 The project is in a holding pattern awaiting approval to proceed with track pricing and hard stand construction, needed to enable the pipe materials to be delivered. Work on designing the large dam that will store the treated wastewater, up to Building Consent status, continues with WSP and external experts.
- 3.2 A pre-hearing meeting with all three submitters to the new Ratana consent was held at Horizons Regional Council. A full hearing date has not been set yet.
- 3.3 Due to relative high salinity of treated wastewater in the Ratana oxidation ponds, (caused by the softening process at the water treatment plant), it is likely that land irrigation of Ratana effluent as proposed could be problematic.
- 3.4 Investigation of the engineering feasibility of an alternative arrangement involving long distance pumping of Ratana effluent to the new Whanganui District Council/ Kaitoke Prison wastewater connection is almost complete.
- 3.5 The estimated cost of this alternative solution is \$4.6M which is approximately 60% of the estimate of the previously adopted solution.
- 3.6 WDC officers have agreed verbally in principle to such an arrangement. This alternative relies on either a trade waste agreement with Whanganui DC (if RDC and WDC are

separate entities) or simply an inter-network connection if RDC and WDC were to form a combined Council Controlled Organisation (CCO).

- 3.7 Reticulating Koitiata and transferring these flows to Ratana is also being considered as an addition to this alternative. The initial estimated cost of this using low-pressure sewer technology to service Koitiata is \$4.8M. This cost is currently being refined.

## **Water Projects**

### **Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 4.1 A design consultancy with WSP has almost completed design of the inlet work. This is inclusive of a permanent pump for the new Reservoir Bore and some new inlet pipework.
- 4.2 A draft contract and warranty condition was tabled to main treatment plant contractor GFS on 18 March. The finalised warranty condition will be presented to Council for consideration.
- 4.3 Queries and clarifications submitted by Council officers and agents are providing further detail on GFS' offer. Responses to some of these clarifications and queries were obtained and others are yet to be addressed by GFS.
- 4.4 Detailed contract negotiations continue.
- 4.5 Details of the waste stream from the proposed plant are yet to be evolved and finalised.
- 4.6 Relocation of the pilot plant to the Reservoir Bore site will be finalised after completion of the contract negotiations.
- 4.7 Extended full capacity testing of the 10-year-old Tutaenui Bore has been completed and indicating that sustainable yield (stable water levels without on-going unacceptable drawdown) of this bore is of the order of 3-3.1ML/day.
- 4.8 Staff are working towards a communication strategy to keep the Marton community up to date with progress.

## **Community Facilities**

### **Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 5.1 Council authorised staff to proceed with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as a separate project independent of the Marton Offices and Community Hub.
- 5.2 Team Architects have now been engaged to provide Design Consultancy services for the EOC project.
- 5.3 Initial Urban Design review report was presented to RDC and was reviewed internally. Staff identified a combination of scenarios 1A and 3 to be ideal.
- 5.4 Staff have been working with the Ruapehu EOC building footprint as the base for the EOC build while modifying the internal layout to suit RDC's purposes better.
- 5.5 Soil contamination and Geotechnical survey contracts have been signed and the work will begin in June.

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- 5.6 Staff have been liaising with Maycroft on the contract details with a second meeting scheduled for 13 May 2025.

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

- 6.1 A second meeting with the user group was held on 2 April 2025 in Taihape. Staff presented work completed to date including a list of project documents developed during the process.
- 6.2 Staff presented the indicative floor plans that were developed and was used as a basis for initiating a discussion around what the community wants to achieve with the redevelopment works.
- 6.3 Council resolved that the remaining available funding of approximately \$700,000 shall only be utilised towards seismic strengthening works. This means, any design services required for the community's initiatives will need to be funded by the community.
- 6.4 The majority of parties that attended the second meeting would prefer that any renovation underneath the grandstand be done at the same time as seismic strengthening. It is unclear at this stage if this will be achievable.
- 6.5 Council would have to decide whether to put the seismic strengthening works on hold until such time that the community are ready to move ahead with their proposed initiatives.
- 6.6 If Council choose to proceed with undertaking the seismic strengthening works as a separate activity, the community will no longer be able to use the interior of the building as they currently do.
- 6.7 A further user group meeting that was scheduled for 7 May was cancelled due to a number of apologies from the user group members, staff will work on an alternative date.

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

- 7.1 During the council meeting in March 2025, staff presented two concept options for the redevelopment works. Council approved to proceed with the option of retaining the front two storey structure and to demolish and rebuild the hall, stage, supper room and toilets.
- 7.2 A meeting was held with the User Group on 10 April 2025 where Maycroft presented the proposed modifications.
- 7.3 Maycroft will consider all these requirements and assess the impact on the final costs.
- 7.4 Staff highlighted that all design proposals that were not included in the original project scope will have to be presented to Council for approval to be included in the design.
- 7.5 Staff expect the preliminary plans to be presented to RDC by the end of May 2025.

**Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation (Project Manager – Arno Benadie / Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 8.1 During the April 2025 Council meeting a report was presented to Council that provided a more detailed analysis of the options available for the Marton Swim Centre. This report aimed at providing more detailed information to facilitate Council's decision making for how to address the structural issue with the Marton Swim Centre.

- 8.2 Council agreed to proceed with investing in the repair of the Marton Swim Centre and to upgrade the existing facility to modern standards. Council selected the Base Recommendation option as their preferred option.
- 8.3 This option proposes that the swim centre main pool hall is strengthened and includes a range of repairs and some replacement of end of life or out of date assets. This option excludes any upgrades to the changing rooms and reception area.
- 8.4 The items identified in this option will be phased to align with available funding. The first items to be actioned will be the replacement of the roof and the earthquake strengthening of the main pool hall.
- 8.5 The remainder of the upgrades will be included in future years depending on available funding.
- 8.6 The scope of work to be included in this first phase of repairs and upgrades are being finalised. Once this has been completed the design of the items included in the scope will start.
- 8.7 The construction of the phase 1 repairs and upgrades are expected to be completed by June 2026.

#### **Miscellaneous**

##### **Scotts Ferry**

- 9.1 Council staff are working on finalising the Memorandum of Understanding (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 A draft has been created and is currently being reviewed. The finalised draft will then be presented to the Scotts Ferry group for consideration.

#### **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

#### **Impact on Strategic Risks**

- 11.1 No impacts on strategic risks

#### **Strategic Alignment**

- 12.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

#### **Mana Whenua Implications**

- 13.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

#### **Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 14.1 There is no climate change impact.

#### **Statutory Implications**

- 15.1 There are no statutory implications.

ITEM 9.9

**Attachments:**

1. **Marton Offices Urban Design Report** [↓](#)

**Recommendation 1**

That the report 'Project Updates Report – April 2025' be received.



## **NZS3916 Contract approach**

### **Separable Portion 1 = Design & Cost Plan – Fixed Fee of \$1,423,155**

**3 June 2025 – 20 August 2026**

#### **Stage 1: Project Setup, Design & Build Parameter Setting, Geotech/Soil/Asbestos Review**

**Aim:** To ensure the design team are clear on the boundaries they are working within and to resolve the biggest risk (at this stage) to the budget.

**Maycroft Outputs:** Final Design QMP, Staging Plan, Consenting Plan, Communications Plan, Project Risk Register, Baseline Programme v1, Updated Budget

**Rangitikei District Council Outputs:** Agreed Design Parameters (including floor area reconciliation), Geotech & Soil Contamination Reports, Confirm HRC involvement, Confirm EOC details.

**Review and Approvals:** Design Brief, Baseline Programme v1 & Updated Budget

#### **Stage 2: Concept Design**

**Aim:** To provide 1 concept design (including rough floor plans, elevations, site plans and illustrative sketches/3D views) in a manner that allows for stakeholder engagement and modular decision making on the final scope of the building, prior to moving to preliminary/developed design.

**Maycroft Outputs:** Concept Design, Draft Construction Methodology, Updated Budget

**Rangitikei District Council Outputs:** None

**Review and Approvals:** Concept Design & Updated Budget

#### **Stage 3: Preliminary Design**

**Aim:** To expand and develop further detail around the Concept Design and start to finalize spatial definition (consider the use of an RDC nominated interior designer/furniture supplier to support), solutions and test alternative options regarding structural approach, cladding types, roof forms and significant building services. Commence preliminary engagement with the supply chain to confirm market availability and cost. Commence resource consenting.

**Maycroft Outputs:** Preliminary Design, Resource Consent Applications (Change of use – if needed)

**Rangitikei District Council Outputs:** Confirmation of EOC building interface requirements with MOCH (if any) and EOC delivery programme.

**Review and Approvals:** Preliminary Design & Updated Budget

#### **Stage 4: Developed Design & Final Estimate**

**Aim:** To ensure that all design decisions (from all consultants including structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing & drainage, fire and landscaping) are finalised and incorporated (including materials and finishes), allowing for a clear understanding of how

the construction will be managed, a reasonably accurate estimate of the final cost and an understanding of the potential subcontractors that could be involved (we'd recommend a meet the buyer style event in this stage, to try and support the inclusion of local suppliers). Confirmation that the design meets all the required codes, regulations and commence building consenting.

**Maycroft Outputs:** Developed Design, Final Construction Methodology CMP, Draft Construction QMP, Draft Environmental Management Plan, Subcontractor Shortlist, Baseline Programme v2, Final Estimate (including fixed P&G), Resource Consent Applications (NES / Earthworks)

**Rangitikei District Council Outputs:** None

**Review and Approvals:** Developed Design, Subcontractor Shortlist and Final Estimate

### **Stage 5: Detailed Design & Final Price**

**Aim:** To ensure the construction team have all the information they need to commence the build and that consents can be issued.

**Maycroft Outputs:** Detailed Design Documentation (including specifications), Producer Statements, Final Construction QMP, Approved Consents, Final Programme v3, Fixed Lump Sum Price

**Rangitikei District Council Outputs:** Instruction to proceed with construction (Separable Portion 2)

**Review and Approvals:** Detailed Design, Fixed Lump Sum Price

### **Separable Portion 2 = Construction & Handover – Provisional Sum of \$13,576,845**

#### **20 August 2026 – 23 December 2027**

Stage 6: Site Establishment & Procurement

Stage 7: Demo & Groundworks

Stage 8: Main Construction

Stage 9: Practical Completion & Handover

Stage 10: Defects Liability & Final Completion

Stage 11: Warranty/Guarantee Period

#### **Exclusions:**

- Works associated with the EOC.
- Contaminated ground
- Removal of underground tanks
- Changes in levels within building or site retaining walls
- Loose FF&E, AV equipment and Security & CCTV
- Contract bond
- Insurances
- New Transformer
- Development Levies

46-59 High Street, Marton

**Rangitikei District Council Marton Offices, Community Hub & EOC**

# Design Brief

19 May 2025



**Site location**

## Site analysis

The 5,640m<sup>2</sup> site fronts High Street between William Street and Grey Street. Although part of the General Residential Zone, the site has hosted council offices since 1876 and presents as the western extremity of Marton's town centre.

With a sequence of free-standing heritage buildings, High Street can be seen as a 'civic axis', which complements the continuous facades and commercial character of nearby Broadway.

The old Courthouse, Women's Restroom (now Plunket) and Library have landscaped forecourts that give a leafy appearance to High Street's southern frontage. Intermittent vegetation merges with the front gardens of residential properties, which provide a consistent edge condition west of Stewart Street.

In contrast, High Street's northern frontage is almost devoid of planting. Properties are only partially built-up, but forecourts are paved for vehicular use. Within this relatively open fabric, spatial definition relies on one and two-storey structures that occupy the street edge and are seen in-the-round. The present Rangitikei District Council offices continue this pattern one block further to the west.

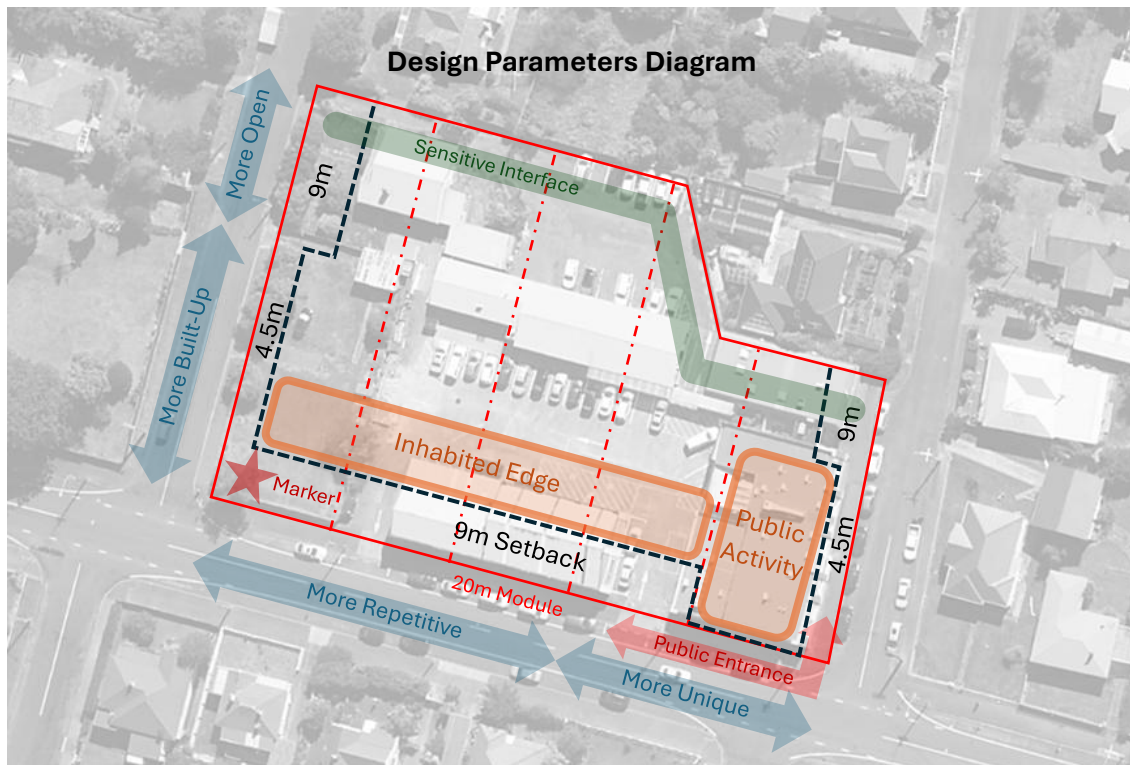
In this context, the three houses at 40-44 High Street appear anomalous, and the subject site provides the real interface between 'civic' and residential character. To some extent, this relationship is mediated by the exceptional size of 64 High Street. Comprising at least three standard residential lots, this property introduces a heavily planted 50m wide open space on the western side of Grey Street. Conversely, the juxtaposition across High Street is unmediated by landscape. Street trees are absent, and the EOC and RDC offices confront a row of dwellings with mostly open frontages.

The site's other sensitive residential interface occurs at shared mid-block boundaries with 53 Grey Street and 10 William Street. Both properties are exposed to development at the rear of the RDC land.

On the southern side of High Street, the width of residential lots varies from 12m to 40m. However, recurring 16m and 20m wide lots bring a noticeable rhythm to the streetscape. Front setbacks are relatively uniform. If outliers at numbers 57 and 61 are excluded, houses are typically located 9-10m from the street edge. Frontages are fenced and planted. However, landscape treatments differ markedly. Some properties are open to the street while others are almost fully concealed by vegetation.

Dwellings are predominantly single-storey, although 45 High Street is a prominent exception to this pattern. Most street elevations are composed of a primary form and a projecting secondary volume with relatively consistent measurements. When added to common lot sizes, these building dimensions allow a typical High Street property to be described. Notionally, a parcel measures 20m by 33m and includes a dwelling with 5m and 10m modules.

The Design Parameters Diagram summarises relevant dimensions and relationship (see below).



## Design principles

1. Organise buildings and open spaces in an orthogonal composition that aligns with High Street and encompasses the entire site.

### Rationale:

- Site and context are already strongly gridded.
- Consistent alignments aid efficiency and promote visual unity.
- Landscaped forecourts are an integral part of High Street's heritage sites.
- Buildings and open spaces interact in mutually supportive ways.

2. Create a strong architectural statement by building on (or near) the street edge at the corner of High Street and William Street.

### Rationale:

- Council offices have occupied this corner site since 1876.
- A built-up corner continues a pattern on the northern side of High Street.
- A prominent corner volume helps to create a public threshold to the site.
- Corner features can include cultural elements associated with local iwi.

3. Elsewhere, set buildings back behind landscaped frontages that relate to the forecourts of heritage buildings and the front gardens of residential properties.

### Rationale:

- A landscaped setback mediates between 'civic' and residential characters.
- Perimeter planting helps to mitigate the visual impact of new buildings.
- A strong 'buildings-in-grounds' tradition exists for civic campuses.
- A cultural marker can occupy the corner of Grey Street and High Street.

4. Ensure that the complex's main public entrance directly addresses High Street. Locate this entrance at or near the William Street corner.

*Rationale:*

- *High Street is Marton's 'civic axis' and principal route of approach.*
- *The corner of High Street and William Street is an obvious point of arrival.*
- *An area can be incorporated into the landscaped setback on High Street.*
- *The residential character of Grey Street and William Street should be respected.*

5. Locate intensively occupied spaces and publicly relevant activities along High Street ensuring that active building edges turn the corner into Grey Street and William Street.

*Rationale:*

- *Important internal spaces should be recognisable on the exterior.*
- *Internal activity provides a reliable source of visual interest.*
- *Visitors and passersby feel safer when there are 'eyes on the street'.*
- *Buildings are seen 'in-the-round' because the site has frontages on three sides.*

6. Ensure that site plan, building massing and facade articulation acknowledge the recurring dimensions found within nearby residential fabric.

*Rationale:*

- *Existing residential fabric has modules measuring 5m, 10m and 20m (approx.).*
- *Combining small, medium and large units provides visual interest.*
- *Different sized modules help to produce sympathetic scale.*
- *Composite massing can express distinct components of accommodation.*

7. Ensure that some plan-based modules and units of surface articulation are echoed in the building's roof forms or profile.

*Rationale:*

- *Long unbroken horizontal lines are uncharacteristic of Marton streetscape.*
- *Hip and gable roofs help to articulate existing residential fabric.*
- *A building's profile is often its most memorable feature.*
- *Congruence between plan, section and elevation increases unity.*

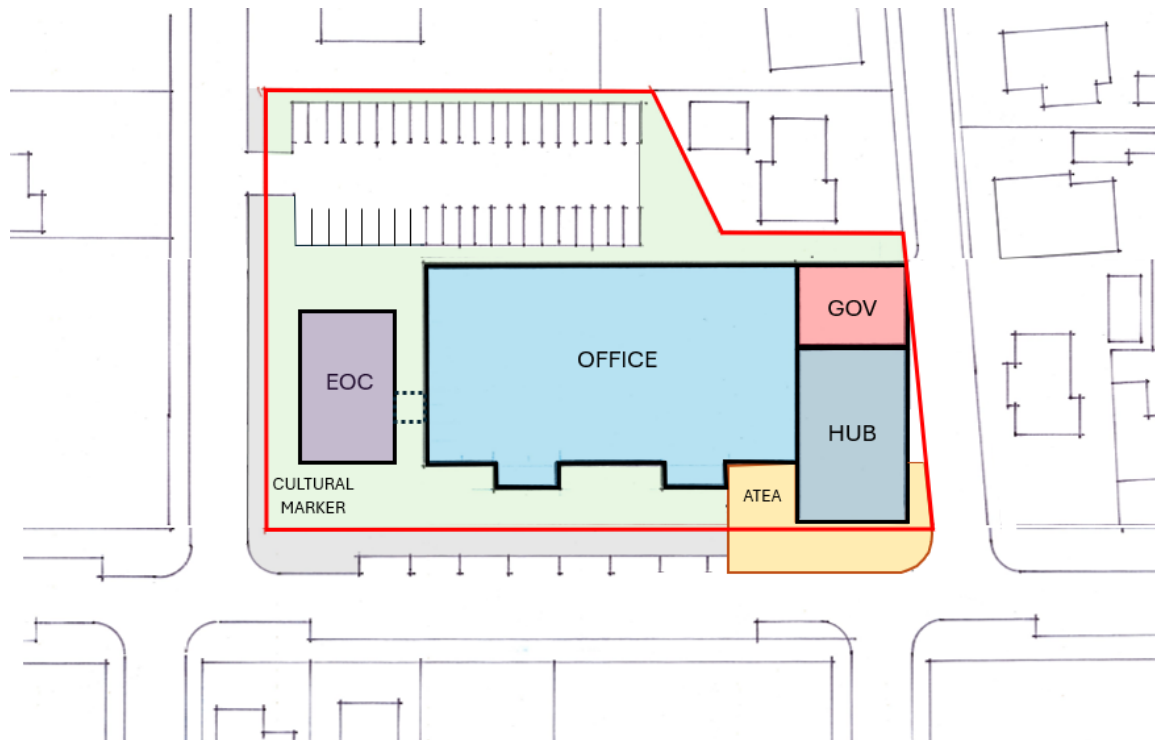
8. Use site planning, landscape and – if necessary – building massing to achieve a sympathetic relationship with residential properties on the site's northern boundary.

*Rationale:*

- *Grey Street and William Street each have a cohesive residential character.*
- *The site's relationship with its northern neighbours is not mediated by a street.*
- *During summer evenings, sun access is important for neighbouring properties.*
- *If most buildings address High Street, the north of site can be relatively open.*



## Development scenario



### *Benefits*

1. Eventful High Street frontage.
2. Strongly defined public entrance.
3. Prominent corner location for Hub.
4. Synergy between Governance and Hub.
5. Compact footprint / efficient circulation.
6. Open space at residential interface.

### *Challenges*

1. Exposed location for utilitarian EOC.
2. Building adjacent to William St housing.
3. Single identity for Governance / Hub.
4. Reduced setbacks on High St and William St.
5. Unbroken expanse of parking at rear.
6. Vehicle movement adjacent to housing.

## Summary and conclusion

- 46-59 High St can accommodate RDC's MOCH / EOC campus.
- The site occupies a transitional location between the town centre and residential streets.
- The design needs to balance efficient land use, on-site amenity and off-site impacts.
- It is important to design buildings and open spaces together.
- EOC and associated landscape must respond to prominent corner location.

## **10 Meeting Closed.**