

# ORDER PAPER

## TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 7 October 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, 7 October 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 12 August 2025** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 12 August 2025**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 12 August 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, 12 August 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)  
Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangi) (Zoom)  
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
Cr Gill Duncan  
HWTM Andy Watson

**Manuhiri:** Cr Simon Loudon  
Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive  
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community & Democracy  
Ms Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager  
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua & Community Hubs  
Ms Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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## 1 Karakia

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.05am.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/025

That the apologies be received from Ms Nepia, Ms Hiroti and Cr Raukawa.

Ms K Savage/Ms M Heeney. 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

Ms Spence to confirm those in attendance of the meeting and to update the minutes to reflect this.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/026

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 10 June 2025 **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 G Taiaroa/Ms M Heeney. Carried



## 7 Follow-up Actions

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

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/027

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

Ms P Hiroa/Cr G Duncan. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

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

Ms Hiroa read her report to the Komiti.

**Resolved minute number** 25/IWI/028

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

Ms P Hiroa/Ms K Savage. Carried

## 9 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor Report

#### Local Water Done Well

Ms Pere noted that there have been two hui with iwi held and there is the potential to establish a Rangitikei Technical Group, drawing on the expertise of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā representatives. There will be a follow-up hui next month with the Rangitikei Technical Group being a key item.

Ms Pere advised that the Water Services Delivery Plan will be going to Council this week for adoption.

#### Māori Land Rates Remission Sub-Committee

The Komiti noted that Mr Curtis was not in attendance at this meeting to confirm if he will continue as a member for the committee. The Komiti noted that if Mr Curtis was not available then Ms Raukawa would replace him for the next meeting.

The Komiti agreed that Ms Hiroa would remain as a member of the committee.

The Komiti noted that there should be a balance from northern and southern on the Māori Land Rates Remission Sub-Committee.

It was agreed that training would occur for members in the new triennium.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/029**

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

Ms K Savage/Ms M Heeney. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/030**

That Grace Taiaroa is endorsed as member of the Māori Land Rates Remission Sub-Committee.

Ms K Savage/Ms M Heeney. Carried

### 9.2 Brief Update on "Plan Stop"

Ms Gower highlighted that the exemption is restrictive and that a report will be going to Council to direct officers to either stop work on the plan change or to proceed with the exemption process.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/031**

That the report 'Brief Update on "Plan Stop"' be received.

Ms M Raukawa/Ms K Savage. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.02pm and returned at 12.15pm

### 9.3 External Consultations Update

Officers and members noted that there are short timeframes for submissions and the impact that this might have on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā being able to submit and having their view on upcoming consultations. Officers will review the process around Te Rōpū Ahi Kā feedback into submissions.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/032**

That that report 'External Consultations Update' be received.

Ms K Savage/Ms M Raukawa. Carried

### 9.4 Mayor's Report - July 2025

#### Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs

The Mayor highlighted the success for the District however the new contract and the current economic climate is challenging.

#### Roading

The Mayor noted that the Gentle Annie is a major concern and that there continues to be work required.

Members noted the SH1/Rauma Road intersection and that some members attended the public meeting that was held. The request from the community, St Joesphs School and Winata Marae is that there is a speed restriction on SH1 just south of Winiata Marae into Taihape and electronic warning signs.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/033**

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

HWTM A Watson/Ms M Heeney. Carried

#### 9.5 Project Update Report - July 2025

Mr Benadie stepped members through the report.

The national wastewater standards have not come through yet which has impacted the wastewater projects.

##### Scotts Ferry

Officers had a workshop with councillors last week and highlighted some challenges with the current solution. A report on an alternative solution will come to Council at the end of the month.

**Resolved minute number 25/IWI/034**

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

Ms K Savage/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

**The meeting closed at 1.27pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 7 October 2025.**

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**Chairperson**

**ITEM 7.1**  
**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	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 Ngāti Waewae offering a relationship. A hui is yet to be scheduled.	In progress

**ITEM 8.1**

## **8 Chair's Report**

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

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

The Chair will provide a tabled or verbal report.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui October 2025 be received.

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor Report

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

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

#### 1. Reason for Report

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

#### 2. Updates

- 2.1 On 19 August, an iwi hui was held at Te Rangimārie Marae. Council along with Iwi/hapū and the Rātana community representatives from across the three districts, Horowhenua, Rangitikei, and Palmerston North meet and confirmed representation on a technical group. This group will work with councils through the process and work involved in the establishment of a Water Service Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO).
- 2.2 On 8-9 September, Council Officers attended a Control and Function course in Palmerston North. The course provided awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities with Emergency Response. The course combined theoretical and practical activities to strengthen preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.
- 2.3 On 15 September, Marae Chairs from the Mōkai Pātea collective met with the Chief Executive and Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor. The meeting provided an opportunity to build relationships and hear about the work and aspirations of each individual marae and the collective.
- 2.4 On 17 September, a Local Waters Done Well briefing workshop was held in Palmerston North. The Workshop provided an outline of completed work, compliance documents submitted, and the next steps in the process of the establishment of a Water Service Controlled Council Organisation. The workshop brought together Elected Members, Mayors, and Chief Executives from the three councils to align understanding and planning.
- 2.5 On 18 September, officers attended the Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation workshop held for iwi, with iwi representation from Ngāti Parewahawaha and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa in attendance. The workshop provided information on the six shortlist options for wastewater management. Discussions included Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai Wastewater Standards and the proposed Resource Management reforms, and the potential implications these could have on water discharges and iwi interests.
- 2.6 On 23 September, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor met with marae representative from Kauangāroa Marae. The marae representative expressed concerns regarding road safety and signage in the local area. The hui also provided an opportunity to connect, build relationships, and listen to the aspirations and future development plans of the marae.

**ITEM 9.1****3. Discussion Considerations**

- 3.1 A review of the Māori Responsiveness Framework was undertaken to ensure alignment was current with plans and priorities.
- 3.2 Feedback collected from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members was considered highlighting strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement
- 3.3 The review remains open for further discussions and input to ensure ongoing refinement and alignment with council and iwi/hapū and the Ratana community priorities.

**4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

**5. Impact on Strategic Risks**

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

**6. Strategic Alignment**

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

**7. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Mana whenua implications are noted throughout this report

**8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

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

**9. Statutory Implications**

- 9.1 Performance measures around Māori Responsiveness are included in the Long-Term Plan under the Local Government Act 2002.

**10. Decision Making Process**

- 10.1 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.



## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Marae Development Fund

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

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

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report is provided to the Komiti to seek approval to invite applications to the Marae Development Fund for 2025/26, with \$16,446.00 available for distribution in line with the Marae Development Fund policy (attached).

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 The Marae Development Fund Policy sets out the objectives, eligibility criteria, and process for allocating funding. The policy provides that applications will be sought from eligible marae, assessed against the criteria, and decisions made by Te Roopū Ahi Kā.
- 2.2 In 2023/24 no allocations were made, and the funds were carried over.
- 2.3 In 2024/25 two allocations of \$15,000 each were made
  - 2.3.1 \$15,000 to Ōpaea marae
  - 2.3.2 \$15,000 to Kauangāroa marae

#### 3. Discussion and Options Considered

- 3.1 A total of \$16,446 is available in the Marae Development Fund for allocation for 2025/26.
- 3.2 The purpose of the fund is to assist with marae projects that enhance facilities and infrastructure in alignment with the policy.
- 3.3 It is proposed that applications now be invited from our eligible marae. All applications received will be presented to Te Roopū Ahi Kā for decision making, in accordance with the policy.

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no further financial implications as the Marae Development receives annual funding through Council's budgeting processes.

#### 5. Impact on Strategic Risks

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

#### 6. Strategic Alignment

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

**ITEM 10.1****7. Mana Whenua Implications**

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

**8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

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

**9. Statutory Implications**

- 9.1 There are no statutory implications identified.

**10. Conclusion**

- 10.1 For 2025/26, \$16,446 is available in the Marae Development Fund. Calling for applications will ensure marae can access support in line with the policy

**11. Decision Making Process**

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

**Attachments:**

1. Marae Development Fund Policy [↓](#)

**Recommendation 1:**

That the report Marae Development Fund be received.

**Recommendation 2:**

That, in accordance with the Marae Development Fund Policy, the komiti seek applications from Marae across the district for the 2025/26 funding round.

POLICY & ELIGIBILITY

# MARAE DEVELOPMENT FUND POLICY

IWI/MĀORI DEVELOPMENT

- LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS
- FUNDING RATIONALE
- ELIGIBILITY
- GENERAL INFORMATION

**Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Fund**

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

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

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

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

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

The objectives and levels of funding are determined by considering identified issues that affect the Marae in the District. The initial objectives will target Health and Safety matters, including fire and earthquakes. The assessments will be used to obtain quotes based on expert information that takes into account the specifications of each task and to allocate funding to a schedule of works to address

needs in a coordinated manner. In these cases a signed agreement will be produced between respective Marae trusts and Council to deliver building services, installation of specialised equipment and management systems to meet compliance, under the project management and oversight of Council.

### **Eligibility for the Fund**

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

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

### **General information**

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

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

### **Process for Applications**

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

## ITEM 10.1 ATTACHMENT 1

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

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

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

#### Appendix – Authorised Entities

Ngāti Parewahawaha

Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa

Ngā Ariki

Ngāti Kauae/ Tauira

Kauangaroa

Whangaehu

Rātana Community

Ngāti Hauiti

Ngāti Hinemanu/ Ngāti Paki

Ngāti Tamakōpiri

Ngāti Whitikaupeka

Ngāti Te Ohuake

Ngāti Rangituhia

**10.2 Mayor's Report - September 2025**

**Author:** Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

Usually my reports are very lengthy so I'm sure that some of you will breathe a sigh of relief at the brevity this time. However, there are some things that do need mentioning -

1. On 3 September the Working Group working with police met in Hunterville to discuss local policing options. All of the senior regional and district policing leaders were there in force. The meeting was constructive and the decision making will take many months but at least there is a genuine desire to engage.
2. The discussion regarding financing of the Gentle Annie roads with NZTA is difficult. NZTA's position is for our Council to reprioritise its existing funding which would leave us unable to do anything of any significance elsewhere on our network for the next two years! This will need to be a priority discussion for the next Council and probably a national level political approach.
3. On Friday 19 September there will be a meeting of forestry, roading, rail and port interests regarding a possible extension of the rail/train contract to alleviate the traffic on the Taihape-Napier Road. This will be pivotal for us – I am prepared to update further at the Council meeting.
4. Attached to this report is a response from NZTA in regard to the application for speed restrictions/signage on the Winiata straight just short of Taihape. These are discussions that are being led by Peter Hijazeen, Principal of St Joseph's School, Iwi and the Winiata Marae. We seem to have got what is a standard response, which is disappointing. The critical point will be where NZTA refers to signage – this needs to be signage at the Rauma Road junction and not just the prescribed signage outside of the school which will make very little difference to the safety and risk when turning from SH1 onto Rauma Road. I'm hoping that our roading team engages further with regards to this matter.
5. Also attached to this report is the standard reply from NZTA with regards to the Bulls intersection. It is a cop-out position where they say "...when the demand or safety concerns justify further investment". This is a rubbish position. The justification is there currently and I question whether it would take a fatality at this intersection for action to be taken. The intersection is regarded as a pinch-point officially in the network. Bulls is growing and the difficulty for people crossing the road is extreme. The bottom line is we need a response now.

**Elections**

Firstly, this triennium has been tough, on both staff and councillors. The demands on staff time have been extreme and I know that I, and possibly others under pressure get frustrated around operational delays. I apologise, we are all tired and pushed. I thank staff on behalf of all councillors – we appreciate your diligence and attention to detail and the workloads you are facing.



Lastly, to councillors. To those not contesting this election, thank you to all of you for your time and sacrifice. At times it is a thankless job, you receive criticism and it is impossible to satisfy everyone. Please pass on my thanks to your families who have supported you. To those of you that are standing, good luck. Take the hiatus between terms to recharge.

## Mayor's Engagements

September 2025

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Climate Action Joint Committee Meeting Attended Mayoral Forum
2	Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Erehwon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
3	Attended Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting Attended Hunterville Policing Community Meeting
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended online meeting with NZTA/Hastings DC re Taihape-Napier Road
8	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended online meeting with Tower Insurance Attended Defence Force relationship meeting at Linton
9	Attended monthly governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended debrief with Aspiring Leaders Forum attendee Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor
10	Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with governors and staff Attended Local Government Emergency Management Webinar
11	Attended fortnightly governance meeting on Marton Offices & Library project Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee meeting Attended Council Workshop Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting
12	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended LWDW Project Oversight Group Meeting – Mayors & CEs Attended Bulls & District Friendship Club meeting Attended Marton Friendship Club meeting
15	Attended monthly breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs online Governance Group meeting Attended Mayors Briefing before Council with Staff
16	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended McIntyre Reserve Meeting
17	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Elected Member LWDW Hui
18	Attended Maori Land Rate Remission Committee Meeting Attended St Matthews School for talk on being Mayor Attended BA5 function at Moomaa
19	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting Taihape-Napier Road meeting with stakeholders Attended Rangitikei College to judge Talent Quest
20	Attended Taihape Spring Festival
22	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Marton Christian Welfare AGM
23	Attended meeting with NZDF staff regarding housing in Bulls

**ITEM 10.2**

	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Defence Hub event at Ohakea
24	Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with governors and staff Attended BBQ and walkaround Tutaenui Dams Attended LWDW Project Oversight Group meeting with 3-Council Mayors/CEs
25	To attend fortnightly governance meeting on Marton Offices & Library project To attend Finance/Performance Committee Meeting To attend Council meeting
26	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend opening of Acute Mental Health Unit Nga Wai Ngaro at Palmerston North Hospital To attend monthly meeting with Police
29	To attend meeting with Sgt Major Sandy Paterson re Freedom of the Borough of Taihape To attend Manawatu-Whanganui Disaster Relief Fund Trust online AGM
30	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend Citizenship Ceremony To attend Business Rangitikei AGM To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor

**Attachments:**

1. **NZTA Initial Response - SH1 Winiata Intersection - August 2025** [↓](#)
2. **NZTA Final Response - SH1/Winiata Marae - September 2025** [↓](#)
3. **NZTA Response - Bulls Intersection - September 2025** [↓](#)
4. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

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

[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

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22 August 2025

Andy Watson  
Mayor  
Rangitikei District Council  
[andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-10873

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your letter of 11 August 2025 regarding your request to reassess the speed limit and safety measures on State Highway 1 (SH1), south of Taihape.

I want to acknowledge the commitment you and the community have demonstrated in raising your safety needs with us. We recognise how important road safety is to everyone who travels, works, and lives along this stretch of highway, and we appreciate the time and advocacy invested in seeking improvements.

Under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024 (the Rule), NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) can carry out targeted speed reviews, including public consultation, in areas of high safety concern, provided they meet the Rule's requirements regarding speed limit ranges for different classifications of road. In this case, this stretch of state highway is classified as an interregional connector, which cannot have a permanent speed limit lower than 100km/h under the Rule.

While the Rule doesn't allow NZTA to review the 100km/h speed limit on this section of state highway due to its classification as an interregional connector, it does provide for the implementation of safety interventions. Such interventions can include consideration of variable speed limits (VSLs) outside of marae to protect vulnerable visitors and pedestrians.

Variable speed limits at marae would operate when there are large volumes of traffic turning out of the Marae, and in 15-minute periods when activated by the Marae to support the safety of pedestrians and vehicles associated with marae activity. With this in mind, and community feedback, NZTA have added a VSL for Winiata Marae to their list for review, subject to funding and resourcing.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with NZTA, you are welcome to contact me by email at [linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Stewart', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Linda Stewart**  
Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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5 September 2025

Andy Watson  
Mayor  
Rangitikei District Council  
[andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-10914

Dear Andy

Thank you for your letter of 11 August 2025 regarding your council's endorsement of Peter Hijazeen's submission to reassess speed limits on and around State Highway 1 (SH1) and Rauma Road.

Regarding the speed limit, our current immediate priority for speed management on state highways is implementing variable speed limits outside schools and delivering speed limit changes linked to specific projects, including intersection speed zones through to 1 July 2026. However, we recognise that community input is invaluable, and we continue to consider community-requested speed reviews, provided they align with the *Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024* (the Rule), the speed classifications outlined in Schedule 3 of the Rule, and funding is available.

I can confirm that SH1 south of Taihape is listed on our speed management register as a regional priority through to 2027. All community-requested speed limit changes, including requests for variable speed limits (VSLs) or intersection speed zones, recorded in our register are subject to a moderation and national prioritisation process. We are working towards reviewing the speed limit at this location by the end of this year, subject to funding and resourcing. We will keep the community informed as progress is made.

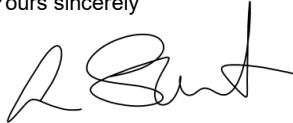
I assure you that safety remains a key priority for NZ Transport Agency waka Kotahi (NZTA), alongside the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, which requires that speed limits take into account economic impacts (including travel times) as well as community views. Stakeholders such as councils, schools, businesses, iwi, and the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on any proposed speed limit changes as part of the six-week public consultation required by the Rule.

Lastly, regarding your reference to the Rauma Road intersection, Mr Hijazeen queried the utility of a turning bay. However, the intersection does not currently meet the warrant criteria for a turning bay

following our analysis of the turning traffic volumes, crash data and future plans for the area. However, all feedback from local communities like yours is valued and helps inform our future decisions.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with NZTA, you are welcome to contact me by email to [linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Linda Stewart**

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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5 September 2025

Andy Watson  
Mayor  
Rangitikei District Council  
[andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Ref. NZT-10911

Dear Andy

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2025 regarding your concerns around traffic issues at the junction of State Highways 1 and 3 (SH1 and SH3).

Improvements to this intersection are included in the *Accessing Central New Zealand Programme Business Case* (PBC), which was completed in 2020. This programme outlines a preferred set of safety and access improvements across the transport network between Waiouru, Levin, and Ashhurst, connecting with Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawātū Tararua Highway over the next 30 years. The PBC serves as a strategic guide for transport investment in the Manawātū region.

As you will be aware, transport investments must be included in the *National Land Transport Programme* (NLTP), which sets out how NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) works with partners and stakeholders to deliver a safer, more accessible, better connected, and more resilient land transport system.

The 2024–27 NLTP was confirmed last year and reflects the Government's strategic priorities for land transport, as outlined in the *Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024*. While improvements to the SH1/SH3 intersection in Bulls are not included in the 2024–27 NLTP, activities identified in the PBC will be considered in the development of future NLTPs.

I can also advise that the Bulls intersection is under ongoing monitoring, and improvements will be undertaken when demand or safety concerns justify further investment.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with NZTA, you are welcome to contact me by email to [linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Stewart', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Linda Stewart**  
Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
31-Jul-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	
7-Aug-25	Turakina CC	PR		PR										
11-Aug-25	Hunternville RWS	PR			PR			PR		PR				
11-Aug-25	Hunternville CC	CB			PR			PR						
12-Aug-25	TRAK	PR				PR	PR					AP		
13-Aug-25	Taihapa CB	PR				PR							PR	
13-Aug-25	Marton CC	CB	PR											
14-Aug-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
27-Aug-25	Santoft Domain	PR		PR										
28-Aug-25	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR				PR	PR	PR		PR	
28-Aug-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
2-Sep-25	Erewhon RWS													
3-Sep-25	RA Meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR					
10-Sep-25	Bulls CC													Minutes not recieved
11-Sep-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP		AP	PR	AP	PR	AT	PR	
11-Sep-25	Council Workshop													
11-Sep-25	CGC Meeting	PR		PR	PR	AP			PR		PR		PR	
18-Sep-25	MLRR Meeting	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

**10.3 Project Update Report - August 2025 Extended Update****Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive****Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive****1. 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****3. Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 3.1 Responding to the proposed new 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 – as per Option 1 with inflow and infiltration (I/I) reduction in the networks.
- Option 3 - Combined discharge to land and river.
- 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).
- Option 6 – Option 4 with an I/I reduction program

- 3.2 A Design Report on each of these Options has been presented to the project team in August and will now be refined through an iterative process of value engineering.

- 3.3 The team will be ready to identify a preferred option by the end of October. It has been decided that the identification of the preferred option will not be finalised until the Wastewater Discharge Standards are finalised. Taumata Arowai advised that this is anticipated for October 2025.

- 3.4 It is proposed that a preferred option will be identified immediately after this and that the preferred option will be presented to Council later in the year to align with the Local Government elections in October.

- 3.5 Taumata Arowai have also advised in a meeting with them on 3 June that RDC is covered by the interim provisions of Standards re operating on existing use rights for expired consents and that the insistence of consent lodgement before 30 June 2026, is no longer necessary. A consent could therefore be lodged at a date later than this. However, this is not the preferred process, with consent lodgement still being targeted to be submitted as soon as possible.



- 3.6 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 in a 100% discharge to land option. A land disposal solution will require more land, adding significantly to the cost. The associated costs may make this option unfeasible. This is currently being assessed by the project team.
- 3.7 Autosamplers are now installed to provide better definition on possible trade waste flow components of the flows entering the Marton and Bulls treatment plants. A representative from Ngati Parewahawaha is carrying out the sampling for RDC.
- 3.8 Direct liaison with Malteurop, Speirs and Nestle Purina about their current and projected trade waste flows has helped better define trade waste inputs.
- 3.9 Dialogue with ANZCO Manawatu is ongoing to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of incorporating their discharge into the Bulls plant inlet. ANZCO Manawatu would become a trade waste customer of RDC under this scenario. Discussions will evolve further once the additional components of capex and Opex due to the ANZCO Manawatu flow are determined.

#### **4. Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The estimated cost of this alternative solution is \$4.6M which is approximately 60% of the estimate of the previously adopted solution.
- 4.5 A second alternative of reticulating Koitiata and receiving flows at Koitiata from Ratana and discharging these flows via a small ocean outfall at Koitiata is also being considered for its engineering feasibility and costs.

#### **5. Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects (Project Manager - Steve Carne)**

- 5.1 To improve current plant operations and increase consent compliance outcomes, an investigation into possible short term operational improvements and longer-term capital works improvements (given new requirements in the Taumata Arowai Wastewater Discharge Standards) is being undertaken.
- 5.2 A range of low-cost operational improvement opportunities have been identified for immediate implementation.
- 5.3 An assessment of plant infrastructure needs has been completed cognisant of the Wastewater Discharge Standards requirements.
- 5.4 Outcomes relating to both 5.2 and 5.3 above will be greatly improved if the extensive rainfall-dependent inflow and infiltration (I/I) in the network is reduced.

- 5.5 A strategy for network I/I reduction has been developed and work started.
- 5.6 Based on a numerical I/I KPI analysis already completed, I/I levels in Taihape have been quantified by 4 sub-catchments and have been found to be significant and throughout the whole system.
- 5.7 A range of investigative field works has been scoped, and some already completed by RDC, some rectification and remedial works have already been completed, and more items have been identified for implementation.
- 5.8 News of the I/I Strategy development and the proposed remedial works needs to be communicated to the Taihape community. A community awareness campaign has been developed by RDC which will be implemented before onsite work start.

### **Water Projects**

#### **6. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Gwilym van Hoffen)**

- 6.1 The pilot nanofiltration test plant at the Reservoir Bore site is now operating, and testing of the bore water commenced on 21 July. It will run continuously for 12 weeks, to collect information relating to the proposed membrane's design and performance.
- 6.2 Draft Principal's Requirements, NZS3916 Contract Document (Design and Construct), and Separable Portions for stage payments are being reviewed by Simpson Grierson. The appointment of an RDC "principal's design reviewer" is also underway. The reviewer will carry out the necessary design reviews at Preliminary Design, Detailed Design, and Construction Design stages.
- 6.3 An extended operating warranty (5 years) is still being negotiated, in addition to the 12-month defects liability period. This will provide RDC with good protection from any 'teething' issues that are to be expected with an innovative design solution.
- 6.4 Design and costing of ancillary works to deal with the waste stream from the new plant are being undertaken. This is a new cost, which has not been included in the original (or later revised) GFS offer. More details will be brought to council for consideration and approval once design has advanced sufficiently.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 Staff are keeping the Marton community up to date with progress. Ongoing updates are being published to the council website and social media pages.

### **Community Facilities**

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

- 7.1 Geotech, soil contamination and underground tank detection surveys are now completed with three tanks identified for removal.
- 7.2 Two other tanks seem to have been removed and back filled. Maycroft is currently evaluating the quality of this fill material to determine the appropriate foundation approach.
- 7.3 The soil contamination is restricted to the central concreted car park area with minor contamination found on the site of the old house that was previously removed.

- 7.4 The EOC site is relatively free from any contamination.
- 7.5 Maycroft is evaluating the extent of contaminated soil that will need to be disturbed and the associated disposal fee.
- 7.6 ELT had conducted a series of discussions to evaluate the operational needs of the Council for Marton and to determine how best the various facilities in Marton could be used to their best potential. A report was presented to Council during the workshop on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025.
- 7.7 The outcomes from the workshop will now be communicated to Maycroft and this will form the base scope document for the design process.
- 7.8 Staff are working closely with the planning consultant to determine the best consenting strategy that aligns with both the EOC and the Marton Offices projects.

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

- 8.1 A user group meeting was organized on 21 Jul 2025 in Taihape. RDC were informed that the group have now finalised their requirements for utilising the underside of the building.
- 8.2 These requirements have since been shared with RDC staff. Staff have reached out to Copeland Associates with these requirements, to prepare an offer of service for the design works.
- 8.3 The community in the meantime are looking at various funding avenues to fund the design works.

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

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 A meeting was held with the User Group on 3 June 2025 where staff presented the preliminary design proposal along with an optional proposal with enhanced features.
- 9.3 Further discussions were required to finalise the stage height. These investigations considered the additional costs to increase the stage height from the current 900 mm to 1200 mm and identified additional regulatory requirement and risks.
- 9.4 A meeting was held with the northern ward Councillors, RDC staff and Maycroft representatives on 14 July 2025. A separate report was presented to Council during the council meeting in Jul 2025.
- 9.5 Council determined the stage height to be 1200mm. Staff have since provided Maycroft with the consolidated comments on the design proposal.
- 9.6 Maycroft will now amend the drawings and prepare a costing summary which will then be peer reviewed by a Quality Surveyor.
- 9.7 Although the concept design is now signed off, there has been a delay in the design timeline to date. The design process is now expected to be completed by early April 2026, with the following factors contributing to the delay:
  - 9.7.1 Concept design was separated into two stages with the first to understand the extent of seismic work along with associated costs before designing for the rest of the scope.

9.7.2 Deviation from a seismic only project to a partial new build.

9.7.3 Concept designs were approved 3 months after being presented.

9.7.4 Aligning the contract schedule to tie in with council meeting dates.

## **10. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation (Project Manager – Eswar Ganapathi)**

10.1 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.

10.2 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 1-B as their preferred option.

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

10.5 At the June 2025 Council meeting, Council confirmed the scope for the Marton Pool repairs to include the replacement of the roof with like for like with the addition of a ETFE liner for improved insulation and to allow more daylight into the facility.

10.6 The scope of work to be included in the first phase of repairs and upgrades has now been finalised with Create Architects and Engineers and work has commenced.

10.7 The timeline for the design is expected to be completed by the end of October 2025, followed by a tender process expected to be finalised by the end of February with a Contractor expected to be on site by early March 2026. Construction of phase 1 repairs and upgrades are expected to be completed by August 2026.

10.8 The remainder of the upgrades may be included in future years depending on available funding.

10.9 A Geotechnical survey was carried out on site on 7 and 8 July 2025 and the report presented on 12 Aug 2025. The report has since been forwarded to CREATE Limited for their review.

10.10 Staff have now engaged WSP to conduct a soil erosion assessment at the Tutaenui stream to determine any potential impact on the structure of the Marton pool building. The report is anticipated to be available by mid-September 2025.

10.11 WSP would also be presenting RDC with erosion protection solutions including estimated costs if required. This report is expected to be available by mid-October 2025.

## **11. Financial Implications**

11.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

## **12. Impact on Strategic Risks**

12.1 No impacts on strategic risks

**13. Strategic Alignment**

13.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

**14. Mana Whenua Implications**

14.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

**15. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

15.1 There is no climate change impact.

**16. Statutory Implications**

16.1 There are no statutory implications.

**Recommendation**

That the report Project Updates Report – August 2025 Extended Update be received.

**10.4 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 Council has submitted on

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

- National Direction Package 4: Going for Housing Growth
- Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill
- Feedback to Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Issues and Options

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

Consultations Council proposes to submit on

- 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 intends to submit on the following consultations that are open for submission:

- Taranaki VTM Project Fast Track

Trans-Tasman Resources Limited has lodged an application with the Environmental Protection Authority under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to enable activities associated with the recovery of iron sand deposits containing the critical minerals vanadium and titanium resources from the South Taranaki Bight.

Council has been invited to provide comments on the application on 8 September 2025. Comments are due **6 October 2025**, with no opportunity to request an extension for providing comments. Therefore, Council will have submitted comments before Te Rōpū Ahi Kā meets. The application information and the draft submission were circulated to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā via email.

- Economic Regulation of Water Services

This is part of the Government's Local Water Done Well programme. Local government water supply and wastewater services are subject to economic regulation under Part 4 of the Commerce Act 1986. The Commission proposes a staged approach to introducing information disclosure requirements, starting with a focus on information that will enable a greater understanding of investment and asset management, financial sustainability, and ring-fencing.

While the Commission does not directly regulate affordability, the cost to consumers is closely linked to how efficiently and effectively services are delivered.

Submissions are open on the current information disclosure for Water Services until **20 October 2025**.

### **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 Changes in legislation can result in significant changes for local government. Council mitigates this risk by keeping track of all potential changes and takes opportunities to submit on consultations that will affect Council or our Community.

### **5. Strategic Alignment**

- 5.1 Some consultation topics have the potential to impact the types of services Council delivers, which could impact Council's ability to deliver our strategic priorities.

### **6. Mana Whenua Implications**

- 6.1 The Komiti are asked to advise of any mana whenua implications associated with the topics available to submit on.

### **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 - October 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="#">Taranaki VTM Project Fast Track</a>	Environmental Protection Authority	6 October	On 23 April 2025, Trans-Tasman Resources Limited lodged an application with the Environmental Protection Authority for the Taranaki VTM project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Council has been invited to submit on this application as an affected party.	Submit
<a href="#">Economic Regulation of Water Services</a>	Commerce Commission	20 October	The Commission proposes a staged approach to introducing information disclosure requirements, starting with a focus on information that will enable a greater understanding of investment and asset management, financial sustainability and ring-fencing. While the Commission does not directly regulate affordability, the cost to consumers is closely linked to how efficiently and effectively services are delivered. Greater efficiency and better performance can lead to more affordable outcomes over time. The Commission aims to keep its approach proportionate and practical, knowing that compliance costs ultimately fall to consumers.	Submit
<a href="#">RAP 2.0 Rules changes to replace General Exemptions</a>	Maritime New Zealand	24 October	RAP 2.0 proposes rules changes to replace nine expiring or expired General Exemptions (GEs). For the most part, these changes will reflect the current situation under each GE. The subject matter covers Seafarer Certification (SEACERT) and vessel design, construction and equipment.	None
<a href="#">Inquiry into performance reporting and public accountability</a>	New Zealand Parliament	29 October	The inquiry has two primary aims: (a) to make findings about limitations of the current system of performance reporting and public accountability, and (b) to	None



			make recommendations aimed at ensuring that the performance reporting and public accountability system is fit for purpose and meets the needs and expectations of 21st century New Zealand. It is focused on performance reporting to Council but there may be implications for local government.	
<a href="#">Proposed regulations for managing high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 in poultry</a>	Ministry for Primary Industries	2 November	There are various strains of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI). The strain that is the subject of this consultation is HPAI H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b. If this virus arrives in New Zealand and becomes widespread in wild birds, it's unlikely we'll be able to eradicate it. The proposals outlined in this consultation would empower the poultry industry to effectively and sustainably support the management of HPAI H5N1 in the long term. The focus is on commercial poultry, but some proposals might affect other poultry owners – for example biosecurity standards if the regulations specify a method (or methods) for disposing of dead birds.	None
<a href="#">Proposed new revenue and transfer expense accounting requirements for PBEs</a>	External Reporting Board	1 December	The Board has issued exposure drafts for two new PBE Standards – PBE IPSAS 47 Revenue and PBE IPSAS 48 Transfer Expenses. These proposed standards aim to provide clearer guidance for revenue and transfer expense accounting and improve the consistency, comparability and transparency of financial reporting for public benefit entities. Local government is within scope.	None

**10.5 Horizons Update**

**Author:** Bronwyn Hautapu, Iwi & Hapu Advisor (Horizons Regional Council)

**1. Reason for Report**

1.1 Ms Hautapu has provided a report, as attached

**Attachments:**

1. Horizons Report - 07 Oct 25 [↓](#)
2. Manawatu-Whanganui Emergency Management Group Plan 2025-2030 (under separate cover)

**Recommendation**

That the Horizons Update be received.



30 September 2025

Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti  
45 High Street, Marton, 4700

TO: Tumuaki o Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa

cc: [Kezia.Spence@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:Kezia.Spence@rangitikei.govt.nz)

Kei aku rangatira, tēnā koutou

#### Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan

1. The Manawatū-Whanganui CDEM Group Plan sets out the strategic and operational framework for managing civil defence and emergency events in the region over the next five years.

The Plan includes:

- A shared vision for regional emergency management
- Strategic objectives for preparedness, response, recovery, and reduction
- High-level arrangements for coordinating emergency management activities across agencies, local authorities, and communities

The plan aims to strengthen the region's ability to respond to and recover from natural hazards and other emergencies, through an integrated, risk-based, and community-focused approach.

#### 2. Iwi and Hapū Consultation

Through ongoing engagement, Iwi and Hapū have contributed meaningfully to the amendments of the CDEM Group Plan. In May 2025, a regional hui was held in Bulls to seek initial input and gain support from Iwi representatives across the region. This hui was well-attended and provided valuable feedback that has helped shape the direction of the revised Plan.

Following this, engagement continued through a series of one-on-one and smaller group discussions, allowing for more focused kōrero and deeper place-based insights. This approach has supported a more inclusive and locally informed planning process. Council continues to hear from Iwi and Hapū, ensuring their voices remain central as the plan progresses toward finalisation.

#### 3. Public Consultation

The draft Group Plan is currently out for public consultation. Community input is encouraged to ensure the plan is fit-for-purpose, reflects the needs of the region, and supports a strong, collaborative emergency management system.

#### 4. Next Steps / Considerations for the Working Group

Promote awareness of the consultation phase within relevant communities and networks

Ensure continued engagement with Iwi and Hapū throughout finalisation

Consider implications of the updated plan for Council operations and local emergency planning

#### Freshwater Farm Plans

##### 1. Legislative Changes



- The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025, announced in August, introduces key changes to the Freshwater Farm Plan (FW-FP) system:
  - Certification and Auditing The Minister for the Environment now approves industry bodies to certify and audit FW-FPs. *(Previously a regional council responsibility.)*
  - Farm Size Threshold The FW-FP requirement now applies to farms 50 hectares and over. *(Previously 20ha. Lower thresholds may still apply for horticulture.)*
  - Recognition of Industry Assurance Programmes Existing robust industry schemes (e.g. NZGAP, Fonterra's Tiaki) can now be recognised for FW-FP certification and audit purposes. *(Helps avoid duplication for farmers already participating in these schemes.)*
2. What Hasn't Changed
- Farmers must continue to understand their catchment context and manage local environmental risks.
  - The obligation to meet environmental outcomes remains, regardless of regulatory changes.
3. Council Implications
- Reduced Role: Council no longer approves FW-FP certifiers or auditors.
  - Compliance Monitoring: May need to adapt monitoring and oversight strategies to align with increased industry involvement.
  - Landowner Support: Some landowners may need assistance understanding or adapting to the new thresholds and recognition pathways.

AUTHOR: Bronwyn Hautapu | Iwi Hapū Advisor

## **11 Meeting Closed.**