



RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2026
Time: 11.00am
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

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

Tumuaki Tuarua: Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha)

Nga mema: Dr Heather Gifford (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti), Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake), Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri), Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina), Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī), Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines (Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki), Ms Grace Tairaoa (Ratana Pa), Ms Gaylene Nepia (Ngāti Kauae Ngā Taurā), Cr Coral Raukawa, Cr Alan Buckendahl, HWTM Andy Watson

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor, 0800 422 522 (ext. 917), or via email

kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

Contact:	0800 422 522 info@rangitikei.govt.nz www.rangitikei.govt.nz (06) 327 0099				
Locations:	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape	
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<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape					
Postal Address:	Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741				
Fax:	(06) 327 6970				

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, 14 April 2026 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 10 February 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 10 February 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 10 February 2026 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED: TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Time: 11.00am

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Tumuaki: Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

Nga mema: Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake)
Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri)
Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī) (Zoom)
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)
Ms Gaylene Nepia (Ngāti Kauae Ngā Taurira)
Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina) (Zoom)
Dr Heather Gifford (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauti)
Cr Alan Buckendahl
HWTM Andy Watson

Manuhiri: Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs
Ms Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome / Karakia

Ms Hiroa opened the meeting at 11.03am.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/001

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

Ms P Hiroa/Dr H Gifford. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/002

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 7 October 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 P Hiroa/Ms M Raukawa. Carried

7 Follow up Actions

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

Item 1 – Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is not on the current agenda and would be circulated privately for initial feedback.

Item 2 – Norther and Southern Marae Tour

An update was provided on proposed northern and southern marae tours across the district. For the northern tour, three potential dates in March had been identified.

It was noted that the purpose of these visits is to provide councillors with an opportunity to become more familiar with the location and significance of marae within the district, particularly for those who have not previously visited them.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/003

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

Ms G Taiaroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui February 2026

Ms Hiroa provided a verbal report and the Komiti highlighted the pre-hui discussion on Local Water Done Well including recent communications, requests for further information, and progress across related workstreams.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/004

That the Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui February 2026 be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Adoption of Māori Responsiveness Framework and Adoption of Marae Development Fund Guidelines

Ms Pere introduced the Māori Responsiveness Framework.

Members noted that amendments are required to the map, including corrections to marae names. It was agreed that the Chair will work with Ms Pere after the meeting to clarify these changes. Clarification was sought on the definition of historic marae, particularly in cases where sites may no longer be active or standing.

Ms Manuel also presented the Marae Development Fund Guidelines to members.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/005

That the report Adoption of the Māori Responsiveness Framework and the Marae Development Fund Guidelines be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/006

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā adopts the Māori Responsiveness Framework with amendments.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/007

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā adopts the Marae Development Fund Guidelines without amendment.

Ms M Raukawa/Dr H Gifford. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.07 and returned at 12.20pm –and moved to item 10.3 Mayors Report.

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor Report

The Komiti moved to this item after the Mayor's Report.

Dr Heather Gifford left at 12.40pm and HWTM Watson left during this item at 12.42pm.

Ms Gray answered questions that the marae funding has been allocated to support the rollout of signage for two marae per year on an incremental basis.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/008

That the report Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor be received

Ms G Taiaroa/Dr M Paki. Carried

10.2 Marae Development Fund Completion Report

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/009

That the report Marae Development Fund Completion Report be received.

Ms M Raukawa/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/010

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā receive the completion report from Opaea Marae for the Marae Development Fund funding granted on 10 December 2024.

Ms M Heeney/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

10.3 Mayor's Report - December 2025

The Komiti moved to this item after the break.

The Mayor provided an update on recent developments, including engagement with Crown representatives regarding the Mōkai Pātea Treaty settlement and landlocked iwi land, noting ongoing discussions with multiple Ministers and Crown funding allocated to these issues.

The Mayor provided updates on the Rātana celebrations and acknowledged Ms Pere's support.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/011

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

HWTM A Watson/Ms M Heeney. Carried

10.4 Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth

It was noted that, following a government-imposed pause last year, an exemption has now been granted, allowing the process to proceed. Public consultation is the next step, with some pressure to progress this ahead of wider reforms in the sector.

Ms Gray noted that mana whenua implications have been identified, and notifications have been made to iwi authorities under the RMA, although it was raised that Rātana may not have been directly notified.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/012

That the report Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth be received.

Dr M Paki/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10.5 External Consultations Update - February 2026

An update was provided on recent submissions and legislative matters. This included media coverage of the Taranaki VTM offshore mining application, noting that Council submitted in opposition and a draft decision to decline has been issued, with the applicant invited to respond.

Submissions have also been made on water-related matters, including the rates cap/target limit. It was noted that Council is not proposing to submit on the Natural Environment Bill, although a draft submission on the Planning Bill was circulated to councillors.

Updates were also provided on broader reform, including proposals to simplify local government and potential regional council reorganisation. In relation to the Emergency Management Bill, it was noted that the Horizons CDEM group has prepared a collective submission on behalf of Council.

Resolved minute number 26/IWI/013

That the report External Consultations Update – February 2026 be received.

Cr A Buckendahl/Ms M Heeney. Carried

The meeting closed at 1.09pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 14 April 2026.

.....

Chairperson

ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1

Unconfirmed

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	7-Oct-25	For the next TRAK meetings, discuss a code of conduct.	Katrina / Fran	This is included in the order paper for discussion.	In progress
2	7-Oct-25	Organise a northern and southern tour of Marae in the District for 2026. Piki Te Ora to coordinate to northern and Kim to coordinate with southern marae.	Fran/Committee members	Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa scheduled for 4 June Northern complete. Discuss at pre-hui of TRAK if any outcome	In progress

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui April 2026

Author: Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Chair

The Chair may provide a tabled or verbal report.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui April 2026 be received.

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 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 for the Kōmiti to consider a request made to the Marae Development Fund for the 2025/26 year.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Marae Development Fund Policy is attached for reference, which specifies that in September / October each year applications to the fund would be called for and sets out the criteria and process. The report calling for applications came to the meeting on the 07 October 2025.

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 The Kōmiti has received a request for the Marae Development Funding from Ōpaea Marae requesting \$15,000 for an additional sheltered roof area between the wharekai and the walkway to the ablution block.
- 3.4 Any approved applications from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā need to be provided as a recommendation from the Kōmiti to Council for consideration.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 The impact on Council's risk 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.
- 6.2 Marae Development aligns with the Māori Responsiveness Framework in particular with the Outcome Area "Resource and Infrastructure" that Council ensures and supports

appropriate infrastructure is in place for service delivery at marae and rural Māori communities.

7. Mana Whenua Implications

7.1 Members of the Kōmiti 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 the 2025/26 year, \$16,446 is available in the Marae Development Fund. Calling for the application received from Ōpaea marae to be considered.

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 Guidelines [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

That the report Marae Development Fund be received.

Recommendation 2

That the Komiti recommends to Council that \$_____ funding is allocated to Ōpaea Marae from the Marae Development Fund for the 2025/26 financial year.

OR

That the Komiti does not recommend that funding is allocated to Ōpaea Marae for the 2025/26 financial year.

Marae Development Fund Guidelines

INCLUDES:

- Application Form
- Project Completion Form



making this place home

Marae Development Fund Guidelines

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.

These guidelines 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. It will contribute to a guarantee of the protection of the culture and heritage embodied in Marae facilities and relationships.

These guidelines and procedures for the operation of the Marae Development Fund are in alignment with our Māori Response Framework.

Resources & Infrastructure	<p>Understanding the importance in caring and maintaining resources for future generations. Council will work with Iwi/ Hapū and the Rātana Community and others to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support is delivered by Council to assist iwi/hapū, marae, and the Rātana Community to achieve their aspirations. • Appropriate infrastructure in place for service delivery at Marae and rural Māori communities. • Resources are taken care of for the future generations.
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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 connect Marae with other funders and stakeholders and provide support towards cross sector collaboration to support short, medium and long term aspirations of all Marae.

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. Have the capacity to make the required contribution to the cost of the work to be carried out.
- iii. Deposit the Marae contribution to Council for the work before equipment is ordered and before work commences (if financial).
- iv. Seek Council’s support in funding coordination, project management and oversight, including coordination between the building services and any suppliers.
- v. Submit all invoices/quotes for services, materials and equipment by contractors and suppliers to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā. to be approved based on inspection to confirm that the work is of the correct standard.
- vi. Any other applicant, as approved by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.
- vii. 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.



Section 1 — Project & Contact	
Marae name:	
Project title:	
Application No.:	
Primary contact person:	
Phone:	Email:

Section 2 — Delivery Summary	
Approved scope (from application/approval):	
What was delivered (brief narrative):	
Start date:	Completion date:
Variations from scope (if any) and reasons:	
Council inspections / sign-offs completed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

PULL OUT FORM



RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Marae Development Fund
Project Completion Form

Section 3 — Outcomes & Benefits

Health & Safety / compliance outcomes:

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Infrastructure improvements (what changed):

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Notes for Applicants

- This fund supports marae development with an emphasis on health & safety and core infrastructure.
- Applications are invited and assessed by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, with recommendations to Council.
- A Project Completion Form must be completed and provided to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā. Non submission may affect future eligibility.

Section A — Marae Details	
Marae name:	
Physical address:	
Postal address:	
Primary contact person:	Role:
Phone:	Email:
Legal Entity: (e.g., Marae reservation under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act administered by the Māori Land Court)	
Evidence attached:  <input type="checkbox"/> Governing charter/constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Māori Land Court record (or equivalent)	
Authorised signatory for this application:	
Name:	Role:
Signature:	Date:
Section B — Eligibility	
<input type="checkbox"/> The marae is located within the Rangitikei District boundary.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The marae has capacity to contribute to the project costs.	
Contribution amount (NZD):	Contribution % of total project:
Source of contribution: (e.g., savings, other funders)	
<input type="checkbox"/> The marae agrees to submit all invoices to Council for approval.	

PULL OUT FORM



RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Marae Development Fund
Application Form


ITEM 9.1

ATTACHMENT 1

Section C — Project Details			
Project title:			
Project location (on marae):			
Project type:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (Please specify)		
Project summary (what will be done and why):			



Section D — Budget & Quotes


Total project cost (GST incl/excl – specify):	
Council funding requested (NZD):	
Marae contribution (NZD):	
Other funding (secured / pending):	
Quotes / estimates attached: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3	
Supplier 1:	
Supplier 2:	
Supplier 3:	
Preferred supplier and rationale (value, capability, availability):	
	

Section E — Timeline

Readiness to start (month/year):
Expected start date:
Milestones and dates:
Expected completion date:

Section F — Delivery & Oversight

Project lead (marae representative):
Project lead (marae representative):
Council engagement needs - e.g., building services, inspections (if applicable):
Health & Safety plan provided (if required): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A




RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Marae Development Fund Application Form

0800 422 522 (24 hrs)
 E info@rangitikei.govt.nz
 46 High Street, Marton
 Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

Section G — Declarations & Agreement

By signing, the marae confirms

1. All information is true and correct;
2. The marae meets the eligibility criteria;
3. The marae will submit invoices/quotes to Council for approval;
4. The marae will provide a Project Completion Form (Accountability Report) to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā;
5. Any unspent funds will be managed in accordance with Council direction;
6. The marae consents to reasonable use of project information for accountability, reporting and public transparency.

Authorised signatory:	
Name:	Role:
Signature:	Date

Please include the following attachments:

<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Entity Evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional supporting letters
<input type="checkbox"/> Quotes/Invoices	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget spreadsheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Site plan/photos (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (Please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety plan (if required)	

Office Use Only:

Application No.:
Date received:
Completeness check: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up needed
Notes:

RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.rangitikei.govt.nz

ITEM 9.1

ATTACHMENT 1



Community access/benefit:

Photos attached: Before After

Section 4 — Financial Reconciliation

(Complete and attach supporting invoices/statements. Council will verify against invoices submitted for approval.)

Item / Supplier	Approved budget NZD	Actual (NZD)	VarianceNote
Total approved budget:			
Total actual spend:			
Variance (underspend/overspend) and explanation:			
Marae contribution paid to Council (date/amount):			
Other funding received (amount/source):			



RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Marae Development Fund Project Completion Form

0800 422 522 (24 hrs)
E info@rangitikei.govt.nz
46 High Street, Marton
Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

Section 5 — Declarations

I confirm that:

- All information in this accountability report is true and correct.
- The project has been completed in accordance with the approval, with any variations noted above.
- All invoices were submitted to Council for approval/inspection prior to payment.
- We understand that failure to provide this report may affect eligibility for future rounds.

Authorised signatory:

Name:	Role:
Signature:	Date

Attachments checklist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of key invoices	<input type="checkbox"/> Any warranties/manuals
<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after photos	<input type="checkbox"/> Media/communications (If any)
<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance certificates/sign-offs	

RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

www.rangitikei.govt.nz

General information

Council is taking a strategic approach to Marae development. Individual applications are not considered under these guidelines. 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 these guidelines.

These guidelines are 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 these guidelines; and what Council may need to consider doing to enhance the capacity of Marae to engage with these guidelines.

Process for Applications

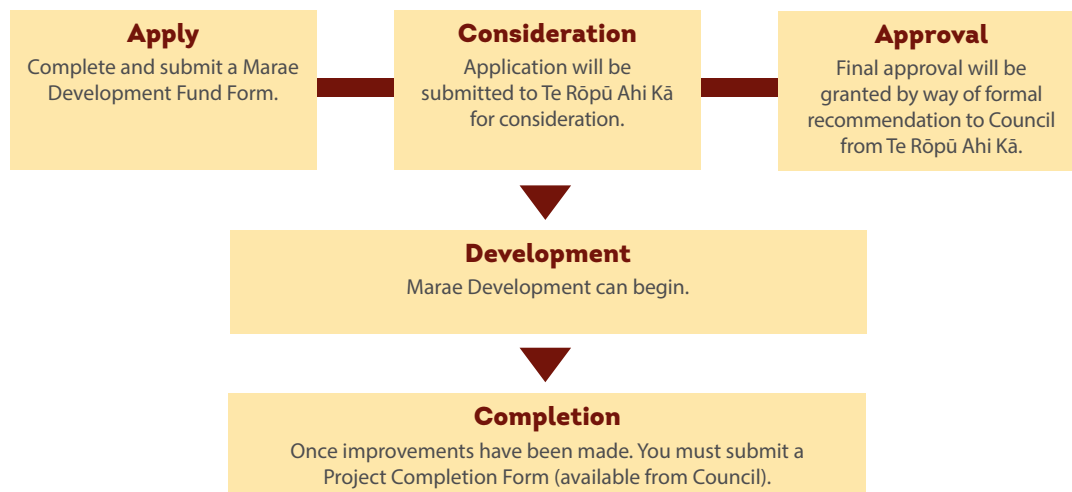
In September / October each year the Group Manager Democracy and Planning (or delegate) will bring a paper to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā seeking applications to this fund. The komiti need to consider all the applications and provide a formal recommendation from the komiti to Council to consider.

Final approval is given 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 these guidelines.

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.



Other funding to consider

Fund		Applied for ✓
Lotteries – Community Organisations Grant Scheme	www.communitymatters.govt.nz	
Pub Charity	www.pubcharitylimited.org.nz/grants	
Lion Foundation	www.lionfoundation.org.nz	
JBS Duddings Trust	www.publictrust.smartygrants.com.au/JBSDudding	
Four Regions Trust	www.fourregionstrust.org.nz	
NZCT – New Zealand Community Trust	www.nzct.org.nz	
Lotteries – Community Facilities Fund	www.communitymatters.govt.nz	
Whanganui Community Foundation	www.whanganuicommunityfoundation.org.nz	
Tindell Foundation	www.tindall.org.nz	

Rangitikei District Council has signed up with Grant Guru – A funding database for the Rangitikei. Please visit and create a login: grantguru.com/nz/rangitikei

For additional support in finding funding please email: extgrantadmin@rangitikei.govt.nz

9.2 Adoption of Anga Whakahaere and Code of Conduct for Te Rōpū Ahi Kā

Author: Fran Pere, Strategic Advisor Mana Whenua

Authoriser: Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The reason for this report is to seek formal adoption of Te Anga Whakahaere, a cohesive governance document that brings together the previously adopted Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding with a new Code of Conduct to provide a clear and unified framework.

2. Te Anga Whakahaere

2.1 This Framework, Te Anga Whakahaere establishes a single, coherent document for the governance, operation, relationship, and conduct of the Komiti, Te Rōpū Ahi Kā. It brings together three key governance components, the Terms of Reference (ToR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and the Code of Conduct into one aligned framework.

2.1.1 **Tūtohunga** - Terms of Reference (ToR): Sets out what the Kōmiti is authorised to do and how.

2.1.2 **Tūtohunga** - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): Establishes how the two parties agree to work together.

2.1.3 **Tikanga Whakahaere** - Code of Conduct: Sets out the behavioral standards expected of members.

2.2 This Framework is guided by our shared values, which inform decision-making, relationships, and behaviour across all parts of the Framework.

3. Discussion and Options Considered

3.1 The inclusion of a Code of Conduct establishes agreed expectations for behaviour, decision-making and accountability. Adoption of Te Anga Whakahaere will ensure all governance components are aligned and reflect current practices and expectations.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no further financial implications.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

5.1 There are no impacts on Council's strategic risks.

6. Strategic Alignment

6.1 A trusted partner iwi/hapū is a community outcome in the Council's strategic framework.

7. Mana Whenua Implications

7.1 Mana whenua implications are noted throughout this report.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

8.1 There are no direct climate change considerations associated with this report.

9. Statutory Implications

9.1 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.

10. Conclusion

10.1 Adoption of Te Anga Whakahaere, including the Code of Conduct, will provide a clear cohesive governance framework and support consistent accountability practices.

11. Decision Making Process

11.1 The decision on adopting Te Anga Whakahaere and the Code of Conduct rests with the Komiti, following revision and feedback.

Attachments:

1. Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Te Anga Whakahaere [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report Adoption of the Te Anga Whakahaere and Code of Conduct be received.

Recommendation 2

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā approves Te Anga Whakahaere with/without (delete one) amendments.

ITEM 9.2

ATTACHMENT 1

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ

Te Anga Whakahaere

(for Members of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti)



making this place home

Introduction – Kupu Whakataki

This Framework – Te Anga Whakahaere establishes a single, coherent document for the governance, operation, relationship, and conduct of the Komiti,

Te Rōpū Ahi Kā. It brings together three key governance components, the Terms of Reference (ToR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and the Code of Conduct into one aligned framework.

- **Tūtohinga - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):**
Establishes how the two parties agree to work together.
- **Tūtohinga - Terms of Reference (ToR):**
Sets out what the komiti is authorised to do and how.
- **Tikanga Whakahaere - Code of Conduct:**
Sets out the behavioural standards expected of members.

This Framework is guided by our shared values, which inform decision-making, relationships, and behaviour across all parts of the Framework.

Contents

Section One	Te Anga Whakahaere - sets out the Framework Values and outcomes, and the makeup of the framework.
Section three	Tūtohinga – Memorandum of Understanding - Establishes how the two parties agree to work together.
Section Two	Tūtohinga – Terms of Reference - Sets out what the komiti is authorised to do and how.
Section four	Tikanga Whakahaere – Code of Conduct - Sets out the behavioural standards expected of members.

Values – Ngā Uara



Manaakitanga embodies behaviour that is mana-enhancing of those around us. Manaakitanga inspires us to demonstrate generosity, fairness, appreciation, respect, and consideration for others in a way that we perform our roles and responsibilities.



Rangatiratanga exemplifies the attributes commonly associated with Rangatira, responsibility, integrity, generosity, and the ability to unite people. We are expected to demonstrate and foster these qualities as we determine our collective aspirations and design strategies for their achievements.



Kotahitanga flourishes when commitment to a shared vision is built and sustained. It expresses strength and cooperation. Kotahitanga is evident when we pool our talents and energy, working together to realise common goals.



Whanaungatanga reminds us that our accomplishments are typically the results of collaborative effort, made possible by developing and maintaining strong relationships. Whanaungatanga creates opportunities for each of us to make our unique contribution, enabling shared objectives to be advanced and reinforcing our whānau, hapū, iwi, community and other associations.



Whakapono is the steadfast belief in our identity, values, and traditions. It guides our actions with integrity, and nurtures trust within our whānau, hapū, iwi and wider associations.



Aroha is more than love; it encompasses compassion, empathy, respect, and a deep sense of connection. It reflects the core of whanaungatanga, binding people together through genuine care and understanding. Aroha is expressed through actions that uplift others and show kindness in our words.

Outcomes – Ngā Putanga

Te Rōpū Ahi Kā aims to achieve the following outcomes aligned to these values.

Manaakitanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana enhancing engagements. • The wellbeing of iwi/hapū/marae and communities is prioritised in all decisions.
Rangatiratanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of leadership, expertise, and authority of all members. • Empowered participation in decision-making.
Kotahitanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective agreement on priorities and initiatives. • Shared understanding of roles and responsibilities.
Whanaungatanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, trusting relationships among members and partners. • Active collaboration and connection.
Whakapono	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honest, open, and trustworthy communication. • Constructive and transparent resolution of issues.
Aroha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision-making that reflects care and kindness. • Supporting wellbeing and positive relationships in all interactions is important.

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
TŪTOHINGA

Between: Rangitikei District Council

And: Te Tangata Whenua o Rangitikei

Ngāti Parewahawaha

Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa:

- Ngā Ariki
- Ngāti Kauae/ Taurā
- Ngā Wairiki Ki Uta Kauangaroa (withdrew 2023)*
- Whangaehu (withdrew 2023)*

Rātana Community

Ngāti Hauiti

Ngāti Hinemanu/ Ngāti Paki

Ngāti Tamakōpiri

Ngāti Whitikaupeka

Ngāti Te Ohuake

Ngāti Rangituhia

**New or withdrawn members (for example from Kauangaroa and Whangaehu) may be accepted at any time*

Represented on Council by: Te Rōpū Ahi Kā

Version Control

- Agreed to by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on 10 October 2006
Agreed to by Council on 26 October 2006
- Amended under review by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on 14 August 2012
(12/IWI/019). Confirmed by Council 30 August 2012 (12/RDC/151)
- Draft v2
- Amended by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on 17 December 2019. Final Document approved and confirmed 17 December 2019
- Amended by Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on 11 June 2024

Introduction - Kupu Whakataki

This Memorandum of Understanding has been put together on the basis of:

- Both parties have entered into the Memorandum of Understanding - Tūtohunga in good faith and with a view to making the partnership work.
- Both parties recognise that there may be constraints from time to time in respect of resources.
- Both parties can see mutual benefits being derived from the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding - Tūtohunga.
- Both parties express the wish that their partnership will develop and become stronger over time.

Tūtohunga

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Rangitikei District Council and iwi of the District wish to enter into a number of protocols, which are intended to reflect the basis on which they will conduct their affairs of common interest.
- 1.2. For the purposes of this Memorandum, the iwi of the District are the Tangata Whenua that hold Mana Whenua in relation to a particular area of the District. The Tangata Whenua of the District comprise the hapū and iwi, which are represented on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, a standing committee of Council.
- 1.3. Hapū and iwi acknowledge each other's tino rangatiratanga, arising from their Mana Whenua, when speaking for their area.
- 1.4. Hapū and iwi put forward delegates to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā to represent issues and consider Council policy, making resolutions and representations to Council. This clause does not preclude iwi, hapū or individual interaction with Council on issues that concern them directly.
- 1.5. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the starting point for determining the relationship with hapu, iwi and the Rangitikei District Council.
- 1.6. Within the Rangitikei District, the Māori community of Rātana Pā is recognised as being integral to decision-making on Māori issues and therefore, the Rātana Pā Community, through their nominated representative, have membership on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.
- 1.7. The Council's procedures are governed by statute and must comply with all relevant legislation, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 1.8. The Council and iwi of the District agree to the protocols set out in Section 2 below. They are intended to be exercised in the utmost good faith to ensure that the needs of both Māori and the wider community be met.

2. Protocols

- 2.1. These protocols constitute policy of the Rangitikei District Council and can be reviewed from time to time, in consultation with Te Tangata Whenua o Rangitikei.
- 2.2. If agreement of any changes cannot be reached the Memorandum of Understanding may lapse, but only in relation to those matters on which agreement cannot be reached.
- 2.3. If further protocol(s) are agreed they can be added to the Memorandum of Understanding by way of amendment.
- 2.4. Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, as a Standing Committee of the Rangitikei District Council, may recommend to the Council, any changes to the representation of hapū and/or iwi on Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, within three months of each triennial election, and at other times, if appropriate.
- 2.5. The Council's total financial liability pursuant to these protocols shall be determined by the Council following consultation with Te Rōpū Ahi Kā annually as part of the Council's annual planning process.
 - (i) In undertaking any consultation, both parties will ensure that the timeframes otherwise specified in any relevant legislation are complied with.
 - (ii) Where the Council requires Te Rōpū Ahi Kā to undertake any work, which is not otherwise identified in the Memorandum of Understanding, that work will be specified in a separate consultancy agreement.
- 2.6. Te Rōpū Ahi Kā will regularly review its Terms of Reference, ideally at the first meeting of each triennium following the Local Authority elections.
- 2.7. The Council will otherwise be responsible as follows:
 - (i) To ensure that consultation takes place prior to and during the preparation of Council's Policies, Bylaws, Long Term Plan, Annual Plan and other activity plans. This will normally mean prior to the adoption by the Council of the draft documents and before the documents are put out for initial public consultation. The Council will ensure that sufficient information and time is made available to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā to determine what issues, if any, require further investigation and/or consultation.
 - (ii) To define any issues of concern to iwi of the District, to identify any reports that may be required to address such issues and to otherwise determine the methodology and resources (financial or otherwise) necessary to properly achieve Protocols 2.9 (i) and (ii), and such consultation will otherwise be conducted in a manner defined by the 'Consultation Process Plan', see Appendix 1.
 - (iii) To develop in consultation with Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, steps to build Māori capacity for contributing to its decision-making processes including representation of the komiti on Council — standing committees, working parties and reference groups.
 - (iv) To ensure that Te Rōpū Ahi Kā is kept informed of all progress in relation to the preparation of the District Plan and any reviews or variation after that plan becomes operative.
 - (v) To ensure, like hapū/iwi, that the following values are considered in all operational undertakings with the operational focuses and outcomes detailed in the 'Māori Responsiveness Framework':
 - a. **Manaakitanga:** Council will at all times endeavour to listen with an open mind, act with fairness and equity, engage in a transparent manner and be accountable to the people of the Rangitikei for its behaviours, choices and outcomes.
 - b. **Rangatiratanga:** As steward of the district, Council takes its responsibilities seriously, understanding that it operates in the best interests of all people, acknowledging the diversity of wants and needs within iwi/hapū throughout the rohe. Council acknowledges its role in building capability and capacity within whānau/hapū/iwi focusing on self-determination, increasing access to economic opportunities and sustainability. Council's behaviours will reflect this rangatiratanga at all times. Everyone who works for the Council will conduct themselves in a manner that enhances the reputation of hapū/iwi. Everyone who works for Council is committed to collaborating, maximising productivity and creating maximum value in this partnership.
 - c. **Ūkaipōtanga:** Council acknowledges this value for hapū/iwi in revitalising their kōrero tuku iho — the transferring of knowledge within whānau and hapū. Council will show recognition and acknowledgement to hapū and iwi to their whenua. Council to support opportunities for hapū and iwi members to live on tupuna lands (ie. Papakainga). It is a value/outcome that will continue to be set within the 'Māori Responsiveness Framework'.

- d. **Whanaungatanga:** Council will at all times endeavour to support whānau, hapū and iwi in the development of collective approaches for education and wellbeing. Council will act and behave in a manner that reflects tika and pono (in good faith), and demonstrates partnership with iwi/hapū and their kaupapa; creating positive relationships internally and externally.
- e. **Kaitiakitanga:** Council is not only responsible for the infrastructure vital to our district's economy but is also responsible for the environmental and cultural wealth of the district. Council will work with other organisations and sectors of our community to work together to create a sustainable environment within which whānau and hapū and communities in general can flourish. Council will demonstrate responsible and sustainable development in its projects.
Me whakatipu i ngā pakihi, ōtira me tiaki i te whenua, ngā awa, ngā maunga me te taiao. (Grow business opportunities but always consider the health and well-being of the land, the rivers, the mountains and the environment)
- f. **Wairuatanga:** Council acknowledges the spiritual connections of Mana Whenua and Tangata Whenua and seeks to appropriately incorporate these traditions into both the governance and operational areas of Council.
- g. **Kotahitanga:** Council as a physical place and as a community structure, aims to be a safe place to have difficult conversations. Council aims to treat everyone with respect and use the connectedness of hapū/iwi to everyone's advantage generating harmony and opportunity from any differences. Council will show a commitment to work together.
- h. **Whakapapa:** Council acknowledges the whakapapa connections of hapū/iwi, and endeavours to support the telling of these stories through traditional and contemporary communication channels.
- i. **Te Reo me ōna Tikanga:** Council acknowledges the fundamental/essential/critical importance of Te Reo Māori to all things Māori. Te Reo Māori will be encouraged through Council practices and behaviours.

3. Indemnity

- 3.1. At no time will the Council bear responsibility or liability in respect of any unlawful action arising out of the conduct of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā or its agents.

4. Dispute

- 4.1. If any disputes arise concerning the interpretation or application of these protocols, the parties will mutually agree the appointment of an independent mediator, with a view to the parties reaching agreement by way of mediation concerning that dispute.
- 4.2. If no such agreement can be reached following mediation, any disaffected party must thereafter be free to pursue any legal remedy that may otherwise be available to it, should it choose to do so.

5. Vires

- 5.1. The application of these protocols must at all times be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 (and any amendments or re-enactment thereof), the Resource Management Act 1991 (and any amendments or re-enactments thereof) and/or any other legislation applicable to the process being undertaken pursuant to these protocols from time to time.
- 5.2. The Rangitikei District Council and Te Rōpū Ahi Kā hereby both acknowledge that the interpretation, application and operation of these protocols is at all times subject to the relevant empowering legislation.

6. Review

- 6.1. The Memorandum of Understanding: Tūtohunga will be reviewed prior to the Council's Representation Review, usually undertaken every six years.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION PROCESS PLAN

1. Membership of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa is defined by Tangata Whenua of Rangitikei and represent hapū, iwi, and marae within the Rangitikei District:

- Ngāti Parewahawaha – one representative
- Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa – four representatives:
 - Ngā Ariki
 - Ngāti Kauae/ Taurira
 - Ngā Wairiki Ki Uta Kauangaroa (withdrew 2023)*
 - Whangaehu (withdrew 2023)*
- Rātana Community – one representative
- Ngāti Hauiti – one representative
- Ngāti Hinemanu/ Ngāti Paki – one representative
- Ngāti Tamakōpiri – one representative
- Ngāti Whitikaupeka – one representative
- Ngāti Te Ohuake – one representative
- Ngāti Rangituhia – one representative

*New or withdrawn members (for example from Kauangaroa and Whangaehu) may be accepted at any time

2. If Council propose to do work or make decisions on the following, Council must seek engagement from the appropriate iwi / hapū

- Rivers, Streams, Creeks, Lakes, Ponds, 3 waters
- Environment, Land, Sub-divisions
- Significant Sites, Wāhi Tapu, Marae
- Roading, Infrastructure
- Community, Well-Being

3. Step by step process to effective iwi / hapū engagement

Step 1: Council staff to make contact and organise a meeting with the Council's Strategic Advisor for Mana Whenua to identify the following:

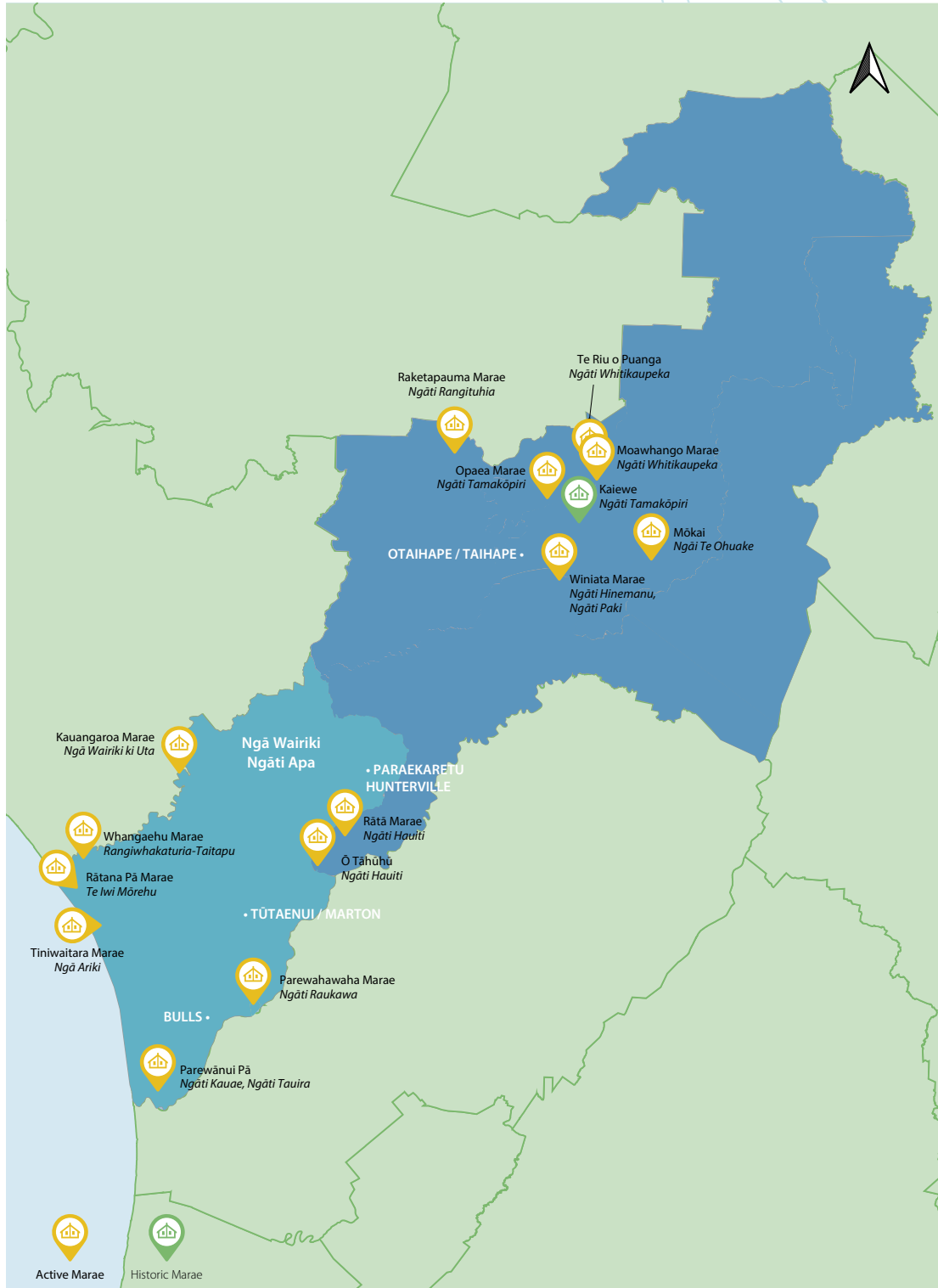
- What work or decisions that Council want to undertake and make
- Which Iwi / Hapū (could be multiple) need to be consulted with

Step 2: Strategic Advisor to organise a meeting with the appropriate iwi / hapū. Expected timeframe to have meeting confirmed is 5 – 10 working days. Note: At this step we will know if, and what, consultation or engagement is needed and necessary.











Step 3: Council staff, Strategic Advisor and relevant iwi / hapū to meet for consultation and engagement process. This may involve site visits and 1 – 3 meetings. Expected timeframe to have this step completed is 10 – 15 working days.

Step 4: Council staff to supply Strategic Advisor and iwi / hapū with regular updates. This could either be monthly or on a case by case basis.

APPENDIX 2: MAP OF IWI BOUNDARIES



SIGNATORIES TO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: TŪTOHINGA

Version	Signature	Date
Mayor of the Rangitikei District Council		14/08/20
CE for Rangitikei District Council		14/08/24
Chairman for Te Rōpū Ahi Kā		13/08/24
Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Members:		
Thomas Curtis (Ngāti Hauiti)		13/08/24
MK Deane (Ngāi Te Oluoke)		13/8/24
Kim Sotage		13/8/24
KATARINA GRAY-SHARP		13/08/24
Coral Raukawa		13/08/24
Gaywan Grace Taiaroa		13/08/24
Leanne Hiroh		13/08/24

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ

Terms of Reference

As at April 2024

Purpose

The purpose of the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti is:

- to develop and maintain a partnership with Tangata Whenua;
- to develop and maintain a partnership with the Rangitikei District Council;
- provide an opportunity to strengthen relationships between Tangata Whenua;
- to be kept informed of issues of concern to Tangata Whenua and the Rātana Community;
- to keep Council updated on any relevant matters relating to Tangata Whenua and the Rātana Community;
- facilitate resolution in the best interests of the residents, ratepayers, and Tangata Whenua of the Rangitikei District; and
- to receive issues for discussion.

Objectives

The Komiti and Council:

- will work together to ensure that both Māori and the Council are aware of all relevant issues and that Tangata Whenua are able to participate in relevant decision making;
- will ensure that the protocols contained within the Memorandum of Understanding – Tūtohunga, are exercised in the utmost good faith to ensure that the needs of both Māori and the wider community are met; and
- will review the relevant processes of Council and make recommendations on steps to be taken to assist Council in carrying out its functions and responsibilities taking into account Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Representation

There are several ways that Māori are represented in the Rangitikei District - through the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti; by Maori Ward councillors; enabling Tangata Whenua and the Ratana Community to make direct approach to the Rangitikei District Council.

Membership of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā is defined by Tangata Whenua of Rangitikei and represent hapū, iwi, and marae within the Rangitikei District:

- Ngāti Parewahawaha – one representative
- Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa – four representatives:
 - Ngā Ariki
 - Ngāti Kauae/ Tauira
 - Kauangaroa (withdrew 2023)*
 - Whangaehu (withdrew 2023)*
- Rātana Community – one representative
- Ngāti Hauiti – one representative
- Ngāti Hinemanu/ Ngāti Paki – one representative
- Ngāti Tamakōpiri – one representative
- Ngāti Whitikaupeka – one representative
- Ngāti Te Ohuake – one representative
- Ngāti Rangituhia – one representative
- Rangitikei District Council Māori ward councillors that represent:
 - Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward (1 member)
 - Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward (1 member)
- two elected members of the Rangitikei District Council.

**New or withdrawn members (for example from Kauangaroa and Whangaehu) may be accepted at any time*

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ

Terms of Reference

Committee members are recommended to the Council from the various hapū and marae groups within the District and they represent iwi, hapū and marae within the Rangitikei as well as a representative from the Rātana community, identified as a special interest group within the rohe.

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed after every triennium, any change in membership will be updated in Appendix 1.

Terms of Committee

- Schedule 7, s. 31 (4) of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that at least one member of the Committee must be an elected member.
- Schedule 7, s. 30 (7) of the Local Government Act 2002 allows Council discretionary powers in relation to not discharging committees after each triennial election. In light of this, Council has resolved that Te Rōpū Ahi Kā will not be discharged after each election and that it must recommend to Council, within three months of an election, members to the Committee. Schedule 7, s. 31 (5) does however allow, that if the Committee is not discharged under s.30 (7) Council may, after the next triennial general election of members, replace members of the Committee.

Appendix 1 -

Current Membership – as at March 2024

Representing	Name	Authorising Body
Ngāti Parewahawaha	Ms Kim Savage	Ngāti Parewahawaha
Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngā Ariki • Ngāti Kauae/ Tauria • Kauangaroa (withdrew 2023)* • Whangaehu (withdrew 2023)* 	Ms Leanne Hiroti Dr Mike Paki	Te Runanga o Ngā Ariki
Rātana Community	Ms Grace Taiaroa	Rātana Community Board
Ngāti Hauiti	Dr Heather Gifford	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti
Ngāti Hinemanu/ Ngāti Paki	Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines	Ngāti Hinemanu me Ngāti Paki
Ngāti Tamakōpiri	Ms Moira Raukawa	Te Runanga o Ngāti Tamakōpiri
Ngāti Whitikaupeka	Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa	Te Runanga o Ngāti Whitikaupeka
Ngāti Te Ohuake	Ms Marj Heeney	Te Runanga o Ngāti Te Ohuake
Ngāti Rangituhia	Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp	Raketapauma marae
Rangitikei District Council Māori ward councillors that represent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward (1 member) • Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward (1 member) 	Cr Coral Raukawa Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa	Elected by constituents of the two Māori wards
Two elected members of the Rangitikei District Council.	His Worship the Mayor Andy Watson Cr Alan Buckendahl	Appointed by the Rangitikei District Council

**New or withdrawn members (for example from Kauangaroa and Whangaehu) may be accepted at any time*

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ

Tikanga Whakahaere – Code of Conduct

1. Introduction – Kupu Whakataki

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all members of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti in the exercise of their duties.

The Code exists to strengthen partnership, support meaningful participation, and uphold the mana, safety and effectiveness of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā governance practice.

2. Scope – Te Hōkaitanga

This Code applies to all members of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti.

This Code applies when members are:

- Participating in Komiti meetings, workshops and related gatherings;
- undertaking Komiti business outside of meetings;
- communicating verbally, in writing or digitally about Komiti matters; and
- representing Te Rōpū Ahi Kā publicly or in any other forum.

3. Roles & Responsibilities - Ngā Haepapa

Good governance requires clear roles and responsibilities, with members representing their iwi/hapū/marae or community, contributing actively and reporting back.

3.1. Representation

- Members represent the views, interests, and aspirations of their respective iwi/hapū/marae or community.
- Members will act in good faith and in a manner that upholds the mana of those they represent.

3.2. Reporting Back

- Members will report back to their iwi/hapū/marae or community on key discussions, decisions, and outcomes of the komiti.
- Members will ensure relevant and timely feedback is provided to those they represent.
- Members will support two-way communications bringing forward whakaaro of their people to inform the mahi of the komiti.

3.3. Participation and Contribution

- Members will attend scheduled hui and workshops, be prepared, and actively participate or provide timely apologies and notice when unable to do so.
- Members will declare any conflict of interest and manage these transparently.

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ

Tikanga Whakahaere – Code of Conduct

ITEM 9.2

ATTACHMENT 1

4. Relationships - Whanaungatanga

Members of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā are expected to maintain relationships that reflect the values outlined in Section 1.

This includes:

Manaakitanga

- Listening openly and allowing space for others to speak.
- Engaging with others in a way that uplift mana, strengthens relationships, and promotes wellbeing.

Rangatiratanga

- Exercising leadership that empowers others and supports collective decision making.
- Provide timely feedback on matters discussed in komiti hui.
- Acting in ways that strengthen partnership and shared responsibility.

Whanaungatanga

- Building and protecting relationships through trust and reciprocity.
- Communicating clearly and respectfully.
- Supporting constructive engagement between tangata whenua and Council.
- Focusing on long-term relationship strength.

Kotahitanga

- Working collaboratively with unity of purpose.
- Creating safe spaces for robust kōrero.
- Addressing differences constructively.
- Seeking resolution rather than escalation.

Whakapono

- Acting honestly and transparently.
- Ensuring consistency between commitments and actions.
- Upholding the mana of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.

Aroha

- Acting with compassion and humility.
- Engaging in ways that enhance wellbeing and safety.
- Responding to others with compassion, humility, and understanding.

TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ

Tikanga Whakahaere – Code of Conduct

5. Information (Confidentiality) – He Kōrero Muna

Members will treat information appropriately and in line with agreed confidentiality expectations.

Members will:

- Not disclose confidential information without authority.
- Not use information gained through Komiti involvement for improper or personal advantage.
- Ensure communications about Komiti business are accurate and not misleading.
- Seek clarification from the Chair or Secretariat if unsure whether information is confidential

Where confidentiality applies, members will uphold this to protect:

- The integrity of governance processes.
- The safety and dignity of participants.
- Partnership trust.
- Council processes and obligations.
- Tangata whenua interests and tikanga considerations.

6. Conflicts Of Interest – He Pānga Taupatupatu

Members will maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duty as a member to ensure that they are free from bias.

To this end, members must familiarise themselves with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA).

It is the responsibility of each member to declare any conflicts of interest.

There are three distinct types of conflict of interest:

1. A pecuniary interest: Involving financial gain/loss directly or indirectly for the member, their family or business interests.
2. A non-pecuniary interest: non-financial interests that arise out of the member's employment, membership of community organisation, or relationship with private individuals.
3. A demonstrated bias: Where a firm commitment to a particular view has been indicated (in words or through actions) before a komiti motion has been debated. Members have a duty to approach decision-making on any matter with an open mind.

Members will not participate in any komiti discussions or vote on any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest (beyond that of a regular member of the public), aside from being available to answer questions during a meeting.

If a member is in any doubt as to whether a particular course of action (including a decision to take no action) raises a conflict of interest, then the member should seek immediate guidance as to whether they have a pecuniary interest, and if so, may seek an exemption to allow that member to participate on a particular issue in which the

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interest is relevant. The latter must be done before the discussion.

7. Members Remuneration – He Taiutu

Members are entitled to the following remuneration for attendance and participation:

- Annual remuneration and mileage payment as approved by Council.

Remuneration is provided to recognise the time, preparation, and commitment required to fulfil membership responsibilities.

8. Breaches Of The Code – Ngā Takahanga

A breach of this Code occurs when a member's behaviour fails to uphold the values in Section 1, and undermines the mana, safety or effectiveness of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.

8.1. Examples of breaches aligned to Values

Manaakitanga breaches

- Bullying, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or threats.
- Belittling or dismissive behaviour.
- Undermining the mana of another member, staff person or participant.

Rangatiratanga breaches

- Preventing meaningful participation.
- Using position or influence to dominate decision-making.
- Undermining shared leadership arrangements.

Whanaungatanga breaches

- Damaging relationships through hostility, personal attacks, or disrespect.
- Publicly undermining or misrepresenting other members.
- Refusing to engage constructively when issues arise.

Kotahitanga breaches

- Repeated disruptive behaviour that prevents effective governance.
- Escalating conflict rather than working toward resolution.
- Behaviour that makes the Komiti unsafe for robust kōrero.

Whakapono breaches

- Dishonesty or misleading conduct.
- Misuse of confidential information.
- Failure to declare conflicts of interest.

Aroha breaches

- Conduct that causes harm to others' wellbeing.
- Lack of compassion in engagement where circumstances require care.

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8.2. Raising Concerns

Concerns should be raised as early as possible and where appropriate resolved informally through respectful discussion, or through the Chair.

Concerns will be addressed kanohi ki te kanohi to encourage respectful discussions, accountability, and restoration of relationships.

Where informal resolution is not appropriate or does not resolve the issue, a concern may be raised formally through:

- The Chair (or Deputy Chair if the complaint relates to the Chair).

8.3. 8.3 Outcomes

Outcomes may include (depending on seriousness and frequency):

- **Manaakitanga** – The person is supported to restore mana through facilitated kōrero, acknowledging harm caused and agreeing to actions that rebuild respect and safety.
- **Rangatiratanga** – The person takes responsibility for their actions, including participating in a reflective process and demonstrating accountable leadership moving forward.
- **Whanaungatanga** – Relationships affected by the breach are repaired through hui, mediation, or reconciliation processes that strengthen trust and connection.
- **Kotahitanga** – A collective resolution is sought, focusing on restoring unity and reaffirming shared values and expectations of behaviour.
- **Whakapono** – Trust is rebuilt through clear commitments, transparency, and follow-through on agreed actions.
- **Aroha** – The response is guided by compassion and care for all involved, ensuring wellbeing is prioritised.

All processes will be conducted with fairness, manaakitanga, proportionality, and respect for the integrity of the Komiti.



 **RANGITĪKEI**
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10 Reports for Information

10.1 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 an update of key activities and engagement undertaken by the Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor during the reporting period. It highlights engagement with mana whenua, support provided across relevant kaupapa, and significant events and milestones providing an overview of relationship development and ongoing collaboration.

2. Updates

- 2.1 On Wednesday 11 March, Councillors and Council Officers participated in a Northern Tour of local marae. The visit was conducted under the guidance of a mana whenua representative, who shared cultural narratives and insights associated with each site.
- 2.2 Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing appreciation for the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the area's cultural heritage. There is a strong interest in continuing this engagement, with many indicating they are looking forward to the tour to be hosted by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.
- 2.3 On Tuesday, March 17, a Citizenship Ceremony was held at Te Matapihi where citizens received their citizenship certificates. It was an honour to participate and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of those who have formally joined our community.
- 2.4 Councillor induction activities are ongoing. On Thursday 19 March, a workshop was delivered focussing on the structure and meaning of delivering a mihimihi. This session supported Councillors to build their understanding and confidence in engaging within a Māori cultural context.
- 2.5 As a continuation of this learning, a Tikanga workshop is scheduled for Thursday 9 April. This session will explore the deeper meaning of Tikanga and its practical application.

Central Districts Water

- 2.6 On Friday 13 March an independent board was appointed to guide the establishment of Central Districts Water.
- 2.7 The full Shareholders' Committee, made up of the mayors, elected members and representatives from Nga Tapuwae o Hau, met on Friday 13 March and appointed the Board.
- 2.8 Ngā Tapuwae o Hau by the collective iwi across the three council regions to represent mana whenua.
- 2.9 The committee will now work with the board to set expectations and support the establishment of Central Districts Water

- 2.10 Board members include Rt Hon Steve Maharey as Chair, alongside Pahia Turia, Dr Sue Bidrose, Dave Chambers, Jon Nichols, and Linda Robertson.
- 2.11 On 8 April, a pōwhiri will be held to formally acknowledge the newly appointed Board of Directors. Following the pōwhiri, the Board will start its induction process and start work supporting the establishment of Central District Waters.
- 2.12 On 9 April, the Board of Directors will tour the three councils to meet and greet staff, starting at the Palmerston North City Council, to the Horowhenua District Council, and concluding at the Rangitīkei District Council.

Central Districts Water Website - <https://www.centraldistrictswater.co.nz/Home>

- 2.13 A new Central Districts Water website and social media channels are now live, providing a single source of information for residents across Horowhenua, Palmerston North and Rangitīkei.
- 2.14 The website includes updates on the establishment of the organisation, information about governance and oversight, and answers to frequently asked questions.

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 The activities and engagement outlined in this report are undertaken in accordance with section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002, which requires the Council to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making process, to consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to participate, and to provide relevant information.

9. Decision Making Process

ITEM 10.1

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

Recommendation

That That the report Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor be received.

10.2 Request for Information CDEM

Author: Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor

Authoriser: Johan Cullis, Group Manager Regulatory Services and Emergency Management

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Te Rōpū Ahi Kā with a structured response to questions raised regarding the role of marae in emergency management across the Rangitīkei District.

2. Context

2.1 The Committee has requested information on the following matters:

2.1.1 Which marae are currently classified as welfare hubs or emergency centres, and what this means in practice.

2.1.2 The process for activation as a welfare hub or emergency centre.

2.1.3 Key contacts across local organisations involved in emergency response.

2.1.4 How marae can support during an emergency event.

3. Discussion and Options Considered

3.1 Marae currently classified as welfare hubs or emergency centres

3.1.1 At present, no marae are designated as Civil Defence Centres within all published Community Response Plans. However, some marae have indicated that they would like to be recognised as community hubs during an emergency event.

3.1.2 Civil Defence Centres are formally identified in Community Response Plans and are recognised locations that can provide shelter, information and support during an emergency. Community Emergency Hubs are generally community-led locations that help coordinate local support, share information and assist neighbours when official assistance is delayed.

3.1.3 The Civil Defence Centres currently designated within Community Response Plans are:

- Taihape - Old Hospital
- Mangaweka - Village Hall
- Hunterville - Hunterville School
- Bulls - Te Matapihi
- Marton - Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
- Koitiata - Village Hall

3.1.4 The following Community Emergency Hubs are recognised where no current Community Response Plan is in place, or in draft planning:

- Whangaehu Village Hall
- Turakina School

- Rātana Manuao (designated within the draft Community Response Plan)

3.1.5 The following marae have indicated that they would like to act as community hubs during an event:

- Kaungaroa
- Whangaehu
- Parewahawaha
- Rātā
- Winiata

Note: Community Response Plans are developed by communities for their communities and are often initiated through a local Community Committee.

3.2 Process for activation as a welfare hub or emergency centre

3.2.1 Activation arrangements for Civil Defence Centres are set out in the relevant Community Response Plan. In practice, activation is generally undertaken by the officer in charge, or delegate, of the local Fire, Ambulance or Police service, or by the Chair, or delegate, of the local Community Committee.

3.2.2 Community hubs are more ad hoc, as there is not always a formal response plan in place to support activation. Their use depends on local readiness, community leadership and the availability of suitable facilities and volunteers.

3.3 Key contacts across local organisations involved in emergency response

3.3.1 Each Community Response Plan includes a list of key contacts. These lists are generally not published and are instead retained by the local Community Committee responsible for the plan.

3.3.2 Council also maintains key community contacts within the Emergency Management Guide. In practice, this means operational contact information is managed internally and shared through established emergency management channels rather than circulated broadly in public reporting.

3.4 How marae can support during an emergency event

3.4.1 Marae can play a critical and often rapid-response role in civil defence emergencies by acting as focal points for community resilience, safety and welfare. Across the District, marae are well placed to operate as community-led hubs that support affected residents alongside designated Civil Defence Centres.

3.4.2 In practical terms, marae can provide a trusted place for people to gather, receive information, coordinate local support, check on vulnerable whānau, and help connect communities with official response services.

3.4.3 Preparedness planning also strengthens the resilience and safety of marae, taonga and iwi. A marae emergency preparedness plan helps te hau kāinga and te hāpori understand local risks and be better prepared for natural disasters and other emergencies.

3.4.4 Relevant preparedness resources for marae are available online, including the Civil Defence Marae Emergency Preparedness Plan 2017.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 This report has no financial implications.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 Failure to maintain clear arrangements for community hubs, emergency centres and key emergency contacts may increase the risk of delayed coordination, reduced community readiness and less effective support during emergency events.

6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 This report aligns with Council's strategic priorities by supporting collaboration, community wellbeing and local resilience.
- 6.2 It supports a coordinated approach between Council, emergency services, community organisations, marae and residents in preparing for and responding to emergency events.
- 6.3 It contributes to broader strategic outcomes by:
- Enhancing community resilience and self-reliance
 - Supporting public safety and effective emergency management
 - Fostering strong community connections and local capability

7. Mana Whenua Implications

- 7.1 Mana whenua and marae have an important role in community resilience and emergency response. Their participation strengthens local capability, culturally grounded support and trusted community-led response during emergencies.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 8.1 Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall, flooding and drought. These impacts reinforce the importance of localised emergency preparedness and resilient community support arrangements.
- 8.2 Supporting marae and community hubs as part of emergency planning contributes to the District's ability to anticipate, respond to and recover from climate-related emergencies.

9. Statutory Implications

- 9.1 This report is consistent with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and supports the intent of community readiness and local emergency planning.
- 9.2 It also aligns with the Manawatū-Whanganui CDEM Group Plan and Council's role in promoting and supporting community resilience.

10. Decision Making Process

- 10.1 The information set out in this report provides a practical basis for discussion with Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on how marae can be supported within local emergency planning and response arrangements.

ITEM 10.2







Recommendation

That the report Request for Information – CDEM be received.

10.3 Project Update Report - March 2026**Author:** Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is a report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council staff.
- 1.2 A presentation will be provided regarding the Wastewater projects.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects**Wastewater Projects****3. Project: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation****Project Manager:** Steve Carne**Budget:** \$85.36M**Reporting Period:** March 2026**3.1 Overall Project Health**

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	 Green	No major hurdles envisaged
Scope	 Green	T+T scope up to lodgement to be defined
Schedule	 Green	On track as per latest HRC advisory in Feb
Budget	 Green	Within upper bound LTP- estimates expected to decrease
Benefits	 Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	 Green	Positive Iwi feedback about land passage/wetland discharge to Rangitikei River

3.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Significant optioneering and conceptual development work
- A shortlist of costed options for subsequent investigation, all assessed within the requirements of the Wastewater NEPS Regulations

- Monitoring bores installed at Marton and Bulls oxidation ponds to test for pond leakage
- A summary of resource consenting required
- Confirmation from ANZCO Manawatu re their willingness to consider being a trade waste customer of RDC
- Agreement with HRC to adjust the consenting timelines.

In progress:

- Periphyton risk assessment as per WW NEPS Regulations
- Land Passage/wetland concept designs being developed with Iwi
- Flows and loads being finalised

3.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Periphyton Risk Assessment Complete	End April 2026	●
Preferred Option Identified	End June 2026	●
Consent Lodgement	Nov 2026	●

3.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$85.36M
Actual Spend	\$1.61M
Forecast Completion	\$85.36M

Variance: **within budget**

3.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Uncertainty related to Periphyton Risk assessment process	Medium	Early liaison with Taumata Arowai and HRC

3.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Verification of preferred Option selection in late June

4. Project: Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land
Project Manager: Steve Carne
Budget: \$8M
Reporting Period: March 2026

4.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	Reconsideration of current Strategy
Scope	● Green	Strategy to reticulate Koitiata and discharge Ratana and Koitiata effluent via sea outfall at Koitiata being investigated
Schedule	● Amber	Program delayed due to the change in treated wastewater standards
Budget	● Green	Targeting reduction in capex
Benefits	● Green	Reduced capex, surety of system solution
Stakeholder Support	● Amber	New strategy not being discussed with the wider community and stakeholders until Council has sufficient information to make a decision.

4.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Challenges in existing strategy confirmed
- Alternative disposal to Whanganui system investigated and available as an alternative solution.

In progress:

- Conceptual details of Koitiata reticulation and outfall strategy and cost estimates to be finalised

4.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Koitiata Outfall Concept Strategy Investigation finalised	April 2026	●
Community Consultation Starts	May 2026	●

4.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$8M
Actual Spend	\$1.5M
Forecast Completion	\$9M

Variance: **Uncertain until the Koitiata investigations are complete**

ITEM 10.3

4.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Community views and acceptance of alternative strategy	High	Early consultation re alternatives and reasons why

4.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Decision regarding alternative options to be presented to Councils once all the information has been collected.

5. Project: Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects

Project Manager: Steve Carne

Budget: \$2,180,747

Reporting Period: March 2026

5.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	Process and Strategy clarified to move forward
Scope	● Green	Being confirmed
Schedule	● Amber	Subject to LTP funding
Budget	● Green	Within tolerance
Benefits	● Green	Lowest capex and compliance with consent conditions
Stakeholder Support	● Green	Positive community feedback thus far re network investigations

5.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Network Inflow/Infiltration assessments
- Field I/I source detection works
- Estimates of rehabilitation costs developed
- Investigation of WWTP operational efficiencies and capital upgrades required

In progress:

- Sampling of WWTP influent flows and quality to confirm small plants status in the WW NEPS Regulations
- CCTV inspection works in network
- More detailed investigation at WWTP of short- and medium-term capital improvements
- Repair of on-property inflow defects and manholes

5.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Complete remaining field network investigations	April 2026	●
Complete WWTP investigations	May 2026	●
Confirm works strategy	June 2026	●

5.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$2.18M
Actual Spend	\$1.03M
Forecast Completion	\$2.18M

Variance: **Within budget**

5.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Effective Transfer of program to CCO	Medium	Develop clear strategy







5.6 Further Information/Decisions that May Be Required of Council

Council decision regarding the funding of private property inflow defects and rectification works will be required.

6. Water Projects

Project: Marton Water Strategy
Project Manager: Gwilym van Hoffen
Budget: \$11M
Reporting Period: March 2026

6.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	 Amber	The project is on hold pending Council decision in April.
Scope	 Amber	The scope going forwards is dependent on the April Council decision
Schedule	 Amber	The schedule has been delayed by the extended trial plant and testing.
Budget	 Amber	The budget remains unchanged
Benefits	 Amber	The outcomes of the project remains the same
Stakeholder Support	 Amber	Stakeholder support will be dependent on the April Council decision.

6.2 Progress Since Last Report


Completed:

- GFS’s pilot trail of their direct nanofiltration system was completed in December 2025
- WSP Engineers has completed a review of the GFS direct nanofiltration pilot trail results in Jan/Feb 2026
- Recommendations from the WSP review will be provided to Council at the April Council meeting.

In progress:

- WSP Engineers is carrying out further evaluation of likely project costings and other related matters
- Awaiting further direction from Councillors at the April Council meeting

6.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
GFS pilot trial completed	Dec 2025	

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Go/No Go Decision by Council	April 2026	●

6.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$11M
Actual Spend	\$3.8M
Forecast Completion	\$TBC

Variance: **tbc**

6.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Public perceptions	Medium	Ongoing communication and regular engagement with Marton residents
New technology risks	High	Obtain high quality engineering review and technical advice

6.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

A decision report will be brought to the April Council meeting, seeking Councillor's input and direction on how to proceed with the Marton Water Strategy programme delivery.

7. Community Facilities

Project: Marton Offices and Library

Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi

Budget: \$17M

Reporting Period: March 2026

7.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	Major risks identified and planned for
Scope	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Green	On track
Budget	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	Positive

7.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- No new updates

In progress:

- Resource consent document planning
- Preliminary design continues

7.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Preliminary Design	May 2026	●
Developed Design	Jul 2026	●
Detail Design	Nov 2026	●
Resource Consent	Jul 2026	●
Building Consent	Nov 26	●
Construction Start	Jan 2027	●
Project Completion	Jul 2028	●

7.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$17M
Actual Spend	\$700K

ITEM 10.3

Metric	Amount
Forecast Completion	\$17M

Variance: **None**

7.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Unexpected findings during demolition	Medium	Contingency sums allowed in design and construction budgets

7.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

None

8. Project: Marton EOC
Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi
Budget: \$2M
Reporting Period: March 2026

8.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Amber	Resource consent RFI's affecting design progress
Scope	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Amber	Design on hold pending closure of resource consent RFI's
Budget	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	Positive

8.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- No new updates

In progress:

- Addressing RFI's raised as part of the Resource consent application
- Possible design amendments based on resource consent outcomes
- Cultural design discussions with Iwi representatives

8.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Detailed Design	Mar 2026	●
Resource Consent	Apr 2026	●
Building Consent	May 26	●
Construction Start	Jun 2026	●
Project Completion	Feb 2027	●

8.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$2M
Actual Spend	\$100K
Forecast Completion	\$2M

Variance: **None.**

**** The budget is yet to be supported by a contractor’s pricing or a QS estimate. Staff expect to have the contractor’s pricing within 4-6weeks of detail design completion.***

8.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Increased construction costs due to rising fuel costs	High	Allow for cost contingencies

8.6 Further Information/Decisions that May Be Required of Council

None

9. Project: Taihape Grandstand (Community Lead Project)

Staff Support: Gaylene Prince

Reporting Period: March 2026

9.1 Project confirmed to continue February 19, 2026. A more detailed update will be brought to the next Assets and Infrastructure Committee.

10. Project: Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment

Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi

Budget:

Reporting Period: March 2026

10.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	● Green	On track
Scope	● Green	No changes
Schedule	● Green	On track
Budget	● Green	Within budget
Benefits	● Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	● Green	Positive community feedback

10.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Preliminary design completed

In progress:

- Developed design

10.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Developed Design	May 2026	●
Detail Design	Sep 2026	●
Building Consent	Oct 26	●
Construction Start	Nov 2026	●
Project Completion	Jun 2028	●

10.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$14M
Actual Spend	\$800K

ITEM 10.3

Metric	Amount
Forecast Completion	\$14M

Variance: **None**

10.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Unexpected findings during demolition	Medium	Contingency sums allowed in design and construction budgets

10.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

None







11. Project: Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi

Budget: \$2.7M approved budget

Reporting Period: March 2026

11.1 Overall Project Health

Category	Status	Comment
Overall Status	 Red	Delay in contractor selection
Scope	 Green	No changes
Schedule	 Red	Expected delay of 8-12 weeks to completion of construction
Budget	 Red	Budget to be approved by Council
Benefits	 Green	Expected outcomes unchanged
Stakeholder Support	 Green	Positive

11.2 Progress Since Last Report




Completed:

- Tender process completed
- Building consent issued

In progress:

- Contractor selection
- Recommendation report to Council

11.3 Key Milestones

Milestone	Planned Date	Status
Contractor selection	Feb 2026	
Construction Start	April 2026	
Project Completion	Sep 2026	

11.4 Financial Summary

Metric	Amount
Approved Budget	\$2.7M
Actual Spend	\$642K
Forecast Completion	\$6M

Variance: **+222%** of approved budget

11.5 Top Risks

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Increased shipping costs due to current global market condition	High	Allow for cost contingencies

11.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

- Council decision will be required to finalise Contractor selection
- Council decision will be required to confirm funding

12. Financial Implications

12.1 This report does not identify any financial implications.

13. Impact on Strategic Risks

13.1 No impacts on strategic risks.

14. Strategic Alignment

14.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

15. Mana Whenua Implications

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

16. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

16.1 There is no climate change impact.

17. Statutory Implications

17.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation 1

That the report 'Project Updates Report – March 2026' be received.

10.4 External consultations update - April 2026

Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

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:

- the Natural Environment Bill (13 February 2026),
- the Planning Bill (13 February 2026),
- the Simplifying Local Government Proposal (20 February 2026), and
- the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill (10 March 2026).

- 2.2 Council also contributed to the regional submissions from the Manawatū-Whanganui Mayoral Forum to the Natural Environment Bill, the Planning Bil and the Simplifying Local Government Proposal.

- 2.3 These submissions can be found on Council's website <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/publications/submissions-made-to-other-organisations>

Consultations Council proposes to submit on

- 2.4 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.

- 2.5 Council intends to submit on the following consultations that are open for submission:
 - the Reserve Bank's consultation on Access to cash (closes 9 April 2026), and
 - (under consideration) the Inquiry into Fire and Emergency's fleet management and related issues (30 April 2026) and the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Improving Alcohol Regulation) Amendment Bill (closes 14 May 2026).

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 on 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 is 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 it is for information purposes only.

Attachments:

1. **External consultations - April 2026** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report External consultations update – April 2026 be received.

Name of Initiative	Agency engaging	Due date	Description	RDC Action
Currently open for submissions				
Targeted speed limit reviews: Manawātū-Whanganui region https://www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/driving-safely/speed/state-highway-speed-management/speed-limit-reviews-under-the-2024-rule/targeted-speed-limit-reviews-manawatu-whanganui-region	New Zealand Transport Agency	9 April	Permanent speed reductions are proposed. Of particular relevance is the SH1/Kakariki Road intersection where NZTA proposes a reduction from 100km/h to 60km/h when the electronically activated Intersection Speed Zone is activated	None
Access to cash https://consultations.rbnz.govt.nz/rbnz/access-to-cash/consult_view/?_gl=1*be85al*_ga*MTczMDYyMTk4NS4xNzcyMTUyMDg3*_ga_51JCWD9FGD*cZ3NzlxNzlxNTlwODckbzEkZzEkdDE3NzlxNTIzMzckajE4JGwwJGgw	Reserve Bank	10 April	This consultation seeks public feedback on a proposal to introduce a cash services standard that would apply to New Zealand's banks. The standard would set a floor under the number and location of places where bank customers can withdraw, deposit and swap cash (for example, exchanging a \$50 banknote for \$5 banknotes and coins). For Rangitikei, the Bank proposes 4 multi-bank, full-service cash sites in the district, at Ratana, Bulls, Marton and Taihape. The district currently has 12 partial service sites. ☑ 'Multi-bank, full-service cash sites' refer to sites where customers of any bank can – at no charge – access cash withdrawal, cash deposit and cash swap services. ☑ 'Partial service sites' refers to sites where customers may be able to withdraw cash but cannot deposit cash or swap cash to acquire low denomination banknotes and coins. Moreover, at partial service sites the services may not be available to customers of some banks.	Submit
Review of pest management plan https://haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz/rpmp	Horizons Regional Council	13 April	Since the current Regional Pest Management Plan became operative, the pest landscape has continued to change in the Horizons region. New species have arrived through natural spread or human activity, while Horizons receives ongoing feedback from communities about species they are concerned about and think should be considered in the plan. At the same time, some long-established pests have changed in their impact, through increased numbers, wider spread, land-use change, new control options, or shifts in community expectations. The challenge is what (and where) to prioritise effort.	None
Data and Statistics (Census) Amendment Bill https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/d5ddb24-da86-4de8-c09d-08de77fa96be?lang=en&Tab=history	Parliament Justice Committee	15 April	The Bill will end the five-yearly census by requesting information from every adult resident. Future census will be taken using administrative data as the primary source, supported by survey data. The Government Statistician would be required to provide an annual publication of census data. The next census will be in 2030.	None
Electoral (Districts Boundaries) Amendment Bill https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/d9e9f466-40be-4313-c09c-08de77fa96be?lang=en&Tab=history	Parliament Justice Committee	15 April	The bill amends the Electoral Act 1993 to align the policy settings in the Act with the Government's work to modernise the census process, while ensuring that there is a logical link between boundary reviews and the electoral cycles to which they relate. From 2030, electoral boundary reviews will be tied to every second general election cycle (instead of now, tied to the taking of the census).	None

ITEM 10.4 ATTACHMENT 1

Enhancing the cyber security of New Zealand's critical infrastructure system https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2026-03/nz-cyber-security-discussion-doc-feb-2026-v2.pdf	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	19 April	Consultation document seeks feedback on two questions: - What are the essential infrastructure services most critical to our economy and communities that they should be safeguard against harm? What should the depth of the cyber defences of these infrastructure services be? <i>Note the proposed threshold for critical water/wastewater infrastructure is 25,000 connections or more (p.11). That would exclude all small rural communities like Rangitikei.</i>	None
Inquiry into Fire and Emergency New Zealand's fleet management and related issues https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCGOA_SCF_01702031-7B43-4D10-5BF6-08DE8F8E7A8A/inquiry-into-fire-and-emergency-new-zealands-fleet-management	Parliament Governance and Administration Committee	30 April	The Committee's inquiry into FENZ's fleet management will examine the current state, procurement challenges, and future needs of all types of fire appliances. The volunteer appliance fleet is within scope as are the emergency response capacity differences between the professional and volunteer appliance fleets.	Under consideration
Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Improving Alcohol Regulation) Amendment Bill https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/b98f4d35-d0bd-47ab-a326-08de82fd2ebd?lang=en&Tab=history	Parliament Justice Committee	14 May	The Bill aims to make the licensing process fairer, make it easier to host events, and cut red tape affecting everything from hairdressers to major concerts.	Under consideration
DZ PAS 4509 Firefighting Water Supplies – Code of Practice https://consultations.standards.govt.nz/draft-standards/pas-nzs4509-public-consultation/	Standards New Zealand	15 May	The Code of Practice aligns with Fire and Emergency's requirements and sets out what constitutes a sufficient minimum supply of water pressure and volume for firefighting in structures and guidance on options for establishing water supplies to provide intervention opportunities for wildfires. It will form the basis of a partnership between FENZ, local authorities, Water Service Providers, the Water Services Authority, builders, designers and developers, etc.	None
Legislation Repeals Project - second round https://pco.govt.nz/about-us/about-new-zealand-legislation/legislation-repeals-project/consultation-on-second-round-of-acts-proposed-for-repeal	Parliamentary Counsel Office	21 May	This second round lists 51 local, provincial, public, and private acts proposed to be repealed, on the grounds that they are no longer needed (through the passage of time or subsequent more general legislation). None of the listed Acts is relevant to the Rangitikei District.	None

10.5 Mayor's Report - March 2026**Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday afternoon session -

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

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

viii) Simon Upton – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 2 - Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor's Engagements

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

February 2026

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

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

March 2026

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

ITEM 10.5

Attachments:

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

Recommendation

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

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

[note: may be slight variations on delivery]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 25 March 2026

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

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

3-26 Initial Shareholders' Committee Policies

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

The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

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

11 Meeting Closed.