



**RANGITĪKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Making this place home.*

# ORDER PAPER

## TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 9 June 2026  
**Time:** 11.00am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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

**Tumuaki:** Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa

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

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| <b>Locations:</b>   | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p><u>Marton</u><br/>Head Office<br/>46 High Street<br/>Marton</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p><u>Bulls</u><br/>Bulls Information Centre<br/>Te Matapihi<br/>4 Criterion Street<br/>Bulls</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Taihape</u><br/>Taihape Information Centre<br/>102 Hautapu Street (SH1)<br/>Taihape</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p><u>Marton</u><br/>Head Office<br/>46 High Street<br/>Marton</p> | <p><u>Bulls</u><br/>Bulls Information Centre<br/>Te Matapihi<br/>4 Criterion Street<br/>Bulls</p> | <p><u>Taihape</u><br/>Taihape Information Centre<br/>102 Hautapu Street (SH1)<br/>Taihape</p> |  |
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**Notice is hereby given that a Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 11.00am.**

## **Order Of Business**

|           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Welcome / Prayer</b> .....                                     | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Apologies</b> .....  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Public Forum</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> .....                    | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Order of Business</b> .....                    | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....                              | <b>5</b>  |
|           | 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes .....                                 | 5         |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....                              | <b>10</b> |
|           | 7.1 Confirmation of Minutes .....                                 | 10        |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings</b> .....        | <b>18</b> |
|           | 8.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings .....     | 18        |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Chair’s Report</b> .....                                       | <b>20</b> |
|           | 9.1 Chair’s Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui June 2026..... | 20        |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Reports for Information</b> .....                              | <b>21</b> |
|           | 10.1 Mayor’s Report - May 2026.....                               | 21        |
|           | 10.2 External consultations and reform update - May 2026 .....    | 29        |
|           | 10.3 Project Update Report - April 2026.....                      | 47        |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Discussion Items</b> .....                                     | <b>64</b> |
|           | 11.1 Marae Development Fund - discussion.....                     | 64        |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Open Meeting</b> .....   | <b>77</b> |

## **AGENDA**

### **1 Welcome / 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 19 May 2026** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 19 May 2026**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 19 May 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, 19 May 2026  
**Time:** 11.00am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Tumuaki** Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha) (Zoom)

**Nga mema:** Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī) (Zoom)  
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
Dr Heather Gifford (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauti)(Zoom)  
Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina)  
Cr Coral Raukawa (Zoom)  
HWTM Andy Watson

**Manuhiri:** Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive  
Mrs Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

|          |  |          |
|----------|--|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Karakia / Prayer .....</b>                  | <b>3</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Apologies .....</b>                         | <b>3</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Public Forum .....</b>                      | <b>3</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Conflict of Interest Declarations.....</b>  | <b>3</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Confirmation of Order of Business .....</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Confirmation of Minutes .....</b>           | <b>3</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Reports for Decision .....</b>              | <b>3</b> |
| 7.1      | Marae Development Fund 2025/26.....            | 3        |

**ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1**

Unconfirmed

## 1 Karakia / Prayer

Ms Savage opened the meeting at 11.05am.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number** 26/IWI/027

That the apologies be received from Ms Hiroa, Ms Nepia, Ms Raukawa, Ms Heeney and for lateness Dr Gray-Sharp.

Dr H Gifford/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were conflicts of interest declared from Ms Hiroa, Ms Raukawa and Ms Heeney.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

The Komiti decided to confirm the minutes at the next meeting.

## 7 Reports for Decision

### 7.1 Marae Development Fund 2025/26

Dr Gray-Sharp arrived at 11.20am.

The Komiti discussed the previous hui and the discussion of the funding allocation process. The Komiti decided to acknowledge the letter from Opaea Marae which will be sent by Ms Gray and that their action points will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Resolved minute number** 26/IWI/028

That the report Marae Development Fund 2025/26 be received.

Ms K Savage/Dr M Paki. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/029**

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā recommends to Council that the Marae Development funding for the 2025/26 financial year is allocated as follows:

- Ōpaea Marae \$8,446
- Moawhango Marae \$8,000

Dr H Gifford/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

**The meeting closed at 11.29am**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 9 June 2026.**

.....  
Chairperson

Unconfirmed

## 7 Confirmation of Minutes

### 7.1 Confirmation of Minutes

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report
2. The minutes from **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 14 April 2026** are attached.

#### Attachments:

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 14 April 2026** [↓](#)

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 14 April 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, 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:** Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake),  
 Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri)  
 Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī) (Zoom)  
 Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines (Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki) (Zoom)  
 Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
 Dr Heather Gifford (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauti)  
 Dr Mike Paki (Ngā Ariki Turakina)  
 Cr Alan Buckendahl  
 Cr Dave Wilson

**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  
 Mr Paul Chaffe, Senior Emergency Management Advisor  
 Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor  
 Ms Crystal Johnston, Executive Assistant – Group Managers

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**Order of Business**

|           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Karakia/ Prayer .....</b>   | <b>3</b> |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Apologies .....</b>   | <b>3</b> |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Public Forum .....</b>  | <b>3</b> |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Conflict of Interest Declarations.....</b>                            | <b>3</b> |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Order of Business .....</b>                           | <b>3</b> |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes .....</b>                                     | <b>3</b> |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Follow up Actions .....</b>   | <b>4</b> |
| 7.1       | Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings .....                | 4        |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Chair's Report .....</b>  | <b>4</b> |
| 8.1       | Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui April 2026 .....          | 4        |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Reports for Decision .....</b>  | <b>4</b> |
| 9.1       | Marae Development Fund .....   | 4        |
| 9.2       | Adoption of Anga Whakahaere and Code of Conduct for Te Rōpū Ahi Kā ..... | 5        |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Reports for Information.....</b>                                      | <b>5</b> |
| 10.1      | Mana Whenua-Strategic Advisor Report .....                               | 5        |
| 10.2      | Request for Information CDEM .....                                       | 6        |
| 10.3      | Project Update Report - March 2026 .....                                 | 6        |
| 10.4      | External consultations update - April 2026 .....                         | 6        |
| 10.5      | Mayor's Report - March 2026 .....  | 7        |

## 1 Karakia/ Prayer

Dr M Paki opened with karakia at 11:10am.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number** 26/IWI/014

That the apologies be received from HWTM A Watson, Ms Gaylene Nepia, Cr Coral Raukawa be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Ms M Heeney. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Conflicts of interest declared by Ms P Hiroa, Ms M Heeney, Ms M Raukawa regarding item 9.1 Marae Development Fund.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### Amendments

Dr M Paki and Dr K Gray-Sharp were listed as attending by Zoom, however they attended in person.

Dr H Gifford was not present at the meeting.

**Resolved minute number** 26/IWI/015

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 10 February 2026 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/Dr H Gifford. Carried

## 7 Follow up Actions

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

#### Item 2 – Northern and Southern tour of Marae in the District

The Komiti noted that the Northern Marae Tour was undertaken in March. It was further noted that the CE met with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, and they have offered to host councillors on a tour of their business. The Southern Marae Tour will be undertaken separately.

The Komiti noted that care should be taken to use precise language when referring to Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, specifically using the Rūnanga when referring to the organisation.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/016**

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

Dr M Paki/Dr H Gifford. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

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

The Chair provided a verbal report.

The Komiti discussed the pōwhiri for Central Districts Water. An explanation was provided on the purpose and process of a pōwhiri, including aspects that were not undertaken correctly.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/017**

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

Ms P Hiroa/Ms K Savage. Carried

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Marae Development Fund

Ms P Hiroa, Ms M Heeneey, and Ms M Raukawa declared conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The Komiti noted that two applications were received for the current round, from Opaea Marae and Moawhango Marae with a total of \$16,446 in funding available. Opaea requested \$15,000, while Moawhango's application was incomplete, pending quotes.

It was noted that the absence of financial information from Moawhango made it difficult to make a fully informed decision.

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Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting Minutes

14 April 2026

Ms P Hiroa, Ms M Heeney, and Ms M Raukawa left the meeting at 11.51am.

It was agreed that an extra meeting would be held to further consider the applications and provide further time for information to be received from Moawhango marae.

Ms P Hiroa, Ms M Heeney, Ms M Raukawa returned at 12:05pm

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/018**

That the report Marae Development Fund be received.

Ms P Hiroa/Dr H Gifford. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/019**

That the applications for the Marae Development Fund are closed.

Mr J Winiata-Haines/Dr M Paki. Carried

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

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/020**

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

Ms P Hiroa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/021**

That Te Rōpū Ahi Kā approves Te Anga Whakahaere without amendments.

Dr H Gifford/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Mana Whenua-Strategic Advisor Report

Officers mentioned the positive feedback from the councillors that attended the Northern Tour.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/022**

That the report Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor be received.

Ms M Heeney/Dr M Paki. Carried

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Page 5

**10.2 Request for Information CDEM**

Officers advised that a draft Community Response Plan for Rātana is currently in development, and that Rātana will be recognised as a response centre once the plan is finalised and signed off. Officers were unable to confirm the Horizon Regional Councils level of involvement.

Members sought clarification on the distinction between hubs and centres. It was explained that response centres are formally identified within response plans, while hubs are informal, community-designated places to gather. Welfare hubs are formal centres, whereas community emergency hubs are more informal.

Members queried the role of the Komiti within an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Officers advised that the iwi liaison role within the EOC is currently undertaken by officers, and that Komiti members may instead have roles within their respective marae.

Members also asked whether situation reports (sitreps) would be provided to the Komiti via the iwi liaison. Officers confirmed this could occur, although this level of reporting has not been generated since 2004. For smaller events, sitreps are typically provided by the CDEM Group Office in conjunction with Horizons.

Members also noted that Opaea Marae has been working with Horizons on Civil Defence planning. Officers advised that discussions held with Horizons are not always communicated to Council, and that assumptions should not be made regarding information sharing between agencies.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/023**

That the report Request for Information – CDEM be received.

Dr K Gray-Sharp/Dr M Paki. Carried

**10.3 Project Update Report - March 2026**

Dr K Gray-Sharp left the meeting at 12:45pm.

Cr Wilson noted the report is high level.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/024**

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

Dr H Gifford/Ms M Heeney. Carried

**10.4 External consultations update - April 2026**

Officers noted the submissions process.

Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting Minutes

14 April 2026

The Komiti questioned the consultation on the access to cash for Rātana and if this meant there would be an ATM made available to the community. Officers explained that a multi-bank site is proposed that would provide a range of services.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/025**

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

Cr A Buckendahl/Dr M Paki. Carried

**10.5 Mayor's Report - March 2026**

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 26/IWI/026**

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

Ms K Savage/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

**The meeting closed at 1:06pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti held on 9 June 2026.**

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**Chairperson**

Unconfirmed

**ITEM 8.1** **8 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings****8.1 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 Rōpū Ahi Kā 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      |
|------|-------------------|---|--|--|-------------|
|      | 07-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. | Katrina/Kim                              | Northern complete.<br>Kim to organise southern tour. | In progress |
|      | 14-Apr-26         | For TRAK members to connect with Jordan regarding who from Horizons is reaching out to them on CDEM matters and share back with RDC.                      | Jordan Winiata-Haines/ Committee members | Komiti to discuss.                                   |             |

**ITEM 9.1**

## **9 Chair's Report**

### **9.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui June 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 June 2026 be received.

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Mayor's Report - May 2026

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

Good afternoon

1. Having just returned from a family holiday, this report will be a little disjointed with the noting of things over the last few weeks that may have already had coverage by Comms or Council. My appreciation to Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson for very ably standing in for me is foremost in my mind. While I was away our district faced the possibility of a weather declaration, the new Central Districts Water Board was put in place and major decisions were made by Council on the Marton Pool and Marton Water project. These were big decisions and I was able to Zoom in to the Council meeting on the day and support them. We now have a future with the Marton Pool and while the water strategy project is frustrating in the delay, the money spent on the new bores is not wasted and what we are wanting is the best option for treatment processes. I and Council are committed to keeping you updated on progress over the next few months. The run-up to Council on these decisions takes time and skill answering questions raised and checking that the right information is available to Councillors. It was a pity that the Harvest Festival had to be cancelled but it was the right call. Dave handled all of this incredibly well – thanks.
2. Central Districts Water is now live and will take effect 2027. I have included some photos from the establishment of the new Board and it was a pity that I was away for the powhiri to welcome the new Board. The next milestone will be the setting of what is known as the Statement of Expectations set by the Shareholder Committee representing the three Councils and Iwi aspirations and direction to the entity. The performance of the entity will be held to account through both this process and the Commerce Commission.



## ITEM 10.1



3. Like so many others in our district I took part in ANZAC Day services. It is a time for us to reflect on the sacrifices made by young men and women who left our shores, so many of them not to return. My thanks to all of those who took part. The Rangitīkei has a proud military history. With Waiouru to the north of us, and Base Ōhakea and Linton Military Camp to our south, many defence force staff call our district home. We're incredibly grateful for their service to our country, and the contribution that they make to Rangitīkei. As part of the day I attended the Ohingaiti service at 10am. The young students from Hunterville School and locals read excerpts from letters sent home from the front which I found particularly moving. We will remember them.
4. Local Government New Zealand have initiated regular Zoom Meetings for members with the Minister of Local Government Simon Watts. The 17 March session was Chaired by LGNZ President Rehette Stoltz and the salient points were -
  - 200 members of LGNZ were on the call including our CE Carol and Councillor Diana Baird.
  - Minister Watts thanked the sector for their work and made the point that Senior Ministers were aware of the scale of reforms that the sector faced.
  - The Minister gave assurance that New Zealand is in a good space around fuel security.
  - He then wanted to highlight several of the reforms before engaging in a Q&A session.
    - i) Simplifying Local Government legislation
      - Consultation/Submission process now closed and under review
      - Regarding timeframes proposed at 2 years – the Minister said that several councils want Government to move with pace, so timelines are currently being reviewed.
      - There was the comment that “one size doesn’t fit all” and there will be regional differences.

- Government wants to move at pace was repeated.
- ii) Rates Capping
  - Government is looking at a range-based model
  - Feedback to Government is supportive of the direction for the rates cap
  - The Minister said that final design is not there yet, but legislation should be in place before the election
- iii) Ratepayer Assistance
  - A Steering Group has been set up to look at this.
- iv) Dog Control Legislation
  - Current status is not acceptable
  - Notes the three fatalities in Northland resulting from dog attacks
  - Multi-ministers involved in this review and there will be more on this later
  - The Government is keen to work with the LGNZ sector here
- v) RMA Reform
  - Ministers Bishop and Watts are working closely on this
  - Fewer consents will be required perhaps halving the need
  - Reform process is on track
  - The reforms will help councils to meet rates cap

- Q&A Session –

- Timelines for Regional Councils? *No further comment and it had been referenced earlier.*
- Boundary issues for authorities aligned to reform? *Minister Bishop has responsibility in this space.*
- The issue of compensation to property owners over land reclassification – has this been factored into rates pegging? *No clear answer.*
- The question of the costs of audit amidst the backdrop of rates pegging? *Being looked at by Government was the response.*

5. On 21 March I attended the final tribute to 50 years of operation of the Marton OpShop - a High Tea at Rangitikei College. Over the preceding week there was a series of events celebrating this. Rangitikei is built on voluntary organisations, often started by church groups, service groups and our communities and the OpShop is a classic example of this. It has been a remarkable progression over the 50 years lead initially by Ted Calkin, Betty Corballis and Clifford Brown and carried on through Marton Christian Welfare and the current team headed by Mike O'Regan. Our community has benefitted by over \$50m worth of community support, made possible by the huge number of volunteers at the OpShop and by the gifting of the community who supply it. Recently the OpShop was named in 2<sup>nd</sup> place nationally as the Best OpShop in the country – congratulations, this is well deserved. I have included a photo of the cutting of the cake.

## ITEM 10.1



6. Taihape Health Update – this has been and still is a roller coaster ride. The collaboration between Otaihape Health Trust and Mokai Patea Services to take over, by way of a longterm “peppercorn” lease, the old hospital at Taihape currently run under Te Whatu Ora initially seemed to be straightforward and a fantastic solution for Taihape and the Rangitikei. Progress has been slow but a Zoom meeting with Minister Simeon Brown in June seemed to provide ministerial direction that it should proceed quickly. Effectively he instructed officials to proceed, the key element being the sale of the buildings for \$1, roof replacement and the ground lease at the peppercorn rental. Since that time, health officials have reneged on that direction especially by asking for a huge unrealistic rental cost. I wrote to the Minister in April and have written again this week asking for an urgent meeting. I know that our MP Suze Redmayne is actively supporting us. If this is not dealt with quickly, we as a community need to take action and politicise it as loudly as possible. Jude MacDonald and Piki Te Ora Hira and all involved need our support.
7. The 2026 Ford Ranger NZ Rural Games took place in Palmerston North on 15 March. Once again a hugely successful event with many of the competitors coming from the Rangitikei. Normally I would attend the welcoming powhiri which this year unfortunately clashed with another event, however I did support the Awards Night on 13 March where Marton’s own fencer Tim Stafford was a finalist in the NZ Rural Sportsman of the Year. Tim’s year was defined by a stunning treble of major titles – the Silver Spades, the East Coast Fencing Rivalry in the USA demonstrating NZ standards on the world stage and the Golden Pliers, NZ’s premier solo fencing competition. Tim is more than a champion fencer – he is a leader and stands for skill, integrity and passion in NZ’s rural sports community. Winning the Golden Pliers twice in one decade defines a career – congratulations on your achievements Tim!

8. Last weekend I attended the 2026 Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge event in Turakina. This annual event has been running since 2015 and the number of people there, I believe, was a record this year. The combination of wet weather the week preceding to make the driving obstacles difficult and two days of dry weather just prior provided a very successful mix. I can't tell you who won the event but I can say that as a parking attendant the crowds absolutely loved it and I understand that a large number of people travelled from around the country to watch, many of whom took up local accommodation options – a huge plus for our district.
9. The winners of the 2026 Community Volunteer Awards have now been notified and published on our website and social media pages. Thank you to everyone who took the time to put in nominations recognising the extraordinary work so many volunteers do within our district. Myself and Elected Members are visiting each of the 5 winners to present their awards at separate personalised ceremonies starting on 1 May. Pictures and more information will be available on our website following those events.
10. On a final celebratory note, just before I went away I attended the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards where Jarred and Bronwyn Clode and the Te Hou Farms team were named the 2026 Supreme Winners, an achievement that they should be justifiably proud of. Te Hou farms is two-thirds owned by Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Developments Ltd in partnership with Āti hau Whanganui Incorporation. I have included a link for further details - [Jarred & Bronwyn Clode | New Zealand Farm Environment Trust](#)



## Deputy Mayor's Engagements

During the Mayor's annual leave absence, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson attended the following engagements

- 27 March – Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting with all three Councils. I attended on Zoom and Cr Fi Dalgety attended in person. These are important meetings as we continue to form our relationships with CDW and our three Councils.
- 4 April - Bulls Rugby Club 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee
- Met with Chief Executive regularly including making the unfortunate decision to cancel the 2026 Harvest Festival due to predicted Cyclone Vaianu.
- Zoom meetings with CDEM Regional Mayors and CE's regarding potential impact of Cyclone Vaianu. This was useful in understanding Council processes and while I have confidence in them, confidence can lead to complacency and we should never be complacent when events like this arise. I am confident we have a robust system in place. I thank the Chief Executive for keeping Elected Members well informed during the weather event.
- 11 April - Gumboot Day in Taihape – thanks to the organising groups for a very well run event myself and my wife enjoyed a great day out. P.S. Thanks for the pickled onions!
- 13 April – tangi of Thomas Curtis, former longstanding member of the Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti and well respected for his work on iwi matters in our district.
- 14 April – Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting.
- 14 April – Rangitikei Rural Support Group meeting – discussed opportunities to work together with their significant networks in Civil Defence. This is a very well respected group with good network connections.
- 15 April – Coroner's Court Hastings – inquiry into the Cyclone Gabrielle deaths, in particular Mr George Luke who died on the Taihape-Napier Road. I attended mainly out of respect to the family and in support of our Chief Executive and Roding Manager who was called upon to give evidence.

## Mayor's Engagements

### March 2026

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 13 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Quarterly Regional Relationship meeting with NZTA</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholder Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended NZ Rural Games Awards Evening</p>  |
| 14 | <p>Attended NZ Ford Ranger Rural Games</p> <p>Attended Child Cancer Red Bucket Appeal Mayoral Challenge</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations</p> <p>Attended Bulls RSA AGM</p> <p>Attended Alistair Stewart's Gold Star Celebration with Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade</p> |
| 17 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p>  |

|    |   |
|----|---|
|    | <p>Attended LGNZ zoom with Minister of Local Government</p> <p>Attended Citizenship Ceremony</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>   |
| 18 | <p>Attended monthly comms meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended Bulls Town Centre Projects walkabout</p>   |
| 19 | <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Balance Farm Environmental Awards</p>  |
| 20 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended National MPS Accelerate35 Meeting</p> <p>Attended Central Districts Field Days Event</p>   |
| 21 | <p>Attended Annual Plan Public Meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Marton OpShop 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations – Function for Past/Present Volunteers</p>   |
| 23 | <p>Attended Ngā Wai Tōtā Hui in Ohakune</p> <p>Attended Youth Council Meeting</p>   |
| 24 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Town Centre Projects walkabout and Annual Plan Public Meeting</p> <p>Attended RCA Forum Special General Meeting online</p> <p>Attended Taihape Wellness Development Hui</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> |
| 25 | <p>Attended Community Volunteer Awards Meeting</p> <p>Attended meeting with MSD Regional Commissioner</p> <p>Attended Federated Farmers meeting with Mayors</p>   |

**April 2026**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | <p>Attended Mokai Patea Services Kaumatua Ora Wananga</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Zoom on Fuel Crisis</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand Community Meeting</p>   |
| 23 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Marton Town Centre Projects walkabout</p> <p>Attended Local Government sector meeting with Ministers re fuel response</p> |
| 24 | <p>Attended Rural Communities Chapter Hui online</p>  |
| 28 | <p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Dawn Parade</p> <p>Attended Ohingaiti ANZAC Day Function</p> <p>Attended Marton ANZAC Day Ceremony at Cenotaph Marton Park</p>   |
| 26 | <p>Attended Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge in Turakina</p>  |

## ITEM 10.1

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 28 | Attended Mayors Briefing before Council with staff<br>Attended meeting with Minister Peters at Parliament<br>Attended logging meeting with Daran Ponter<br>Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor   |
| 29 | Attended Community Grants Committee Meeting   |
| 30 | Attended meeting with Chief Executive<br>Attended Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Meeting<br>Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Workshop<br>Attended Finance/Performance Committee Workshop<br>Attended Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Workshop<br>Attended Campaign Launch of surgical robot at Palmerston North Hospital |

**May 2026**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Attended presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Katie Deere   |
| 4 | Attended meeting with Chief Executive<br>Attended presentation of Mayor's Recognition Award to Jo Rangooni<br>Attended meeting with TUIA Rangatahi              |
| 5 | Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Hui<br>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor                                       |
| 6 | Attended meeting with Chief Executive<br>Attended Council Meeting – Annual Plan Hearing   |
| 7 | Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop<br>Attended meeting with FRV Chief Executive re Solar Farms<br>Attended Manawatu-Rangitikei Federated Farmers AGM |

**Attachments:**

1. **LGNZ four-monthly report December-March (under separate cover)**
2. **Zone 3 - March 2026 - Elected Member Report - Cr Fi Dalgety (under separate cover)**
3. **Zone 3 - March 2026 Elected Members Report - Crs Baird & Sharland (under separate cover)**

**Recommendation**

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

## 10.2 External consultations and reform update - May 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 and provide an update on local government reform.

### 2. Consultations

Consultations Council has submitted on

- 2.1 Since the previous Te Rōpū Ahi Kā meeting, Council has submitted on the following consultations:
  - Emergency Management Rule 1 – Forms for declarations of states of emergency and transition period (12 May 2026)
  - Reserve Bank of New Zealand: Access to Cash (8 April 2026)
  - Discussion paper on ring-fencing revenue for regulated water services (4 June 2026).
- 2.2 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

- 2.3 The updated list of current opportunities to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached (Attachment 1). This attachment contains further information including links to the relevant websites for all current consultations.
- 2.4 There are no other submissions Council intends on submitting to that are open for consultation.

### 3. Local Government Reform – Head Start pathway / Back Stop process

- 3.1 The Government's [November 2025 proposal to replace regional councillors with Combined Territories Boards](#) made up of mayors has changed.
- 3.2 Following consultation, the Government has moved to a staged approach:
  - a voluntary Head Start pathway for councils ready to reorganise/amalgamate quickly; and
  - a later backstop process for areas that do not progress through Head Start.
- 3.3 The Head Start pathway is focused on structural reform. This means councils can propose creating new unitary authorities. A unitary authority brings together the functions of a regional council, such as Horizons Regional Council, and a territorial authority, such as Rangitikei District Council, into one organisation.
- 3.4 Proposals can cover all or part of a region, and may include neighbouring councils from different regions where that makes sense. The Government has said Head Start proposals must be submitted by 11.59pm on Sunday 9 August 2026.

3.5 You can read more about the May 2026 Government announcement, the Head Start pathway, and Mayor Andy's reaction below:

- [Mayor Andy Watson Rangitikei must have a say on simplifying local government](#)
- [Letter from Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts](#)
- [Information from DIA](#)

3.6 The Head Start pathway document is attached.

3.7 Before Council decides engagement with iwi, the community and key stakeholders needs to occur. From June, Council will be holding public meetings across the district and opening an online survey - [Simplifying Local Government | Have your say: Rangitikei District Council](#).

3.8 Komiti members are encouraged to share this survey with their networks. There is an open offer from the Mayor to attend any hui during this period to discuss reform (subject to it being able to be scheduled). The Komiti is also able to provide recommendations back to Council directly.

#### 4. National Environmental Standards for Papakāinga

4.1 The Ministry for the Environment has provided councils with advance notice, subject to final Cabinet consideration, the National Environmental Standards for Papakāinga is expected to be notified in the New Zealand Gazette in early June 2026 (gazetted on 4 June 2026 to come into effect on 2 July 2026). The provisions will be made available by the Ministry following gazettal, but it is expected the NES will reduce the cost and complexity of developing papakāinga on Māori land.

#### 5. Financial Implications

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

#### 6. Impact on Strategic Risks

6.1 Changes to Government legislation are transformational:

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 The proposed Head Start and Backstop processes could be significant for the structure of local government.

#### 7. Strategic Alignment

7.1 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.

#### 8. Mana Whenua Implications

8.1 The Komiti is asked to advise of any mana whenua implications associated with the topics available to submit on.

8.2 The komiti is asked to share the reform information within their networks.

**9. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

9.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

**10. Statutory Implications**

10.1 There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

**11. Decision Making Process**

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

**Attachments:**

1. **External consultations - May 2026** [↓](#)
2. **Head Start pathway** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report External consultations and reform update – May 2026 be received.

## ITEM 10.2 ATTACHMENT 1

| Name of Initiative  | Agency engaging                      | Due date | Description   | RDC Action |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|---|------------|
| <b>Currently open for submissions</b>   |                                      |          |   |            |
| Economic regulation of Tiaki Wai - additional requirements<br><a href="https://www.comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/news-and-events/2026/commerce-commission-seeks-information-and-performance-improvements-from-wellingtons-water-provider/">https://www.comcom.govt.nz/news-and-media/news-and-events/2026/commerce-commission-seeks-information-and-performance-improvements-from-wellingtons-water-provider/</a>   | Commerce Commission                  | 28-May   | The Commission considers there is a higher risk to consumer outcomes for Tiaki Wai so intends to have additional oversight, through more detailed reporting and setting performance requirements. While specific to Tiaki Wai, the consultation signals how the Commission might respond to other water service providers.  | None       |
| Consultation on first Emergency Management Rule<br>Declarations for states of emergency and transition periods (under the Emergency Management Bill)<br><a href="https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/strategy-capability/emergency-management-bill/emergency-management-rule-1">https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/strategy-capability/emergency-management-bill/emergency-management-rule-1</a>   | National Emergency Management Agency | 29-May   | NEMA is developing the first emergency management rule this year under the EM Bill, relating to making declarations for states of emergency and transition periods. Under the Bill the current regulations which set out declaration forms will be revoked and the forms will instead be set out in emergency management rules which are issued by the Minister – this makes them easier to amend if needed. Two questions are posed:<br><b>Question 1: Issues with declaring</b><br>To help us make this draft rule fit for purpose, we would like you to tell us any issues or workarounds you currently have, or have experienced, with: declaring states of local emergency, including extensions and terminations, issuing transition period notices, including extensions and terminations, the forms currently in the CDEM regulations, signing declarations, and/or anything else you feel is relevant.<br><b>Question 2: Using electronic signatures</b><br>We would also like to know about your current processes and systems for signing out formal documents electronically. What would work for you for declarations, or any barriers to the proposed parameters in the draft rule. | Submitted  |
| Future of wastewater in Palmerston North<br><a href="https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Have-your-say/Nature-Calls-feedback">https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Have-your-say/Nature-Calls-feedback</a>   | Palmerston North City Council        | 31-May   | Two options are presented:<br>Option 1: Keep the discharge at or near Tōtara Road after a major treatment plant upgrade (\$292 million). Under this option, treated wastewater would continue to be discharged into the Manawatū River at or near the existing outlet on Tōtara Road in Awapuni. Wastewater would be treated to a much higher standard than it is today before discharge.<br>Option 2: Use two discharge locations depending on river flow conditions (\$370 million). Under this option, treated wastewater would be discharged to the Manawatū River at Tōtara Road when river flows are high, and below Ōpiki Bridge when river flows are low. Wastewater would still receive a very high standard of treatment before discharge.<br><i>Because Central Districts Water is expected to take over delivery of the project, residents in Horowhenua and Rangitikei are encouraged to provide feedback.</i>   | None       |
| Approach for demonstrating ringfencing water revenues by regulated suppliers<br><a href="https://www.comcom.govt.nz/assets/Documents/economic-regulation-of-water-services-information-disclosure/Ring-fencing-revenue-for-regulated-water-services-discussion-paper-22-April-2026.pdf">https://www.comcom.govt.nz/assets/Documents/economic-regulation-of-water-services-information-disclosure/Ring-fencing-revenue-for-regulated-water-services-discussion-paper-22-April-2026.pdf</a> | Commerce Commission                  | 5-Jun    | The Commission will consult on how it should monitor and enforce the ring-fencing provisions in the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, The February 2026 Information Disclosure determination requires a statement, so potentially this consultation will result in more detail for that. The Commission's view is that 'the ring-fencing principle is most effectively monitored and enforced by tracking, and potentially restricting, flows of cash funds between services over time'. The consultation asks for feedback on 23 questions.  | Submit     |

|   |  |        |   |      |
|---|--|--------|---|------|
| Residential Tenancies (Registration of Boarding House Landlords) Amendment Bill<br><a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/0c007074-c2d7-4e12-65c9-08ddc4d61c13?lang=en&amp;Tab=history">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/0c007074-c2d7-4e12-65c9-08ddc4d61c13?lang=en&amp;Tab=history</a>  | Parliament Social Services and Community Committee | 11-Jun | The Bill would require the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to create and maintain a register of boarding houses and boarding house landlords to enable better monitoring compliance with residential tenancy laws.  | None |
| Serious Fraud Office Amendment Bill<br><a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/7f746346-ff5d-4fe8-54cc-08dea1b2f231?lang=en&amp;Tab=history">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/7f746346-ff5d-4fe8-54cc-08dea1b2f231?lang=en&amp;Tab=history</a>  | Parliament Justice Committee                       | 8-Jun  | The Bill aims to help the Serious Fraud Office more effectively carry out its role by addressing two pressing issues - search warrants and evidence admissibility.  | None |
| Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Claims Settlement Bill<br><a href="https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/d304044e-2550-4237-51d0-08deabc64c2a?lang=en&amp;Tab=history">https://bills.parliament.nz/v/6/d304044e-2550-4237-51d0-08deabc64c2a?lang=en&amp;Tab=history</a>   | Parliament Maori Affairs Committee                 | 11-Jun | This bill seeks to give effect to certain matters set out in the Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui Deed of Settlement, signed on 2 May 2026, which require legislative authority.<br><i>No direct impact on Rangitikei, but Andy may want to lend support</i>   | None |
| Review of the Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999<br><a href="https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-the-biosecurity-ruminant-protein-regulations-1999">https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-the-biosecurity-ruminant-protein-regulations-1999</a>  | Ministry for Primary Industries                    | 12-Jun | The Ministry is looking for feedback on ways in which the risk of disease can be reduced. The specific areas for feedback include:<br>*cross-contamination during manufacturing<br>*storage and transportation<br>*how to deal with suspect animals<br>*pet food<br>*fertiliser and wastes containing ruminant proteins   | None |
| Proposed regulations for road user charges<br><a href="https://consult.transport.govt.nz/policy/proposed-regulations-for-road-user-charges/">https://consult.transport.govt.nz/policy/proposed-regulations-for-road-user-charges/</a>   | Ministry of Transport                              | 12-Jun | The proposed regulations have five areas:<br>*Electronic distance recorders – retaining relatively stringent requirements for heavy vehicles while adopting a more flexible outcomes-focused approach for light vehicles to support emerging technologies.<br>*Approval of RUC providers – establishing criteria for entry, including financial, operational, and technical capability.<br>*Performance requirements – setting ongoing obligations for revenue collection, data management, auditability, and compliance.<br>*Information protection and privacy – requiring compliance with the Privacy Act 2020 and associated safeguards for handling road user data.<br>*Alternative payment schemes – enabling different payment models, including post-paid systems, while ensuring revenue integrity | None |
| Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Amendment Bill   | Parliament Primary Production Committee            | 15-Jun | The Bill has the following policy objectives:<br>*to streamline application processes and improve regulatory efficiency and transparency:<br>*to improve application pathways and provide certainty for applicants:<br>*to support risk-proportionate decision-making and public participation:<br>*to enhance compliance, monitoring, and enforcement under the HSNO Act.<br><i>The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for approving applications.</i>  | None |
| Draft time of use charging regulations<br><a href="https://consult.transport.govt.nz/policy/time-of-use-charging-regulations/">https://consult.transport.govt.nz/policy/time-of-use-charging-regulations/</a>   | Ministry of Transport                              | 25-Jun | Consultation is on the proposed regulations to support the design of future time of use charging schemes under the Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Act 2025. The regulations would set nationally consistent rules for how time of use charging schemes operate.   | None |
| Terms of reference for the 2026–27 review of the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001<br><a href="https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/terms-of-reference-for-the-202627-review-of-the-dairy-industry-restructuring-act-2001">https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/terms-of-reference-for-the-202627-review-of-the-dairy-industry-restructuring-act-2001</a> | Ministry of Primary Industries                     | 29-Jun | The scope of the review covers all existing provisions under Subparts 5 and 5A of Part 2 of the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001 and the Dairy Industry Restructuring (Raw Milk) Regulations 2012 made under the enabling provisions of Subpart 5. These relate to:<br>• the remaining 'open entry and exit' provisions;<br>• the base milk price settings; and<br>• the supply of regulated milk to other processors.   | None |

## ITEM 10.2 ATTACHMENT 1

|   |  |                                 |  |      |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|------|
| NZTA Procurement Manual - feedback from Approved Organisations<br><a href="https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/public-consultation-hub/current-consultations/nzta-procurement-manual-feedback-from-approved-organisations">https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/public-consultation-hub/current-consultations/nzta-procurement-manual-feedback-from-approved-organisations</a> | NZTA   | 31 March<br>reopened<br>30-June | The current manual dates from 2022. An updated, simplified manual is currently being developed to reflect the new Government Procurement Rules and create a more modern, user-friendly resource.   | None |
| Conservation Amendment Bill<br><a href="https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCENV_SCF_BD7D0F89-D8CB-42F7-9C5F-08DEABEDA048/conservation-amendment-bill">https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCENV_SCF_BD7D0F89-D8CB-42F7-9C5F-08DEABEDA048/conservation-amendment-bill</a>                                      | Parliament Environment Committee                 | 2-Jul                           | The amendments focus on streamlining the conservation planning and land classification framework, improving the concessions regime regulated by that framework, broadening the Minister of Conservation's (the Minister's) ability to exchange or dispose of conservation land, enabling charging a levy to access parts of conservation land, and making other minor changes to create a more modern and user-friendly Act.   | None |
| Proposals for new national direction on conservation<br><a href="https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2026-consultations/proposals-for-new-national-direction-for-conservation/">https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2026-consultations/proposals-for-new-national-direction-for-conservation/</a>       | Department of Conservation                       | 2-Jul                           | The National Conservation Policy Statement will replace the current general policies that guide national conservation management (the Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks). The NCPS covers these same functions but with solutions to address issues within the conservation management framework. There will be a single layer of "area plans".  | None |
| Consultation on payment services regulation<br><a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/payment-services-regulation">https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/payment-services-regulation</a>  | MBIE   | 3-Jul                           | New Zealand does not have a single set of rules designed specifically for payment services. Different laws and requirements may apply depending on the service, how it is structured, and whether the provider is a bank or not. MBIE wants to understand what is working well, where there may be gaps or uncertainty, and what outcomes should matter most if further work is needed.  | None |
| People's experiences with employment disputes and the dispute resolution system<br><a href="https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-the-employment-dispute-system">https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-the-employment-dispute-system</a>  | Ministry of Business, Immigration and Employment | 31-Jul                          | The Ministry is looking for feedback on experiences with employment relations disputes. Areas of interest include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how disputes happen and areas of law that could be improved to minimise unnecessary disputes and lead to better resolution outcomes</li> <li>• how disputes progress and what influences how early they are resolved or whether they escalate</li> <li>• the time it takes to settle a dispute, and the impact this wait time has on the individual and/or business</li> <li>• how well the government-provided dispute resolution system is working, including whether it is delivering efficient, affordable, and fair resolution. The feedback will be used to identify what changes could be made, either to the government-provided dispute resolution system or to the Act, to ensure the dispute resolution system is as effective and efficient as possible</li> </ul> | None |

# Head Start pathway

Simplifying Local Government

ITEM 10.2 ATTACHMENT 2



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

## Ministerial foreword

Local government plays a central role in shaping how New Zealand grows and develops. Councils understand their communities and regions, and they are key partners with central government in delivering housing, infrastructure, and environmental management.

The Government knows councils are managing significant change, with multiple reforms happening at once. Alongside implementing a new planning system, councils told us through submissions on the [Simplifying Local Government proposal](#) that they wanted greater flexibility, including the ability to shape future governance arrangements themselves and, where they are ready, to move more quickly.

The Head Start pathway is a direct response to that feedback. It provides a voluntary, streamlined option for councils that want to lead the transition early, while continuing to deliver the new planning system. Head Start enables locally led solutions, so councils can set their own direction and pace rather than waiting for wider reform settings to apply.

The Government has been clear that regional governance needs to be simpler and more effective over time. Head Start is voluntary. Councils that do not opt in will not face mandatory change until after the 2028 local elections, giving them space to focus on delivering the first generation of plans under the new planning system.

Together, the Head Start pathway and the backstop approach provide certainty and confidence, supporting councils to lead where they are ready, while setting the system up to work better for the long term and delivering the new planning system.



Hon Chris Bishop  
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform



Hon Simon Watts  
Minister of Local Government

## The Simplifying Local Government proposal

In November we consulted on a draft proposal to establish regional boards of mayors, replacing regional councillors, to lead the development of reorganisation plans for a region. The proposal can be found at [dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government#Proposal](https://dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government#Proposal).

### What we heard

Consultation on this proposal resulted in more than 1,150 submissions, including around 70 from councils and local government sector bodies, and around 60 from iwi/Māori organisations. Submitters generally agreed with the need for reform but raised issues with the specific proposal.

There was more support for regional reorganisation plans than combined territories boards (CTBs). Many submitters had concerns about council capacity to progress these reforms at the same time as other government initiatives. Some suggested changes to the timing, membership, or remit of CTBs.

Many submitters supported keeping regional councillors in place until the 2028 local elections – as a practical measure to support mayors and maintain democratic legitimacy.

Submissions highlighted the important relationships regional councils have with iwi Māori, and the Treaty settlement redress arrangements that relate to regional council functions.

Other issues raised in submissions included:

- preserving and supporting local democracy, including balancing urban and rural interests, with some support for Crown observers
- retention of regional service delivery, particularly environmental management and river catchment management
- mayoral workloads and adopting a regional perspective; and
- funding and process concerns.

Councils told us they wanted greater flexibility to take locally led approaches to reform. Some councils and mayors have been clear that they are ready to move faster, building on existing regional arrangements such as mayoral forums rather than establishing a board of the region's mayors.

The Head Start pathway responds directly to that feedback, giving councils that are ready the opportunity to take the lead, shape their own regional solutions, and progress at pace.

## What we are doing

We have listened to feedback and refined our approach.

We will introduce a streamlined Head Start pathway for councils that are ready to develop and progress reorganisation proposals, with the aim of creating unitary authorities within a region through bespoke legislation.

We will legislate for councils not progressing through Head Start to enter a compulsory backstop process after the 2028 local elections.

We will replace regional councillors at the 2028 local elections with an interim body (for example, a board of mayors, Crown commissioners, or a combination of both). The precise model will be confirmed later. Retaining regional councillors until the 2028 local elections will provide capacity during a period of substantial change.

## How this fits with the new planning system

We know councils are navigating significant change, with multiple reforms happening at once.

The Head Start pathway gives councils that are ready to move early the confidence to get on with delivering the new planning system now, while they shape the governance arrangements ahead of the 2028 local elections.

By progressively aligning governance with how the new planning system is designed to work, Head Start enables councils to lead the transition on their own terms, rather than waiting for wider reform to commence.

Delivering the new planning system remains core business for all councils and continues in parallel, whichever pathway councils choose.

## Head Start pathway

From 5 May 2026, two or more territorial and/or unitary authorities can submit an outline proposal to establish a new unitary authority covering part or all of a region. Proposals will need to be submitted by 9 August 2026.

A unitary authority combines the functions of a regional council and a city or district council into a single organisation. This can simplify governance, reduce duplication, and improve regional coordination.

Councils participating in the Head Start pathway will continue implementing the new planning system alongside any reorganisation activity.

### Who can submit an outline proposal?

Any two or more territorial and/or unitary authorities (except for Auckland) including cross-boundary groupings, may submit if they represent a majority of either the:

- directly affected territorial authorities, or
- population across directly affected areas.

Proposals cannot be submitted by minority groupings, individual territorial authorities or unitary authorities, regional councils, individuals or other organisations.

## Eligibility criteria

Proposals must be submitted by two or more territorial authorities that together represent a majority of either directly affected territorial authorities or a majority of the population across directly affected districts. The following examples illustrate how this may work.

### What types of reorganisation can be proposed?

Outline proposals must provide for the establishment of new unitary authorities. The most straightforward approach is for all councils in a region to combine to form a single unitary authority.

We will also consider outline proposals for subregional unitary authorities and potential cross-boundary proposals, where:

- existing territorial authorities are combined and regional council functions are transferred
- the proposed arrangements would result in fewer local authorities overall
- the proposed arrangements would deliver clearer accountability and effective delivery of key functions, including regional planning, transport, and catchment management.

More than one unitary authority in a region is only likely to be approved if:

- the region is large and has more complex issues
- the proposal clearly meets the criteria and doesn't lead to the fragmentation of key regional functions where collaboration is required, such as catchment management.

### Working with iwi/Māori

Treaty settlement arrangements will continue to be provided for. We will work with applicants and iwi/Māori affected by the Head Start pathway to support the continuation of effective relationships and uphold settlement redress.

Councils will be expected to engage with relevant post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs) to demonstrate how existing Treaty settlement arrangements could be transferred to new unitary authorities with equivalent effect. The Government will also work with PSGEs directly on proposed arrangements. Councils will have an opportunity to further engage with Māori as they continue to develop outline proposals ahead of final decisions in 2027.

**Example 1: Majority of directly affected councils**

A region contains three territorial authorities: Council A, Council B and Council C. Council A and Council B jointly submit a proposal that affects Council C.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because Councils A and B form a majority of the directly affected territorial authorities, regardless of population size.

**Example 2: Majority of population**

A region contains four territorial authorities: Councils A to D. Councils A and B jointly submit a proposal that also impacts Councils C and D. Councils A and B together represent more than 50% of the population of the directly affected area, even though Council C and Council D are larger in land area.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because the proposing councils represent a majority of the population, even if they do not represent all councils.

**Example 3: Minority of directly affected councils**

A region contains five territorial authorities: Councils A to E. Council A and Council B jointly submit a proposal that also affects Councils C, D and E. Councils A and B together do not represent more than 50% of the population or the majority of affected councils of the directly affected area.

- ✗ This proposal would not be eligible for consideration because, while it involves two councils, it does not represent a majority of councils or population.

**Example 4: Subregional unitary authorities**

A region contains five territorial authorities: Councils A to E. Council A, Council B, Council C and Council D jointly submit a proposal for two unitaries for the region affecting Council E.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because the proposing councils are a majority of the directly affected territorial authorities, regardless of population of the directly affected areas.

**Example 5: Subregional proposal - part of region**

A region contains seven territorial authorities: Councils A to F. Council A, Council B and Council C jointly submit a proposal for a unitary for the three councils within their part of the region. The other four councils are unaffected.

- ✓ This proposal would be eligible for consideration because there are more than two territorial authorities proposing amalgamation and the majority of territorial authorities and population affected by the proposal are in favour of the proposal. Reorganisation plans for the remainder of the region (Councils D to F) will be required after the 2028 local body elections.

*Note: eligibility is not acceptance, and eligible proposals will still need to pass the assessment.*

## How will outline proposals be assessed?

Five criteria will be used to assess the proposals:



**Deliverability:** Proposals are realistic and demonstrate how new arrangements can be implemented in a timely manner.



**Supports the new planning system:** Shows clear support for implementing the new planning system – including progress on spatial and natural environment plan development – and avoids or minimises disruption to that work.



**Simplifies local governance:** Proposes more efficient regional governance arrangements, consolidating decision-making and improving alignment between a region's councils.



**Economies of scale:** Supports regional strategic planning and effective delivery of key regional functions (such as transport and catchment management), and demonstrates responsible and affordable asset management, infrastructure investment, and service delivery.



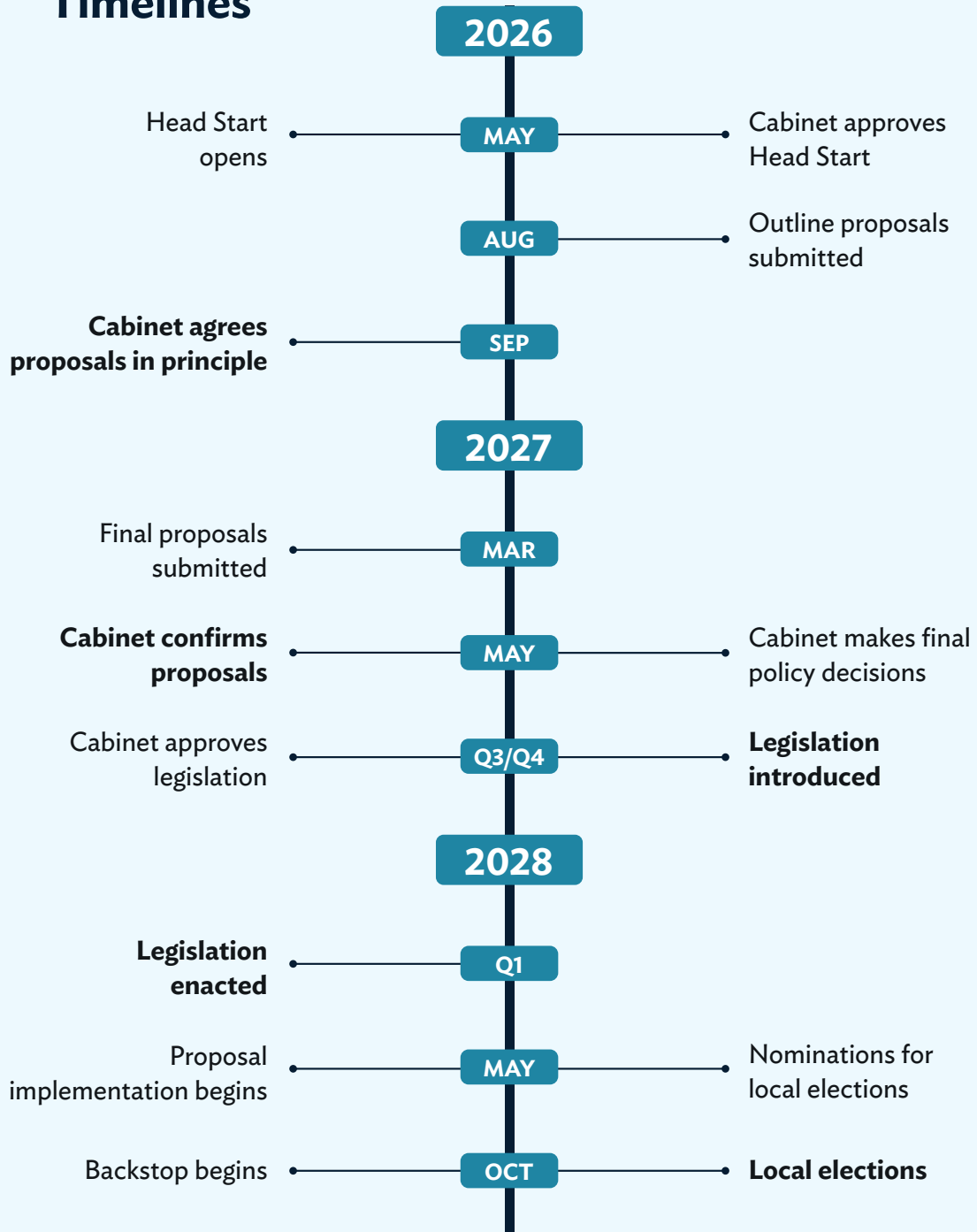
**Maintains local voice:** Demonstrates fair and effective representation for communities of interest and how decisions will be made at the local level, balancing urban and rural interests.

## Next steps for Head Start

Once outline proposals have been assessed, Cabinet will decide which proposals are accepted into the detailed design phase of the Head Start pathway.

Once agreed in principle, any support required to develop detailed reorganisation proposals will be determined with submitters and agreed by Cabinet.

# Timelines



## Status of regional councillors

We previously proposed replacing regional councillors with boards of mayors.

Submitters suggested that retaining regional councillors until the end of their current elected periods would:

- support the transition to the new planning regime, including the first generation of spatial and natural environment plans
- retain institutional knowledge needed to make the transition
- provide additional governance capacity and capability during a period of substantial change.

It is our intention that regional councillors will not be elected at the 2028 local elections. They will be replaced by an interim body, for example a board of mayors, Crown commissioners, or a hybrid model. We will confirm the exact model in 2027, when successful Head Start proposals are approved.

Current regional councillors will stay on through to the end of the 2028 term to lead regional councils in their roles in the new planning system, particularly regional spatial plans.

## Backstop legislation

Progress through the Head Start pathway will help inform the design of backstop arrangements for other regions.

Councils that do not progress through Head Start will continue to focus on delivering the new planning system, including development of the first generation of plans. Reform for those councils will not occur until after the 2028 local elections, through the compulsory backstop process.

This approach gives councils more time to concentrate on planning system implementation before any mandatory governance changes take effect, while still providing a strong indication of when and where future reform will occur.

Regions and councils not progressing through the Head Start pathway will be subject to a backstop process. During the transition, regional council governance would be exercised by an interim body, with the precise model to be confirmed in 2027. Legislation for the backstop will be enacted before nominations open for the 2028 local elections. This will ensure candidates understand any new roles and responsibilities, and electors can vote with clarity.

The final models of governance will be informed by lessons from the Head Start, feedback from consultation on the Simplifying Local Government proposal, and further advice from officials.

## Rapid review update

A rapid review of regional council functions was completed to help guide councils during reorganisation planning. It was intended to identify functions that could potentially be centralised or ceased.

The review found that the key opportunities for centralisation are already being considered through existing government work programmes. For example, a national regulator for compliance and enforcement is being considered as part of the new planning system.

The RMA Expert Advisory Group recommended that, in the new planning system, compliance and enforcement functions should be transferred to a national regulator with regional compliance hubs. Policy work on this proposal is expected to be progressed after the Planning and Natural Environment Bills pass. The Government then expects to engage with local authorities and others to discuss the merits of different approaches.

The review concluded that other functions are still best delivered at a regional or local scale. In general, centralisation would involve high transition costs, be disproportionate to the problem identified, and is unlikely to materially improve regional or system outcomes. In some cases, the status quo is functioning effectively or could benefit from targeted modification rather than substantial change.

Transport is one key regional function that requires further consideration as a part of Head Start proposals. Transport responsibilities are currently split across central (NZ Transport Agency) and local government, with territorial authorities responsible for local roading while regional councils are responsible for network planning and public transport.

Outline proposals do not need to resolve all issues relating to any transfer of regional functions. However, proposals should:

- address the need to consolidate regional transport functions (such as in a regional unitary authority, regional joint committee or regional council controlled organisation)
- propose interim arrangements with respect to the new planning system compliance and enforcement functions, until Government decisions have been made
- explain how effective river catchment management can be maintained.

### Resources

For further information, including guidance and how to engage with officials and access support, see [dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government](https://dia.govt.nz/Simplifying-Local-Government)

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**10.3 Project Update Report - April 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.

**2. Key Highlights from Current Projects**

**Wastewater Projects**

**3. Project: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation**

**Project Manager: Steve Carne**

**Budget: \$85.36M**

**Reporting Period: April 2026**

**3.1 Overall Project Health**

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

**3.2 Progress Since Last Report**

Completed:

- Significant progress of periphyton risk assessment required by the Wastewater NEPS regulations
- Flows and loads refined and finalised based on latest industrial monitoring and sampling data
- Further on-site meeting with ANZCO Manawatu re their willingness to consider being a trade waste customer of RDC
- Agreement with HRC to adjust the consenting timelines due to periphyton risk assessment processes.

In progress:

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

### 3.3 Key Milestones

| Milestone                           | Planned Date    | Status |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Periphyton Risk Assessment Complete | End June 2026   | ●      |
| Preferred Option Identified         | End August 2026 | ●      |
| Consent Lodgement                   | December 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 |
| Uncertainty re timing of cultural values assessment with iwi and hapu | Medium | On-going dialogue                         |

### 3.6 Further Information/Decisions that may be required of Council

Verification of preferred Option selection in late June before presented to Council for consideration.

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

**4.1 Overall Project Health**

| Category            | Status  | Previous Status | Comment   |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Overall Status      | ● Amber | ● Amber         | Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers for consideration   |
| Scope               | ● Green | ● Green         | Strategy to reticulate Koitiata and discharge Ratana and Koitiata effluent via sea outfall at Koitiata was investigated and identified as an option to be included for consideration. |
| Schedule            | ● Amber | ● Amber         | Program to be confirmed   |
| Budget              | ● Green | ● Green         | Budget is dependent on consideration of newly identified options and project outcomes.  |
| Benefits            | ● Green | ● Green         | Benefits that can be achieved will be dependent on final option selection.  |
| Stakeholder Support | ● Amber | ● Amber         | New strategy not being discussed with the wider community and stakeholders until Council has considered Alternative Options Report  |

**4.2 Progress Since Last Report**

Completed:

- Alternative Options Report prepared and submitted to Officers

In progress:

- Alternative options to be presented to Council for consideration.

**4.3 Key Milestones**

| Milestone   | Planned Date | Status |
|---|--------------|--------|
| Koitiata Outfall Concept Strategy Investigation finalised | April 2026   | ●      |
| Stakeholder Consultation Starts                           | June 2026    | ●      |

**4.4 Financial Summary**

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

Variance: **Uncertain until alternative options are presented to Council for approval.**

**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**

Consideration of alternative options available.

**5. Project: Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects**

**Project Manager: Steve Carne**

**Budget: \$2.18M**

**Reporting Period: April 2026**

**5.1 Overall Project Health**

| Category            | Status  | Previous Status | Comment   |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Overall Status      | ● Green | ● Green         | Process and Strategy clarified to move forward                              |
| Scope               | ● Green | ● Green         | Being confirmed, specifically regarding WWTP works                          |
| Schedule            | ● Amber | ● Amber         | Subject to LTP funding  |
| Budget              | ● Green | ● Green         | Within tolerance  |
| Benefits            | ● Green | ● Green         | Lowest capex and compliance with consent conditions and WW NEPS Regulations |
| Stakeholder Support | ● Green | ● Green         | Positive community feedback thus far re network investigations              |

**5.2 Progress Since Last Report**

Completed:

- Further field I/I source detection works via CCTV
- 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
- Remaining 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 | Mid-June 2026 | ●      |
| Complete WWTP investigations                    | July 2026     | ●      |
| Confirm works strategy                          | August 2026   | ●      |

**5.4 Financial Summary**

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

Variance: **None**

**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: \$1.5M**

**Reporting Period: April 2026**

### 6.1 Overall Project Health

| Category            | Status  | Previous Status | Comment   |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Overall Status      | ● Green | ● Amber         | Following the Council decision in April, work is proceeding well with the interim operational improvement solutions proposed to be implemented before summer 2026 |
| Scope               | ● Green | ● Amber         | The scope going forwards is aligned with the April Council decision   |
| Schedule            | ● Green | ● Amber         | The project is currently on track to deliver better quality water in Marton for the summer peak of 2026   |
| Budget              | ● Green | ● Amber         | The rescoped project budget is currently on track   |
| Benefits            | ● Green | ● Amber         | The outcomes and benefits of the project are expected to be significant   |
| Stakeholder Support | ● Green | ● Amber         | Stakeholder support is good, based on the April Council decision  |

### 6.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Procurement of the Calico Line package treatment plant is well underway. Delivery dates are currently being prepared and will be itemised in next month's report. Site preparation works are underway.
- Procurement of the ultrasonic units for the Tutaenui Reservoir is well underway. Expected delivery dates are currently being prepared and will be itemised in next month's report. A weekly testing regime for the 'water column' in the reservoir has been developed, with input from WSP engineers, to provide a benchmark data set for water quality comparison purposes

In progress:

- Concept design work is underway to develop a conveyance solution for the backwash water at the existing Marton WTP.

**6.3 Key Milestones**

| Milestone   | Planned Date  | Status |
|---|---------------|--------|
| Commissioning of the Calico Line package treatment plant          | Nov/Dec 2026  | ●      |
| Commissioning of the ultrasonic devices in the Tutaenui Reservoir | Sept/Oct 2026 | ●      |

**6.4 Financial Summary**

| Metric              | Amount |
|---------------------|--------|
| Approved Budget     | \$1.5M |
| Actual Spend        | \$0.1M |
| Forecast Completion | \$1.5M |

Variance: **None**

**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**

Nothing anticipated at present

## 7. Community Facilities

**Project: Marton Offices and Library**

**Project Manager: EswarPrasath Ganapathi**

**Budget: \$17M**

**Reporting Period: April 2026**

### 7.1 Overall Project Health

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

### 7.2 Progress Since Last Report

Completed:

- Preliminary Designs completed

In progress:

- Resource consent document planning
- Preliminary design cost estimates under review

### 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 |
| 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: EswarPrasath Ganapathi**  
**Budget: \$2M**  
**Reporting Period: April 2026**

**8.1 Overall Project Health**

| Category            | Status  | Previous Status | Comment   |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Overall Status      | ● Green | ● Amber         | Resource consent conditions expected soon                     |
| Scope               | ● Green | ● Green         | No changes  |
| Schedule            | ● Green | ● Amber         | Contractor’s tender price expected by first week of June 2026 |
| Budget              | ● Green | ● Green         | Within budget   |
| Benefits            | ● Green | ● Green         | Expected outcomes unchanged                                   |
| Stakeholder Support | ● Green | ● Green         | Positive  |

**8.2 Progress Since Last Report**

Completed:

- Resource consent RFI’s addressed, and consent conditions expected to be issued soon
- Building consent application lodged
- Detailed designs issued to contractor for pricing

In progress:

- Building consent process
- Tender pricing in progress
- 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 2026     | ●      |
| 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: Pio Rowe/Gaylene Prince****Reporting Period: April 2026**

9.1 At the Council meeting on 7 May 2026, Council endorsed the Agreement between RDC and the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC) for proceeding with the Taihape Grandstand Restoration project as a Community Led, Council Owned Facilities Upgrade project, with the following amendments:

- 11.3. Definition – Final Funder:

Final Funder means the remaining portion of funding allocated to the Project that has not yet been committed or expended is retained for the completion of the Project. (Refer to resolved minute number 25/RDC/297 “*That Council is a final funder for the Taihape Grandstand*”).

- Council will retain the amount of \$400,000 as the final funding and the balance of approximately \$285,000 is available to the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee through normal council procurement process, as per the agreement.

9.2 Council is supporting TGRC as they identify their next steps.

**10. Project: Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment****Project Manager: Eswar Ganapathi****Budget: \$14M****Reporting Period: April 2026****10.1 Overall Project Health**

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

**10.2 Progress Since Last Report**

Completed:

- Preliminary design completed

In progress:

- Developed design

ITEM 10.3

**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 |
| 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: EswarPrasath Ganapathi**  
**Budget: \$6M**  
**Reporting Period: April 2026**

**11.1 Overall Project Health**

| Category            | Status  | Previous Status | Comment                                     |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Overall Status      | ● Green | ● Red           | Contactors appointed                        |
| Scope               | ● Green | ● Green         | No changes                                  |
| Schedule            | ● Green | ● Red           | Construction works to begin on 10 June 2026 |
| Budget              | ● Green | ● Red           | Budget approved by Council                  |
| Benefits            | ● Green | ● Green         | Expected outcomes unchanged                 |
| Stakeholder Support | ● Green | ● Green         | Positive                                    |

**11.2 Progress Since Last Report**

Completed:

- Tender process completed
- Building consent issued
- Contractor appointed

In progress:

- Contractor mobilisation

**11.3 Key Milestones**

| Milestone            | Planned Date | Status |
|----------------------|--------------|--------|
| Contractor selection | Feb 2026     | ●      |
| Construction Start   | Apr 2026     | ●      |
| Project Completion   | Mar 2027     | ●      |

**11.4 Financial Summary**

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

Variance: **None**

**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**

- None

**12. Small Capital Projects****Project: Taihape Watermain Renewal****Project Manager: Peter Sharpe****12.1 General Update**

Swan St and Titi St complete. Ruru Rd 65% complete. High number of variations due to encountering unforeseen underground items. Refer to report to this committee meeting for more details.

**13. Project: Hunterville Stormwater Upgrade****Project Manager: Peter Sharpe****13.1 General Update**

Project has been completed within budget and timeframes.

**14. Project: Calico Line Watermain (In conjunction with footpath)****Project Manager: Peter Sharpe****14.1 General Update**

Pipe install from Nga Tawa to Bredins Line completed. Location of services were challenging in front of Nga Tawa but otherwise progressing well. Installing service laterals currently. Shared pathway programmed to start 2nd of June. Expected to be completed by end of June.

**15. Project: Skerman Street Stormwater****Project Manager: Peter Sharpe****15.1 General Update**

Pipe laying going well with approx. 65% installed. Issue with heights of existing culvert that was planned to be connected to. Has resulted in redesign to resolve. Moving traffic across to edge of road meant the trucks found several softer road foundation areas and caused damage. Have isolated these and will remediate shortly when reinstating trench. On track to be completed by end of June.

**16. Project: Bredins Line Stormwater****Project Manager: Peter Sharpe****16.1 General Update**

Pipeline and manholes installed. Reinstatement of trenched area is currently being completed. On track to be completed by end of June.

**17. Project: Marton to Bulls Pipeline – Pipe Bridges**  
**Project Manager: Peter Sharpe**

**17.1 General Update**

All bridge piles have been installed. Site 2 and 3 bridge structures installed. Connection pipelines to site 2 and 3 being completed. Site 1 bridge to be installed in next few weeks and then connecting pipes. On track to be completed in June.

**18. Financial Implications**

18.1 This report does not identify any financial implications.

**19. Impact on Strategic Risks**

19.1 No impacts on strategic risks.

**20. Strategic Alignment**

20.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

**21. Mana Whenua Implications**

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

**22. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

22.1 There is no climate change impact.

**23. Statutory Implications**

23.1 There are no statutory implications.

**Recommendation 1**

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

## 11 Discussion Items

### 11.1 Marae Development Fund - discussion

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

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 To provide an opportunity for the Komiti to discuss feedback received on the Marae Development Fund.

#### 2. Feedback and recommendations

2.1 The following suggestions were provided regarding the administration of the fund:

*2.1.1 That this funding has a clear annual opening and closing date.*

*2.1.2 Groups are eligible to apply only once every two years, to ensure fair opportunity for others.*

*2.1.3 That end-of-year reporting will be completed in full before applying for the next round of funding.*

2.2 Officers note that end of year reporting is already required before an applicant can be eligible for the next round of funding.

2.3 The current Marae Development Fund guidelines are attached for reference.

#### Attachments:

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

#### Recommendation

That the report Marae Development Fund – discussion be received.

ITEM 11.1

# 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

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:

- 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.

### 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.

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**Marae Development Fund Project Completion Form**

SUBMIT THIS FORM ONCE PROJECT IS COMPLETED

(24 hrs)  
 46 High  
 Private Bag 1102, M

**Section 1 — Project & Contact**

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Marae name:             |        |
| Project title:          |        |
| Application No.:        |        |
| Primary contact person: |        |
| Phone:                  | Email: |

**Section 2 — Delivery Summary**

PULL OUT FORM

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 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 |                  |

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**Marae Development Fund  
Project Completion Form**

**Section 3 — Outcomes & Benefits**

Health & Safety / compliance outcomes:

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|


Infrastructure improvements (what changed):

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|



### 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 <b>has capacity to contribute</b> 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 <b>invoices to Council</b> for approval.  |                                  |

PULL OUT FORM



**RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL****Marae Development Fund  
Application Form****Section C — Project Details**

Project title:

Project location (on marae):

Project type:


 Health & Safety Earthquake Fire Compliance Infrastructure Accessibility Other: (Please specify)

Project summary (what will be done and why):



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

**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 |




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**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:  Pass  Follow-up needed

Notes:

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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 |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
|  |                     |              |              |
|  |                     |              |              |
|  |                     |              |              |
|  |                     |              |              |
| <b>Total approved budget:</b>                            |                     |              |              |
| <b>Total actual spend:</b>                               |                     |              |              |
| <b>Variance (underspend/overspend) and explanation:</b>  |                     |              |              |
| <b>Marae contribution paid to Council (date/amount):</b> |                     |              |              |
| <b>Other funding received (amount/source):</b>           |                     |              |              |



**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 |  |

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### 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.

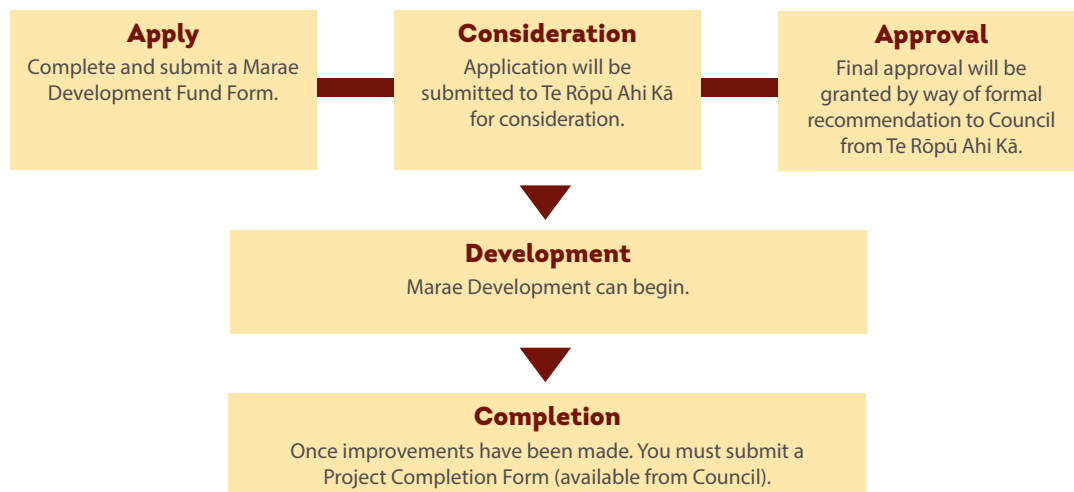
Final approval is given by way of a formal recommendation to Council from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā, based on a schedule of tasks and the costings, for work to be funded under these guidelines.

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 | <a href="http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz">www.communitymatters.govt.nz</a>                                     |               |
| Pub Charity                                      | <a href="http://www.pubcharitylimited.org.nz/grants">www.pubcharitylimited.org.nz/grants</a>                       |               |
| Lion Foundation                                  | <a href="http://www.lionfoundation.org.nz">www.lionfoundation.org.nz</a>   |               |
| JBS Duddings Trust                               | <a href="http://www.publictrust.smartygrants.com.au/JBSDudding">www.publictrust.smartygrants.com.au/JBSDudding</a> |               |
| Four Regions Trust                               | <a href="http://www.fourregionstrust.org.nz">www.fourregionstrust.org.nz</a>                                       |               |
| NZCT – New Zealand Community Trust               | <a href="http://www.nzct.org.nz">www.nzct.org.nz</a>   |               |
| Lotteries – Community Facilities Fund            | <a href="http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz">www.communitymatters.govt.nz</a>                                     |               |
| Whanganui Community Foundation                   | <a href="http://www.whanganuicommunityfoundation.org.nz">www.whanganuicommunityfoundation.org.nz</a>               |               |
| Tindell Foundation                               | <a href="http://www.tindall.org.nz">www.tindall.org.nz</a>   |               |

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](http://grantguru.com/nz/rangitikei)

For additional support in finding funding please email: [extgrantadmin@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:extgrantadmin@rangitikei.govt.nz)

**12 Open Meeting**