



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

# ORDER PAPER

## YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Monday, 23 March 2026  
**Time:** 5.30pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

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**Membership:** YC Aania Paranihi  
YC La'ala'ai Simi  
YC Sharnah Watene – Governor  
YC Maryanne Imakulaka Pio  
YC Ella McPherson Downes  
YC Sophie Jacques  
YC Alice Marie Stanbra  
YC Animārie Harrison  
YC Cyria Lowrie-Hetet  
YC Heemi Ihaka – Candy  
YC Briar Bowsher  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
Cr Sandra Field (Alternate)  
HWTM Andy Watson (Ex-Officio)

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<b>Locations:</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u>                      Head Office                      46 High Street                      Marton                 </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u>                      Bulls Information Centre                      Te Matapihi                      4 Criterion Street                      Bulls                 </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u>                      Taihape Information Centre                      102 Hautapu Street (SH1)                      Taihape                 </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape
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**Notice is hereby given that a Youth Council Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Monday, 23 March 2026 at 5.30pm.**

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## 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.

**ITEM 6.1**

# MINUTES

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1

## UNCONFIRMED: YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 30 July 2025  
**Time:** 5.00pm  
**Venue:** Kokako Street Pavilion,  
2 Kokako Street – Taihape

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**Present**

YC Telma J TJ  
YC La'ala'ai Simi  
YC Inaya Sanjay  
YC Ella McPherson Downes  
YC Denise Pio  
YC Cyria Lowrie-Hetet  
YC Chanel Hepi  
YC Briar Bowsher  
YC Animārie Harrison  
YC Anahera Bennett  
HWTM Andy Watson  
Cr Jeff Wong  
Cr Gill Duncan

**In attendance**

Ms Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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**ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1**

## 6 Reports for Decision

### 6.1 Declaration by Members

**Author:** Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi- Youth Engagement Officer

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 All members to the 2026 Youth Council are to make a declaration in either English or Te Reo Māori.

#### 2. English

- 2.1 I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Rangitikei District, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in or imposed upon me as a member of the Rangitikei Youth Council.

#### 3. Te Reo Māori

- 3.1 Ko ahau, ko \_\_\_\_\_, e oati ana ka whai ahau i te pono me te tōkeke, i runga hoki i te mutunga kē mai nei o āku pūkenga, o āku whakatau hoki kia whakatutuki, kia mahi anō hoki i te mana whakahaere, te mana whakatau me ngā momo mahi kua ūhia ki runga i a ahau kia whiwhi painga mō te takiwā o Rangitikei hei Kai-kaunihera rangatahi.

#### Recommendation

That the report Declaration by Members be received.

## 6.2 Election of Chair

**Author:** Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi- Youth Engagement Officer

### 1. The role of the Chairperson

1.1 Each Committee and Sub-Committee is headed by a Chair. During a meeting, it is the Chair's responsibility to:

- Open the meeting and welcome all attendees.
- Lead the Committee through the agenda, as per the pre-meeting Order Paper.
- Advise the order of speakers on any given topic.
- For recommendations: verbally state who has 'moved' the recommendation, who has 'seconded' it, and after any discussion has ended tally the vote ('yes', 'no' or 'abstain'). The Chair should then state if the recommendation is carried or lost.
- Rule on procedural questions and points of order.
- Close the meeting.

1.2 More information on the Chair's role in meetings can be found under section 14 of the Standing Orders.

### 2. Electing the Chair

2.1 The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate. This Committee vote is subject to the following rules:

- There is only one round of voting; and,
- If two or more candidates are tied for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot (i.e., coin toss or tie breaker vote).

#### Recommendation 1

That the report for 'Election of Chair' be received.

#### Recommendation 2

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Chair of the Rangitikei Youth Council for the duration of 2026.

**6.3 Election of Deputy Chair****Author: Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi- Youth Engagement Officer****1. The role of the Deputy Chairperson**

- 1.1 Is it the Deputy Chair's responsibility to stand in for the Chair when he or she is unable to attend a meeting.

**2. Electing the Deputy Chair**

- 2.1 The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate. This Committee vote is subject to the following rules:
- There is only one round of voting; and,
  - If two or more candidates are tied for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot (i.e., coin toss or tie breaker vote).

**Recommendation 1**

That the report 'Election for Deputy Chairperson' be received.

**Recommendation 2**

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Deputy Chair for the Rangitikei Youth Council for the duration of 2026.

**6.4 Appointments of other positions in Youth Council****Author: Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi- Youth Engagement Officer****1. Reason for Report**

1.1 The Committee may wish to consider the appointment of other roles. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Governance Officer
- Social Media Liaison Officers x 2
- Creative Communities Scheme panel

1.2 Staff will be in attendance to answer any questions on this item.

**Recommendation 1**

That the report 'Appointments of other positions for Youth Council' be received.

**Recommendation 2**

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Governance Officer for the Rangitīkei Youth Council for 2026.

**Recommendation 3**

That \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as Social Media Liaison for the Rangitīkei Youth Council for 2026.

**Recommendation 4**

That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Creative Communities Scheme panel.

## 7 Reports for Information

### 7.1 Standing Orders

**Author:** Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi- Youth Engagement Officer

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 A copy of Councils standing orders is attached under separate cover.
- 1.2 Each council writes their own unique Standing Orders document, and it can be thought of as a type of 'rule book'. The purpose of a Standing Orders document is to guide Chairpersons in their running of meetings. The document should be easily understood and not violate any legislation (i.e., the Local Government Act 2002 or Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987).

#### Attachments:

1. Standing Orders [↓](#) (under separate cover)

#### Recommendation

That the report 'Standing Orders' is received.

## **7.2 Youth Council Code of Conduct**

**Author:** Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi- Youth Engagement Officer

### **1. Reason for Report**

1.1 Attached is the Code of Conduct for Youth Councillors.

### **Attachments:**

1. Youth Council Code of Conduct (under separate cover)

### **Recommendation**

That the report 'Code of Conduct' is received.

### 7.3 Mayor's Report - March 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Note - there was question from the floor to say “what about the Treaty?”
- Nick Smith, Mayor of Nelson, commented that Local Government owned \$200B worth of assets – a greater asset position than Central Government. (He is suggesting that we have the financial power to call the shots).
- In response to questions from the floor about Auckland and Christchurch not being present, Mayor Grant Smith (Metro Mayor) said there needed to be a value proposition for them but they are reconsidering.

ii) The second session was a panel discussion on New Zealand Economic Landscape. Dr Eric Crampton CE of the Economist NZ Initiative and John Ballingall made the following points:-

- There is volatility in the world markets described as the Trump Effect;
- Our exports are now going to more diverse markets;
- Many countries want to invest in New Zealand which is seen as a safe haven;
- Our financial outlook is reasonably stable;
- There is concern about the outflow of New Zealand citizens to offshore largely Australia;
- The wage pressure is forecast to lift.

Their conversations then turned to general things such as –

- You shouldn't be scared of AI;
- Central Government reforms are challenging but needed and suggested that councils should impose a set levy per year on capex programmes to aid inter-generational equity.

iii) The address by Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour –

- Opened by saying “Local Government is thankless but essential”.
- Made a series of comments on the Regulatory Standards Bill where council regulations will need to be audited by Central Government.
- Affordability (rates) are directly related to productivity (in relation to the cost of producing things in New Zealand, costs are too high because regulations get in the way).
- “Developers do not want to invest in New Zealand because of regulations”.
- “We inflict costs on people through unneeded regulations”.
- Quoted methane targets (agriculture) limited productivity.
- “We need to accept risks” was a common theme.
- “Sister City relationships have no benefit to ratepayers in New Zealand”.
- The theme continued with costs councils face to discharge wastewater to land is unacceptable.
- Note – very good comment from Mayor Scott (Tararua) – “would you then reduce the audit costs that our councils face?”.

iv) Emergency Management Update by Hon Mark Mitchell (online)

- Acknowledged/praised the Local Government sector
- Climatic events should be “locally lead but Government supported”.
- The biggest enemy for the sector is complacency.

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

Thursday afternoon session -

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

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

viii) Simon Upton – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 2 - Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting

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

- iii) Sessions on value of submissions to Government. The view here is the realisation that submissions are important to do but have little chance of success.
- iv) Taumata Arowai, key points –
  - Domestic suppliers for more than 25 people will need to be registered by November 2028 and compliant by 2030;
  - If less than 25 people there is no need to register.
- v) Session on contrary view to the size of authorities (scale) being important – speakers Ross Copeland who referred by the mythical economies of scale and Dr Oliver Hartwich’s view of scale versus reality. These comments were designed to indicate that scale doesn’t always lead to efficiency.
- vi) “Fireside Chat” Navigating Structural Changes of Government lead by Mayor Scott (Tararua) and Mayor Fran Wilde (South Wairarapa). Fran’s view is that amalgamation must happen but unitary authorities is a separate conversation. Scott’s view – “we do not have to be connected to work together” and the value of shared services.

### 3. Central Districts Water

- Shareholders, through an appointment committee will be in a position very shortly to name the new directors of the entity.
- Applications for the entity directors were very strong in terms of quality.
- The entity is moving at pace and is highly regarded by the Government and other councils, some of whom are struggling.
- On 13 February at the Joint Shareholders Committee – Central Districts Waters, Chris Gallavin was appointed Independent Chair for the period 13 February 2026 to 30 June 2027. Mayor Andy Watson was appointed Deputy Chair.
- The Committee also provided recommendations for amendments of the Shareholder Agreement as attached in relation to clause 2 and clause 6. The recommendation for Council to agree is included below.
- Upcoming meetings for the Joint Shareholder Committee are scheduled for 13 March, 27 March, and 30 April 2026 at the Palmerston North City Council Chambers. Subsequent meetings are also intended to be held in Horowhenua and Rangitikei.

4. The survivors who suffered abuse under care at Lake Alice Hospital gathered with Minister Erica Stanford to unveil a memorial at Lake Alice on 21 February. The principal organiser Robyn Dandy and survivors asked that the event be personal with little fanfare. Council, myself and our CE Carol have supported this event funded largely by the Abuse Under Care Commission. The speakers were Robyn, Minister Stanford, myself and Suze Redmayne our local MP.

It was a very emotional day and confronting to hear the stories and the impacts. As such I have included in its entirety the Minister’s speech with her permission as an appendix to this report. That speech says it all as an ugly truth. The memorial reflects on those who did not survive. The abuse did not encompass all of Lake Alice. Good people also worked there but the hospital will be remembered for what it became to many young defenceless children.

5. Horizons Regional Council River Meetings – on 26 February Horizons held a meeting to update the Rangitikei District regarding their river control schemes. For me the date was unfortunate being a clash with the All of Government meeting in Wellington. Our controlled rivers are the Turakina, Tutaenui, Pourewa, Rangitikei, Makirikiri, Forest Road and Huanui drains. The meeting was attended by Councillors Dave Wilson and Sandra Field and they may wish to provide an update on the associated budgets, work schedules etc. The significant 2026/27

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

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

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

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

## Mayor's Engagements

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

**February 2026**

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

## ITEM 7.3

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

**March 2026**

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

**Attachments:**

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

**Recommendation 1**

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

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

[note: may be slight variations on delivery]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE**

**TO:** Council

**MEETING DATE:** 25 March 2026

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

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

**3-26 Initial Shareholders' Committee Policies**

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

**The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

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

**8 Meeting Closed.**