



RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday, 15 June 2026

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Youth Lobby
Taihape

Chair: YC Animārie Harrison

Deputy Chair: YC Sharnah Watene - Governor

Membership: YC Briar Bowsher
YC Heemi Ihaka-Candy
YC Maryanne Imakulaka Pio
YC Sophie Jacques
YC Cyria Lowrie-Hetet
YC Ella McPherson Downes
YC Aania Paranihi
YC La'ala'ai Simi
YC Alice Stanbra
Cr Sandra Field
Cr Coral Raukawa
HWTM Andy Watson

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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

kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

<p>Contact:</p>	<p>0800 422 522 info@rangitikei.govt.nz www.rangitikei.govt.nz</p> <p>(06) 327 0099</p>				
<p>Locations:</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p><u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p><u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding-top: 20px;"> <p><u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton</p>	<p><u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls</p>	<p><u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape</p>	
<p><u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton</p>	<p><u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls</p>				
<p><u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape</p>					
<p>Postal Address:</p>	<p>Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741</p>				
<p>Fax:</p>	<p>(06) 327 6970</p>				

Notice is hereby given that a Youth Council Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Youth Lobby, Taihape on Monday, 15 June 2026 at 5.30pm.

Order Of Business

1	Welcome / Prayer	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Public Forum	4
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations	4
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	4
6	Confirmation of Minutes	5
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	5
7	Chair's Report	11
	7.1 Chair's Report - June 2026.....	11
8	Reports for Information	12
	8.1 Mayor's Report - June 2026	12
	8.2 Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer June Report	41
	8.3 Rangitīkei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government	43
9	Discussion Items	45
	9.1 Verbal Report from Gill Duncan, Chair of the Taihape Community Board	45
	9.2 Update from YC Alice Stanbra on setting up a Youth Book Group	46
10	Open Meeting	47

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: Youth Councillor Heemi Ihaka-Candy

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Youth Council Meeting held on 11 May 2026** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Youth Council Meeting - 11 May 2026**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Youth Council Meeting held on 11 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: YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday, 11 May 2026
Time: 5.30pm
Venue: Council Chamber
 Rangitikei District Council
 46 High Street
 Marton

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

In attendance Ms Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer
 Ms Melaine Bovey, Heritage, Culture and Committee Support Officer
 Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

1	Welcome / Prayer	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Public Forum	3
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations.....	3
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	3
6	Confirmation of Minutes	3
7	Chair’s Report	3
7.1	Chair's Report - May 26.....	3
7.2	Deputy Chair's Report - May 26	4
8	Reports for Decision	4
8.1	Mayor's Report - May 2026.....	4
9	Reports for Information.....	4
9.1	Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer April Report.....	4
10	Discussion Items.....	4
10.1	Verbal Report Melanie Bovey	4

ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1

Unconfirmed

1 Welcome / Prayer

The meeting opened at 5.30pm

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/RYC/017

That the apologies be received from YC Aania Paranihi.

YC A Harrison/YC Lowrie-Hetet. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/RYC/018

That the minutes of Youth Council Meeting held on 20 April 2026 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.

YC M Imakulaka Pio/YC A Harrison. Carried

7 Chair's Report

7.1 Chair's Report - May 26

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RYC/019

That the Chair's Report – May 26 be received.

YC S Jacques/YC A Harrison. Carried

7.2 Deputy Chair's Report - May 26

YC Watene – Governor highlighted a number of events, specifically Matariki Market and all of Youth Council supported this.

Resolved minute number 26/RYC/020

That the Deputy Chair Report – May 26 be received.

YC A Harrison/YC M Imakulaka Pio. Carried

8 Reports for Decision

8.1 Mayor's Report - May 2026

The Mayor highlighted that there would be an upcoming consultation on local government reform and potential amalgamation of council.

Resolved minute number 26/RYC/021

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

YC A Harrison/YC S Jacques. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer April Report

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 26/RYC/022

That the Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer April report be received.

YC M Imakulaka Pio/YC Lowrie-Hetet. Carried

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Verbal Report Melanie Bovey

Ms Bovey provided a verbal report and a presentation to youth councillors.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Youth Council Meeting held on .

.....

Chairperson

Unconfirmed

7 Chair's Report

7.1 Chair's Report - June 2026

Author: Animārie Harrison, Chair

1. Chair's Report

- 1.1** As most of you know I am a fighter out of Rangitikei MMA and most of our students there are youth so I just thought I'd fill you guys in on how well our youth in our community are doing at the moment.

On the 2nd of May, 3 of My team mates had the opportunity to trial for the National Muay Thai Federation Team to go over to Greece in October to represent New Zealand which resulted in all of them getting picked to go over and represent. On the 22nd of May 2 of them had another chance to fight and compete to get the chance to go to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia to represent not only to represent their country but their school Rangitikei College overseas. These two young boys had an outstanding performance and ended up getting picked to represent. These two youth are only 14 and 17 representing where they come from and who they are. They are currently seeking sponsorship towards their travels.

It is amazing to see how well our youth are doing around our communities and to see them chasing their dreams so I just thought I'd take a little time to take notice to all of their amazing achievements.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report – June 2026 be received.

8 Reports for Information

8.1 Mayor's Report - June 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

NOTES ON RURAL & PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – WELLINGTON 14-15 MAY 2026

DAY 1

1. The meeting was opened by Chairs Nigel Bowen (Provincial Sector Representative) and Ben Bell (Rural Sector Representative) as joint-Chairs

- The immediate discussion was with the Mayors giving an “Around the Regions” view on the Local Government Review.
- Common themes were –
 - i) Councils are starting to talk with their communities around possible amalgamation options.
 - ii) The timeframe of 9 August will not allow genuine consultation i.e. the process is too rushed. There was a degree of anger regarding this.
 - iii) The majority of councils did not want to wait for the Backstop option where Government will decide.
 - iv) Some councils, particularly Manawatu, pledged to fight this, noting that the C4LD (Campaign for Local Democracy) was successful.
 - v) There is thought that for some councils there will be a split in the community, e.g. fragmentation of the district. This is possibly real for us.
 - vi) It should be noted that metro councils (which were not there) are generally supporting this amalgamation.
 - vii) Some of the larger provincial centres such as Whanganui see the potential benefits of amalgamation (noting that they will be destined to survive).

2. Session 2 – Fuel Crisis

Julian Hughes & Haley Mortimer from Z Energy.

Key messages -

- The supply chain is holding.
- Storage remains stable.
- The initial demand spike in May happened but now the demand has returned to normal i.e. no observable drop in demand now.
- Price of diesel has doubled since the start of the Ukraine War.
- Price at the pumps is based on replacement cost to the industry.
- Fuel theft is an issue and a safety risk.
- What we have is a diesel crisis. Diesel and jet fuel comes out of the Middle East. Petrol can be refined from other sources.
- This is the largest energy shock the world has ever seen.
- Prices will stay high until after Christmas even if the Strait opens tomorrow.
- Some fuel still flows out of the Strait because of the availability of pipelines.

3. Session 3 – Panel Discussion: Fuel Impact on Supply Chain and Business

Philippa Fourie – Fonterra

James Howard – Transit Group

Bridget Service - Foodstuffs

- This section was effectively an operational update on industry.
- Transit is a family owned bus company completely commercial non-subsidised. Fares have increased by about 20% with no service dropped. Monthly charges for diesel have increased by 125%. They have a small percentage of their fleet as electric buses.
- Fonterra have 500 tankers transporting 17b litres of milk a year. Cows continue to produce milk i.e. you can't reduce the service. Fonterra made the comment that hydrogen trucks are 2-2.5% more expensive and have a huge capital cost investment. They are currently licensing some electric tankers.
- Foodstuffs see themselves as an essential service for all of their product. They consume 400,000 litres of diesel per month and noted also that some of their stores are being upgraded with Starlink to increase civil defence capacity.

4. Session 4 – Deep Dive into Simplifying Local Government

Hemi Smiler and Paul James - DIA

In a number of these sessions I will use “quotation marks” to indicate direct comments and *italicised font is my personal comment to those quotations.*

- “Some councils want to move to amalgamation now”.
- “Some councils want to take time”.
- There are two timelines –
 - a) Head Start – 3 month proposals then 2028 activated. Proposals due 9 August.
 - b) Backstop – for those not in Head Start programme.
- DIA is working on a template to help provide detail for Head Start applications to provide clarity on criteria.
- Response to a question from Mayor Toby as to what is off the table. Answer - “a shared service model is off the table”.
- “Head Start is focused on amalgamating councils into unitary authorities”.
- “Regions are different”.
- “Councils should quantify costs” (how much less could councils spend if councils amalgamated, i.e. the process is focused on cost savings).
- Question from Mayor Moko Far North – What happens to councils with Māori Wards? Answer – “as part of the criteria there would need to be a community discussion”.
- “There needs to be sensible decisions around what programmes you should delay”.
- Question – in the Backstop can we seriously influence the decision? Answer – “the Government will recognize discussions made if amalgamation is not over the line but there will be change”.
- Question – what happens if the Government changes? Answer - “Opposition parties have been briefed”. (Government would follow direction here but opposition parties have been quiet on this). “The broad direction of Government is likely to be maintained”.
- “Some councils don't face the challenge that others do but 10 years out there is probably not a single council that doesn't need change”.
- Question – will you pause the LTP processes? No advice given is the answer, however “That is something you'll have to ask the Ministers”.

- Question from Manawatu District Council – could we form a CCO to deal with regional re-organisation? Here there was not a clear answer except for “Head Start is focused on amalgamation” (*note this is a question that I proposed to the previous Mayoral Forum*).
- Final quote from DIA staff - “lessons have been learned from the Three Waters discussion”.

My interpretation of that remark is to look at the stages of Water Reform.

- a) The initial view of Labour = 4 water entities for NZ*
- b) It was then increased to 10 entities*
- c) The further expectation from National was to have about 20-23 entities*
- d) We have ended up with about 40 entities.*

Here there is a clear message, in my opinion, that Government doesn't want to see a repeat of this creep.

My feeling at the end of this session was amalgamation is the endgame of Government. Officials did refer to bespoke arrangements but left the hard direction to the Minister in tomorrow's session.

5. Session 5 – Panel Discussion: Different Models within Unitaries

Dame Fran Wilde – Mayor South Wairarapa
Cr Andy Baker – Auckland Council
Jonathan Salter – Simpson Grierson

Andy Baker –

- “Auckland has still been a success in spite of a couple of areas”.

Fran Wilde –

- “Auckland could have been done better”.
- “Community Boards should have real power”.
- “Governing boards should be the board – leave councils as councils”.
- “Local boards need more money and more delegation”.
- “Don't use the Auckland model” (the inference/direction here is that even under amalgamation you can choose the model – *this is the principle I agree with completely*).

Jonathan Salter -

- “1989 reforms were very successful”.
- *Note: 1989 had a sufficient timeframe backed by a Commission – a 2-year process?*
- “Important that the new entities have management of the rivers, mountains to the sea”.
- “Numbers of unitary authorities in one catchment area bothers me”.
- *Note: I totally agree with the last two points!*
- ‘Unprecedented for cabinet (i.e. Government) to frame this reform”.

6. Session 6 – Jeremy Lightfoot, CE of MCERT (Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport)

- This was in essence an introductory session to the Ministry.
- The new ministry was set up in 2026.
- Exists now but not effective yet or in place until July.
- This session was really set up to illustrate that Government is looking to aggregate to also save money within the ministries.

DAY 2**1. Session 1 - LGNZ**

Dan Gordon Vice-President

Scott Necklen – CE

- LGNZ thanked the sector leaders.
- “Surprised by Government announcements”.
- “Whether we like it or not change is coming even without detail of these changes”.
- ‘We accept one model doesn’t suit all and there could be bespoke arrangements”.
- “Ideally we would like more time but the clock is ticking”.
- “Most of us accept that change is needed especially in the funding of Local Government”.
- “We need clarity from Government”.
- “It is very clear that direction is set by ministers not the officials”.

There was a survey taken at the start of Day 1 on where people stood in terms of these reforms

- a) 12% of the sector does not want reform.
- b) Just under 50% want to be part of the Head Start process.
- c) 36% not sure.

Note: 90% of councils in the survey said that the requirement to do a 10 Year LTP should be changed.

Scott Necklen -

- “We need clarity around the Backstop process”.
- “There is a political spin on reforms in an election year”.
- “LGNZ will provide a manifesto of wants before the election as a one-pager”.
- “The budget announcements will feed into that manifesto”.
- “A webinar series will start on Monday by LGNZ” (note – the first webinar was on understanding Unitary Authorities – something that I and Cr Baird and Dalgety sat it on – we will provide notes on that later.
- “LGNZ will engage with all parties in Wellington”.

2. Session 2 – Government Address

Chris Bishop on Head Start Reform

- “People get fixated on Regional Council reform, but we are fixated on combined territorial board reforms”.
- “Wellington has looked amalgamation for a very long time”.
- “Several areas say we are good to go”.
- “RMA reform is underway, along with the Development Contributions Reform so the Government decided to go with Local Government Reform in association with this”. *Note - this is justifying that he is the Minister of RMA reform and justified in taking the Local Government position.*
- “Head Start kicks in in 2028. We will accept proposals if they are a few days over 9 August”.
- “Amalgamation can be done in 3 ways –
 - a) By Royal Commission which takes too long and is too expensive
 - b) By way of Government decision
 - c) Clear Government expectation but locally lead”.
 The Minister believes that c) is the best option but goes on to say, “But will not be perfect”.

- “A carrot and stick approach here – the Backstop will be heavier on Central Government direction than community direction”.
- “Central Government is also sorting itself out with the new ministry”.
- “We have been partners with LGNZ in the past and we are wanting to correct this”.

3. Session 3 – Opposition Address

Tangi Utikere – Labour’s Local Government Spokesperson

- With regards to rates capping -
 - “We have still have not heard from the Government regarding this process”.
 - “My concerns are a loss of service etc.”
 - “Rates capping with Government’s support is more palatable”.
 - “There are no additional revenue streams”.
 - Question from floor – will Labour rule out rates capping? Answer – “we are still waiting on the details; we want a bipartisan approach also including Head Start”.
- Head Start – “Labour is not into forced amalgamation”.
- “We would support communities that want a change”.
- “We (Labour) want to see what happens over the next 90 days”.
- “National should have engaged well with us to allow for more time”.
- Question – when can we expect a Labour policy? Answer – “the remains of our policies will come out post-budget”.
- “The policy on Head Start will come out post the 90 days”.
- ‘I am not a fan of roads of national significance other than those signed up/started regarding the transport sector’. *Note - Tangi is also the Labour spokesperson for Roading.*

4. Session 4 – Regional Resilience in an Uncertain Economy

Phil O’Reilly ONZM – Managing Partner of Iron Duke

Phil has an incredibly strong background in finance matters, represents NZ offshore and is involved in many, many trade negotiations and financial analyses.

- “NZ can take advantage in the changes we see in the world; the global system was under extreme pressure before Trump came along but Trump effectively exploded it”.
- “It will need and will resettle to the new norm”.
- “Will need different thinking and councils will come into play for part of that”.
- “Latin America, India and Vietnam all want to do business with us.
- The average age of people in India will be under 30 for the next 30 years and India is over-stripping OECD growth
- Vietnam is in the same position.
- This was a fascinating presentation, and I have included his presentation notes. The final points in the presentation on the Do’s and Don’ts for Councils are worth considering.

5. Session 5 – Energy Resilience

John Carnegie – Chief Executive, Energy and Resources Aotearoa and James Kilty - Chief Executive, Transpower (note previous Head of Powerco)

John Carnegie -

- “In 1950 we (NZ) were ranked second on a per capita basis in the OECD countries. We are now second to last”.

- “Electricity grid capacity needs to double to satisfy electrification.” *Here the point is that NZ does not have the capacity in the grid to provide for the increase in electric cars etc.*
- “Between 2050 and 2060 the tax take will only cover super and health”. *This illustrates NZ’s financial trajectory coming from Treasury reports.*
- “NZ has suffered from poor energy governance”.
- He illustrated the number of quotes and papers saying that coal and gas are running out and questioned the facts around this. I am not sure if I have recorded this point exactly as it seems out of kilter.

James Kilty -

- “We are currently energy constrained but we have huge potential”.
- “Councils need to support the potential we have”. *This is a reference to the difficulty of consenting issues and the time delays.*
- “NZ is currently using 90% renewable energy while the world average is 30%. We are rapidly moving to fully 100% renewable energy”.
- “Please refer to Transpower Future Directions on our website with the 5 Potential Futures”. *I hold James Kilty in high regard for his knowledge and passion for electricity and energy so I did refer to the website. His points included the 5 scenarios and is worth referring to but a warning it is a highly technical report and takes a lot of time to understand.*

LGNZ ZOOM “HOW DO UNITARY AUTHORITIES WORK”

Presented by Mayor Nadine from Marlborough Council and Leonie Rae Chief Executive of Tasman District Council. I note that this Zoom call was also attended by Councillors Baird and Dalgety

Key messages -

- “Unitary Authorities work well”.
- “A Unitary Authority has one balance sheet not two”.
- “There is a saving on total rates paid by residents under a Unitary Authority”.
- “Unitary Authorities provide a co-ordinated approach on land use and consenting”.
- When questioned on whether river catchments should sit within one Council the reply was Yes that was important, as are communities of interest.
- Advice was also to avoid discarding Metros from the Unitary process because they intend to be the significant funders.
- The question was asked “How are tensions managed between Unitary and Council functions within one authority?” (note this was a great question). The reply –
 - a) “You need regulatory separation within Council;
 - b) In governance you must have Councillors sitting on different committees i.e. two distinct sides of Council. Councillors must choose and are unable to sit on both”.
- “Recruitment of staff for a small Unitary Authority will be challenging. These are specialised skills that come at a significant cost”.
- “There needs to be a solid/sizeable rating base and there needs to be partnerships with Iwi”.
- There was a comment made that “politics have no place in the regulatory function”.
- “Time demands on Councillors is high, but it is still not a full time position”.
- “There is a need for a balance of rural/urban voices on Council”.

SO WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE RANGITĪKEI?

- On 22 May we saw the opening of the new Stables Motel in Bulls. What a fantastic resource it is – the theming and presentation is incredible, and I congratulate the Dalrymple and Turkington families and the partnership with Humphries Construction.

ITEM 8.1

- Considerable time has been spent on Central Districts Water and progress has been huge. The new Board is in place. The Statement of Expectations (SOE) which is the significant document that represents the three Councils' interests is near sign off. The relationship between Iwi and the Councils as representatives is solid. Our entity is being regarded as one of the new entities that is really making gains.
- Myself and the Chief Executive attended the Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa commemoration of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi on 21 May at the Tawhiriho Monument.
- We have just been through the Annual Plan submission and decision-making process. I don't expect to see any significant deviation from the 6.4% average rate increase that we have held across the district. I would like to take the time to thank those people who have submitted as part of the process and to staff and Councillors for their time.
- There are a number of solar farms going through consenting or consented within the Marton area. These are very significant developments. There is, by my count, nearly 900ha of land that could potentially convert to solar use surrounding Marton. We also have a number of wind farms going through proposals spread between our coastal and northern regions. Putting these in place will have a high labour demand in set-up, a labour demand that we would need to call on Whanganui and Palmerston North to be able to fulfil with literally hundreds of people being needed if it all happens. We are already in discussions around potential start dates for some of those solar farms. It's interesting that the amount of power that will be generated from these will be significant nationally and far exceeds the power demand of the Rangitikei.
- Recently a hui was held in Taihape at the old Taihape Hospital involving conversations between Te Whatu Ora Health NZ, Taihape Health and Mokai Patea Services. We seem to be closer to a solution, and it is now up to Te Whatu Ora Health NZ to come back with a definitive position in regard to potential land lease. I thank the attitude of Mokai Patea Services and Jude and Taihape Health for their long-term vision.
- Following an expression of interest I have used my powers under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002 to appoint Councillor Alan Buckendahl to the Finance/Performance Committee.

Mayor's Engagements

May 2026

8	Attended Mayoral Forum Workshop Attended Central Districts Water Chair/Mayors Meeting Attended LGNZ Briefing with DIA on Government's Head Start process
9	Attended Presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Alan & Faye Giles
10	Attended Church at Ratana and meeting with Tumuaki Attended meeting with Suze Redmayne MP
11	Attended Youth Council Meeting
12	Attended meeting with Central Districts Water Shareholders Committee Chair

	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Monthly Economic Development Meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended RDC/Police monthly meeting</p> <p>Attended Online Local Government Sector Meeting with Ministers</p> <p>Attended Quarterly Regional Relationship Meeting with NZTA</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
13	<p>Attended meeting with Taihape constituents</p> <p>Attended meeting with Deputy Mayor and staff regarding Minister’s Announcement on Simplifying Local Government</p> <p>Attended meeting with Marton constituent</p>
14	<p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Core Group Meeting in Wellington</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting in Wellington</p>
15	<p>Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting in Wellington</p> <p>Attended Head Start/Backstop Horizons Regional online Hui</p>
16	<p>Attended meeting with Central Ward Councillor</p> <p>Attended funeral service for Frances Wilson</p>
18	<p>Attended LGNZ Zoom on Unitary Authorities</p> <p>Attended meeting with Nestle</p> <p>Attended monthly meeting with Comms Staff</p> <p>Attended meeting with Mayor Michael Ford</p> <p>Attended Techweek – Regional Energy Outlook Event in Whanganui</p>
19	<p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chief’s Fortnightly Online Hui</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Ngati Hauiti GM to initiate the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process</p> <p>Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with comms staff regarding media enquiries</p> <p>Attended Zone 3 online planning hui</p> <p>Attended meeting with Aquila Clean Energy</p> <p>Attended Hui with Health New Zealand at Taihape Hospital</p> <p>Attended Creative Communities Scheme Meeting</p>
23	<p>Attended presentation of Community Volunteer Award to Lowie Harrison</p>
24	<p>Attended Multicultural Council Rangitikei/Whanganui AGM</p>
25	<p>Attended meeting with comms staff to film video around Local Government Reform</p> <p>Attended meeting with Bulls Friendship Club</p>
26	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs catchup with staff</p>

ITEM 8.1

	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
27	Attended Central Districts Water Workshops Attended Meeting with Green Party Candidate for Rangitikei Bernard Long
28	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Workshop Attended Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting Attended Risk/Assurance Meeting Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting Attended Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee meeting
29	Attended Central Districts Water workshop Attended TUIA Wananga at Opatia Marae Rotorua
30	Attended meeting with Taihape Station Owners Attended celebration of Helen Cooper's KSM

June 2026

2	Attended CDW catchup with Shareholders Committee Chair Attended CDW Workshop with Nga Tapuwae o Hau Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
3	Attended monthly Governor's Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended CDW Workshop with Horowhenua District Council Elected Members Attended meeting with Minister Patterson – Minister for Primary Industries Attended Mayor's Briefing before Council with staff Attended Hunterville Community Meeting on Local Government Reform Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting
4	Attended Ngati Apa Day Tour with Elected Members and Executive Leadership Team Attended Livestream Public Meeting – Simplifying Local Government
5	Attended 6 weekly Mayors Taskforce for Jobs catchup with staff Attended LGNZ Online Briefing on Head Start Attended CDW Project Oversight Group meeting
6	To attend Open Day at Otiwhiti School of Agriculture
8	To attend catchup meeting with Suze Redmayne MP Rangitikei To attend meeting with Rangitikei Labour candidate Karl Severinsen To attend Mayoral Forum Meeting
9	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend LGNZ online briefing: What are Regional Council Functions To attend Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting

	<p>To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> <p>To attend Ratana Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>To attend Ratana Community Board Meeting</p>
10	<p>To attend Taihape Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>To attend Taihape Community Boad meeting</p>
11	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend Council Meeting and Council Workshop</p> <p>To attend Turakina Community Meeting on Local Government Reform</p> <p>To attend Turakina Community Committee Meeting</p>

Attachments:

1. **Regional Resilience in an Uncertain Economy - Phil O'Reilly presentation to Rural and Provincial Sector Meeting May 2026** [↓](#)
2. **Unconfirmed Minutes Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee Meeting - 22 May 2026** [↓](#)
3. **Central Districts Water Joint Shareholders Committee recommendations for Councils' approval** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

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

ITEM 8.1

ATTACHMENT 1



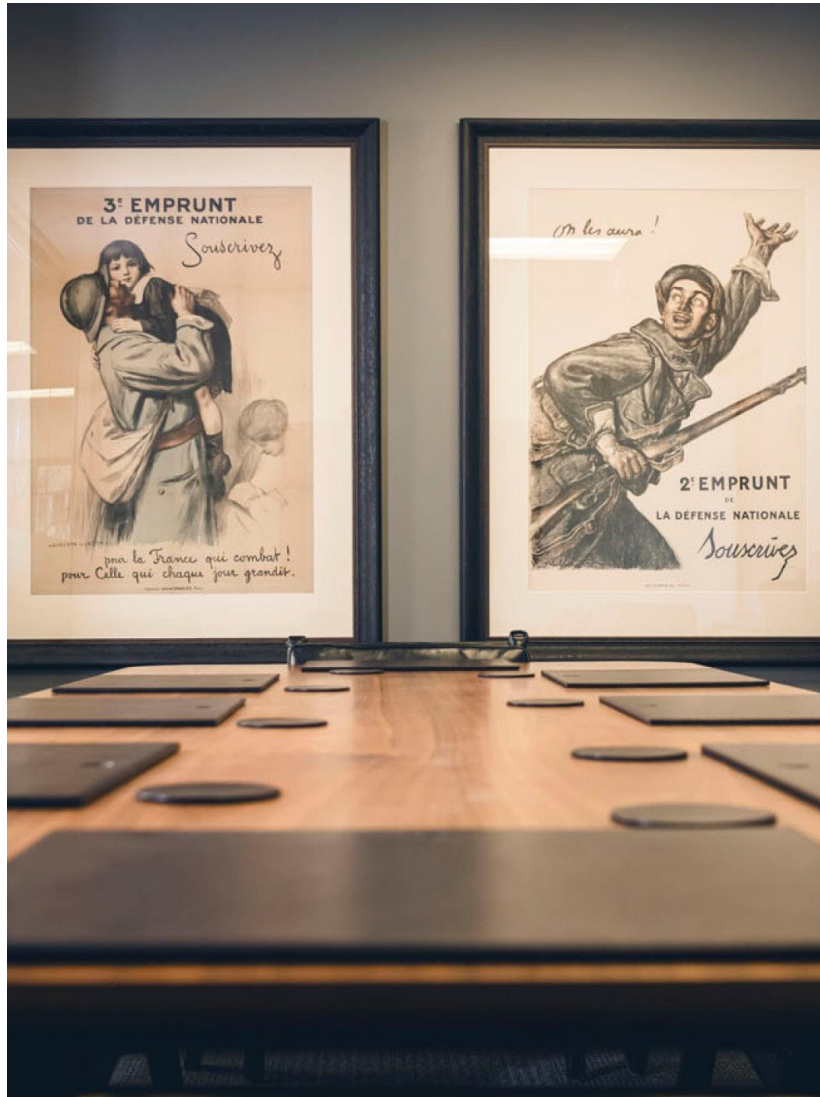
Iron Duke
PARTNERS

Local Government New Zealand

Presented by Phil O'Reilly

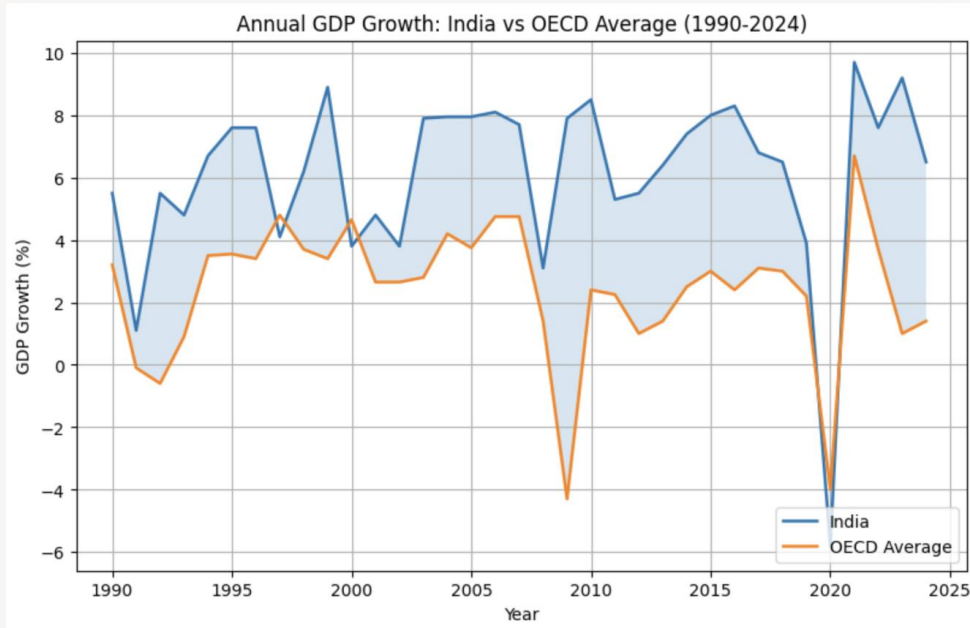
15 May 2026





The world we now see - reglobalising

New growth opportunities - India



World Bank Group: GDP growth (annual %), India vs OECD average



6.7% annual GDP growth last 20 years
vs ~2% for OECD



Median age of 28 (65% pop. under 35)
vs ~40 for OECD

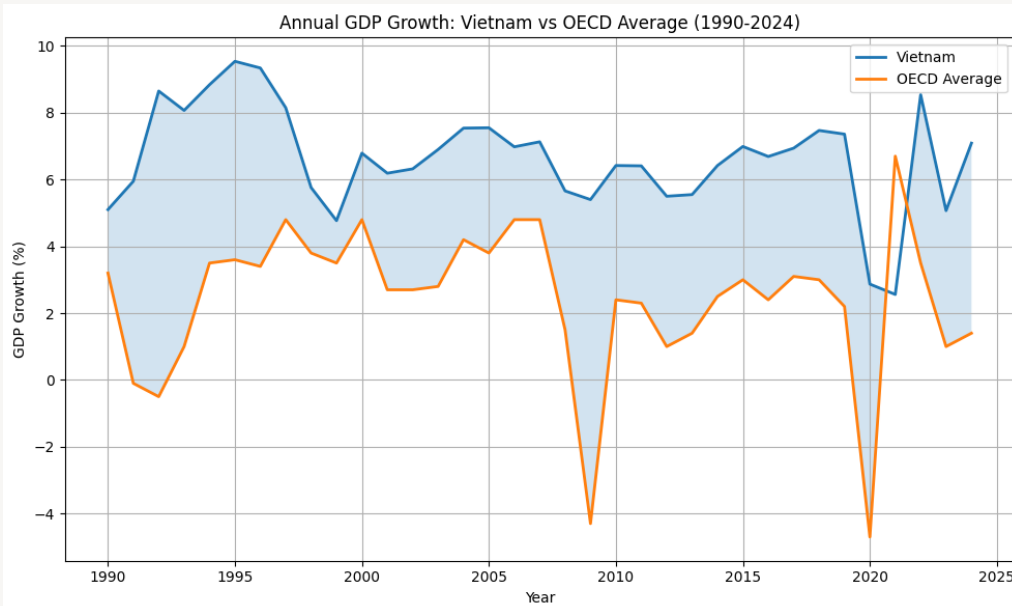


A rising middle class
A projected 580 million by 2030



3rd largest consumer market
Forecast by 2030

New growth opportunities - Vietnam



World Bank Group: GDP growth (annual %), Vietnam vs OECD average



6.3% annual GDP growth last 20 years
vs ~2% for OECD



Median age of 33
vs ~40 for OECD



Young & expanding workforce
~53m - one of largest in SEA



Manufacturing powerhouse
Exports 85% of GDP

Resilience - the new fundamental

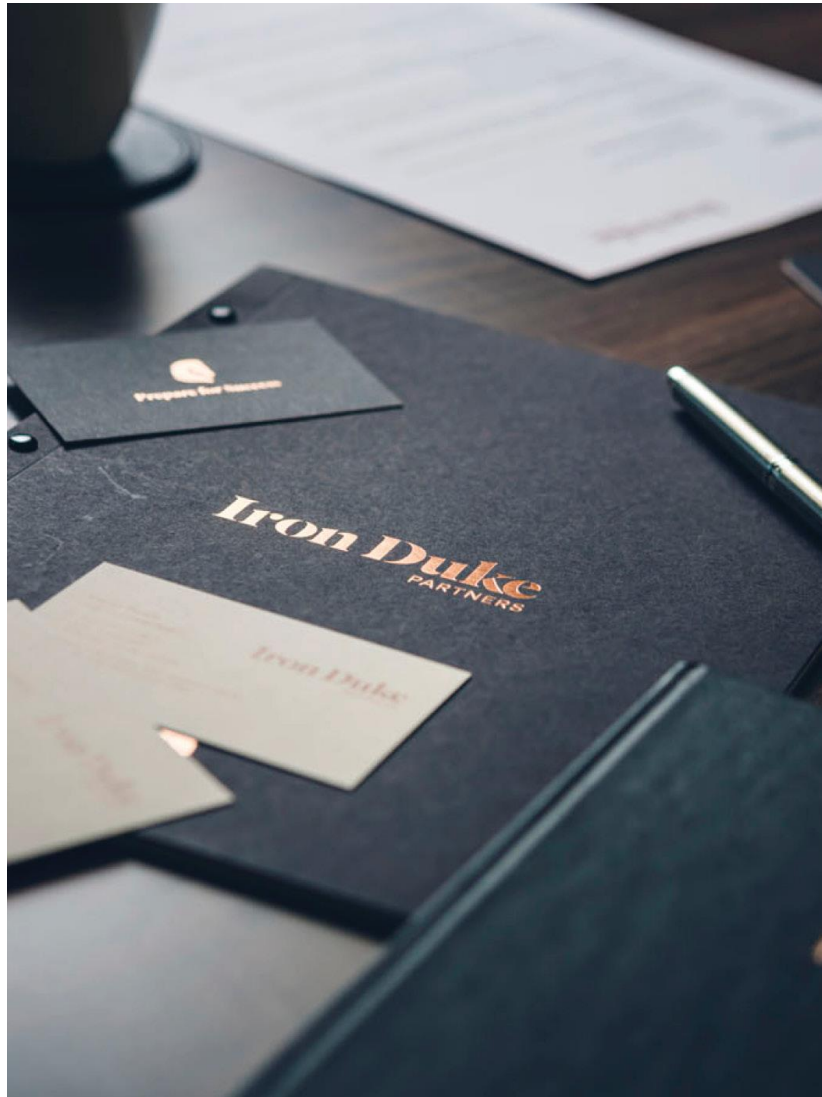


Iron Duke
PARTNERS

Trust - newfound importance

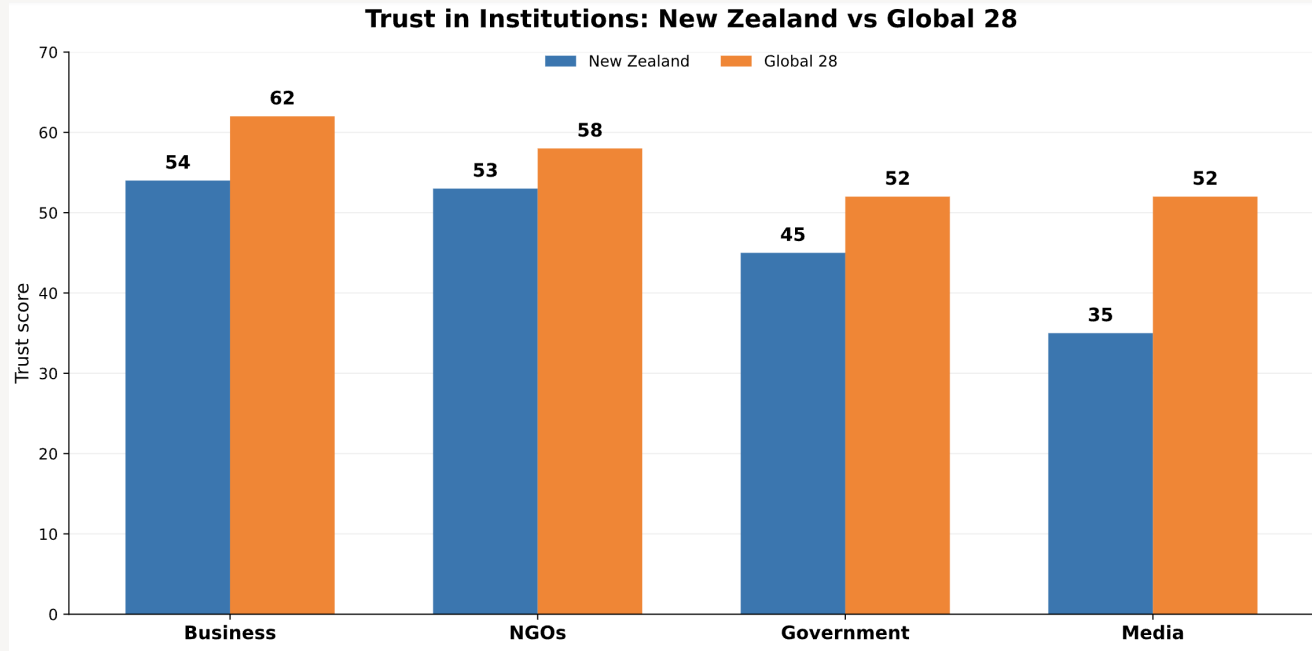


Iron Duke
PARTNERS



What role can local government play?

Trust in institutions



Acumen Edelman Trust Barometer 2025



We are feeling pessimistic

New Zealand at a glance



26%
of New Zealanders say they are finding it difficult to manage financially. This is a 2ppt increase from May 2024.



47%
are worried about their job security, with women significantly more likely than men (16ppt difference) to be concerned.

© Ipsos Cost of Living Monitor



41%
think their *disposable income* will fall in the next year.



65%
say the number of *unemployed people* in New Zealand will increase.



49%
think that it will take *more than 12 months* before inflation returns to normal New Zealand.



80%
think they will be paying more for their *food shopping* in the next six months.



35%
expect their *mortgage /rent* will increase – a significant (13ppt) decrease from May 2024.



36%
anticipate *taxes* to increase – a significant (20ppt) rise from May 2024.



Ipsos Cost of Living Monitor 2025 (NZ)



NZ Herald

'Saw the gold and ran for it': What is driving the Kiwi exodus to Australia

Share this article ... The New Zealand job market has gone "tits up", says a young Kiwi from the Bay of Plenty who crossed the ditch to Australia.

26 Feb 2026



The Spinoff

I'm a 24-year-old NZ graduate. Here's why I'm moving to Australia

I believed in the social contract: study, work hard, get ahead, build a life. Now I realise that deal no longer applies – at least not here.

27 Jan 2026



RNZ

'Painfully easy': Why more Kiwis are choosing to go to Australia

"It makes me wonder who's left at home sometimes," says a 27-year-old who moved from Whangārei to Melbourne.

14 Nov 2025



The Guardian

As record numbers leave New Zealand, why are most people choosing Australia?

A weak economy is pushing more New Zealanders across the 'ditch' in hope of a better life – and higher wages.

2 Nov 2025



Particularly for our young people

What can councils - and only councils do?



Sense of place



Local communities



Local connections and infrastructure



Local convening power



Local consenting and permission



Local iwi relationships



Making connections with government locally relevant



Local advocacy



Do they really trust you?

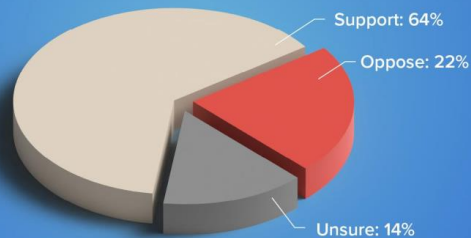
POLITICS / RNZ-REID RESEARCH POLL

RNZ-Reid Research poll: 75% of voters support a rates cap

2:11 pm on 18 September 2025

Share this    

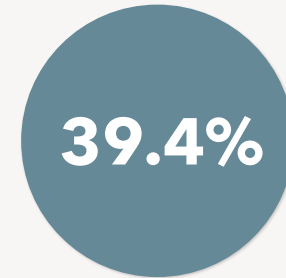
Do voters support a rates cap law?



Source: Taxpayers' Union-Curia August poll. Available at https://www.taxpayers.org.nz/poll_rates_cap0825



Council reputation
(LGNZ survey, 2017)



Local election voter turnout
(2025)

Do the people want amalgamation?

Leaked poll shows cautious backing for Wellington super-council

 **Andrea Vance** | The Post

May 9, 2026

 Share

Change is coming.





A better future



Do

- Represent your constituents
- Start working on what a good future could look like
- Be creative
- Work with like-minded others
- Propose alternatives
- Do the numbers
- Demonstrate what success could look like - economic and social
- Think long term

Don't

- Put your council at the centre
- Moan and complain
- Do nothing
- Tell everyone you are different
- Rely on your low rates
- Think short term



Minutes of the Joint Shareholders' Committee - Central Districts Water Meeting Part I Public, held in the Council Chamber, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin on 22 May 2026, commencing at 10.05am.

Members Present: Mr Chris Gallavin (in the Chair)) and Councillors Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Mr Hayden Turoa and Ms Marj Heeney.

Members Present online: The Mayor (Grant Smith), Ms Danielle Harris

Non Members: Ms Di Rump

Karakia Timatanga

Mr Hayden Turoa opened the meeting with karakia.

14-26 Late Item

Moved Mr Chris Gallavin, seconded Mayor Andy Watson.

The COMMITTEE RESOLVED

1. That the Committee agree the late item.

Reasons for lateness: Timing of Committee agenda did not align with Board agenda preparation.

Reasons for urgency: Progress will be out of date by the time the Committee next meets in August.

Clause 14-26 above was carried 9 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mr Chris Gallavin, Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Ms Danielle Harris, and Mr Hayden Turoa.

Ms Marj Heeney entered the meeting at 10.14am.

Draft Statement of Expectations

Memorandum, presented by Chris Gallavin, Committee Chair.

The Committee shared their thoughts on the revised draft.



JOINT SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE - CENTRAL DISTRICTS WATER - PART I - 22 MAY 2026

The Chair summarised that themes raised which had received the broad agreement of the room were:

- The document be written in a way that gives customers assurance- this may mean being more directive in the first year
- Sections referring to relationship to be strengthened
- References to affordability should be refined to reference the obligation committed to in the Water Services Delivery Plan
- The length of the initial Statement of Expectations to be a year in the establishment phase
- More refinement needed of local statements
- Improve clarity re: what the Company is to report on (including that reporting be forward looking)

15-26

Reporting protocols of Committee

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Mr Chris Gallavin, seconded Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee report the progress of its work to each of the Councils and Ngā Tapuwae o Hau, twice a year, and that the Chair of the Committee present those reports.
2. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee review its reporting frequency after 12 months.
3. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee minutes be circulated according to the process set out in Table 1.
4. That any Joint Shareholders' Committee recommendations be put to each of the Councils by the Joint Shareholders' Committee representatives for that Council.

Clause 15-26 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mr Chris Gallavin, Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Ms Danielle Harris, Mr Hayden Turoa and Ms Marj Heeney.

16-26

Confirmation of meeting schedule

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

Moved Mr Chris Gallavin, seconded Ms Marj Heeney.



JOINT SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE - CENTRAL DISTRICTS WATER - PART I - 22 MAY 2026

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee agree the schedule of meetings set out in section 2 of this memorandum, noting change of start time for 26 June 2026 and locations of all meetings.

Clause 16-26 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

The Mayor (Grant Smith) and Councillors Mr Chris Gallavin, Mayor Andy Watson, Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Councillor Sam Jennings, Kaydee Zabelin, Ms Danielle Harris, Mr Hayden Turoa and Ms Marj Heeney.

Transition update from Chief Executives

Memorandum, presented by Chris Dhyrberg, Executive Director.

The Committee received the update.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Mayor Wanden closed the meeting by leading the group in karakia.

The meeting finished at 12.02pm.

Confirmed 26 June 2026

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

TO: Council

MEETING DATE: 24 June 2026

TITLE: Presentation of the Part I Public Joint Shareholders' Committee - Central Districts Water Recommendations from its 22 May 2026 Meeting

Set out below are the recommendations only from the Joint Shareholders' Committee - Central Districts Water meeting Part I Public held on 22 May 2026. The Council may resolve to adopt, amend, receive, note or not adopt any such recommendations. (SO 2.18.1)

15-26 Reporting protocols of Committee

Memorandum, presented by Hannah White, Manager Governance.

The COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

1. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee report the progress of its work to each of the Councils and Ngā Tapuwāe o Hau, twice a year, and that the Chair of the Committee present those reports.
2. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee review its reporting frequency after 12 months.
3. That the Joint Shareholders' Committee minutes be circulated according to the process set out in Table 1.
4. That any Joint Shareholders' Committee recommendations be put to each of the Councils by the Joint Shareholders' Committee representatives for that Council.

8.2 Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer June Report

Author: Justine Rowe, Tamariki Rangatahi - Youth Engagement Officer

1. Reason for Report

1.1 And just like that May is gone. This report provides Youth Council with an update on key activities I am doing. May has been a full-on month with lots of things happening in the district.

2. Dyslexia Workshop

2.1 The Dyslexia Workshop was a great success, thank you Maryanne, Heemi and Ani who helped welcome and show manaakitanga to our guests.

3. Rangitikei Careers Expo

3.1 Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa held another very successful Rangitikei Careers Expo. With Rangitikei youth enjoying their day exploring many different career path options. Rangitikei District Council had a number of teams present that day, including – Civil Defence, Parks and Reserves, Community Hubs, and Animal Control. This was a great way to showcase what we do here at Council. Providing a free sausage sizzle to the Youth that attended was great engagement. We asked questions like, “What are 3 rivers that are in the Rangitikei? “Name 3 Towns in our District?”



PARKS & RESERVES

In New Zealand council parks and reserves departments serve to provide public open spaces for recreation, sport, and environmental protection, (managed under the Reserves Act 1977).

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control works to ensure the safety of the community while promoting responsible dog ownership. We focus on managing risks, supporting compliance, and maintaining harmony between people and animals.

By the Numbers (Annual Snapshot)

212,000 km travelled	2,500 complaints attended	13,000 registered dogs	7,050 km² covered across Rangitikei & Manawatu districts
--------------------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

4. Youth Week

- 4.1 I really appreciate those who stepped up and helped with running the Youth Week activities.
- 4.2 Maryanne and Sophie along with Council Staff member Minnie set up Arts and Crafts at the library for young tamariki. Thank you for doing this, the artwork looked great!



5. Creative Communities NZ Meeting

- 5.1 I attended the Creative NZ Committee meeting, with Youth Councillor Aania. It was a great opportunity for Aania to share her thoughts.

6. Looking forward to June

- 6.1 We have a few things coming up that we need to finish planning.

Recommendation

That the Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer June Report be received.

8.3 Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government

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

1. Reason for the report

- 1.1 To update the Youth Council on the Government's latest direction for simplifying local government, and to ask committee members to help encourage their communities to take part in Rangitikei District Council's June engagement.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Government's [November 2025 proposal to replace regional councillors with Combined Territories Boards](#) made up of mayors has changed.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The Head Start pathway is focused on structural reform. In simple terms, 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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. What could this mean for Rangitikei

- 3.1 The way local government is structured affects how decisions are made, how services are delivered, and how local communities are represented.
- 3.2 In his recent opinion piece, Mayor Andy Watson said the Government's direction is clear, and while the timeframe is very tight, Councillors have a responsibility to ensure Rangitikei voice is heard. Mayor Watson also noted that larger councils do not automatically mean lower rates, and that any proposed cost savings need to be understood alongside possible trade-offs.

4. June Community Engagement

- 4.1 Before Council decides what path to take, the Mayor and Councillors want to hear from the community.

- 4.2 From June, Council will be holding public meetings across the district and opening an online survey. This engagement will ask people what matters most to them, such as;
- keeping local decision-making close to rural communities,
 - protecting the local identity of Rangitikei,
 - improving council processes,
 - understanding possible costs and savings,
 - protecting local services,
 - strengthening the regional influence of Rangitikei.
- 4.3 The purpose of this engagement is to make sure people understand what is happening, why it matters, and how they can share what is important to them.
- 4.4 Public meeting dates <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/local-government-reforms/simplifying-local-government>
- 4.5 Requests for additional public meetings can be made to info@rangitikei.govt.nz.

5. Role of this committee

- 5.1 The Youth Council is a trusted local voice and an important link between Council and communities. Council is asking committee members to help spread the word and encourage people in their communities to have their say during the June engagement period.
- 5.2 This could include:
- sharing the material provided at this meeting
 - encouraging people to attend a public meeting
 - directing people to the online survey
 - helping people understand that this is about the future shape of local government and local voice.
- 5.3 This approach supports Rangitikei District Council's communications and engagement strategy, which recognises Community Committees and community groups as key partners who can help amplify Council initiatives and support meaningful two-way engagement with residents.

6. Supporting information

- 6.1 The Youth Council will be provided with additional communications material at the meeting to distribute through their communities. Should you require additional material to support your local conversations, please contact comms@rangitikei.govt.nz

Recommendation

That the report Rangitikei at the table: June Engagement on Simplifying Local Government be received.

9 Discussion Items

9.1 Verbal Report from Gill Duncan, Chair of the Taihape Community Board

Author: Gill Duncan, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Ms Duncan will give a verbal update on her role with the Board.

Recommendation

If needed

9.2 Update from YC Alice Stanbra on setting up a Youth Book Group

Author: Youth Council, Youth Councillors

1. Reason for Report

1.1 YC Stanbra has prepared a written update on setting up a Youth Book Group:

Book Club Update

Purpose

A book club for ages 16-24 (due to having some interest from that age group) that will meet once monthly.

Why are we doing it?

I first thought of this idea to not only utilize and encourage more foot traffic within our local library - but to get us out of our comfort zones, trying new literature that we may have never picked before, and of course to meet new people.

Summary of what happened

I met with Raewyn Timmins from the Marton Library on the 6/6/26 to discuss ideas and plans going forward with our book club. Raewyn has offered their computer room / space within the library for us to use. After discussions, I have come up with a plan on how we will run the group.

Who will be involved? / Youth members to be involved

- I will personally participate in this group, Sharnah our D.C has also confirmed that she will be involved too.
- So far, I have had interest from several parents on Facebook on behalf of their children, aged 16 up to I think 22. Age group will be 16-24 officially.
- Any Council staff participations, or other YC members re: helping to arrange the event is TBC.

Impact / Outcomes

- Youth to share their passion of literature
- Youth to socialize / make friends
- Members to try get out of their comfort zone in more than one way!

Plan for group

- Certain genres will be put into a lucky draw; each member will draw one from 'the hat'.
- To utilize the library - each member will go find a book within the Marton library that they are keen on reading, strictly within that genre.
- Group meets monthly and will discuss the book with the group (or another person). Whether they have finished the book or are part way through - If most have completed their book at the meeting, members can choose to take someone's (completed) book from the discussion if want to read.
- This can continue, or another genre can be drawn.

I am looking forward to seeing if anyone is interested and how this goes for us.

Recommendation

If needed

10 Open Meeting