



Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Tararua District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on **Wednesday 27 March 2024** commencing at **1:00pm**.

Bryan Nicholson
Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Meeting Opening**
- 2. Council Prayer**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Public Forum**

A period of up to 30 minutes shall be set aside for a public forum. Each speaker during the public forum section of a meeting may speak for up to five minutes.

Standing Orders may be suspended on a vote of three-quarters of those present to extend the period of public participation or the period any speaker is allowed to speak.

With the permission of the Mayor, members may ask questions of speakers during the period reserved for public forum. If permitted by the Mayor, questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Major items not on the agenda may be dealt with at this meeting if so resolved by the Council and the chairperson explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public the reason why the item was not listed on the agenda and the reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Minor matters not on the agenda relating to the general business of the Council may be discussed if the chairperson explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at that meeting, but no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

7. Confirmation of Minutes 5

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

8.1 Eketahuna Community Board minutes 11

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 11 March 2024 be received.

8.2 Explore Pahiatua Community Committee minutes 15

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 6 March 2024 be received.

8.3 Positively Woodville Community Committee minutes 24

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 5 March 2024 be received.

8.4 Dannevirke Community Board minutes 29

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 18 March 2024 be received.

Note: Any of the Community Boards and Community Committees may send a representative to address the Council on any issues within the agenda or matters of interest to them.

9. Reports

9.1 Change of Location for the Proposed Sheltered Seating at Fountaine Square 35

9.2	Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2024/2025 financial year.	39
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9.4	Waihi Falls Toilet	51
9.5	2024-2034 Long-term Plan Options Report	127
9.6	Significance and Engagement Policy	139
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9.8	Redirection of Three Waters Better Off Support Grant Funding	173
9.9	Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Report	179
9.10	Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	185
10.	Portfolio Reports	
	Councillors assigned the responsibility to undertake the portfolio for a specific activity can report back on any of these matters.	
11.	Mayoral Matters	
12.	Items not on the Agenda Accepted in Accordance with the Procedure Outlined as per Agenda Item 4	
13.	Closure	



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 28 February 2024 commencing at 1:00pm.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin (via Teams), S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Mrs A Small	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager – Infrastructure
Mr P Wimsett	- 3-Waters Transition Manager
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs B Fowler	- Senior Financial Accountant
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer.

3. Apologies

That the apology for lateness from Cr A K Franklin be approved.

Mayor Collis/Gilmore

Carried

4. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 31 January 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Crs Chase/Wards

Carried

8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

8.1 Eketahuna Community Board minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 12 February 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

8.2 Explore Pahiatua Community Committee minutes

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 7 February 2024 be received.

Crs Johns/Gilmore

Carried

8.3 Dannevirke Community Board minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 19 February 2024 be received.

Crs Wards/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8.4 Positively Woodville Community Committee minutes

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 13 February 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

9. Reports

9.1 Recommendation from Audit and Risk Committee re Adoption of Annual Report 2022-23

The Tararua District Council considered the recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee's extraordinary meeting held 22 November 2023 seeking

adoption of the draft Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The Finance Manager advised that approval from Audit New Zealand had been received this morning to adopt the Annual Report for 2022-23. She tabled a copy of the letter of representation from Audit New Zealand and advised that a copy of this as well as the Audit opinion would be circulated to elected members.

That the Mayor and Chief Executive be delegated the authority to make any minor changes requested by Audit New Zealand and to sign the Statement of Compliance and Responsibility that is contained within the Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023; and

That the 2022/23 Annual Report be adopted in accordance with Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Mayor Collis/Wards

Carried

9.2 Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 26 January 2024 that provided information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 over the preceding two months.

The Manager – Democracy Services highlighted the actions planned towards proactive release and publishing of Local Government Official Information, which would include publishing via Council's website the requests for information received, and the responses provided to those requests. It was noted that any personally identifying information would be redacted from requests and responses in compliance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 26 January 2024 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

That the Council note the steps being taken towards proactive release and publishing of official information related to requests under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Mayor Collis/Gilmore

Carried

10. Correspondence

Nil

11. Portfolio Reports

- 11.1 **Akitio / Pongaroa** – Cr S M Wards spoke about the delivery of equipment to the one of the community hubs that had been established. She advised that she had travelled with members of the Civil Defence and Recovery teams, and spoke about the positive response received from the community, on the actions that took place following Cyclone Gabrielle. She noted that the community hub had been left well equipped to cope with any future events, and noted a generator would be provided in the future.
- 11.2 **Norsewood** – Cr S A Wallace reported on the community meeting held at Norsewood to discuss water supply concerns, noting that the meeting was very informative with good communications. He expressed the feeling that the people that wanted value from that meeting received that, and thanked the team that was in attendance. A commitment to hold a follow up meeting in three months' time was noted by Her Worship the Mayor.
- 11.3 **Cyclone Recovery Stakeholder Group** – Cr K A Sutherland advised that he attended the Cyclone Roding Recovery Stakeholder Group meeting, noting there was a full team present including a representative from Waka Kotahi. He noted that discussions were positive around funding for cyclone recovery, and for the National Land Transport Programme ahead. He advised that he felt that it was good to have Governance representation at the meeting. He noted that the Queen Street Dannevirke intersection had re-opened ahead of schedule, acknowledged the great work that the Tararua Alliance team were achieving.
- 11.4 **Ngāti Kahungunu Kapa Haka Regionals** – Cr E L Peeti-Webber congratulated Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua for the outstanding event, noting it was a huge event that brought many people to the area. She said that it was great to see some of Council's staff on stage as well. She commented that it was a great family event that included activities for children, and was very well organised.
- 11.5 **Woodville Horticultural Show** – Cr S M Gilmore congratulated the Woodville Horticultural and Industrial Society for their very well organised event, noting that it was their 140th, and advised that the event was very well supported.
- 11.6 **New Zealand Fire Service** – Cr E L Peeti-Webber spoke about the awards ceremony held to recognise the service of the community's volunteer members of the fire brigade, and her privilege to represent Her Worship the Mayor at the 60th year commemorations of Neville Jacobsen's service. She spoke about the trophy that had been created using floor boards from the old Dannevirke Fire Station. Following the ceremony there were other awards for service presented, and noted the many years of service by members of the volunteer fire brigade.
- 11.7 **Ngāti Kahungunu Kapa Haka Regionals** – Cr N L Chase congratulated Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua for putting on the event. She noted that 13 teams had competed, which allowed four teams to go through to Te Matatini. She said it was good to see how busy the town was, and spoke about the honour

of having Paramount Chief Pa Ariki from Rarotonga attend the event. She then noted that 40th anniversary of Te Kōhanga Reo o Taniwaka 40th was today.

- 11.8 **Fuel Your Stoke event** – Cr S M Wards spoke about the Fuel Your Stoke event held in Pongaroa, a mutual event between the Rural Support Trust and the Council that was organised through Cyclone recovery funding. She advised the event was held in the Domain at Pongaroa and was very well attended. She thanked everyone involved in organising the event.

Councillor A K Franklin joined the meeting at 1:40pm.

- 11.9 **Meeting with Minister for Rural Communities** – Her Worship the Mayor provided an update on her meeting with Hon Mark Patterson, Minister for Rural Communities. She advised that they discussed the challenges being felt in rural communities, including regulations regarding Earthquake Prone Buildings, impacts of Forestry, limitations of connectivity, as well as the additional costs of traffic management for small towns located on State Highways. She advised that she had signalled to the Reserve Bank that the Tararua District would like its towns to be included in the cash trial. She formally acknowledged the workload upon Councillors, from so many meetings with large agendas of business to get through, and thanked everyone for the time committed to their role.

12. Mayoral Matters

Nil

13. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

14. Public Excluded Items of Business

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Excluded Session

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

<i>General subject matter to be considered</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<i>Confirmation of Minutes of Public Excluded Session</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i>	<i><Section (1)(a)(i)</i>

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48 (1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

s7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.

Mayor Collis/Johns

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 1:44pm, and resumed open session at 1:45pm.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 1:45pm.

Mayor



Eketāhuna Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board held in the Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall, corner of Jones Street and State Highway 2, Eketāhuna on Monday 11 March 2024 commencing at 10:00am.

1. Present

Board Members: S C McGhie (Chairperson), L J Barclay, T M Carew (via Teams), E E Chase, and Cr S M Gilmore

In Attendance

Mrs A Small	–	Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mrs A Dunn	–	Manager – Democracy Services
Ms S Ellis	-	Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Councillor M F Long be approved and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

McGhie/Gilmore

Carried

4. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Board Appointment to Civil Defence Welfare Group.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 12 February 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Barclay/Chase

Carried

TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

8. Tararua District Council Report

9.1 Tararua District Council Report

That the report of the Tararua District Council meeting held 28 February 2024 be received.

Gilmore/Carew

Carried

9. Reports

10.1 Management Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services that provided an update to the Board on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meeting of the Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee meeting held 13 February 2024, the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held 21 February 2024, and the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee meeting held 6 March 2024.

In discussion, the meeting regarded the non-compliance notices as reported in an inspection of the Eketāhuna Wetlands construction site undertaken on 5 December 2023, and the subsequent site visit conducted to inspect the remedial works on 30 January 2024. It was asked to provide further detail on the significant non-compliances regarding the latter inspection, which resulted in abatement notices and fines served.

It was asked that an update be provided on progress with recruitment for the role at the Eketāhuna Library and Service Centre.

The Board noted the report provided to the Dannevirke Community Board providing an explanation of the process for roading funding decision-making, and asked that a similar report be provided to the Board. They also sought information on how they could be informed of the result of advocacy for roading improvements made by the Board.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 01 March 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Carew/Chase

Carried

10.2 Capital Programme Update

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses as reported to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee on 21 February 2024, and the Community Development

and Wellbeing Committee on 6 March 2024.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 01 March 2024 concerning the Capital Programme Update be received.

Barclay/Carew

Carried

10. Reports from Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities

Civil Defence meeting – Board member Carew advised that he was scheduled to attend the Civil Defence meeting, however a mix up in the calendar dates due to the differing time zones meant he missed the meeting.

Mayor and Councillors Community catch-up—Cr S Gilmore reported on the attendance at the catchup, noting it was well attended and would be held as a monthly event. He sought Board Members' assistance in promoting the event in the community.

12.1 Minutes - Eketahuna Our Town Committee

In discussion, Board member Carew noted that he had received an update on the committee's request to install an additional flagpole, at no cost to Council, at the Memorial Hall, and that this had been approved. With regard to the town flags proposal, it was noted that the proposed dimensions needed to be provided. He further noted that the CCTV upgrade at the rugby grounds had been completed.

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Our Town Committee meeting held 14 December 2023 be received.

Gilmore/Chase

Carried

13. Discussion Items

Upcoming Consultation on draft Long-term Plan: the Manager Democracy Services advised that the Tararua District Council was due to adopt the draft Long-term Plan and Consultation Document on 10 April 2024, and consultation with the community would take place from 12 April 2024 until 12 May 2024. The Board's role in encouraging community input through the submission process would be key to ensuring the voice of the community is heard through the process. It was noted that a copy of the consultation plan would be provided to the next meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board.

Anzac Day preparations: Board member Carew provided an update on preparations for Anzac Day, noting that the plans were on track, and military

presence had been requested for the day.

14. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil

15. Items not on the Agenda

Civil Defence meeting: Chairperson McGhie advised that he was available to attend Civil Defence meetings in addition to Board member Carew should this be necessary.

It was noted that current Civil Defence Standing Orders contained out of date contact information for emergency personnel, however the rest of the content remained current. It was agreed that copies should be available in the cabinet in the Community Centre. It was recommended that Board members attend Civil Defence training when it is available, and it was asked that this request be forwarded to the Council's Emergency Management Officer.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:44am.

Chairperson



Community Committee
committee@explorepahiataua.co.nz
www.explorepahiataua.co.nz

Minutes of the Explore Pahiataua Incorporated Society meeting held at the Tararua District Council Service Centre 136 Main Street, Pahiataua on Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7:00pm.

1. Present

- 1.1 Committee Members: Ali Romanos (Chair), Louise Powick (Deputy Chairperson), Raylene Treder (Secretary), Ingrid de Graaf, Richard Hansen, and Rhys Punler.

Marie Kissick (Treasurer) by phone.

Tararua District Council Representatives: Cr Alison Franklin and Cr Scott Gilmore.

Members of the public: Gareth Bestor, Marla Burrow, James Devoe, Sarah Gibbs, and Georgina Morrison.

Rhys Punler left the meeting at 7:52pm.

2. Apologies

- 2.1 Nil.

Ali Romanos/Raylene Treder

Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest

- 3.1 Ingrid de Graff asked for addition to the conflict-of-interest register in relation to her membership of the Children's Day Committee. Raylene Treder to update register.

4. Notification of Items not on the agenda

- 4.1 Sarah Gibbs to address the committee of the proposed wind farm at Makomako.

- 4.2 Tararua Sports Awards.

- 4.3 *Listener* article re earthquake-prone buildings.

- 4.4 Pahiataua Repertory Society costings for earthquake compliance.

- 4.4 Explore Pahiataua website update.

- 4.5 Committee's electronic files.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiataua meeting held Wednesday 6th December 2023 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the below changes:

9.1 Should be 'queried' instead of 'queries'.

13.2 It is the March Bush Telegraph that will be used to feature the BAT Golf Course Tournament, not the April Bush Telegraph (as our advert always runs at month end).

Louise Powick/Ali Romanos

Carried

6. Matters Arising

Karolyn Donald's gift recognising her service to Explore Pahiataua: Ali Romanos organised this and acknowledged the Committee's thanks to Karolyn by letter on the Committee's behalf.

Pahiataua Shears event: Explore Pahiataua had provided a grant of \$1,000 towards this event, and it is understood the event was very successful.

Community Plan: The portfolios holders have updated their parts of the current plan and provided same to Ali Romanos. Next step is to wait for the census information to be released and included in the plan. In respect of the proposed inclusion of profiles from four local individuals, Crs Franklin and Gilmore commented this may be conceived as bias to certain businesses or schools. Ali Romanos disagreed the profile pieces should reasonably have this effect; that they were intended to present a snapshot of Pahiataua's community to enhance personality in the document. However, the ultimate inclusion of such profiles will be discussed further once the plan is nearer to completion.

7.0 Tararua District Council Report

- Draft Consultation Document currently being assessed by Governance. Pahiataua's proposed new all-season swimming pool is included in the consultation process.
- Draft Urban Growth Strategy Consultation meetings were held across the District, and have been well-attended, with Planning staff and Evergreen consultants attending to respond to concerns and questions. The team are still busy fielding queries from ratepayers and residents.
- TDC now has registered an Operational Inspector of Children's Playgrounds which has enabled inspection of playgrounds across the District with Health and Safety being at the forefront. The ability to inspect playgrounds in-house has meant issues have been quickly identified and repaired accordingly.
- Community Buildings: The major project of importance for Pahiataua has been the completion of the new ceiling at Bush Multisport Park. The ceiling has been fully insulated and a plywood ceiling installed.

- Pahiata Swimming pool: The pool's repairs and painting was completed in early January, and the pool was opened to the public on 15 January. The season has been relatively short with unsettled weather affecting pool attendances.
- Community Conversations: Mayor Tracey has set up "Community Conversations" across the District with the view to the public having greater access to the Mayor and Councillors without having to travel. Pahiata's first Community Conversation is being held at the Service Centre for 2 hours next Monday 11 March, commencing at 3pm.
- All charges have now been removed from Community Boards and Community Committees for utilising Council facilities for meetings. Ali Romanos conveyed the committee's gratification of this decision, since it means Explore Pahiata will not be charged for using the Service Centre for its meetings.

That the Council report from Cr Franklin be received.

Louise Powick/Richard Hansen

Carried

7.1 Matters arising from Council report

- Further to discussion in late 2023, Cr Alison Franklin to provide a copy of her Councillor reports to Explore Pahiata, for publication the Explore Pahiata Facebook page. These may be edited for appropriate consumption on that platform. Cr Franklin to provide to Ingrid de Graaf for publication beginning next month.

8.0 Correspondence

Inwards

- TDC/Sport Manawatu – Request from Hinekawa Wilson-Munday for a representative from the Explore Pahiata Committee to be on the judging panel for the Tararua Sports Awards.
- Rautaki Maori – He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission Ohu Māori re upcoming consultation and engagement.
- Jess McNicol Children's Day Committee – requesting a grant for \$620 for the Committee to hire a generator for the day.

Outwards

- Jess McNicol of Children Day Committee – informing grant had been approved.
- TDC – committee's submission for the Draft Urban Growth Strategy.

Noted that Rocketspark email was not working for a few days last week, owing to the domain invoice seemingly not being received. Ali Romanos dealt with Rocketspark to rectify this issue, the invoice was paid as matter of urgency, and all services are now working as usual.

That the inwards be received and outwards noted.

Ali Romanos/Raylene Treder

Carried

9.0. Financial Report

Marie Kissick queried the NZME monthly invoice, as it had increased with no notification. NZME informed Marie Kissick it was a mistake and has now been rectified.

Invoices to be approved for payment

1. Bush Telegraph Feature: \$513.19
2. Freedom Signs Bush Telegraph feature design: \$227.20
3. Louise Powick reimbursement for Awapuni Nurseries (Community Garden): \$61.79

Additional invoices received and paid, and provided for ratification of payment

1. Rocketspark – Domain name for one year: \$40.35
2. Children’s Day Grant for generator: \$620.00

Marie noted the Committee is in credit with Mitre 10, in sum of \$66.63.

That the financial report from Marie Kissick (Treasurer) for the preceding month be received and identified invoices approved for payment.

Marie Kissick/Louise Powick

Carried

10.0 Portfolio Reports

10.1 Pahiataua Districts Business Group (PDBG) (Ingrid de Graaf)

- BA5 at The Little Green Grocer went very well – 17 attended – a very pleasant evening with a very inspiring host.
- Combined Chambers Event now confirmed for the 15th May (new date)
- Colin Yonge has been in touch regarding participation in some Manawatu Chamber events – more details to come.
- Awaiting response from Evan at Digital Spaces regarding event
- Seeking \$1,000 be placed in the PDBG account for associated costs with upcoming events.

That \$1,000 be transferred to the Business Group account.

Ali Romanos / Marie Kissick

Carried

10.2 Explore Pahiataua Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)

- March *Bush Telegraph* advert – Bush Aquatic Trust.
- Facebook – shared PDBG BA5 event, shared Children’s Day event, posted Explore Pahiataua Plans 2024, shared Digital Spaces survey, shared information that Dog Park Open but not completed, shared TDC Draft Urban Growth Strategy.

10.3 Youth Centre (Ali Romanos)

- Raylene Treder had started an application to Eastern and Central Community Trust. Unfortunately the fund has changed, and applications cannot be submitted until the new fund is open on 1 April 2024.

10.4 Carnival Park (Richard Hansen)

- Annual review held with Francis Walsh from DOC 29th February.
- Felling of trees on the western boundary/ Fonterra is still on track to be completed.
- Peter Russell to attend chainsaw course.

10.5 Community Garden (Emma Elliott)

- Marie Connolly-Kerapa has resigned from the garden committee. Marie will continue to manage the front flower and herb bed and will liaise with Emma Elliott.
- February and first week in March working bees have been well-attended.
- Weekly Facebook posts continue with good engagement.
- A lunch will be held Tuesday 12 March for Tararua Community Services, Hamua Ora Heartlands and Pahiataua Help N Hand/Bush Supergrans to celebrate the garden and discuss education opportunities for clients of these services to learn gardening and cooking skills. There will be a Thursday Taco evening at the garden when these same organisations come together to co-create a community evening to mark Neighbours Aotearoa on 28 March at 6pm.
- No word from Pahiataua School enviro group regarding restarting at the garden.
- Recently Louise Powick and Emma Elliott met with local artist Laura to discuss proposed murals on the shed and cover over the picnic table. A Creative Communities application will follow acceptance of design concepts and quote.

10.6 Swimming Pools (Louise Powick)

- Awaiting the LTP consultation with anticipation!

- Date for the golf fundraiser under review.
- Kerry Fraser from Sprung (Canada) to visit Pahiataua on 20 March at 2pm.

13.7 Rotary Dog Park (Raylene Treder)

- Katrina White joined the committee.
- An application has been sent to Waireka Community Trust for funding of agility equipment, lime track, native plants, dog poo dispenser, water fountain and seating. Total funding applied for \$15,276.77.
- Cr Alison Franklin to discuss with Council about the establishment of an MOU.
- A big thank you to Rhys Punler for patching a couple of areas in the dog park from where smaller dogs had been able to escape.

13.8 Road Safety Committee (Rhys Punler)

- No report.

13.9 Harvard Plane Photo Attraction (Rhys Punler)

- No report.

13.10 Polish memorial / 80th Reunion

- Andrew and Gilda McKnight visited the McKay's Crossing memorial recently and found the construction of the 'Interpretive Displays' these would reflect the camp history very well. They have been in touch with Kapiti Council who have redirected their enquiries re the build to the managers of the Memorial-The Kapiti US Marines Trust (Allie Webber, Chair). It may just be time effective to see if the builders would like to be commissioned for the build here of the 3 structures. As the costings need to be into the Embassy by 1 May.
- Email sent to Don McKinnon of the NZ Memorial Trust for funding support, but no response received as yet. If no response will try Helen Clark, who is the Patron.
- Stan Manterys, one of the Polish Children has been asked if he would like to pen a few sentiments of his time at the camp. (These will be used on the display boards.)
- Schools will be invited to participate in artwork.
- Celebrating Polish National Days, in particular Polish Flag Day celebrations on 2 May, Gilda McKnight has had a positive response from the Polish Embassy, and they will be in touch shortly with definite plans of where they intend to celebrate it in the country. In any scenario, they will provide flags for the shop windows and prizes for the children.

- Derrick Sims and Gilda McKnight will be applying to the Creative Communities Schemes Grant.

15.0 Items not on the agenda

15.1 Wind Farm Proposal Makomako

Sarah Gibbs presented to the committee a presentation of renewable resources (wind farm proposed for Makomako) that is being proposed to be erected into the Tararua District. Sarah Gibbs is concerned that Energy companies are coming into communities with no parameters being set to the detriment of the community. Lack of current rules in our local district and central government. Discussion was had regarding lobbying in relation to this issue.

15.2 Earthquake-prone buildings *Listener* article

In light of article which was shared with the Committee, Ali Romanos proposed to submit a letter on behalf of the Explore Pahiataua Committee to formally echo the concerns raised in that article. Agreed that Ali Romanos would do so.

15.3 Pahiataua Repertory Society newsletter

A 31 January newsletter from the Repertory Society was discussed, as this provided information regarding ball-park costings to comply with the new regulations for earthquake-prone buildings.

Option 1 – \$1.6 million – strengthen building.

Option 2 – \$10.6 million – rebuild 800sqm.

Option 3 – \$8.4 million – rebuild 600sqm.

It was noted there are already two charities—Pahiataua Repertory Society (Incorporated) and Regent Upstairs Cinema Society—collaborating to work through these issues. Explore Pahiataua will monitor developments, noting the Regent is a key community asset and these costings obviously present a challenging environment for the building's future.

15.4 Website update

Louise Powick to make some minor updates to Explore Pahiataua's website.

15.5 Electronic Files

Committee discussed improving its file-management system. Ali Romanos to create either a Dropbox for the committee containing all files, or alternatively a Google Docs drive, for this purpose. Also proposed that future agendas and portfolio reports might be enhanced with hyperlinked documents being circulated. Ali Romanos to look into this.

15.6 Tararua Sports Awards

Agreed that Ali Romanos would be Explore Pahiataua's representative on the judging panel.
Ali Romanos to communicate this to Hinekawa Wilson-Munday.

Meeting Closed at 8.30pm.

Ali Romanos (Chair): _____

Notes from Financial Report

- The balance of the main account to be \$111,728.22
- The balance of the Business Group account is \$147.44.
- The balance of the Harvard Plane account (to be closed) is \$13.20.

The following invoices are to be approved for payment on 20 March:

	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	NZME	Bush Telegraph feature	\$513.19
2.	Freedom Signs	Bush Telegraph feature design	\$227.20
3.	Louise	Reimbursement for Awapuni Nurseries – Community Garden	\$61.79
		TOTAL	\$802.18

- We are currently in credit (\$66.63) on the Mitre 10 account.

In addition, approval of the following invoice which has been paid since February's meeting are to be ratified:

	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	Rocketspark	Domain name for one year	\$40.25
		TOTAL	\$40.25

To record that in addition, the committee also approved the grant of \$620.00 for the generator for Children's Day during the month.

As a reminder, the following amounts are tagged funds:

	Project	Amount
1.	Swimming Pool	\$30,000.00
2.	Explore Pahiataua signage	\$20,000.00
3.	Harvard Plane	\$20,000.00
4.	Carnival Park (originally \$9,289.33 but reduced by \$1,736.25 for Jan invoice and \$985 for seedlings)	\$6,568.08
5.	Youth Centre refurbishment	\$3,000.00
	TOTAL	\$79,568.08



MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting held 5 March 2024, 7pm
Woodville Sports Stadium Supper room**

1. Present:

J Kopa, C Wilton, V Tomlinson, Cr S Gilmore, J Lovett, P Tayler, B Hutton,
R Carroll, N White, P Cox

2. Apologies:

I Riley, S Riley, A Hapuku, R Pretty, S Silvester, D Henman, B Swenson,
N Lovett, R McMillan

That the apologies be accepted

V Tomlinson / J Lovett

Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest:

None declared.

J Kopa gave out handouts to the meeting which explained what conflicts of interests were.

4. Other General Business

Sowry Road development
Anzac Day

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

That the minutes are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

C Wilton / V Tomlinson

Carried

6. Matters Arising from the minutes.

6.1 Storage facility

Two quotes have been received: Total Span \$33,745 and Versatile \$40,000. Tumu Timber will be approached for a quote. TDC are happy for PW to erect with appropriate consents. B Hutton suggested we also investigate getting a larger container instead of a shed.

6.2 ANZAC Day

That a wreath be purchased to the value of \$120 and up to \$200 for morning tea

V Tomlinson / P Tayler

Carried

6.3 Movie night

An update will be given at the next meeting

1

Positively Woodville Incorporated
positivelywoodville@gmail.com

7. Correspondence

Inward: Woodville Kidz Club – report on grant received
TDC – invoices
Woodville Animal Welfare – report on grant received
Sport Manawatu – request for representative for Judge for sports awards – J Kopa has agreed

Outward: Invoice to TDC for grants

That the correspondence be approved.

C Wilton / J Lovett

Carried

8. Financial

A report was presented by V Tomlinson.

That the financial report be accepted and accounts paid

V Tomlinson / C Wilton

Carried

8.1 That Positively Woodville apply to become GST registered.

V Tomlinson / C Wilton

Carried

9. Grant applications

NIL

Name		Project	Amount	Approved
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10. TDC Report – Cr S Gilmore

Boil water notice

As you'll be aware a possum was found in the Woodville water treatment tank on 15 February which necessitated a precautionary boil water notice to be issued. This was lifted on 20 February.

Water is always regularly tested and showed no concerns, before or after the possum was found.

Water safety is taken incredibly seriously, and Council has requirements when things like this happen though which is why the notice was issued. Investigation and repair works have already been completed to reduce the chance of this happening again.

Huge thanks to the Woodville Fire Brigade, and other volunteers for helping deliver the notices and to the community for their patience before the all clear was given.

Draft Urban Growth Strategy

Thank you to everyone who attended the Draft Urban Growth Strategy meeting in Woodville on 22nd February. The team got some good insights from it.

Regarding the Rinitawa clash, I was not able to move the day of the meeting as it had been publicly advertised and because the format of the meeting was a drop-in session it allowed people to attend both.

Mayor and Councillor catch ups

The Mayor and Councillors will be holding catch up sessions monthly in Woodville, and other towns.

The first one in Woodville is on 18th March 3-5pm at the ISITE.

No appointment is needed, and the Mayor and Councillors will be attending on a rotational basis.

Reserve criteria

I am still awaiting full clarity on the criteria of reserve funding. The General Purpose Woodville Reserve does not appear to have set criteria except for any project being for the benefit of Woodville and it requiring a council resolution for approval.

The Recreation Reserve does have requirements, but the paper I've received appears to be superseded so I want to ensure there has been no further changes before I report back. I will include in my next report.

N White advised that he, and others had not received boil water notices.

11 General Business

a. Woodville Community Noticeboard

That the board be erected at Woodville Animal Welfare on the area shared with Woodville Mart if Kevin agrees.

V Tomlinson / P Tayler

Carried

b. Mad Hatters Day

The date will be 10 November 2024. Steam train is booked

That a budget of \$8000.00 be set for Mad Hatters Day

J Lovett / V Tomlinson

Carried

c. Woodville Community Garden

Emma Elliott spoke to the group and offered to guide the project. The community will be canvassed to see who would like to be involved in the project. Emma and Vicky will come back to the group with recommendations.

d. Flagtrax system

Process has begun for funding applications

That Positively Woodville apply for funding for the Flagtrax system which will promote Woodville and events

B Hutton / J Kopa

Carried

e. Sowry Road development

R Carroll spoke of her concerns regarding the overload on the infrastructure with new houses being built. Cr S Gilmore will look into this.

f. Community Plan

A couple of meetings have been held and some ideas have been put forward. The document will be emailed out to members for their feedback and ideas.

g. 150 Sub committee

A meeting will be held at Rinitawa at 7pm

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm

Chairperson

Date

Positively Woodville Treasurers Report January 2024

		Income	Expenditure	Balance
	Discretionary Fund			\$ 1,958.62
	General Working Account	Opening Balance		<u>\$ 38,901.30</u>
		Income	Expenditure	
Nov/Dec/Jan	Subs P&S Bonsor	\$ 10.00		
	Interest	\$ 38.04		
	Subs M Stuart & T Brackenbury	\$ 10.00		
	Tararua District Council - Hireage		\$ 42.00	
	Tararua District Council - Printing		\$ 10.50	
	Arena Party Hire (Christmas Parade)		\$ 1,843.00	
	J Kopa Rem: Xmas Window Display		\$ 70.60	
	V Tomlinson Rem: Wreath Armistice Day		\$ 142.80	
	C Wilton Rem: Xmas Window Comp		\$ 317.85	
	Interest	\$ 36.59		
	TDC	\$ 5,599.12		
	Holy Trinity Church Float Prize (CP)		\$ 250.00	
	Woodville Girl Guide Float Prize (CP)		\$ 150.00	
	Woodville School Float Prize (CP)		\$ 250.00	
	Kumeroa School Float Prize (CP)		\$ 150.00	
	TARARUA REAP Float Prize (CP)		\$ 100.00	
	Property Brokers Float Prize (CP)		\$ 250.00	
	Pahiatua New World Float Prize (CP)		\$ 150.00	
	Peach Plumbing Float Prize (CP)		\$ 100.00	
	Quality Presentation (CP)		\$ 138.18	
	Barrel Train (MH)		\$ 300.00	
	C Wilton Rem: Xmas Window Comp		\$ 55.95	
	Interest	\$ 38.05		
	Closing Balance	\$ 5,731.80	\$ 4,320.88	<u>\$ 40,312.22</u>
	Committed Funds / Projects			
Ongoing	150th celebrations	<i>\$150 for Float Prize Dec 23</i>		\$ 5,892.95
	Tararua Trust donation - Defibrillator	balance left		\$ 246.01
	Mad Hatters Day balance	balance left		\$ 904.69
	Xmas Parade	Balance left		\$ 626.82
	Dis Grant for Woodville School (approved)			\$ 1,720.00
	Dis Grant Fund			\$ 1,958.62
	Total Committed:			<u>\$ 11,349.09</u>
	Potential Available General Funds 2024/25			<u>\$ 28,963.13</u>
	Saver Account:			
	Walkway Fund			\$ 6,023.84



Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Monday 18 March 2024 commencing at 9:00am.

1. Present

Board Members: P F Walshe (Chairperson), T J Hynes (Deputy Chairperson), E J Christison, R T Wallace; and Crs E L Peeti-Webber and S M Wards

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs T H Collis

Mrs A Small	-	Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mrs A Dunn	-	Manager – Democracy Services
Ms S Ellis	-	Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Board Member R T Wallace be approved and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Hynes/Wards

Carried

3. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Deputy Chairperson Hynes: Te Awa Community Foundation update

Deputy Chairperson Hynes: Building Owners Meeting in Dannevirke March 20 – in regards to earthquake strengthening.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 19 February 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Wards/Hynes

Carried

6. Tararua District Council Report

6.1 Tararua District Council minutes

That the report of the Tararua District Council meeting held 28 February 2024 be received.

Wards/Peeti-Webber

Carried

7. Reports

7.1 Application for Funding - Dannevirke and Districts RSA Inc

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 12 March 2024 that presented an application for funding from the General Assistance Grants Fund, from the Dannevirke and Districts RSA Inc, for consideration.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 27 February 2024 concerning the Application for Funding - Dannevirke and Districts RSA Inc be received.

That the Dannevirke Community Board grant \$500.00 to the Dannevirke and Districts RSA Inc towards the costs of holding the 2024 Anzac Day Community Breakfast.

Hynes/Walshe

Carried

Board Member E J Christison joined the meeting at 9:08am.

7.2 Management Report

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 11 March 2024 that provided an update to the Board on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meeting of the Strategy, Growth and Planning Committee meeting held 13 February 2024, the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held 21 February 2024, and the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee meeting held 6 March 2024. In discussion the Board asked for an update on the policy and bylaw review framework, and enquired as to when bylaw consultations were scheduled. The Board was informed by the Group

Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing that a timeline for consultation was set previously, proceeding in April-May, and that the Bylaw Reviews were being proceeded with in tranches. The first tranche had been adopted, and would be consulted on during April-May, and further tranches later in 2024 and early 2025.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 05 March 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Walshe/Hynes

Carried

7.3 Capital Programme Update

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 5 March 2024 that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses as reported to the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee on 21 February 2024, and the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee on 6 March 2024. No resolution was made in regard to this report.

8. Reports from Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities

- 8.1 Chamber of Commerce:** Board Member Hynes reported on the After Fives event held at Tararua REAP, and noted that the next After Fives event would be held at the Regent Theatre in Dannevirke. The combined After Fives event to be held at Tui HQ had been rescheduled to May 2024.
- 8.2 Community Vehicle Trust:** Board member Hynes noted the increased passenger demand for the community vehicles, and acknowledged the insufficient number of presently rostered drivers. He noted that a recruitment drive was in place, and 4-5 new drivers had recently been inducted.
- 8.3 Glengarry Soldiers Settlement Memorial Project:** Board Member Hynes, alongside Board Member Christison, attended a meeting in regards to the Glengarry Soldiers Memorial to be constructed on Armstrong Road. They noted that the project was in the process of obtaining consents, and was ultimately on track.
- 8.4 Walkway:** Board Member Christison noted the poor condition of the Smith – Adelaide road walking track, and recommended maintenance.
- 8.5 Dannevirke Skatepark Project:** Councillor E L Peeti-Webber, speaking as a member of Dannevirke Multisport Complex Inc. advised of the progression in plans for the Ball to fundraise for the Dannevirke Skatepark, that would be held on 25 May 2024.

- 8.6 **Road Safety Committee:** Chairperson Walshe advised of the roundabout works completion in Queen Street. In further discussion with the board, it was noted that while satisfaction was expressed with the completed works, visibility issues were a concern. This was emphasised by Councillor S M Wards regarding the Victoria Ave/Queen St roundabout, wherein cars approaching the roundabout from Queen St were not immediately visible to drivers approaching from Victoria Ave, due to the height of the fence recently erected on the corner property. However it was noted that the fence was compliant with height requirements.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence

That the correspondence listed be received:

Letter of thanks from Tararua Riding for the Disabled

Hynes/Walshe

Carried

10. Discussion Items

- 10.1 **Upcoming consultation on draft Long-Term Plan:** The Board was asked to consider how they could assist with community engagement on the draft long term plan, and how they could help promote and encourage community involvement via submissions. It was noted that the Board's role included making a Board submission on the draft Long-term plan. In response to a question from a Councillor-member of the Board, it was noted that Councillors who were members of the Dannevirke Community Board would not participate in developing a Community Board submission, as this could be perceived as a conflict of interest due to Councillors being in the decision-making role when submissions were being determined.
- 10.2 **ANZAC Day preparations:** The Board considered the wreath for the ceremony, and discussed splitting their attendance at ANZAC Day ceremonies, accounting for both Dannevirke as well as other smaller communities in the Northern Ward if feasible.

11. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil

12. Items not on the Agenda

- 12.1 **Te Awa Community Foundation** – Board Member Hynes requested an update on the Te Awa Community Foundation. In response, the Group Manager Strategy

and Community Wellbeing advised that the Council was currently working through the Memorandum of Understanding, and understands work has been progressing with Tararua REAP. She noted they were looking to strengthen the relationship through the Memorandum of Understanding.

- 12.2 **Building Owners Meeting** – Board Member Hynes informed the Board of a building owners meeting to take place on March 20, at 5:30pm. There would be an especial focus on earthquake strengthening requirements, notably for shop buildings on High St. The Board queried the involvement of council, and it was advised that the event was planned without council notice, with no intent for council inclusion. It was recommended to respect the wishes of the event organisers if they were uninterested in a council presence.

Board Member Hynes noted his intent to attend, with Board Member Christison also expressing interest, due to their respective involvement in or ownership of businesses within the community.

- 12.3 **ANZAC Day Concert** – Member of the media in attendance sought confirmation of whether the Community Board would be arranging an Anzac Day Concert this year. In discussion, it was noted that an informal request from a member of the community for \$5,000 to cover costs of holding the show was received by members of the Board, however no formal application for funding has been made under the General Assistance Grants Fund criteria for the Board's consideration. It was also advised that a similar request had been received by the Dannevirke Host Lions.

Board Member Christison offered to personally make a funding contribution from his business. He asked that a report be provided to the next meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board to allow the Board to consider making a contribution towards the costs of Town Hall hire for the event.

It was acknowledged that the current Town Hall lighting and sound arrangement was insufficient, and would require substantial cost upwards of \$70,000-\$100,000 to improve.

Chairperson Walshe advised that he could assist with set-up of the Town Hall on the day.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 9:46am.

Chairperson



Report

Date : 21 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Bryan Nicholson
Chief Executive

Subject : **Change of Location for the Proposed Sheltered Seating at Fountaine Square**

Item No : **9.1**

1. Recommendation

1.1 *That the report from the Chief Executive dated 20 March 2024 concerning the Change of Location for the Proposed Sheltered Seating at Fountaine Square be received.*

1.2 *That the Tararua District Council rescinds the following motion made 20 December 2023:*

1.3 *“That the Council approves the request from Woodville Women’s Institute to build a sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville, pending a discussion with Woodville Women’s Institute regarding position and final design.”*

AND

1.4 *That the Tararua District Council makes the following motion in its place:*

“That the Council approves the request from Woodville Women’s Institute to build a sheltered seating area within the northern end of Fountaine Square on the Ormond Street side, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville.”

2. Reason for the Report

2.1 To consider redirection of two allocations agreed for projects from the Better Off Support Package, to support the transition to Local Water Done Well.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Woodville Women's Institute will be 100 years old in May 2025 and at present the Institute is unable to recruit new members thus heading for recess.
- 3.2 The Institute has considerable funds in excess of \$10,000 and wish to leave a legacy as a donation to the Community and visitors by way of an all-weather shelter with seating at Fountaine Square, Woodville.
- 3.3 The Institute envisaged locating the shelter on the western side of the square along Ormond Street. With the open sides facing east and west with a solid dividing wall in the centre and solid ends north and south so regardless of wind or rain direction a sheltered picnic could be enjoyed.
- 3.4 Following a letter of support from Positively Woodville, Council approved the request from Woodville Women's Institute to build a sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville, pending a discussion with Woodville Women's Institute regarding position and final design, and that the structure once built, be gifted to Tararua District Council.
- 3.5 Following discussions with the Woodville Women's Institute, the preferred location of the proposed structure has been identified as being within the northern end of Fountaine Square on the Ormond Street side.

4. Significance Assessment

- 4.1 The matters considered in this report are not significant in terms of the Council's policy on significance and engagement.

5. Options

- 6. Council is asked to consider that the location of the sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville, be changed to within the northern end of Fountaine Square on the Ormond Street side.
- 7. Council also has the option to maintain the status quo being, that the location for the building of a sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square, Suburban Sections 1 & 2 Woodville as per the previous resolution, remains.

8. Statutory Requirements

- 8.1 The procedure the Council must follow when proposing to revoke or alter a resolution that it previously made, is set out in Standing Orders, in Clause 24.6.

8.2 This clause gives authority to the Council, on a recommendation in a report by the Chief Executive, to revoke or alter all or part of a resolution passed by a previous meeting.

8.3 A minimum of two clear working days' notice of the meeting that will consider a revocation or alteration recommendation must be given.

8.4 Notice that the Council meeting on 27 March 2024 would consider a request to revoke the previous resolution and replace with an amended motion was given to members on 22 March 2024, with public notice given via Council's website on the same day.

9. Consultation

9.1 There are no community consultation requirements associated with this matter.

10. Conclusion

10.1 In conclusion, this report recommends that the Council revoke the previous resolution made regarding the location for the sheltered seating area within the southern end of Fountaine Square and approve an amended resolution in its place.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 20 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : James Single
Regulatory Services Manager

Subject : **Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2024/2025 financial year.**

Item No : **9.2**

1. Recommendation

1.1 *That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 07 March 2024 concerning the Proposed Dog Registration Fees for the 2024/2025 financial year. be received.*

1.2 *That pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996, the following dog registration fees (including GST) for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 be adopted:*

Animal Control Advice

Application and compliance advice *No charge*

Dog Registration

Urban Domestic Dog

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	<i>\$225.00</i>

Urban Domestic Dog (Desexed)

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>

Preferred Owner Dog (Entire) Also includes current members of Dogs New Zealand (formerly NZ Kennel Club).

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$80.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>

Preferred Owner Dog (Desexed) Also includes current members of Dogs New Zealand (formerly NZ Kennel Club).

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$70.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	<i>\$105.00</i>

** Preferred owner status may be revoked if paid after 1 August. If revoked, the applicable dog registration fee will apply.*

Over 65's Canine Companion (available to Over 65's that do not qualify for Preferred Owner).

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$90.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	<i>\$135.00</i>

Rural Domestic Dog

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$78.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August</i>	<i>\$117.00</i>

Dogs NZ Rural Domestic Dog, (Current members of Dogs New Zealand, (formerly NZ Kennel Club).

<i>Fee if paid on or before 1 August</i>	<i>\$52.00</i>
<i>Late fee if paid after 1 August*</i>	<i>\$78.00</i>

**may be revoked if paid after 1 August. If revoked, the applicable dog registration fee will apply.*

Working Dog*

(First 5 Dogs full fee then additional dogs are registered at tag fee only)

Fee if paid on or before 1 August **\$60.00**

Late fee if paid after 1 August **\$90.00**

**Providing a false statement when registering a dog is an offence subject to a \$3000 fine on conviction.*

Dangerous Dog - as classified under the Dog Control Act 1996

Fee if paid on or before 1 August **Base fee plus 50%**

Late fee if paid after 1 August **Additional 50% fee**

Disability assist dog with organisation certificate **No charge**

Any new dog that is less than three months old after 1 August in any calendar year will be charged a pro rata of the dog registration for that year.

- 1.3 *All other fees and charges relating to Animal Control will be presented later this year for adoption, included in the Tararua District Council Fees and Charges schedule.*

Executive Summary

Legislation requires Council to set its fees and charges for dog control by resolution and to advertise the fees at least one month prior to implementation. This report seeks Council adopt the proposed dog registration fees for the financial year 2024/2025.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval and adoption of the proposed dog registration fees for the 2024/2025 financial year.

3. Background

- 3.1 Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to set its dog control fees by resolution and publicly notify them in a district newspaper at least once during the month preceding the start of every registration year.
- 3.2 To enable compliance with this requirement a recommendation is made for this purpose.

4. Significance Assessment

- 4.1 The setting of dog registration fees is a requirement under section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 so does not require public consultation. It does not fall under the requirements of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 By adopting the fees and charges for dog control by resolution, Council complies with legislative requirements.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 21 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Adele Small
Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing

Subject : **Pensioner Housing Fees**

Item No : **9.3**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Pensioner Housing Fees be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Council approves the proposed Pensioner Housing fees and charges for the 2024/2025 financial year.*
- 1.3 *That Council approves increasing the self-imposed Pensioner Housing fee cap of 30% Gross Superannuation to 33% Gross Superannuation.*

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report provides a recommendation on Pensioner Housing fees and seeks approval for the proposed fees for the 2024/2025 financial year.
- 2.2 This report also seeks approval from Council to increase the self-imposed Pensioner Housing fee cap of 30% Gross Superannuation to 33% Gross Superannuation.

3. Background

- 3.1 Council owns and manages a housing portfolio of 85 pensioner units. With the exception of the six new Aften Court units, the portfolio is old with units at or more than 40 years old. (See Appendix 1 for a breakdown of properties and locations).

- 3.2 The Pensioner Housing activity has a requirement to be self-funding with the entire activity being 100% privately funded by tenants.
- 3.3 Rents are currently capped at 30% of the Gross Superannuation (single units) and are well below market rates.
- 3.4 Rents are reviewed annually.

4. Proposed Rent Increase

- 4.1 To be self-funding, rental revenue needs to equal or exceed costs of \$790,033 each year.

Operating Costs	514,137
Depreciation	181,374
Overhead Allocation	82,135
Interest on OD Reserve	12,387
Total Rent Requirement	790,033

- 4.2 The proposed rent increase (31% of Gross Superannuation) provides for a modest operating surplus but exceeds the Council self-imposed cap of 30% of the Gross Superannuation.

Proposed Rent Increase				
Rent Per Week	Existing	Proposed	\$ Increase	% Gross Super**
Dannevirke				
1 Bed	165	190	25	31%
2 Bed	240	290	50	31%
Tenant Contributor	90	100	10	NA
Woodville				
1 Bed	165	190	25	31%
Eketahuna				
1 Bed	155	190	35	31%
Pahiatua				
1 Bed	165	190	25	31%

- 4.3 The percentage of Gross Superannuation has been calculated on the recently released NZ Government Superannuation rates that will take effect on 1st April 2024 (see Appendix 2). The previous calculations provided to Council were based on current superannuation rates that resulted in 33% of Gross Superannuation.
- 4.4 As previously requested by Council, the above proposed rents are now set consistently across all property types (excluding Tenant Contribution Flats) at 31% of Gross Superannuation.

5. Impact of Rent Increase on Super Annuitants and Accommodation Supplement

5.1 New Zealand Government Superannuation payments increase on 1 April 2024. These new rates are included in the calculations below. Note that any rent increases would apply from 1 July 2024.

5.2 The following table demonstrates the financial impact for tenants with the proposed rent increase. Note we have only provided analysis of the impact of the rent increases based on the new pension rates as the existing pension rates will be irrelevant from 1 April 2024.

NEW PENSION PAYMENT - Effective 01.04.2024

	Current Rent		Proposed Rent	
Amt per Week	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
Gross Super	606.67	922.82	606.67	922.82
Net Super In Hand	519.47	799.18	519.47	799.18
Less Rent	(165.00)	(240.00)	(190.00)	(290.00)
\$ In Hand After Rent	354.47	559.18	329.47	509.18
Reduction in Hand			(25.00)	(50.00)
Rent % Gross Super	27%	26%	31%	31%

5.3 Assumptions:

- Net weekly superannuation (in hand – after ‘M’ tax rate).
- Couples rent a 2-bedroom property, and both are eligible for NZ Superannuation.

5.4 Accommodation Supplement

The Dannevirke Ministry of Social Development has kindly provided estimates of the Accommodation Supplement as follows:

Accommodation Supplement	Single pensioner, living alone	Couple pensioners
Rent Paid per Week	\$ 190	\$ 290
Accommodation Supplement	\$ 47	\$ 70

5.5 The amount of the accommodation supplement received is not dependent on whether the tenant lives in Dannevirke, Woodville, Eketāhuna or Pahiatua.

5.6 If a tenant has savings over \$8,100 (single person) or over \$16,200 (couple) they are not entitled to the accommodation supplement. Note that Council eligibility criteria for pensioner flats has savings/asset criteria set a maximum of \$40,000 for individuals and \$60,000 for couples. This limit excludes the value of cars, household/personal effects, and prepaid funeral arrangements. It is possible that Council has tenants that are ineligible to access the Accommodation Supplement.

6. Proposed Increase in Rent Cap Policy

- 6.1 While the proposed rent increases have resulted in 31% Gross Superannuation, it is recommended that the Council cap is increased to 33% Gross Superannuation.
- 6.2 The ongoing operating and renewal costs of the Council housing portfolio are expected to continue to increase due to inflation, supply and wage pressures, and climate change etc. Having the Council Cap set slightly higher than currently required provides Council with more flexibility in the future if required. Note that even with an increased rent cap policy, Councillors will continue to provide ultimate approval of future rent increases.

7. Proposed Additional Fee

7.1 Transfer Fee

On occasion tenants ask to move from one unit to another. Such transfers incur additional administration time to perform exit inspections, transfer bonds and arrange for any minor repairs.

- 7.2 We are proposing a fee of \$160.00 per flat for transfers from one unit to another.

8. Significance Assessment

- 8.1 Due to the requirement for Pensioner Housing to be a self-funded activity, there are no rates implications for this activity. However, increasing Pensioner Housing fees will have an impact on Pensioner Housing tenants.
- 8.2 Council will provide letters to tenants outlining the increase in Pensioner Housing fees as soon as rents are set for the 2024/2025 financial year. This will allow tenants to prepare for the rent increase. Note that increases for most existing tenants will not come into effect until January/February 2025 as all rent increase take effect upon the anniversary of the tenancy commencement.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The proposed fees for Pensioner Housing for the 2024/2025 financial year are recommended to Council for approval alongside a recommendation to increase the self-imposed Pensioner Housing fee cap of 30% Gross Superannuation to 33% Gross Superannuation.

Attachments

1. [Appendix 1 TDC Housing Portfolio](#)
2. [Appendix 2 NZ Super and Veteran's Pension](#)

Appendix 1:

TDC Housing Portfolio				
		1 Bed Unit	2 Bed Units	TC Units
Dannevirke	Aften Court	24		
	Ballarat	9		
	Elsinore	10		
	Gordon Street		1	3
	Burns Street		4	
	Tennyson		2	2
Pahiatua	Kowhai	15		
Woodville	Ruahine	6		
	Centennial	6		
Eketahuna	Bengston	3		
		73	7	5
Total		85		

Appendix 2:

NZ Super and Veteran's Pension



Pension type	Net weekly rate (after tax at 'M')	Net weekly rate (after tax at 'S')	Gross weekly rate
NZ Super or Veteran's Pension – standard rates			
Single			
Single, living alone	\$519.47	\$500.62	\$606.67
Single, sharing	\$479.51	\$460.66	\$558.31
Couples			
Only one of you qualifies	\$399.59	\$380.74	\$461.41
Both you and your partner qualify (combined)	\$799.18	\$761.48	\$922.82
Both you and your partner qualify (each)	\$399.59	\$380.74	\$461.41
Only one of you qualifies and you include your partner in your payments (combined) – grandparented since November 2020	\$759.64	\$721.94	\$874.88
Only one of you qualifies and you include your partner in your payments (each) – grandparented since November 2020	\$379.82	\$360.97	\$437.44

Source: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/benefit-rates/benefit-rates-april-2024.html>



Report

Date : 22 March 2024
To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council
From : Mike Dunn
Manager - Programmes & Projects
Subject : **Waihi Falls Toilet**
Item No : **9.4**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Waihi Falls Toilet be received.*

AND EITHER

- 1.2 *That the Council agree that the project proceed with a Council-funded portion of \$26,000 from the current renewal budget (depreciation reserves).*

OR

- 1.3 *That the Council decline to contribute funding towards the project.*

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To present the current funding arrangements achieved with the Waihi Falls Toilet project and gain Council direction on whether to proceed or not.

3. Background

- 3.1 Waihi Falls is one of the leading natural attractions in Tararua District. This is evidenced by the 2019 Tararua District Visitor and Walk-Cycle Strategy and Action Plan and other strategic planning documents for the district such as the current LTP and Economic Development Plan.
- 3.2 Council and relevant stakeholders have been developing the area since 2018 to make it safer and more enjoyable for visitors and locals that visit. A successful

Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) application in 2018 secured solar compacting rubbish bins for the site and another successful TIF application in 2019 ensured that Council was able to address the immediate health and safety issues with the track.

- 3.3 The next stage of development, described in previous TIF applications, was the installation of new public toilets to improve visitor experience and further manage health and safety risks.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 The current toilets are situated along a small path that leads away from the falls. The toilets are connected to the water supply on the property of a local farmer and are at risk of having this supply disconnected. The toilet septic system is also approaching end of life and installation of a new septic system could be problematic due to the possibility of not receiving resource consent. These issues have been the catalyst for the investigation of a new system.
- 4.2 Additionally, the location of the current toilets, being situated down a path away from the falls, has been known to encourage visitors to take risks and walk off the path to seek alternate views. To reduce risk, the intention was to fence this path off and install new dry chamber toilets nearer to the carpark.
- 4.3 Dry chamber toilets eliminate the need for a water supply or septic/wastewater connection. The units are a low-cost, low-maintenance option, are quick to install and are built to last. They are also environmentally friendly as they are prefabricated and sustainable to minimise environmental impact.
- 4.4 Council had previously programmed in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan to fund the estimated costs of the Waihi Falls Toilet Replacement to the amount of \$137,000 in Year 3 of the Plan (during the 2023-24 Annual Plan period).
- 4.5 However, during the draft Annual Plan 2023-24 workshop process and the review of Council services and projects, Council elected for this project to remain as a capital project, provisional to securing 100% external funding.
- 4.6 We have managed to secure \$110,000 of funding for this project from the TIF. All pre-conditions in the TIF funding approval letter have been met to allow an agreement with TIF to proceed.
- 4.7 We have engaged Permaloo for the design and development of a Double Pan Dry-Vault Permaloo unit with a mono pitch concrete roof. These units are robust, purpose-built facilities that are made to last, with the asset life span being 50 years minimum. Being prefabricated from pre-cast concrete and manufactured in a factory means the facility will arrive onsite finished. This means a fast installation process and the ability to relocate at a later date if required. These units are a low-cost, low-maintenance, environmentally friendly option, are quick to install and built to last.

- 4.8 Permaloo have received all applicable permits to allow construction of this new toilet at Waihi Falls. The total cost for this project is \$136,000. For the project to proceed a Council funded portion of \$26,000 from the current renewal budget (depreciation reserves) will be required.

5. Significance Assessment

- 5.1 The matters considered in this report are not significant in terms of the Council's policy on significance and engagement.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Tararua District Council has been unable to 100% externally fund this project. However, we have secured \$110,000 of the project's \$136,000 build cost.
- 6.2 In order to progress with the project a Council funded portion of \$26,000 from the current renewal budget from the depreciation reserves would be utilised.
- 6.3 The Council is asked to make resolution on whether to proceed with the Waihi Falls Toilet replacement based on the current funding confirmed.

Attachments

- 1 [↓](#). VISITOR AND WALK-CYCLE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

TARARUA DISTRICT VISITOR AND WALK-CYCLE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

July 2019



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tararua District has the potential to play a much stronger role in providing visitor services and experiences than at present.

Currently, some visitors stay overnight, but most visitors briefly stop in the district as they transit to other destinations. There is an opportunity to have more of this type of visitor stay longer in the district.

The objective of this report is to help Tararua District Council identify and guide the development of new or enhanced visitor experiences that encourage visitors to spend more money and gain more enjoyment from the district's attractions. Delivery of new or enhanced visitor experiences will have the benefit of contributing to the attractiveness of the district for existing residents and growing the resilience of the Tararua economy, alongside the benefits provided to visitors.

The biggest opportunity for Tararua is to optimise the attractiveness of current and new experiences in the Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge area. Walking and cycling tracks, Māori heritage / cultural and biodiversity appreciation, sharing the awe of the unique Gorge landscape and enjoying the power of the windfarms is the 'number one' potential growth experience awaiting further development. Delivery of this opportunity will require dedicated resources, careful planning, secure funding and strong collaboration with neighbouring local authorities.

The second biggest opportunity is to focus on providing better-known and better-quality walk and cycle experiences at each of the five towns that form the core of the fabric of Tararua District's attractiveness to visitors. On-going effort should also be directed toward town-centre revitalisation.

Of special interest is the need to develop the walk / ride from Pahiatua to Mangatainoka. There is also a need to make far more of the Lindauer heritage experience at Woodville by exercising strong leadership, committing funding and delivering a well-led plan for a Lindauer appreciation trail.

The third biggest opportunity for focused attention is to have the Waihi Falls better known and made more pleasant, possibly in combination with other scenic drive and rural environment experiences.

It is all too easy to focus destination development on growing new experiences. Of equal importance is the need to grow awareness and participation in those experiences that are already successful. The district's three biggest current attractions are Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, the Tui Brewery and the range of attractions on offer at Norsewood. Each of these experiences has development potential. With concerted effort, we can see their value continuing to grow. We can also see events such as Woodville / New Zealand International MotoX, other unique events and special railcar excursions growing in popularity. The railcar offers the opportunity to link Tararua scenic and other attractions together as part of a leisurely experience.

Quality visitor experiences do not happen on their own. There is a need for more focus on collaboration and partnerships with iwi, DOC, MBIE and people from the surrounding three districts / regions at your boundary. This is for the purposes of creating joined-up experience itineraries and developing market awareness of what you jointly have to offer.

We also see a need to build visitor-sector capability and to identify opportunities for visitor-sector family-owned SMEs and entrepreneurs to grow their enterprise (e.g. agritourism) by you convening regular meetings and focused workshops. This, among other tasks, will require that Tararua District Council allocates skilled staff to planning for visitor experience development, the exercise of sector leadership and the provision of other 'enablers' of visitor development and management.

Tararua District offers a slice of the genuine 'people-centred' experiences sought by visitors. Visitors want stories to take home – Tararua can provide these. Further market development initiatives will be required to ensure that more potential visitors more actively consider Tararua District as a place to visit.

This report first describes the international, national and district visitor markets. It then defines the objectives that may be achieved through careful visitor growth. It then identifies the constraints and opportunities that must be overcome and capitalised upon through carefully prioritised effort, to unlock the potential of your district.

It is all too easy to focus destination development on growing new experiences. Of equal importance is the need to grow awareness and participation in those experiences that are already successful.

Particular attention should also be directed toward other 'enablers' of visitor sector growth such as good roads, digital connectivity and market development based on a clear, unique and agreed statement describing what Tararua District has to offer to the visitor.

In addition, attractive and well-functioning towns create pride and community cohesion and act as an 'incentive to stop' for the passing motorist. The Council's recent investment in the upgrade of town centres in Eketahuna, Pahiatua, Woodville and Dannevirke is a valuable manifestation of this incentive.

The report concludes by providing details about the experiences and services that differentiate Tararua District from other parts of New Zealand and describes how these, and new experiences can be developed for the benefit of the district.

The community benefits of improved destination development and management for your district are waiting to be grasped. We urge that you commit to the actions listed in the conclusion to this report by allocating appropriate budget and staff time toward their implementation.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Strategy and Action Plan

This report identifies how Tararua’s destination development and management opportunities may be enhanced.

The sought-after outcome is visitor sector growth that further contributes to the economic resilience, attractiveness, environmental sustainability and economic diversity of the Tararua District.

Achievement of this outcome requires exploration of how further investment in current or new experiences should be prioritised, coordinated and funded, how the public and private visitor sectors may be better integrated, what needs to be done to enhance market awareness and who should be accountable for putting necessary action initiatives into effect.

The primary audience for this report is the Tararua District Council. It is also designed to be read and acted upon by Tararua visitor sector leaders and others from the sector with an interest in Tararua visitor sector management and development.

Background

The ‘Manawatu-Whanganui Economic Action Plan’¹ identified nine opportunities for growth across the region. Tourism and visitor services were viewed as one of the highest priority opportunities for development.

With this opportunity in mind, the Tararua District Council applied for and received funding from the Government’s Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to prepare an action plan identifying and integrating general visitor sector development opportunities and specific cycle-walk development and management opportunities. This report is the product of the expenditure of Tararua District Council and MBIE dual-purpose funding.

Tararua District

Tararua District is located on the south-east coast of the North Island of New Zealand, bound to the west by the Tararua Ranges and to the east by the Pacific Ocean. It covers an area of 4,360km² and has an estimated 2018 resident population of 17,850².

The four main Tararua towns of Dannevirke, Woodville, Pahiatua and Eketahuna are primarily service centres for the agricultural sector. They also service industry and domestic and passing traffic. With Norsewood and Pongaroa added to the mix, each of Tararua’s six towns has a unique character, with a wide range of experiences on offer, all capable of further development, for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors. These towns sit in an extensive and highly productive rural landscape.

The primary industry in Tararua is agriculture. Over a third of the district’s workers are employed in this sector. A small number of larger industries are present in the district, including meat processing, dairy processing and steel fabrication. There are also smaller scale industries with the well-known manufacturer of natural fibre clothing at Norsewood and Woodville amongst them.

¹ Manawatu Whanganui Economic Action Plan, Accelerate 25, Horizons Regional Council, August 2016

² StatsNZ

Agriculture, retail trade, manufacturing, farm servicing, health and education services make up the bulk of employment. Cottage industries and home occupations are common.

Under current StatsNZ projections, future growth in the Taranua population will be almost entirely from people aged 65+. This group will increase from 17% of the population in 2013 to 26% in 2028. This increase is likely to have a negative impact economically as older people tend to spend less as they proceed through their retirement years. By offering access to urban cycle routes, cycling can save people money to spend in their local communities and thereby bypass fuel, registration, Wof and parking costs^{3,4}.

Who is a visitor?

We prefer to refer to the 'out-of-towners' coming to Taranua as 'visitors' rather than 'tourists.' This enables us to address the full range of persons experiencing Taranua's offerings – whether they be domestic or international persons or whether they be persons visiting Taranua in transit to other locations.

A 'visitor' is 'a person who is a guest who comes to spend time with or stay in a place that is not their home...for pleasure, for business, for sight-seeing, for experiences.'⁵

For statistical purposes, a visitor is often only counted when and if they go more than 40kms from their home, for reasons other than those related to their home. This means officially, visitors are defined more broadly than perhaps is the usual case in common understanding. They are certainly more than just 'tourists'.

The challenge faced by the community is, therefore, to attract, bring home and retain young people and to improve the dynamism and resilience of the economy by increasing its depth and breadth. Growth in the visitor sector can help to meet that challenge.

³ We note StatsNZ projections do not consider the potential population growth that may occur as a result of more people locating to the district because of the cheaper housing and yet ease of access provided to Palmerston North and other locations by the new Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatu Taranua Highway.

⁴ NZTA, Benefits of Investing in Cycling, page 10, 2018

⁵ Google definition

Scope

Both 'destination development' and 'destination management' are addressed in this report. This enables us to consider current and emergent experiences that attract visitors, as well as the management interventions required to improve the capability, capacity and infrastructure 'enablers' like roads plus accommodation and cafes that provide efficient services to your visitors.

Although frequently referring to visitor growth, our preference and hope is that growth in visitor numbers is not considered in isolation from a consideration of the quality of the visitors and the quality of the experiences enjoyed by these visitors. This wider definition of desirable growth provides a foundation to achieve longer-term destination development that is more suited to both the visitors and to Tararua residents than consideration of growth for its own sake.

Market development and the 'brand' that best encompasses Tararua's attractions are additional important 'enablers' of destination development. We address these matters further later in the report.

Both 'strategy' and 'action' are important concepts addressed in this report. They have both received focus as part of our work. 'Strategy' defines the framework to deliver agreed objectives, often in times of uncertainty and change, such as those currently being experienced in Tararua. 'Action' defines the tasks, tactics, resources and timelines for delivery of agreed objectives and actions.

⁶ The reports accessed as part of our enquiry are a closed resource for use by the project team stored in a cloud-based research folder. This may be used by the project owners to support this strategy when actioning future works.

Approach to this project THE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS REPORT

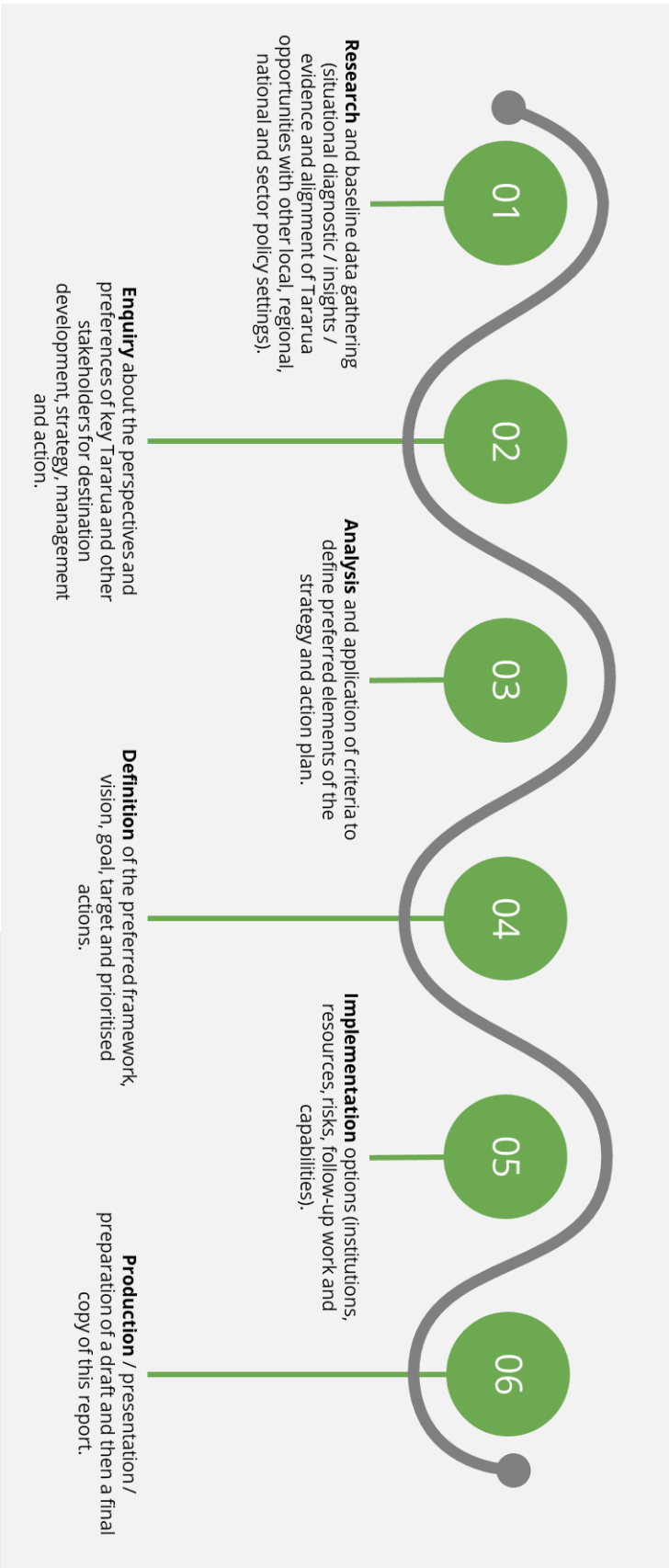
John Hutchings from consultancy firm HenleyHutchings, together with visitor sector consultant Dave Bamford, were engaged by Project Sponsor Mark Maxwell (Economic Development and Communications Manager from Tararua District Council) to develop this strategy and action plan. The consultants have been assisted by Dannevirke-based project manager Colin Yonge and Tararua District Council's business support officer Angela Rule.

METHOD

Our approach to this project has reflected the following phases of work (Figure 1 – over page):

1. **Research** and baseline data gathering (situational diagnostic / insights evidence and alignment of Tararua opportunities with other local, regional, national and sector policy settings).⁶
2. **Enquiry** about the perspectives and preferences of key Tararua and other stakeholders for destination development, strategy, management and action.
3. **Analysis** and application of criteria to define preferred elements of the strategy and action plan.
4. **Definition** of the preferred framework, vision, goal, target and prioritised actions.
5. **Actions** and implementation options (projects, institutions, resources, risks, follow-up work and capabilities).
6. **Production** / presentation / preparation of a draft and then a final copy of this report.

Figure 1: Process applied to the development of this document



Workshops and expert informants

The ‘enquiry’ phase of our work was perhaps the most important. As part of this phase, we interviewed over 25 stakeholders with ‘leadership’ views about how to grow the visitor sector in Taranua. In addition, we convened four half-day workshops to discuss general visitor sector aspirations and constraints. The first three workshops were with 38 participants. A later workshop was held with 22 participants and was focused on walking and cycling opportunities.

Contextual matters that have influenced our approach

The issues we explored during the workshops and interviews with expert informants included:

- Vision and objectives for the visitor sector.
- Key strengths and weakness of Taranua as a destination.
- Comparative rating of importance of current Taranua visitor experiences.
- Recommendations about the priority to be accorded to the development of new or expanded visitor experiences.
- Identification of the priority infrastructure e.g. roads, required to support growth in the sector
- Recommendations about sector people capacity / capability constraints and opportunities affecting the sector

In general terms, our approach to developing this report was centred on our desire to solicit information that would help the Taranua

District Council and visitor sector leaders in Taranua to:

- Move away from the ‘make do and mend’ short-term approach often characterising destination development in other parts of New Zealand.
- Create a ‘destination by design’ approach that delivers what the visitor is seeking and optimises contributions to the Taranua economy (quality vs quantity and market-led rather than product-led).
- Be conscious that indiscriminate development of tourism is losing confidence with the public, i.e. the ‘social licence’ offered by ‘locals’ to visitors and the visitor sector has limits that need to be respected by developers and visitors alike.
- Shape future market demand / market development initiatives in collaboration with the directly affected community and regional neighbours.
- Identify risks and formulate recommendations that give due recognition to the potential for unanticipated national and international shocks.

We were also very conscious that having visitor sector development aspirations or dreams is a waste of time unless these can be realised through careful investment and funding. We have therefore assessed the scale and alignment of potential investment and experience development propositions with the principles and general availability of central government funds, the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, NZTA transport funding, funding from Taranua District Council and most importantly, the actions and general attitude of the private sector toward investment in expanded visitor sector experiences and services.

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC VISITOR CONTEXT

Before getting into details about what actions may be taken to enhance the visitor sector in Taranua, we felt it important to present a reminder about what's happening within the visitor sector internationally and nationally.

Visitor sector in New Zealand

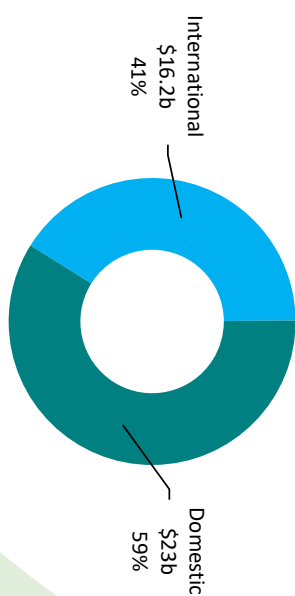
International tourism is booming within almost all countries in the world. According to the latest UNWTO tourism barometer prepared for the World Tourism Organisation, worldwide international tourist arrivals to all destinations (overnight visitors) increased 6% to 1.4 billion in 2018. The recent ease of access to comparatively cheap air travel is the key to this enormous growth in interest in travel.

Tourism in New Zealand is booming as well. It is New Zealand's biggest export industry, earning \$16.2 billion or 20.6% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2018).⁷

MBIE estimate total tourism expenditure in year-end March 2018 was \$38 billion. Domestic tourism is the primary contributor to this expenditure with \$23 billion of expenditure, whereas expenditure by international visitors was \$16 billion (Figure 2 - right).

The 'Domestic Growth Insight Tool'⁸ shows us there are 45 million potential domestic trips, consisting of 27.5 million potential day trips and 17.5 million potential overnight trips throughout New Zealand.

Figure 2: International vs Domestic visitor spending



Source: MBIE Monthly Visitor Tourism Estimates

⁷ <http://tia.org.nz/tourism-2025/tourism-today/>

⁸ <https://digit.nz/>

Noting that the things that attract domestic visitors to Taranua will also attract international visitors, the key question we address in this report is: what will it take for more New Zealanders to consider visiting Taranua?

Over the period 2014-2018, tourism expenditure grew by 53.8%, and international arrivals increased by 38.8% (TIA estimates)⁹. Most tourism expenditure occurs in the main gateway cities of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown.

In 2018, the visitor sector, directly and indirectly, supported 13.5% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand. That means 365,316 people are working in the visitor economy nation-wide.

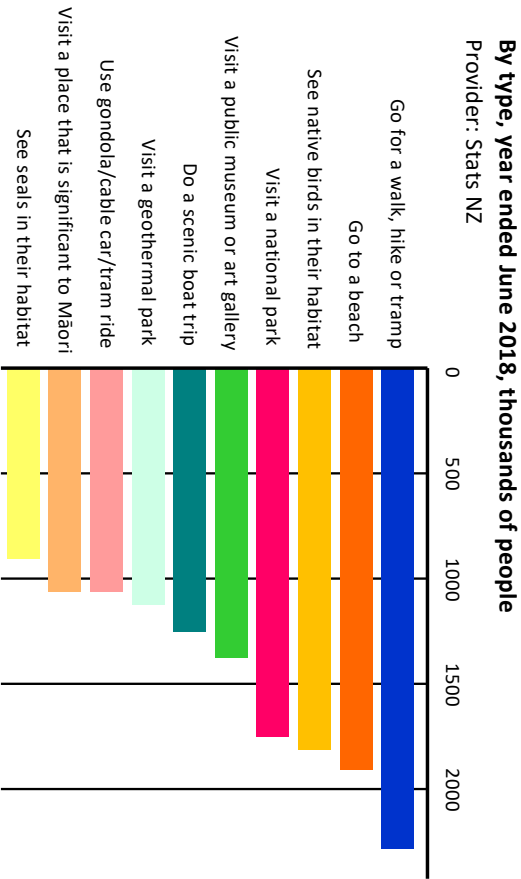
Common activities undertaken by international visitors to New Zealand

If Taranua is to attract more international visitors it will either need to tell them more about the opportunities available in Taranua – both in terms of good quality service and quality experiences or, if these experiences are not present already, Taranua leaders will need to create what they want and then tell them about it.

Walking and experiencing natural environments rate highly amongst the top ten activities sought by international visitors (Figure 3). Items of significance to iwi also rate highly, as do visits to museums and art galleries. Taranua can provide at least half of the experiences sought by international visitors.

⁹ Tourism Industry Aotearoa, *Tourism 2025 Scorecard 2018*, November 2018, as sourced on - <https://tia.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Tourism-2025-scorecard-Nov-2018-v2.1.pdf>

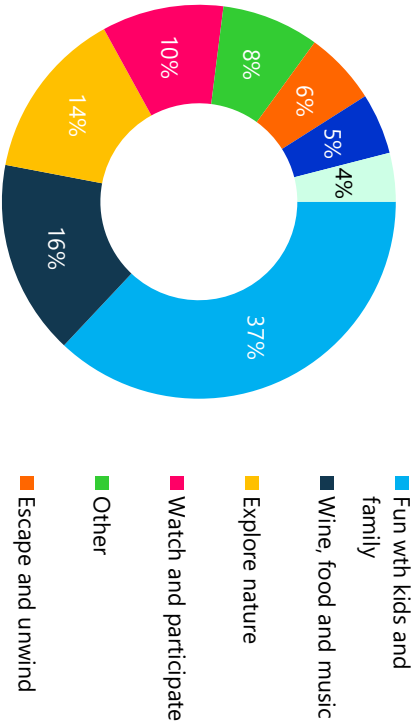
Figure 3: Common activities undertaken by international visitors to all locations in New Zealand



Common activities undertaken by domestic visitors within New Zealand

Domestic visitors have similar interests to those expressed by international visitors, although food and wine and 'having fun with the kids and family' tend to be more highly represented domestically than internationally. (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Common activities undertaken by a domestic visitor to all locations in New Zealand



As was the case with international visitors, Tararua is well positioned to serve the interests of domestic visitors. The easily accessible Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre is perhaps the highlight for those seeking to explore nature. Fun with the kids, particularly when they need a break from car travel, is well served by such experiences as Fantasy Cave in Dannevirke and Middleton Model Railway in Eketahuna. The music experiences facilitated by the Selfe's in Norsewood equally fit with established domestic visitor aspirations / desire to watch and participate.

Policy and funding context

The scope of expanded Tararua visitor sector opportunities and ambitions will be influenced by the legislation, policies and funding priorities established by the Tararua District Council as well as those developed by various government departments and agencies. Visitor sector opportunities and ambitions will also be strongly influenced by the

investment decisions and support provided to and by the private sector. We make a brief reference to these influences below. The message to be taken home from this section of the report is that change will be achieved as a result of many influences and adoption of a well-planned and incremental approach rather than something ‘transformational’ in nature.

TARARUA DISTRICT LONG TERM PLAN 2018-28

The recently adopted Tararua District Council Long Term Plan maintains the focus – as expressed in earlier Plans, on core infrastructure, economic development, and financial prudence. Matters raised in the 2018-28 Plan, with more than passing effect on the visitor sector include:

- The opportunities arising from the construction of the new **State Highway** route between the Manawatu and Tararua Districts – implying a need to actively search for interventions that best capitalise on this new road for the visitor sector.
- The potential impact on farms and communities of the further review of **the Horizons One Plan** and proposed changes to the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management – implying a need to search for investments (e.g. agritourism) that will add to the resilience of the district’s economy.
- The importance of continuing to build relationships with Rangitāne o Tamaki nui a Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu – implying a need to search for and support initiatives that grow the **Māori economy** and at the same time, respect cultural and heritage values.
- The intention to expand the council’s strategic priorities to include building a resilient and connected community by developing **reserves and recreational facilities** that aid economic development – such as those that may be put in place at the Waihi Falls.

➤ Generally supporting initiatives that may:

- Establish a clear **Tararua identity**. (We discuss this further later in this report).
- Attract and retain **skilled people** in the district to ensure core services are maintained. (We have already noted that actions which attract and retain permanent residents).
- Promote the district to provide opportunities to **local businesses** from tourism. (We can see the merit of developing a prospectus to attract visitor sector investors).
- Provide support to local businesses and community organisations. (We recommend that **dedicated Council staff resource** be directed toward achieving a higher level of visitor sector business collaboration).
- Seek opportunities to attract **external funding** for district projects. (We identify opportunities later in this report which may be secured with the help of funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund or third-party funding).

TOURISM STRATEGY, MBIE

The Aotearoa New Zealand Government Tourism Strategy¹⁰ proposes a more deliberate and active role for government in tourism than in the past. The Strategy’s objective is to make sure that future sector growth is productive, sustainable and inclusive. The Strategy suggests the pace and scale of visitor growth have effectively outstripped the capacity of visitor systems to respond in some areas and consequently, opportunities are not being fully realised, and pressures are not always well managed.

¹⁰ Aotearoa New Zealand Government Tourism Strategy, MBIE May 2019

We draw attention to the matters raised within the Strategy, together with comment about what Tararua could do to take advantage of these policies identified in *italics*, as follows:

- **Not all regions are benefiting:** Seasonal and regional travel patterns exacerbate visitor pressures (such as on the environmental impacts and congestion) and mean that the gains from tourism are not spread evenly across regional New Zealand. *(Tararua could play a role in helping to spread visitors more evenly across New Zealand).*
- **Not enough collaboration:** A fragmented regional picture is apparent, with some regions and cities competing rather than cooperating with each other or being more focused on attracting visitors rather than meeting expectations of communities and visitors. *(Tararua District Council leadership could enhance collaboration while, at the same time, having an open ear to the needs and wishes of residents).*
- **Funding arrangements not sufficiently responsive:** Funding arrangements are slow to respond to significant and rapid shifts in visitor volumes, impacting on investments in maintaining and building necessary infrastructure, amenities and attractions. *(Tararua District Council should be better armed, courtesy of this report, to consider how it may respond to the infrastructure implications arising from growth in the visitor sector).*
- **Policy arrangements not sufficiently fleet-of-foot:** Some of the policy settings and institutional arrangements which were established when government was principally focused on increasing visitor numbers are no longer fit-for-purpose in the current high growth environment. *(We note that government has now established a substantial tourism policy unit within MBE. In addition, DOC has increased the size of its visitor policy unit).*

In addition to the specific actions referenced above, the Strategy's policies envisage several significant new areas of cross-agency work to help overcome the above challenges. The objective of this cross-agency work is to deliver the desired visitor sector 'sustainable, productive and inclusive growth' goals. Some of the priority actions listed in the Strategy to achieve these goals include:

- **Funding:** Ensuring that funding models cater to tourism growth and enable those who benefit from infrastructure to contribute to its costs.
- **Leadership:** Taking a stronger leadership role in the sector.
- **Planning:** Improving destination plans at a regional level.
- **Value over volume:** Continuing Tourism New Zealand's strategy of targeting for 'value' over 'volume' and encouraging off-peak season growth.
- **Productivity:** Focusing on tourism sector productivity, including addressing skills.
- **Sustainability:** Looking at the likely impacts on the tourism sector of climate change and moving to a low emissions economy.
- **Māori economy:** Supporting iwi to develop authentic visitor experiences and to raise awareness of these.

REVIEW OF TOURISM NEW ZEALAND

As an example of the intent to exercise more central government leadership, MBE has announced (April 2019) an intent to carry out a further review of Tourism New Zealand¹¹. This review will consider, among other things, what role Tourism New Zealand should play in supporting New Zealand's future tourism needs and how it should position its capabilities to deliver on this role.

¹¹ An initial review was carried out by Tourism NZ itself early in 2018. The current review will be carried out by an externally appointed group of well-experienced persons.

A second example of recent stronger government visitor-sector leadership relates to funding arrangements. From 1 July 2019, the Government is introducing an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) of \$35 per visitor to enable international visitors to contribute directly to the infrastructure they use and to help protect the natural environment they enjoy.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND OR TIF (MBIE)

The Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) was established to support communities under pressure to meet the demands placed on infrastructure by growth in the visitor sector. The fund amounts to \$25 million per annum with applications invited from local government six monthly. Each round of TIF applications is influenced by a 'priority statement' issued by the Minister for Tourism. The current statement is reasonably generic – with an emphasis toward projects where visitor impacts on infrastructure have given rise to capacity constraints and or opportunities. A set of criteria are applied to judge the merit of competing applications. These include the availability of co-funding, the scale of benefits to tourists and the mechanism to fund the proposed upkeep of the infrastructure in the long term. It is noted that to date Taranua District Council has been successful in securing funding for toilets and showers at Mangatainoka Reserve and four solar compacting bins. (NB Our preliminary appraisal suggests the plan for the upgrade of facilities and tracks at Waihi Falls is a good candidate for a TIF application. We discuss this proposition more fully later in this report).

PROVINCIAL GROWTH FUND

The Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) was established to fund projects that support job creation, including in key sectors such as tourism – in a way that 'powers-up' regional prosperity and productivity.

'Surge' regions including the Manawatu-Whanganui region, have a slight advantage over non-surge regions when applying for PGF funds. Surge regions are regions falling toward the lower end of GDP and employment performance.

Successful PGF projects will help achieve the PGF's objectives¹² by:

- Creating jobs, leading to sustainable economic growth.
- Increasing social inclusion and participation.
- Enabling Māori to realise aspirations in all aspects of the economy.
- Encouraging environmental sustainability and helping New Zealand meet climate change challenge commitments (alongside their support of productive use of land, water and other resources).
- Improving resilience, particularly of critical infrastructure.
- Diversifying the region's economy.

Tourism projects appear to have received extensive Government PGF support over the last year although we have been informed by officials that this sector may not be so favoured moving forward. Expansion of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre and the recreational opportunities at Te Āpiti /The Manawatu Gorge, as well as many of the other opportunities identified later in this report, will contribute to provincial growth. Government co-investment in these projects would help to achieve this objective.

¹² These objectives are more fully described in the investment prospectus and application templates available from MBIE's Provincial Development Unit website.

NĀTA

The most impactful recent change in the transport operating environment is that arising from the Government's adoption of the 2018 Government Policy Statement (GPS) on transport. This gave emphasis toward:

- Balanced investment across social, economic, environmental, resilience and economic outcomes and away from funding capacity improvements based on constructing new State Highways.
- Mode neutrality, safety and the integration of land use planning and transport investment - to create more liveable communities, with better use of technology.

While many local authorities are still attempting to search out how to best adjust to this new transport investment priority setting framework, smart councils have taken the opportunity to advance walking and cycling opportunities and are rapidly developing other means to improve urban design and reduce transport-related greenhouse gas emissions through careful referencing of the GPS requirements in their transport funding requests.

For Tararua, this could mean focusing on the development of tracks and trails within and between the district's towns, including the proposed trail between Pahiatua and Mangatainoka and potential improvements to make Route 52 more cycle-tour friendly.

TIA STRATEGY AND POLICIES

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) is an advocate agency operating on behalf of the visitor sector. Their recent initiatives have included the following:

- Launching 'Tourism 2025 & Beyond' (May 2019) with its top ten actions to work on – many of which are highly relevant to sector growth in Tararua:
 - embedding sustainability;
 - managing destinations by the development of quality destination management plans;
 - growing and shaping demand with an emphasis toward high-value visitors;
 - embracing tikanga Māori;
 - engaging communities to prevent loss of social licence;
 - investing in the right infrastructure at the right time; fostering the 60% of visitors who come from the 'domestic' / New Zealand market;
 - investing to deliver quality sector data and research.
- Calling for a 20 percent share of the GST collected from international visitors to be made available to local government to help councils fund the development of essential infrastructure and services to support regional tourism.
- Championing sustainable tourism by developing the sustainability charter and inviting sector participants (now over 1000 signed-up) to commit to the Tiaki Promise¹³.

DOC'S VISITOR AND HERITAGE STRATEGY

DOC's draft Visitor and Heritage Strategy (November 2018) provides good content to guide consideration of the net benefit of providing visitor services and facilities within public conservation lands, including within

¹³ 1000 businesses signed up to this promise by the end of March 2019.

National Parks and local reserves. The following points are particularly salient:

- **Benefits of accessing nature:** Across the globe, there is increasing recognition of the benefits of time visitors spent in nature for people's health and wellbeing. These benefits tend to be non-quantifiable - in a traditional accounting sense. They are 'intrinsic' in nature.
- **Contributes to DOC's stretch goal:** Providing opportunities to enjoy public conservation land contributes to DOC's stretch goal of '90% of New Zealanders' lives being enriched through connection to our nature.'
- **Distributes visitor benefits into the regions:** As a large percentage of public conservation land and water are outside of the main metropolitan centres; recreation and tourism opportunities in these areas generate jobs and opportunities for inclusive growth.
- **Business generation:** Protecting, restoring and providing sustainable access to public conservation lands and waters can increase regional wellbeing as well as conservation outcomes. Visitors contribute by using recreation-based operators and by spending on fuel, food, accommodation, hospitality and other businesses in nearby communities. (NB About 1,100 businesses operated recreation and tourism-based activities on public conservation lands and waters in 2017).
- **Iwi opportunities:** Use and enjoyment of public conservation lands provides an opportunity for Māori to showcase their cultural heritage and realise their aspirations as a key part of the visitor sector.
- **Priority toward protection:** The natural, cultural and historic heritage of places managed by DOC are viewed by them as needing to be given 'protection' as a priority ahead of providing for their use and development. Once necessary protection measures are in place, visitors can then experience and connect with this unique heritage. This protection and the enhanced

visitor connection will contribute to improved wellbeing of communities.

IMPLICATIONS OF COUNCIL, DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY POLICY

We referenced some of the links between the above policy instruments and Tararua visitor opportunities in our previous description of each of these policy instruments. Other salient 'linkages' or implications for Tararua include the following:

- **Tararua District Council:** The Council's Long-Term Plan clearly recognises the opportunities for the district from growth in the visitor sector. The Plan's support for strategic roading, town centre redevelopment, reserve development and 'identity' investments will provide a solid foundation for this growth.
- **Tourism New Zealand:** The possible outcomes of the review of Tourism New Zealand may include a requirement for them to be more active in linking their international market development with domestic destination development. As a minimum, we can see a need for a much stronger link between the experiences and services sold to both the domestic and international market and the location, quantity and quality of these experiences and services, including essential visitor-related infrastructure in the regions. Tararua visitor sector leaders should monitor emerging decisions and be ready to capitalise on any opportunity that may emerge.
- **International Visitor Levy:** The International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) is expected to raise over \$450 million over 5 years. Emerging policy about how this fund will be spent suggests projects to be funded by the IVL will be those that contribute to the long-term sustainability of tourism in New Zealand, by protecting and enhancing biodiversity, upholding New Zealand's reputation as a world-class experience, and addressing the way critical tourism infrastructure is funded. Tararua visitor

sector leaders should monitor the policy affecting how the IVL is spent and be ready to seek funding for eligible Tararua-based projects.

- **Public conservation land:** Tararua District has extensive areas of public conservation land including that located in the Tararua and Ruahine Forest Parks. There are also many walking and general recreation opportunities offered at the Manawatu Gorge, Makuri Gorge, the Waihi Falls and elsewhere. Although budget and policy constrained, DOC's draft Visitor and Heritage Strategy indicates an active interest in providing additional recreation and leisure opportunities and insights.

- **Funding assistance:** Tararua District may have several projects suited to co-investment from either third-party funding or the Tourism Infrastructure Fund¹⁴.

¹⁴ We make further comment about which projects may be suited to this funding toward the end of this report.

VISITORS TO TARARUA

State of the Tararua economy

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Tararua District is \$727m. Growth in GDP for the year ending March 2019 was 3.0% compared to the national growth of 2.5%.

Annual 2019 (year ending 31st March) average percentage changes to several indicators of economic well-being¹⁵ demonstrate the general Tararua economy is operating well, but there are some underpinning long-term resilience challenges requiring attention – challenges we believe could be lessened by encouraging growth in the visitor sector. On the positive side of the ledger:

- Consumer spending was up 7.9% (New Zealand average 4.1%).
- Commercial vehicle registrations were up by 14.6% (New Zealand average -0.07%).
- Job seekers were up 2.1% compared to an average increase of 7.6% in the remainder of New Zealand.
- Unemployment was the same as the New Zealand average at 4.3%.
- House sales were up 8.8% (compared to the negative 1.6% experienced elsewhere in New Zealand).

The Infometrics provisional GDP growth estimate for the district was 3.0% for the March 2019 year, easily outpacing the 2.5% national average. The population grew 2.6% in the March 2019 year. Population increases remain above the national average, as people continue to be drawn to the region's affordable housing and quality lifestyle.

¹⁵ Data for the Tararua District was compiled from Infometrics.

Electronic card spending on retail purchases grew 8.1% in the March 2019 year compared to a national average of 4.1%. Spending by tourists in the district increased 9.0% in the April 2019 year, while guest nights in the district grew 8.1% in the March 2019 year.

Population growth is driving house sales in the district, which grew 8.8% in the March 2019 year next to a national average of just 1.4%. Sales activity is flowing through into house price inflation.

The net conclusion to be drawn from the above data is that the Tararua District is currently enjoying a favourable economic tail wind.

Tararua visitor spending

The annual spend by both domestic and international visitors to Tararua District for the last three years has gone up from \$47m in 2017, to \$48m in 2018, to \$52m for the 2019 (YE March 2019 - Figure 5). If a multiplier of 1.7% is applied to this January 2019 expenditure, then the visitor sector could be said to contribute to 11% of the Tararua economy. This of course leads to the challenge of attempting to define what may be achievable with more concerted effort, i.e.: adoption and implementation of a Tararua visitor sector strategy and action plan. We return to this question later in the report.

The flow-on value of the visitor sector throughout the Taranua economy is large – with the biggest spend being on fuel (\$14m). This underpins the role played by Taranua as an area ‘transited’ by many visitors – many of whom do not regard it as a destination but do fill-up with fuel as they transit through the district. In addition, around \$9 - \$10m is spent on each of: retail food / beverage; served food / beverage; and other retail expenditure (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Tourism annual expenditure in Taranua District

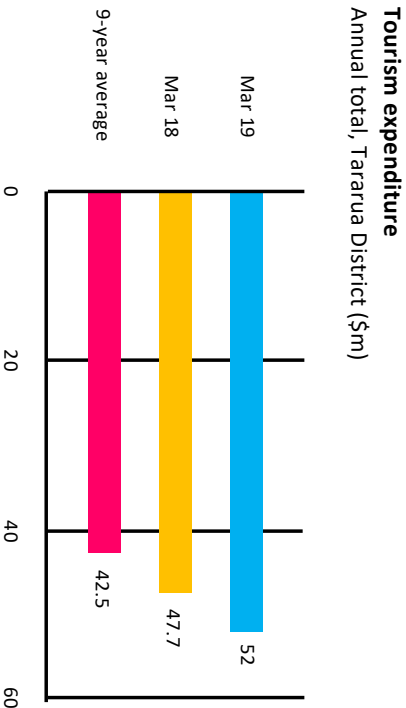
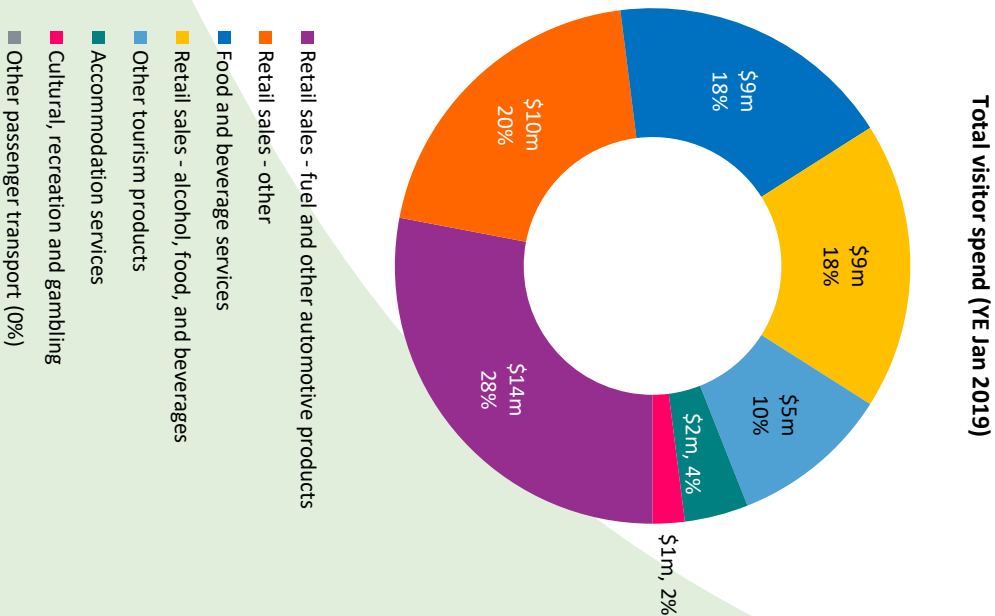


Figure 6: Expenditure of visitors to Taranua



Source: MBIE Monthly Tourism Estimates, Feb 2019

Tararua visitor accommodation

Expenditure on commercial accommodation by visitors is \$2m or only 4% of total visitor expenditure. The comparatively low level of expenditure on commercial accommodation reflects the high number of visitors who do not require accommodation because they are in transit or because they are day trippers. We estimate this type of visitor to be 52% of all Tararua visitors¹⁶. It also reflects the thirty percent of visitors who choose to stay with friends and family rather than in commercial accommodation.

Occupancy of commercial accommodation is comparatively low at 22%¹⁷. This implies the district's accommodation facilities have the capacity for more visitors.

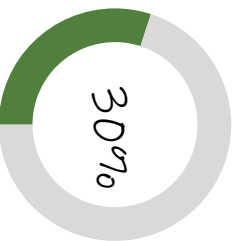
Information provided by the Tararua i-SITE at Woodville suggests there are 19 commercial accommodation listings in Tararua. These are relatively evenly spread between each of the district's five towns with an additional sprinkling in rural parts of the district. There is a mix of hotels, motels and lodges and they are all pitched at very moderate prices. When calculated on the base of all bedrooms within available accommodation, the full cost divided by the potential number of guests falls to \$36 per person per night, indicating that the region's private sector is generally offering low cost / well-priced accommodation for large groups of people.

The ex-Pahiatua hospital, now renamed as Masters Hall, is an additional comparatively cheap and somewhat unique 100 max accommodation option suited to larger groups and events. Putting aside Masters Hall, there are 400 commercial beds available in Tararua.

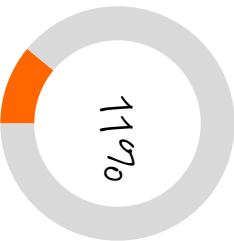
¹⁶ Source: Domestic Growth Insight Tool 2018



52% of visitors to Tararua are in transit to somewhere else



30% of Tararua visitors stay with friends or family



11% of the district's GDP currently comes from the visitor sector



the district has an estimated 120,000 visitors per year who stay overnight and 5,700 visitors of international origin.

¹⁷ The low occupancy may be distorted by inclusion of the multi-bed Masters Hall facility which is more focused on smaller groups than full occupancy.

In addition, use is made of AirB&B and there are 37 listings within the district on bookabach.co.nz. Of these 37 listings, 64% were entire houses available to let.

Of interest is the good number of farm-stay accommodation options available in Tararua. Pongaroa and Wimbeldon also offer visitors the opportunity to experience rural hospitality within local pubs and lodges.

We can see the value of Airbnb accommodation within the district continuing to grow. An experimental study commissioned by StatsNZ¹⁸ suggests that use of peer-to-peer accommodation¹⁹ has tripled nationwide since 2013. It now accommodates more than 8.8m people and is worth \$556m national wide (March 2018). Peer-to-peer accommodation constitutes 18% of all guest nights.

Every indication is that 'peer to peer' accommodation is giving a valuable boost to the economy of places like Tararua.

We also note that the absence of three-star plus accommodation in Tararua District means that some visitors to Tararua, particularly those travelling on pre-prepared itineraries, will enjoy the experiences the district offers and then stay overnight in accommodation in Masterton or Palmerston North.

Number of international visitors to Tararua

Tararua had 5,700 international tourists in 2018 (NB this does not necessarily imply they stayed overnight in Tararua). This number of international visitors reflects a year-on-year increase in international

visitors but in real terms and on an annual basis, the increased numbers are not large.

Number of domestic visitors to Tararua

Calculating the number of New Zealanders who visited Tararua is not easy. Data compiled by Infometrics suggests 45,611 visitors stayed in commercial accommodation, but the data referenced earlier in this report suggests that 52% of visitors transited through Tararua without staying overnight. In addition, of those visitors who did stay overnight, 30% stayed with friends and relatives. If all of this data is conflated, it implies the district may have had a total of between 120,000 and 130,000 domestic visitors during 2018²⁰.

Origin of domestic visitors to Tararua

Most Tararua domestic visitors come from Tararua's neighbouring regions (see Figure 7). There are upwards of 500,000 people within two hours' travel of Tararua and closing on one million persons within three hours' drive. The 'origin-location' of most visitors to Tararua²¹ is as follows:

- 25% from Wellington.
- 25% from the Manawatu.
- 15% from Auckland.
- 10% from Hawkes Bay.
- 5% from the Wairarapa.
- 5% from Whanganui.

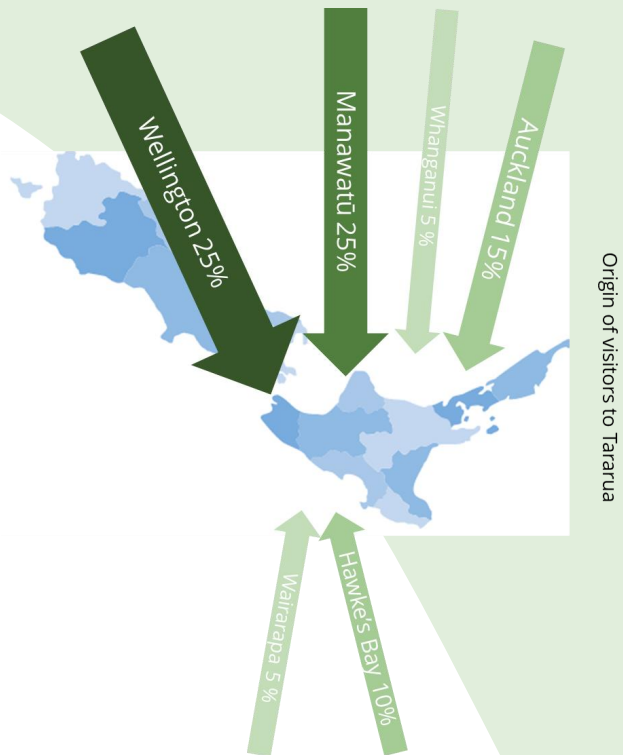
The origin of visitors to Tararua is an important point to note as it is this information that should inform the content of any market development plan that may be developed by the Tararua visitor sector.

¹⁸ Accommodation and the Sharing Economy in New Zealand, StatsNZ, June 2019.

¹⁹ 'Peer-to-peer accommodation' is the generic title for accommodation of this type, with AirB&B and Bookabach being two of the more significant providers.

²⁰ We note these numbers do not account for visitors to the district who are in transit to locations outside the district.

²¹ The home locations of the remaining percentage of Tararua visitors are spread in small numbers across all other regions

Figure 7: Home location of domestic visitors to Taranua District

i-SITE Woodville – visitor information

The importance, as identified by Trip-advisor, of visitors wanting to break their journey as they transit either north or south through Taranua District toward other destinations, should not be under-emphasised. We have no data to clearly indicate how many State Highway 2 users of light vehicles will stop on their journey through Taranua for refreshments or for other experiences. However, Woodville based i-SITE staff suggest this may be in

the order of 10-15% of vehicles. This would suggest 219,000 vehicles will stop in the district.

The origin of the persons visiting the Woodville i-SITE is also informative. The most recent data is for February 2019²². In this month 3,520 persons visited the i-SITE, 17% of whom were international, 35% of whom were from elsewhere in New Zealand and 46% of whom were locals. Longer term i-SITE data indicates the percentage of persons who are local visitors increases during the winter months while the percent of international persons or persons from elsewhere in New Zealand is greatest in summer, particularly during February.

i-SITE operators at Woodville informed us that one of the frequently referenced questions they have addressed over the last two years relates to travellers' uncertainty about the preferred route for travellers heading south to Wellington. This, particularly when combined with potential visitor uncertainty about the alternative Saddle Road route, may have contributed to the recent decline in vehicle movements through Taranua (see Figure 8).

To support the improvement of data capture more detailed visitor insights should be captured. One way to do this is to conduct a survey of visitors to the i-SITE. This may include questions around where they are from, where they are going to, where they are staying in Taranua District, how many nights they are staying and what attractions they have seen or will visit in the district.

²² Data provided by i-Site personnel.

Tararua local roads and state highways used by visitors

The total average daily non-commercial private car use of State Highway 2 between Eketahuna and Woodville was 6,698, Woodville and Dannevirke was 5,910 and Dannevirke to Waipukurau was 5,397 vehicles.

It would be valuable to know the percentage of these vehicles that were driven by non-residents and which stopped in Tararua as they transited somewhere else, but in the absence of survey data, this is very difficult to estimate²³.

We note Tararua towns are located midway between well-travelled journeys between Palmerston North, Wellington and Hawke's Bay and therefore, with the 'right information', more road users could be persuaded to stop in Tararua, to take-a-refreshment break, enjoy the experiences on-offer, and spend money.

Tararua has a total vehicle network comprising 1,185 km of sealed roads and 773 km of unsealed roads. This is the fourth largest network of any local authority in New Zealand. What this means is Council rates expenditure priorities, in comparison to city dominated local authorities, of necessity, tend to be directed toward road maintenance rather than other discretionary activities such as visitor market development activities.

A recent and significant strategic change to Tararua's transport environment has been the closure of State Highway 3 through the Manawatu Gorge in 2017. This has resulted in two alternative routes,

known as the Saddle Road and the Pahiatua Track, now being extensively utilised and a net reduction in the volume of through traffic (Figure 8).

A new State Highway located near the Saddle Road (the 'Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatu Tararua Highway') will be completed by 2024. Commissioners empowered to consider the 'notices of requirement' (NOR) for designations from territorial authorities under the Resource Management Act for construction of this new road, completed their report in May 2019²⁴.

These Commissioners supported the NORs sought by NZTA, with conditions. In brief, the Commissioners suggested the new road 'will yield significant positive social and economic effects' for Woodville and the wider region.

The construction of this road will overcome current uncertainties about the challenge of driving across the alternative Saddle Road and Pahiatua Track routes. The percentage annual change in volume of traffic using State Highway through Tararua will return to the positive side of the ledger.

The opening of the new road in 2024 thereby provides a convenient focus point for lining up the initiatives required to fully capitalise on the additional visitor growth opportunities arising from the traffic flow returning to a 'new normal' and the associated economic and social well-being benefits to the Tararua District.

In addition, the Commissioners' recommended construction of a separated shared pedestrian and cycle pathway in the broad area near the proposed new highway. This decision is significant as it opens the

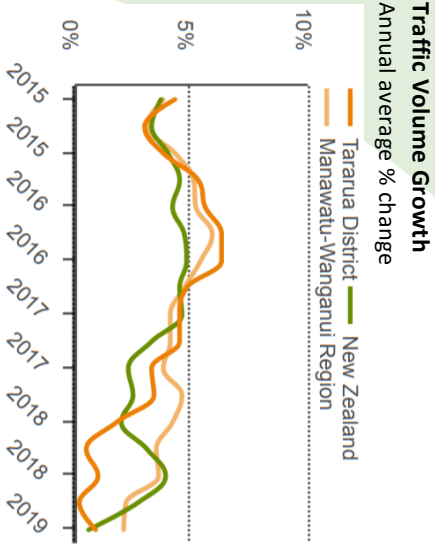
²³ It would be equally valuable to know where they stopped and what they did / visited / experienced during the driving break.

²⁴ Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatu Tararua Highway Notices of Requirement for Designations Territorial Authority Recommendation Report, May 2019

door to a circular walk / cycle experience encompassing both the new State Highway and the Manawatu Gorge tracks, with Woodville being a convenient halfway or starting point – with associated servicing / visitor spending opportunities.

A further roading matter is the commitment of Tararua District Council to improve previously designated State Highway 52, now a local road known as ‘Route 52’. While primarily used to service farming and forestry needs, the road also provides travellers with the opportunity to enjoy expansive rural landscapes. The current level of service offered by this road is sub-optimal because of its vulnerability to weather events and the increasing demand placed on it from forestry vehicles. The Council has proposed upgrade expenditure across the 2018-21 period and has approached the NZ Transport Agency for funding but, the latest application has been declined. Council should revisit opportunities for funding for this work.

Figure 8: change in traffic volume through Tararua



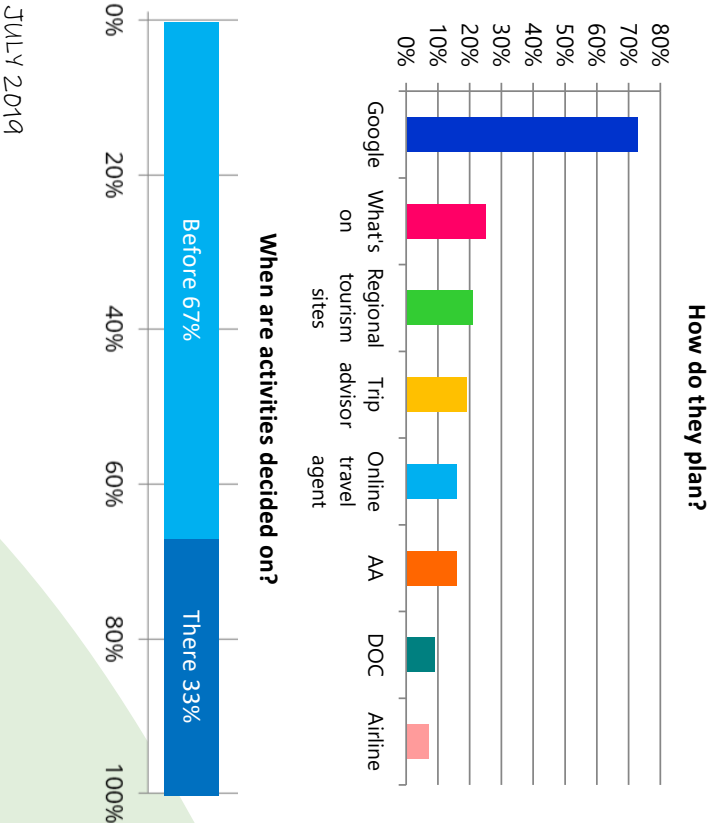
We recommend completion of the ‘Te Ahu a Taranga: Manawatu Tararua Highway’ in 2024 be viewed by Tararua District Council and Tararua visitor experience and service providers as a ‘catalyst’ year for bringing together a full suite of agreed market development, destination management and expanded Tararua district-based visitor experiences within a well-resourced action plan.

Trip planning by domestic Tararua visitors

Two-thirds of domestic visitors to Tararua plan what they intend to do before their visit, but one third make their decisions as they go (Figure 9 - right). Of those who decided what they wanted to do before coming to Tararua, 27% decided less than a week before their visit.

This information is important because it implies a need to ensure information about Tararua visitor attractions is well-presented on electronic communication channels and, at the same time, good road-side information is provided, to cater for those visitors who make their 'destination experience' decisions while they are on-the-road.

Figure 9: When and how domestic visitors plan their visit to Tararua



What do visitors want to do when they come to Tararua?

There are several sources of information throwing light on what visitors do when they visit Tararua. These are described in the section of the report which follows.

GENERAL VISITOR SURVEY DATA

The first source of information is that provided by the Domestic Growth Insight Tool 'digit insight'. Putting aside that most visitors to Tararua are in transit, this data suggests (noting that some responses will overlap) that visitors to Tararua are motivated by the following triggers:

- Attending a specific friend or family event, e.g. wedding, birthday, Christmas etc: 52%
- Getting together with friends and family: 48%
- Seeing or hearing about an activity they would like to do: 38%
- Attending a specific event, e.g. sport, festival or show: 30%
- Participating in a specific event, e.g. sport, festival etc: 16%

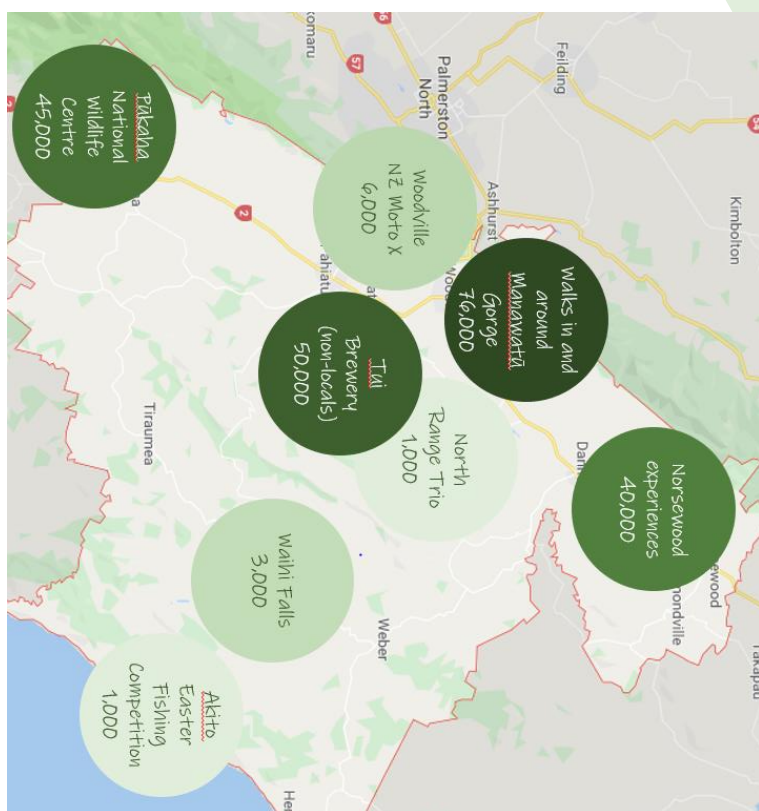
This information supports our earlier statement that, apart from those in transit, most people come to Tararua to visit friends and family. It also demonstrates the value and importance of encouraging future visitor expenditure and creating events. Furthermore, it demonstrates the importance of creating experiences and activities such as walks and cycle rides and opportunities for friends and family to enjoy local parks and reserves.

VISITOR NUMBERS AT ICONIC SITES OR EVENTS

The managers, agencies or proprietors responsible for various visitor experiences told us the approximate number of attendees or participants (2018) was as follows:

- Walks in and around the Manawatu Gorge – 76,000
- Tui Brewery (non-locals) – 50,000
- Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre – 45,000
- Norsewood experiences – 40,000
- Woodville MotoX – 6,000
- Waihi Falls – 3,000
- Akitio Easter Fishing competition – 1,000
- North Range Trio – 1,000

Figure 10: Heat Map of visitor attractions



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS – VIEWS ABOUT TOP ATTRACTIONS

Workshop participants were asked to identify what they viewed as being Tararua’s top four visitor attractions. Their responses are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Top four Tararua visitor attractions

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Workshop one (TDC councillors and staff)	Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre	Tui Brewery	Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge Walks	Fantasy Cave
Workshop two – North Tararua	Tui Brewery	Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre	Norsewood	Fantasy Cave
Workshop three – South Tararua	Tui Brewery	Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre	Fishing and hunting	Visiting friends and relatives

The order of priority / frequency of the top things referenced by our workshop / expert informant sources as Tararua ‘attractants’ may be grouped by theme as follows:

1. Natural beauty, flora and fauna, wide open spaces, untouched mountains, clean / fresh, quietness, scenery, raw beauty, rivers.
2. Friendly, genuine, real, down to earth and authentic people.
3. Rural, farming environments.
4. A good place to take a break / eat while travelling further afield.

5. Uniqueness of the Manawatu Gorge landscape – a river carved through uplifted ranges.
6. The coast and beaches.
7. Small towns with a touch of uniqueness, even quirkiness - under populated, lacking congestion, safe, inexpensive, step back in time, laid back, off the beaten track, filled with shops selling second-hand goods.
8. Exciting, adventurous uncrowded outdoor experiences.
9. Learning from and understanding Scandinavian heritage.
10. The opportunity to better celebrate and understand the link the Manawatu River provides from its source and its importance to Māori heritage.
11. Activities offering family fun with the kids.
12. Opportunities to visit family and friends and share local adventures.
13. Special events such as the Woodville MotoX.
14. Core sporting events like golf and rugby that bring people to the district on a weekly basis.

TRIP-ADVISOR

Trip-advisor has ranked priority activities to do in Tararua. We have grouped and ranked the top five of the 15 identified experiences as follows:

1. **Outdoor experiences:** Te Āpiti Wind Farm, Woodville / Cliff Walk, Eketahuna.
2. **Hearing experts talk about nature:** Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.
3. **Great activities for families:** Fantasy Cave Dannevirke / Middleton Model Railway Eketahuna.
4. **‘Hidden gems’:** New Zealand Natural Clothing store Norsewood / Dannevirke Domain Dannevirke.

5. **Speciality museums:** Woodville Reed Organ Museum Woodville / Dannevirke Gallery of History Dannevirke.

The main drivers recorded on Trip-advisor as the reason for going to Tararua visitor attractions were as follows:

- **Family activities:** Two high ranked activities for families were Fantasy Cave, Dannevirke and Middleton Model Railway, Eketahuna (58 and 20 reviews respectively). As well as sentiments expressed around these being great activities for children, respondents' comments also drew attention to the enthusiastic reception offered by owners and volunteers at both places.
- **Travellers passing through wanting to break the journey:** There was a sense that many travellers were surprised by 'discovering' some of the area's natural beauty. For example, Dannevirke Domain was described as a 'hidden gem,' a great place to break the journey and a good place for kids to play (especially on the Viking ship).
- **People from out of town making special trips to have speciality experiences and visit sites:** Travellers appeared attracted by some of the special experiences offered in Tararua. For example:
 - For music and/or history buffs, the Woodville Reed Organ Museum was viewed as 'an absolute wonderland' and the music experiences offered in Norsewood 'with great hosts, who give a personal touch' was viewed as being very special.
 - The Cwmglyn Farm, Eketahuna is a 'labour of love' and 'quirky'.
 - 'Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre is an experience worth travelling for'.
 - Xmas displays at the Masters Hall in Pahiatua are 'a sight to behold' (1000 attendees).

Travellers taking a break for refreshments while in transit through the district are attracted by a set of comparatively well-known and respected cafés including:

- **Eketahuna:** Lazy Graze.
- **Pahiatua:** Black Stump Café and the Pahiatua Bakery and Café.
- **Woodville:** Yummy Mummy's cheesecakes.
- **Dannevirke:** Barrelhouse Restaurant and Bar.

What other visitor experiences are offered in the Tararua District?

FREEDOM CAMPERS

Tararua District is an attractive location for freedom campers with almost 1,000 recorded as having visited the district in the month of March 2019²⁵. Woodville's Ferry Reserve was the most popular overnight stay location, with Mangatainoka Reserve and the Alfredton Community Centre and Domain also popular.

Other features of the freedom camper market are as follows:

- The freedom campers who come to Tararua previously camped in Masterton (28%), Central Hawke's Bay (23%) and Palmerston North (22%).
- The next districts to be visited by the freedom campers, after Tararua, were Central Hawke's Bay (27%), Palmerston North (24%) and Masterton (21%). NB This implies most are travelling from south to north.
- Most (60%) freedom campers did not stay overnight. Of those who did stay overnight, this was seldom for more than one night.

²⁵ National Freedom Camping Report, Campermate and Geozone, March 2019

- Two-thirds of freedom campers were international and one third were domestic.

MOTORHOME MARKET

Eketahuna, Woodville, Mangatainoka and Dannevirke provide favoured locations for members of the New Zealand Motorhome Association. More off the beaten track locations at Herbertville and Akitio are also frequented by those motorhome owners with slightly more time and ‘good intelligence’ about the attractiveness of these places.

CYCLE TOURS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

Tararua’s country roads are often used by touring road cyclists. The 263km Route 52 extending from Waipukurau to Masterton is a popular 2-3-day ride. In the words used in the ‘Classic New Zealand Cycle Trails’²⁶ book ‘the route is an excellent alternative to the traffic-laden State Highway 2’. Other commentators told us ‘planned improvements to the 10 km stretch near Masterton will further enhance the ride but increased use of the road by logging trucks may negatively influence its popularity for cycling’.

Use is also made of the Te Ara O Mahurangi Mountain Bike Trail (3.6km loop, grade 3 & 4) and the Windfarm ride (41km one way, grade 3).

WALKING

Te Āpiti – Manawatu Gorge is the most popular area for walking. The growth over the last several years in people walking the Te Āpiti tracks has been significant (Table 2, over page) although a drop-off in use has occurred in the last few years, most likely because of the Gorge closure.

More than 30 other walks and hikes are listed on the DOC website for the 92,000 hectares of land within Ruahine Forest Park. A further 20 walks are listed as being available in Tararua Forest Park, with the most frequently used Tararua walks being those accessible from Putara Road near Eketahuna. Other popular walks include the Eketahuna Cliff Walk, the Waihi Falls Track and the Copper Mine Valley walk plus a range of town-based and reserve-based walks.

Table 2: Use of Te Āpiti walking tracks

Calendar year	Approximate total track walkers
2012	29,900
2013	59,500
2014	66,000
2015	83,000
2016	83,000
2017 ²⁷	76,000

RIVER FISHING

Keen fishermen refer to the Tararua District as the place with six fishing rivers although one reliable informant suggested the fishing is no longer as good as it once was because of the effects on water quality arising from increased farming intensity. Early season fishing is said by our informant ‘to be best although skill and the right gear is always required’.

INTERNATIONAL WOODVILLE MOTOX GRAND PRIX

The venue for the Woodville MotoX event is located on farmland near Woodville. Each 26/27 January the farm used for this event is transformed into a unique Grand Prix Motocross style park.

²⁶ Classic New Zealand Cycle Trails, the Kennett Brothers, 2018

²⁷ Data for 2018 was not available when we were compiling this report.

In 2018, approximately 5,500 people attended the event: 1,400 support staff and officials; 500 riders and 3,500 general public. Nearly 40% came from neighbouring regions (Manawatu, Wairarapa, Whanganui & Hawke's Bay), 50% came from regions beyond the immediate neighbouring districts and nearly 10% were locals from within Taranaki.

Most participants²⁸ stayed onsite at the event (45%), with 18% staying in Manawatu, followed by 10% who stayed elsewhere in Taranaki District. The remainder of the participants travelled to the venue each day from their non-Taranaki / Manawatu accommodation.

The total estimated economic impact (EEI) of the 2018 event for Taranaki was close to \$100,000.

TUI BREWERY-BASED EVENTS

The staff at Tui Brewery, Mangatinioka, have established a history of working with sporting and other interest groups to organise a wide range of popular Mangatinioka-based events. These include regular (almost monthly) speciality Japanese, vintage, V8's, American car or car club events; two wheel / motorbike events; the Tui brewery express steam train from Pimmerton; music, bush-run, 'race to the brewery' and bush-cycle-tour events; pre-season Hurricanes rugby events; special 'Santa's lunch' events and; conferences / functions using the Tui Brewery's dedicated facilities that cater for up to 220 people with on-site catering and a functions team.

The venue is also a popular daily stop-off point for travellers as they head further afield. The restaurant, brewery tours, brew-your-own facilities / services and museum are part of the attraction of this venue with locals also being regular attendees, particularly on Friday nights. The estimated number of casual and local non-event patrons total 200 per week during

the summer season. In addition, upwards of 50,000 persons attended the wide range of special events held in the financial year 2018/19.

BEACHES

Akitio and Herbertville are the two favoured Taranaki District beaches. Both are located around 70 km east from Dannevirke with bach, campground and farm-stay accommodation. The Easter Akitio fishing contest attracts over 1,000 entrants.

FARM STAY EXPERIENCES

Around 95% of Taranaki's 400,000 hectares are farmed. Forestry covers a further 13,000 hectares. Enjoyment of these working environments and landscapes through farm stay experiences, including those provided at rural villages like Pongaroa and Wimbeldon, are a feature of the district.



Te Āpiti - Manawatu Gorge walk www.manawaturiver.co.nz

²⁸ Information provided by tourism consultant Angela Scott, Cloud 12

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges, risks and threats

We asked the participants at each of our workshops, as well as our expert informants, what they thought were the challenges or obstacles slowing down visitor sector growth in Tararua. Views ranged widely but we were still able to group the frequency with which different challenges were referenced into three categories:

- 1. Frequently mentioned challenges
- 2. Moderately mentioned challenges
- 3. Occasionally referenced challenges

Details about these challenges follow.

FREQUENTLY MENTIONED CHALLENGES / RISKS / THREATS

- **Not enough iconic experiences:** Absence of enough sought-after / market-ready experiences.
- **Poor access:** Closure of State Highway 2 at Manawatu Gorge causing less through-traffic from Manawatu and reducing use of the Te Āpiti area for walking and cycling.
- **Limited recognition of Tararua as a destination :** Not enough awareness of the Tararua District as a unique place. Compounded impact of this issue by confusion, in the minds of the visitor market, between the Tararua Ranges and the Tararua District.
- **Insufficient visitor experiences with a competitive advantage when compared to neighbouring regions:** Tararua is viewed as a place to drive through to reach other experiences in Hawke's Bay or the Wairarapa or elsewhere – 'a place to drive through rather than to go to'.
- **Lack of collaboration between neighbouring local authorities:** Absence of arrangements to enable the best features of the larger area to be packaged and marketed to visitors as part of a well-developed broad-area itinerary (NB visitors seldom recognise territorial authority boundaries).

MODERATELY MENTIONED CHALLENGES / RISKS / THREATS

- **Need for more investment and improvement of the appearance of district's towns:** Adequate but insufficient investment in town-centre refurbishment plus the absence of enough financial assistance to earthquake-proof and achieve occupancy of some town-centre buildings, e.g. those in Pahiatua and Dannevirke.
- **Absence of visitor leadership:** Need for more connection and more leadership to be exercised between visitor service and experience providers.
- **Infrastructure to support visitors:** Need for better signage to carparks, better access to some experiences and more facilities at some visitor sites such as Waihi Falls.
- **Absence of collaboration between Tararua towns:** Concern that the north, south and west and the different towns of Tararua are more interested in 'their patch' than the district as a whole.
- **Insufficient market development:** Not enough funding toward promoting the Tararua experiences available for visitors.
- **Not enough Events:** Not enough special events to attract visitors.

OCCASIONALLY REFERENCED CHALLENGES / RISKS / THREATS

- **Lack of the 'right' accommodation:** Absence of three-star plus accommodation in the area, causing some attendees at events to use accommodation located elsewhere, including that located in Palmerston North or Masterton.
- **Lack of things to do for young people:** While there are experiences and attractions for children and adults, apart from the Tui Brewery there is a shortage of events to attract and or employ young people and there is a lack of night-time entertainment.
- **Difficulties with signage:** Red tape associated with erecting signage to attract persons who are in-transit to stop, eat and experience the things on offer in Tararua.
- **Cafés closed:** Unwillingness or complacency of cafés and other food / experience providers to extend their normal hours of operation to cater for the needs of persons attending events such as the MotoX at Woodville.
- **Road use safety and service issues for cyclists:** Concern about the degradation of the attractiveness of Route 52 for cyclists because of its increasing use by logging trucks and because of the long length of travel without support services.
- **Comfort with the status quo:** Apathy and shyness toward adoption of changes that enhance the attractiveness and range of experiences on offer to visitors.
- **Digital connectivity:** Gaps in the current digital and cellular networks and failure to expand the digital skills of those servicing or providing experiences to visitors.

Opportunities / strengths

Visitor growth opportunities are achieved sometimes simply by overcoming the challenges holding growth back, such as those listed above. There is therefore no need to repeat the above listed 'challenges' albeit with a positive overtone. However, there is a need to list the additional visitor priority growth-aspirations and strengths referenced by either our workshop participants or expert informants.

Sometimes these aspirations were focused on getting more visitors to the district by establishing new experiences. Sometimes the opportunity was about expanding existing attractions. Sometimes the opportunity was centred on undertaking marketing focused on reaching the 'right' type of visitor in the right way. And sometimes the opportunity reflected the need to give more weight to essential points-of-difference that make Tararua special.

SWOT analysis

All the above strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats may be prioritised and summarised within a single SWOT analysis (Figure 11) over the page.

As part of the SWOT analysis, we assessed the visitor offerings of Tararua District compared to the surrounding districts of Wellington, Hawke's Bay, the Wairarapa, and Palmerston North / Manawatu. All four neighbouring regions have stronger brand awareness, marketing profiles and a

'maturity' in their visitor sectors not present in Tararua:

- Wairarapa and Hawke's Bay have strong wine, boutique shops, regular large-scale special events and significant accommodation and refreshment / restaurant offerings.
- Wellington has a long history of offering a wide range of experiences under their 'coolest little capital' brand.
- Palmerston North and Manawatu are less developed visitor destinations than Wellington, Wairarapa and Hawke's Bay but they also have advantages based on the scale of their home population and the comprehensiveness of their visitor offerings.

The Tararua District has the potential to complement and support the surrounding regions/ districts and grow as a visitor destination through focused and better resourced efforts in the district but also conscious collaboration with neighbouring regions.

Figure 11: SWOT analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 500,000 domestic visitor market (and growing), within 2 ½ hours travel from Taranua– Presence of three strong existing products / experiences led by proven skilled managers / entrepreneurs and organisations (Tui Brewery, Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, Norsewood)– Positive community attitude toward visitors / visitor growth– Very large travelling public transiting through Taranua District who, with the right experiences, services and information, may respond positively to opportunities to stop, spend more money and further enjoy Taranua experiences– Competitively priced services and experiences suited to domestic visitors and the family market– Presence of Taranua five towns each with unique brand recognition– Strong community focus from visitor business operators throughout the district (free access, discounted rates, business owners are local)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Absence of three-star plus accommodation in the district– Limited range of well-known market-ready experiences– Insufficient motivation for travelling public to stop and stay in Taranua– Low key approach to market development– Absence of a coherent, well-funded and strongly supported visitor development plan– Lack of a coordinated approach to the exercise of sector development services and leadership– Poor public and market understanding of destination Taranua / confusion with the Taranua Range– Travel distance / time to reach potential iconic east coast beach opportunities– Market dominance of better-known attractions in neighbouring areas– Poor online presence and physical signage at district entry points
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– NZTA commitment to construct a new road and dedicated cycle / walkway to replace the Manawatu Gorge Road by 2024– Collaborative approach to the development of Te Āpiti visitor experiences– New Iwi based visitor experiences in the overlap space between manaakitanga (hospitality) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship)– Research confirming the merit of investing in the upgrade of the Waihi Falls visitor experience– Release (May 2019) of the Tourism Aotearoa Strategy with recognition of the need for more effort to spread benefits of tourism beyond traditional visitor centres and to exercise stronger national visitor sector leadership– Diversify the Taranua agricultural economy embracing agritourism– History of organising successful events - the potential to deliver a portfolio of additional events– Clear recognition from local authority leadership in Taranua and in neighbouring districts that investing in visitor infrastructure and services has leverage benefits for attracting and retaining Taranua residents– Emerging list of expanded and new / prioritised visitor experiences and growth enablers, including the commitment to prepare this visitor strategy– Collaborative approach between industry and council with initiatives being self-funding rather than needing ongoing Council rate payer investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Absence of deep collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and visitor-sector experience and service providers– Failure to think about Taranua as a destination within a connected 'visitor itinerary' context– Failure to act on priority opportunities because of competing demands on scarce public sector funding– Small scale thinking and competition for attention / investment between Taranua communities– Failure to motivate necessary private sector leadership and investment– Dominance of road use by increasing volumes of forestry heavy traffic at the expense of the safety and potential growth in interest from visiting cyclists and 'tour-self-driving' tourists, e.g. Route 52

TARARUA VISITOR OBJECTIVES

Overriding objective

The scenarios for growth in the number of visitors and the spending of visitors to Tararua range from 1% to 10% per annum. One per cent growth will be achieved with little effort and simply by capitalising on the current increased number of domestic and international tourists. Two per cent growth is achievable by continuing with current experience development initiatives. Four to five per cent potential growth is achievable by:

- Establishing a dedicated budget, strong leadership and a clear action plan.
- Supporting and growing the capacity and capability of the Tararua visitor sector.
- More strongly collaborating with neighbouring local authorities / agencies.
- Working with project proponents to seek third-party funds for the development and expansion of a wider range of current and new Tararua experiences.

Achievement of 10% percent growth would require a significant boost to sector capacity, experience and market development, several iconic new visitor experiences and substantial investment – an investment which may be beyond available resources and for which the cost / benefit may be subject to challenge.

We recommend adoption of an aspirational 5% targeted growth in visitor numbers and visitor spending, year-on-year between 2020 and 2030. If this target was achieved, then the district could see more than 213,000 overnight visitors per annum by 2030 (Table 3).

²⁹ Expenditure by visitors considers all visitors including those in transit.

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Table 3: Visitor growth and expenditure aspirational growth

Year	Number of overnight visitors	Expenditure of visitors ²⁹
2019	125,000	\$50,600,000 ³⁰
2020	131,250	\$53,130,000
2021	137,812	\$55,786,500
2022	144,702	\$58,575,825
2023	151,937	\$61,504,616
2024	159,533	\$64,579,846
2025	167,509	\$67,808,838
2026	175,884	\$71,199,279
2027	184,678	\$74,759,242
2028	193,911	\$78,497,204
2029	203,606	\$82,422,064
2030	213,786	\$86,543,167

What the number of overnight visitors displayed in the table doesn't account for is the number of daily visitors who currently stop and experience Tararua attractions while in transit to another location, including those who visit the district and then return home. Nor does it account for the opportunity to increase this number.

If just five percent of the daily 'in-transit' non-commercial vehicles stopped to enjoy Tararua experiences and services for various periods of time and if each vehicle contained an average of two persons, then this

³⁰ Data prepared by Infometrics for March 2019 suggests expenditure has already reached \$52 million

would add a further 220,000 to the current (2019) count of visitors to the district per annum³¹, i.e. 325,000 visitors per annum.

If the 5% growth per annum visitor target is achieved for this 'in-transit' type of visitor, and this annual growth rate was able to be sustained each year for the next ten years, then the number of 'in-transit' visitors to the district could grow to close to half a million per annum by 2030 bringing the total number of Tararua visitors to over 1.2 million. Expenditure would grow from \$52 million to \$86.5 million³².

Currently about 5% of all visitors, or 5,700 international visitors, stop in Tararua District. The percent of international visitors could grow although we see best value for money in investing in domestic growth initiatives. We envisage that growth in the domestic market will have flow-on effects that may give rise to an increase of 2-3% in the number of international visitors coming to the district.

In addition, the current Tararua 'freedom-camper-friendly' approach also captures a relatively high number of international visitors who may return and who may select and spend more in their second visit to Tararua than their first, because of the quality of their first experience. If a 2.5% per annum increase was to occur per year for ten years, then the number of overnight international visitors could increase to around 7,500 by 2030.

Other visitor objectives

Simply growing the number of visitors to Tararua is not a 'sufficient' objective on its own. Other objectives are also required. These need to cover such matters as ensuring the benefits of visitor growth are secured

for as many of the residents of Tararua as possible, the quality of the experiences on offer are sustained and the social licence of visitors and visitor sector operators alike is sustained. In a nutshell, the objective is to capitalise on the benefits of visitors for the district economy as opposed to simply chasing growth in the visitor market. Stated differently, the focus should be on 'tourism for Tararua' alongside 'Tararua as a place offering experiences for tourists'.

Our workshop participants identified several matters for us to consider when shaping district visitor objectives:

- **Districts should not be in competition** with each other, but they should celebrate their locational differences and combine these points of difference within joined-up visitor journeys.
- **More quality attractions** and higher quality accommodation should be established as a method to encourage more visitors to stay longer rather than driving through the district.
- More effort should be directed toward creating visitor sector activities and **employment for younger Tararua residents** to keep them in the area or to attract them back home.
- More community resilience and prosperity should be sought by diversifying the economy through growth in the visitor sector.
- More **pride** should be sought from within the district by creating a clearer identity, more experiences and better-quality services than at present, noting that these things not only attract visitors but also **attract and retain new residents**.
- More focus should be given to leveraging the financial benefit arising from **events** taking place not only within the district but also outside the district such as Hawke's Bay concerts.
- The district should be better positioned to capture the gains from through traffic.

³¹ The difficulty we experienced in accurately estimating the number of visitors to Tararua District is unfortunate. The only way to overcome this is to undertake an intercept survey of persons transiting through the area to ascertain the reason for their visit etc.

³² Our assumption is that expenditure of 'in-transit' visitors is currently accounted for in available visitor expenditure data, even if the number of these visitors is not.

- A 'clearer' Tararua **brand, story** and general information about the region is required.
- Focus should be given to building on the experiences and services that **already attract visitors**.
- More visitor sector investors and funding streams should be secured by developing a **visitor prospectus**.
- A higher quota and diversity of **local produce** should be offered within local restaurants and food offerings should be of a better quality than at present.

With the above guidance in mind, we recommend the adoption of the following objectives:

Kaitiaki and sustainability: Sustainably manage and grow the joy that comes from respectful appreciation of the public conservation estate and from a visit to the other visitor attractions on offer within Tararua by working with Tourism Industry Aotearoa and others to further entrench understanding of the Tiaki promise.

Māori economy: Grow the contribution and wealth of iwi as investors and employees and achieve more depth of visitor experience by fostering greater connection between visitors and iwi-based cultural experiences and stories.

Shoulder season: Consciously focus attention on establishing events and growing / marketing experiences that sustain the use of Tararua visitor accommodation and facilities throughout all months of the calendar.

Sector capacity and capability building: Provide visitors with services that are appreciated by them on all occasions by providing training opportunities and exercising sector leadership.

Jobs: Optimise growth arising from the visitor sector by securing connections between the visitor economy and all other parts of the

economy particularly entertainment, retail and fuel sales, food services, passenger transport, guiding, travel, farming (new agritourism ventures) and information provision services and education etc.

Reputation and brand: Define, market and protect that which is uniquely Tararua, i.e. that for which Tararua has a competitive comparative advantage.

Partnership: View Tararua visitor facilities and experiences as part of a bigger visitor fabric and more strongly work with neighbouring districts, DOC, iwi and all participants in the Tararua visitor sector to promote a joined-up approach.

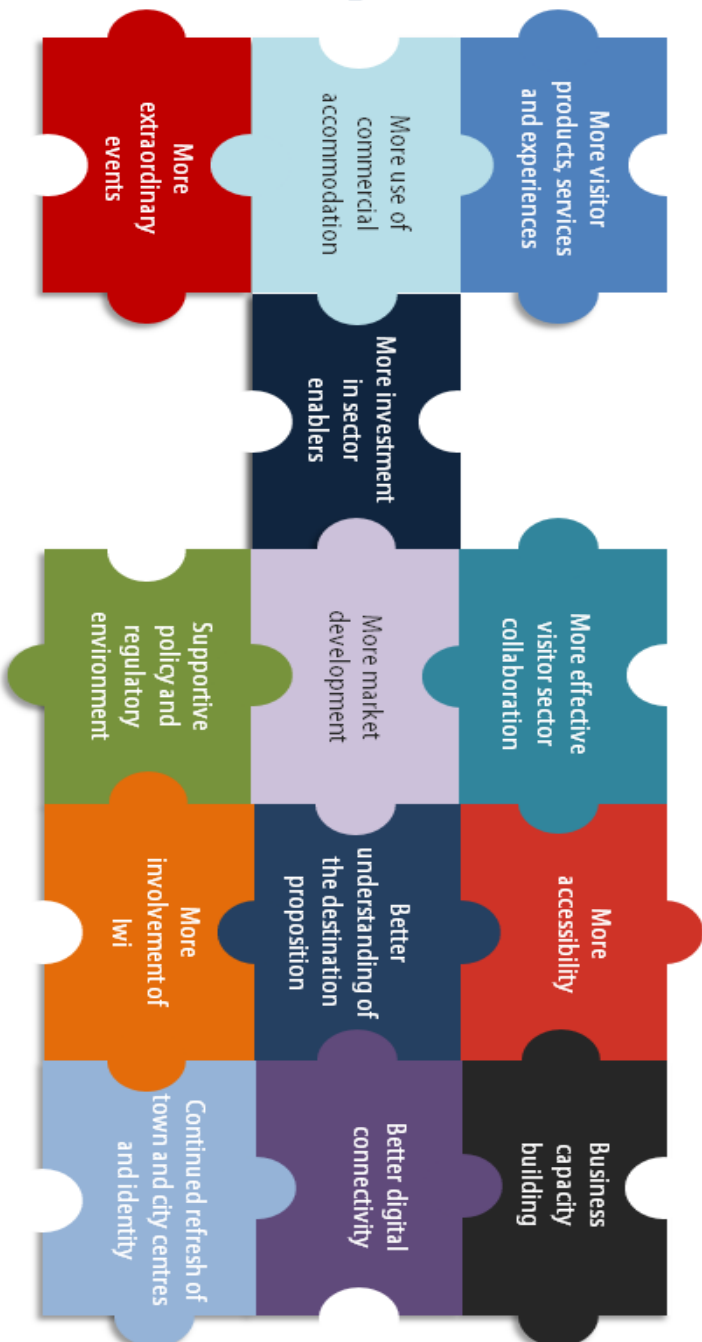
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GROWING THE VISITOR SECTOR IN TARARUA – ENABLERS

Successful growth in the visitor sector in Tararua will require adoption of an approach that integrates new experiences, events and services with the ‘enablers’ that ensure these experiences and services are able to be delivered with style. These enablers include investment in infrastructure such as roads, training, regulation, digital connectivity etc. (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Enablers contributing to an integrated approach to visitor sector development



Enablers are an important focus for Tararua. This is because the access visitors can enjoy within reserves and public conservation land are a core part of Tararua visitor experience offering. It's also because of the fundamental importance to sector growth of strong leadership and 'quality' visitor-related infrastructure.

As indicated by the prominence of the 'link' piece in the jigsaw displayed in figure nine, additional or expanded visitor experiences need to be established in tandem with investments in 'enablers'. We urge the Tararua District Council to view itself as a key player in the leadership and delivery of these 'enablers'.

In the following section of our report, we address the most important 'enablers' of Tararua visitor sector growth.

More effective visitor sector collaboration

We note that the Tararua District Council does not have a lot of discretionary rate-payer sourced expenditure for things beyond core transport and water infrastructure. Nevertheless, it is clear the Council recognises the importance of facilitating growth in the visitor sector. This is because the Council knows it will add resilience to the economy through diversification, increased visitor expenditure and employment generation³³.

Throw into this mix the fact that the majority of visitors to Tararua are in transit to somewhere else and also the need to think about Tararua visitor experiences as part of a joined-up itinerary, then it is plain that the best return from scarce ratepayer dollars may be for the Council to make a conscious effort to collaborate with all parties influencing the demand for and supply of visitor services and experiences in the broader mid to

lower part of the North Island. This implies clearly designating a person within the Council's economic development team with responsibility for the visitor sector.

The parties with whom Council relationships should be enriched and suggestions about how this may be achieved are provided in Table 4.

³³ Personal communication with Mayor Tracey Collis, 26 March 2019

Table 4: Methods to achieve visitor sector collaboration

AGENCY / ORGANISATION	METHOD
Regional tourism organisations and economic development agencies, e.g. CEDA, and those located in all neighbouring districts and regions.	Quarterly informal meetings. Clear statements about the experiences, itineraries, services and 'brand' that make Tararua an attractive place to visit.
Government departments such as DOC, Provincial Development Unit (PDU) and Tourism Infrastructure Fund Units within MBE and TPK.	Strong relationships based on regular meetings and focused 'issue or opportunity' specific agenda.
Major visitor sector experience and service providers from the district including those associated with Tui Brewery, NZ Natural Clothing and Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.	Quarterly small and focused meetings facilitated by a skilled and informed Council officer.
Current and potential future event managers.	Focused annual event agenda, discretionary catalyst funding to attract and de-risk new events and conscious exploration of how Council services and policies may smooth the path for the management of events.
All other visitor service and experience providers including accommodation, community, retail, food and information providers.	Six monthly newsletter and forming of a district wide business leaders group and annual forum.

Better understanding of the Tararua destination proposition

Our discussions with workshop participants suggested the Tararua brand, within the visitor market, remains a little confused. Many potential visitors were said to view Tararua as either a type of cheese or the name of the ranges running from the Manawatu Gorge to Wellington, rather than a destination. Some commentators sometimes referred to the district as being part of the Manawatu or part of Hawke's Bay. Others viewed the Tararua brand as being most closely associated with Vikings and aligned to mildly 'quirky' towns – although this was balanced by others who rightly recognised the importance of iwi heritage and the presence in the community of persons from many other nations.

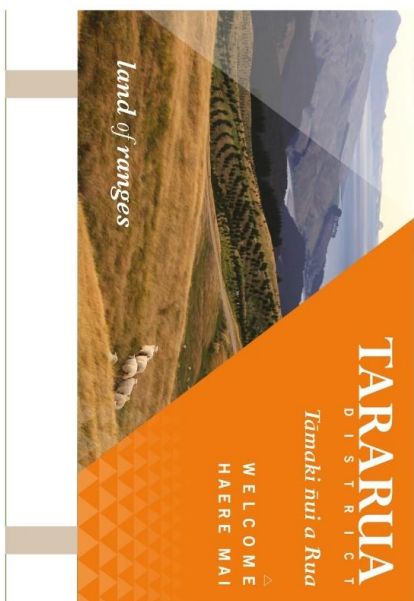
In addition, some workshop participants were critical about the road-side signage branding the district as 'Tararua Country' to leverage association with wide open plains, the farming economy and perhaps the parallel with the South Island's Mackenzie Country, but others supported this style of branding.

The statements best reflecting the 'brand' preferences of our workshop participants were varied. They covered such things as: laid back; community focused; quiet; open, rural and green landscapes; honest, real and friendly; off the beaten track and undiscovered; towns with heart and unique points of interest; and the somewhat disparaging but nevertheless practical statement about Tararua being 'the best place for a toilet and coffee stop on the way to other places'.

We are aware the Council has commissioned specialist work to explore the brand image to be used in road-side hoardings and published material. We support the direction of travel of this material. We like the stand-alone emphasis on the use of the words 'Tararua District' (figure

13). We can see that with perseverance, this will increasingly gel with the market. We also strongly support reference to Tāmaki nui a Rua and can also see merit in the use of grand landscape images and reference to 'land of ranges'.

Figure 13: Brand development ideas



This image is indicative only and does not represent the finished design for production.

Consideration should also be given to how the district's towns may be woven into the brand, noting that most visitors do not stray beyond State Highway 2. Nor can the attractiveness of the district's core visitor assets (Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, Tui Brewery, and Norsewood) be forgotten when compiling images or growing the brand of Tararua. Emerging expanding experience assets like Te Āpiti Manawatu Gorge walks and rides, events and visits to the Waihi Falls should also not be forgotten.

Our essential conclusion is that Tararua must decide on the image and brand it wishes to project and then stick with it, in all marketing material, for the long haul. This image and brand should clearly differentiate Tararua from its neighbouring regions.

Other market development considerations

Developing the size of the market of persons who may consider visiting Tararua can be an expensive and sometimes a challenging exercise. Our experience suggests the secret to success is to undertake the following:

- Segment your visitor market into its components and target your market development in a way that is best suited to that market, with priority given to the domestic persons who most frequently visit the district.
- Acknowledge that two-thirds of the visitors who stay overnight research information from the internet and one third make their decisions about accommodation and food when they are 'on-the-road' – and target your market development accordingly.
- Leverage the attractiveness of Tararua in the market development material prepared by your neighbouring regions and districts.
- Recognise that most of your visitors come from Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatu / Palmerston North and Hawke's Bay and target these markets with any material you may prepare.
- Invest in further improving the Tararua District website - with great visitor content navigability and strong exposure of the district's core attractiveness for potential visitors.
- Be honest about the fact that most Tararua visitors are in transit to another district and that many visitors make their decision to stay in Tararua or to 'travel-on without stopping in Tararua' while on the road.

Additional information about three further market development and branding matters follow.

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'QUIRKY?'

We toyed with the idea of Tararua market development based on packaging awareness of Tararua's 'quirky' towns. Our non-Tararua expert informants informed us many visitors view the features and character on offer at Eketahuna (e.g. Lazy Graze, erotic toy shop), Pahiatua (e.g. art décor buildings, accommodation at an old hospital), Woodville (e.g. second-hand stores and Yummy Mummy cheesecakes, Dannevirke (e.g. Fantasy Cave) and Norsewood (e.g. tame eels, Dave Selfe's house concerts and natural fibre clothing) as being quite 'unique.'

In addition, the people providing visitor services and experiences are viewed as being 'real' and 'friendly'. Our issue is that the residents of the so called 'quirky' towns are likely to not take kindly to being branded in association with a place known as being 'quirky'. We have therefore 'parked-up' this idea but nevertheless urge that this perspective is not forgotten when further developing the district's brand, products and events. The preferred position may be adopting it as a 'support' concept rather than a centre piece of the district's market development planning.

INTERNATIONAL VS DOMESTIC FOCUS OF MARKET DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

We recommend the focus of future Tararua visitor growth market development initiatives should be on the domestic market rather than the international market. This is because the cost of market development, if directed toward international visitors, tends to be prohibitive for small local authorities like Tararua District Council. Nevertheless, if opportunities arise to partner with neighbouring local authorities and agencies to leverage exposure of Tararua experiences and services, as part of the development of 'joined-up' in-bound tourism itineraries, then these opportunities should be taken with open arms.

SIGNAGE AND PACKAGING OF REST AND REFRESH EXPERIENCES FOR TRANSITING VISITORS

In an ideal world, more visitors to Tararua District would 'go to rather than drive through' Tararua. The fact is, most visitors to Tararua will be heading for destinations outside Tararua. They will still all need a refreshment break. If this can be combined with experiences such as those provided at Fantasy Cave or the possible purchase of a product at one of Woodville's second-hand stores or at Norsewood, then the visit will be more valuable for both the visitor and Tararua.

This implies a need to encourage visitors to stay longer and to spend more money by providing for the erection of safe but good roadside signage and by providing targeted information about such things as how children can be entertained, e.g. by visiting the Fantasy Cave and town playgrounds.

Supportive Council policy, infrastructure and regulatory environment

It is the leadership, courage and skills of individuals that make businesses and communities successful. Central government has a fundamental leadership role to play in many of these dimensions. The new Labour-led coalition government is certainly playing a stronger role in regional economic development than was the case in the past. The Tararua District Council, in partnership with iwi and local businesses, also has a strong role to play – both on their own and as a successful partner with central government.

The Council's service-based role is to provide the regulatory environment, visitor sector support services and a general atmosphere within which individual businesses are enabled to flourish. The Council's infrastructure provision role, particularly the supply of quality roads and transport

systems and the provision of quality water / waste and storm water systems is equally important as these things provide a foundation or 'enabler' for growth.

In addition, attractive and well-functioning towns create pride and community cohesion and act as an 'incentive to stop' for the passing motorist. The Council's recent investments in the upgrade of town centres in Eketahuna, Pahiatua, Woodville and Dannevirke are a valuable manifestation of this incentive.

It is not our job to tell the Council how to do its work, but we are conscious of the need to give emphasis to several principles that may be applied when making decisions that may support future visitor sector growth:

- **Cost – benefit:** Ensure potential or expected visitor-related investment costs are outweighed by potential or expected visitor sector development benefits³⁴.
- **Move at speed:** Identify and assist to proactively resolve visitor development challenges without delay or procrastination.
- **Big and small changes all count:** Be prepared to make the many small changes, as well as the big changes, required to maximise the visitor sector development potential of the district.
- **Iwi opportunities:** Growing the Māori economy is an important means of achieving equity of opportunity.
- **Sustainable:** Consider economic, social, cultural and environmental factors in unison when making decisions affecting the visitor sector.

➤ **Red carpet rather than red tape:** While delivery of regulatory requirements is a must, so too is the need to make these regulations as easy as possible for visitor sector experience and service providers to meet.

➤ **Culture of change:** Growth in the visitor sector will only occur if a 'culture of change' is led by the Council and embraced by the community.

➤ **Local and district perspectives:** There is a need for the community to embrace a 'Tararua-wide' view in their advocacy for visitor-friendly developments, alongside their advocacy for the views of the people in each of their townships.

➤ **Lead, don't displace:** It is not the role of the Council to provide services and facilities better suited to provision by the private sector but if there is a clear need and opportunity and the market fails to adequately respond, then the Council may wish to exercise leadership or be a catalyst for development by providing seed funding or other assistance.

³⁴ In simple terms, a formula may be applied to calculate visitor expenditure. This is usually calculated based on whether the visitor is local, from elsewhere in New Zealand or from an international location and whether they are in transit or staying overnight. The cost of the entry fee (if applicable) plus a multiplier to take account of the benefit of all expenditure across the economy

(usually about 1.7) is added to base daily and expenditure. This can then be applied to the cost of capital and the operating costs to provide a rough estimate of the cost / benefit of investing in a tourism experience.

The key recommendation flowing from the above role description is the need for the Council to clearly include advocacy and facilitation of destination management and development into the position description and KPIs of a mid to senior level Council officer. Without focused attention from an officer designated in this way, there is a risk that clear and apparent visitor growth opportunities / actions will not be capitalised upon.

Digital connectivity

Provision of telecommunications - including cell phone coverage, ultra-fast broadband and optic fibre services, is essential for existing and new visitor sector businesses, for the education of persons of all ages and for the ever-important visitor social networking associated with a visitor experience including taking advantage of Facebook photo opportunities.

In the future, Council may wish to consider what more it can do to resolve mobile black-spot issues and what assistance it could provide to Chorus and Crown Fibre Ltd to roll out their UFB2 programme. Also, not to be forgotten, is the need to explore methods through which widespread visitor sector-provider use of newly established connectivity infrastructure can be enhanced via an 'enablement plan' and digital HUB as is currently being rolled out in several parts of New Zealand including Northland.

Business capacity and capability building

Visitor 'quality of service' expectations continue to grow. We can see a need to work with visitor sector operators and government agencies such as the Tertiary Education Commission and NZTE to provide training and skills development programmes.

This may include provision of business mentor programmes to targeted providers to help them grow and modernise their businesses. Web site enhancement or simply creating a web-site presence as well as programmes for service providing employees are all important business capability building tools.

NEW OR EXPANDED VISITOR EXPERIENCES, SERVICES AND EVENTS

Determining the priority to be accorded to visitor development ideas

Our workshops generated no shortage of good ideas about what products, experiences and services should be grown or established to increase the return to the economy from the visitor sector in the Tararua District.

If an individual entrepreneur has a clear line of sight on a development opportunity, then there is no issue – the risk and reward is for them to bear. However, many developments impact on the use of public conservation land or require the support of the public sector to be successful. This poses the risk that, if all of them were pursued, scarce capital, leadership energy and infrastructure might become thinly stretched or overwhelmed and the chance of failure would grow.

We therefore developed a set of criteria to guide our sector investment priority setting. These criteria included:

- **Cost-benefit:** Number of new visitors / quantities of spending compared to the cost of establishing the project.
- **State of readiness:** Level of consultation, funding support and planning carried out by the proponent(s) and thereby how quickly the visitor sector spending benefits may accrue from investment.
- **Market affinity:** Degree of match between the project and the domestic and the international visitor needs, and the expectations described earlier in this report.

- **Cultural and environmental sustainability:** Size of the footprint of the project - its impact on environmental, heritage, cultural and iwi values.

- **Quality and capacity:** Capacity of the project to grow the number of users without impacting on the quality of the experience for those users.
- **Synergy with destination proposition:** Fit between the project and decisions about the Tararua destination value proposition.
- **Community well-being:** Ability of the project to contribute to the well-being of the Tararua community by generating employment and socio-economic gains.

We have applied the above criteria to the wide range of visitor experience and service ideas put forward by our workshop participants and expert informants to recommend focus be given primarily on walking and cycling and a prioritised short list of other selected visitor experiences and services.

Cycling and walking

The discussion on cycling and walking opportunities which follows is more substantive than that provided on other new or expanded visitor opportunities. This is because a core purpose of this report was to clearly identify cycle and walk opportunities in a stand-alone manner, but in so doing, also place them within the fabric of broad visitor sector objectives, enablers and ancillary experience opportunities.

CYCLING AND WALKING – NATIONAL CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Almost one-quarter of New Zealanders participate in cycling³⁵. In addition, over 60% of New Zealand residents participate in walking for recreational purposes. Cycling and walking improve health, contribute to lifestyle choices, diversify economies and assist achievement of environmental sustainability objectives. Cycling and walking infrastructure also contributes to the government’s multi-mode transport objectives, as recorded in their 2018 transport Government Policy Statement (GPS).

Cycle tourism is also a global experience that is rapidly expanding. This interest is driven by the desire to ‘slow down’ while travelling and appreciate the travel environment at a more ‘experiential’ level. Consequently, cycle tourists tend to stay longer in an area and hence spend more money than many other groups of visitors.

In addition, the recent growth in the popularity of e-bikes has accelerated the breadth (more age groups) and depth (more people) of interest in cycling.

CURRENT TARARUA CYCLING AND WALKING OPPORTUNITIES – AN OVERVIEW

Tararua has a well-developed network of walks and cycle trails. Much of the network is described in detail in the Tararua District Visitor Guide³⁶.

Some of the walking experiences are based in the Tararua and Ruahine Forest parks. The Coppermine Valley Creek Walk is perhaps the best known and most accessible of these.

Many short walks are accessible from Tararua’s towns. These include the: Anzac Park walk and the Wop Wops Wetland Park walk at Norsewood; the Lime Chip track in Dannevirke; the Cliff Walk at Eketahuna; and the Carnival Park tracks in Pahiatua.

Other walks have been developed within the district’s reserves. These include those within the Tamaki, Wahipai, Mangatoro Waihi Falls and Kumeti Reserves near Dannevirke; Pattison’s Bush, Whariti Road and the Awapikopiko Reserve near Woodville; and the Marima domain walks near Pahiatua.

Not included in the above list but held in high esteem are the tracks and guided walks established in the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre. They include a one hour guided tour, night tours, tours dedicated to budding teen and child rangers and tours tailored for schools and other groups.

In addition, other walks are located slightly further afield. These include the Pongaroa Bush Walk and the Cape Turnagain walk. There are also privately arranged walk opportunities on farms adjacent to Akitio Beach.

The most popular area for walking is the tracks adjacent to Te Āpiti / the Manawātū Gorge. Over 76,000 people walked in the hills above and adjacent to the Gorge in 2017. Shorter walks in this area include the Tawa Loop Track and the Manawātū Gorge Loop Walk.

Mountain bike trails in the Tararua area offer a range of experiences suited to different skill levels. Rides suited to more experienced riders include the Wind Farm ride from Hall Block Road and the Tararua Traverse. Rides for adrenalin seeking down-hill mountain bikers include

³⁵ Sport New Zealand (2015), Sport and Active Recreation in the Lives of New Zealand Adults, 2013/14 Active New Zealand Survey Results, Wellington, Sport New Zealand.

³⁶ This 2018 guide is available from the Tararua District Council and the i-Site in Woodville

the Te Ara o Mahurangi ride accessible from Hall Block Road. Intermediate rides include the Whariti Peak ride while the Wahipai Reserve Dannevirke Mountain Bike and walking trail is suited to riders seeking small jumps and obstacles.

The current best known Tararua cycle tour route runs from Waipukurau to Masterton on previous State Highway 52, now renamed as a local road 'Route 52'.

TARARUA CYCLING AND WALKING AMBITIONS

The workshop and our interviews with cycle and walking experts and thought leaders indicated a broad desire to:

- Improve road safety for cyclists by providing cycle lanes and improved road shoulders at priority locations.
- Provide more cycle opportunities for families.
- Improve walking and cycling opportunities adjacent to Tararua towns.
- Improve mountain biking opportunities.
- Improve cycle tour opportunities.
- Fully capitalise on the opportunities for cycle and walk opportunities in the Te Āpiti / Manawātū Gorge area including those associated with the new State Highway 'Te Ahu a Turanga' adjacent to Saddle Road.

In addition to the broad ambitions described above, several site-specific ambitions were shared by the persons we talked to. These included:

- The Lindauer Group based in Woodville want to fully develop methods for displaying the artworks of Lindauer as an integrated part of a walk / cycle trail between Woodville and Ferry Reserve.

- Mangatainoka and Pahiatua community leaders want to establish a walk and cycle 'Town to Tui Brewery' track between these two centres.
 - Council staff and others recognised opportunities to enhance the attractiveness of the Waihi Falls and Reserve as a visitor experience by improving the walkway down to the Falls and by upgrading the Reserve's facilities.
 - Many but not all commentators sought upgrades to the cycle touring roads known as Route 52 between Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa.
 - Informants from the south of the district sought a walk or safe cycle route between Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre and Eketahuna, possibly using paper roads and tracks where access can be negotiated with the assistance of private landowners.
 - A connecting route was sought by several cycle experts between the Old Copper Mine Road via the proposed Lindauer Trail to Ferry Reserve and other existing and paper roads ending at Tui Brewery at Mangatainoka.
 - A 'coast to coast' route extending from Akitio to Foxton or Himatangi was a long-term objective referenced at our walk / cycle workshop.
 - A new downhill mountain bike route near the Tararua Forest Park, in the southern part of the district, was mentioned as a possibility by one informant.
 - A Manawātū River 'source to sea' route involving Marae and iwi-led cultural and heritage experiences, extending from the smallest tributaries of the Manawātū River west of Norsewood to the mouth of the river at Foxton, has been on the agenda of some members of the Manawātū River Leaders' Accord for some time.
- We provide further details about a prioritised range³⁷ of these opportunities in the section of the report that follows.

³⁷ The tracks and trails selected for priority attention are those best satisfying the criteria listed earlier in this report.

Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge experiences

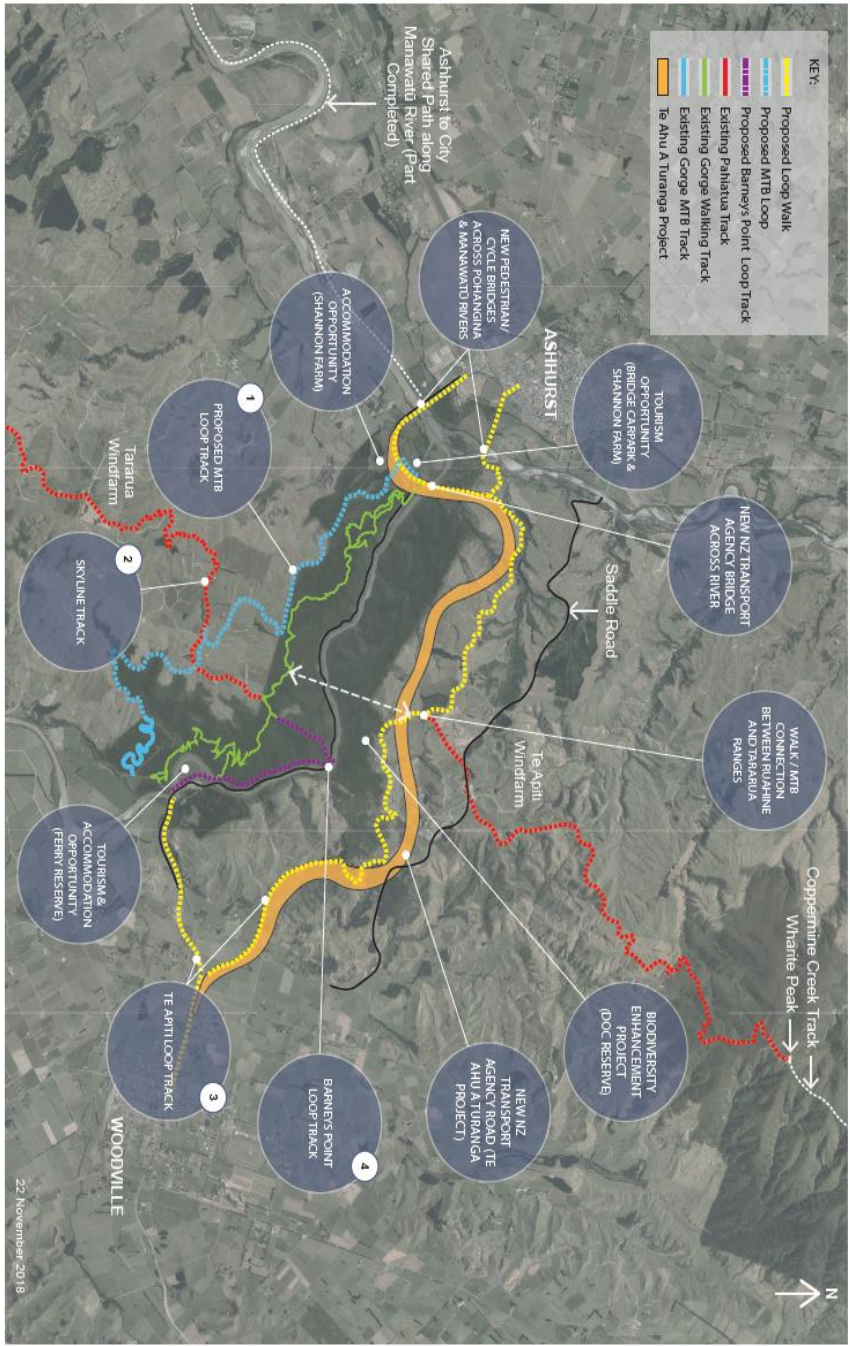
Above all other opportunities, the most frequently mentioned new walk / cycle and visitor experience opportunities are those located in the Manawatu Gorge / Te Āpiti area. These opportunities are nicely summarised in a diagram prepared by the Te Āpiti – Manawatu Gorge Governance Group. (Figure 14 – over page). The only omissions from this diagram are the Lindauer Trail and the opportunity currently being developed by the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Trust³⁸ to enable visitors to share art, heritage and cultural experiences at the Te Āpiti windfarm³⁹. Tararua future track and trail locations have been highlighted in Figure 15.

The current and new experiences identified for the Manawatu Gorge / Te Āpiti could transform this area into a highly significant visitor destination, with careful planning and advocacy, Tararua District will gain substantial benefit from these developments. These experiences could be marketed under the 'Te Āpiti' brand.

³⁸ Third Bearing Ltd has made us aware of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Trust's desire to also run tourism ventures based on art, heritage, cultural understanding and recreational experiences.

³⁹ We do not address this proposal in any further detail because it is the subject of separate development and details are not yet available for sharing in public.

Figure 14: Map of visitor walk, cycle and other recreational experiences (Te Āpiti– Manawātū Gorge Governance Group)



5: (Yr) NZ 93 15 30000.00 Manawatu Gorge Masterplan (Landscape Architecture) Maps

Draft Te Āpiti Masterplan Project | Local Plan

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2018 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

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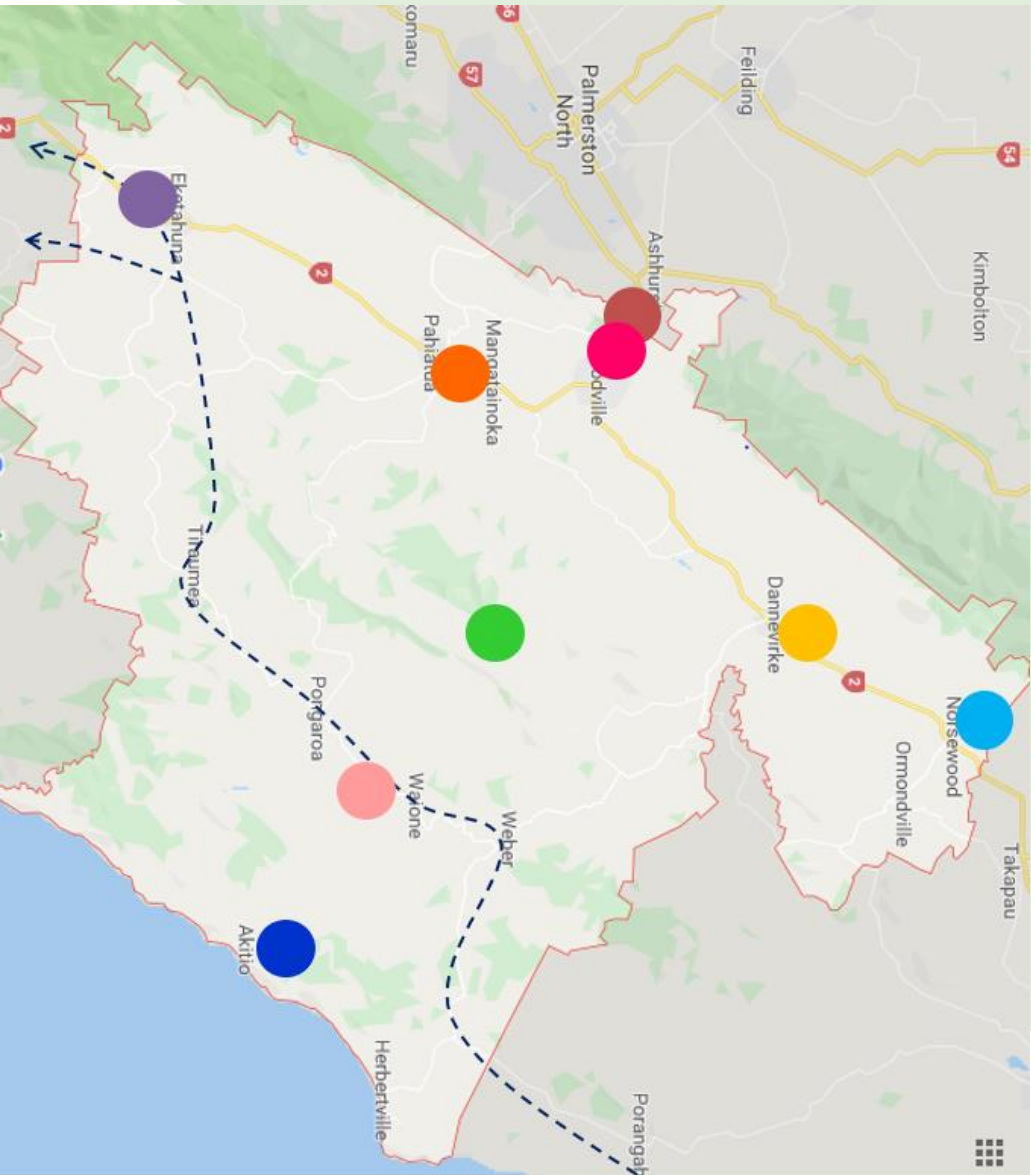


Figure 15: Tararua future track and trail locations

As noted by the Te Āpiti – Manawatu Gorge Governance Group, the key strengths of the proposition to further develop visitor experiences and services in this area include the following:

- **Strategic location:** Te Āpiti is close to the intersection of three major state highways and the North Island passenger rail line. It is also conveniently located between popular tourist destinations such as Rotorua, Taupō and Hawke's Bay to the north and Wellington to the south. It is less than 20 minutes from the city of Palmerston North.
- **Rich natural assets:** Te Āpiti is home to a unique geological landscape, diverse flora and fauna, the natural beauty of the Manawatu river, forests and hill country.
- **Existing visitor assets:** Te Āpiti's natural assets are complemented by a growing network of current and potential walking and cycling trails and two windfarms which are already popular attractions.
- **A place of geological significance:** Te Āpiti – the Māori name for the Manawatu Gorge, is geographically significant because, unlike most gorges, the Manawatu River Gorge is a water gap and the Manawatu is the only river in New Zealand starting its journey on one side of the main divide and finishing it on the other side.
- **Cultural significance:** Te Āpiti is a place of cultural significance for the lower North Island. The name Te Āpiti, meaning 'the narrow passage', was bestowed upon the Manawatu Gorge by Rangitāne. Before the road was built, local Māori would haul their canoes upstream through the rapids of the Manawatu River, which they named Te Au-Rere-a-Te Tonga, meaning 'the rushing current of the south'.

The new and expanded Te Āpiti visitor services and experiences may include⁴⁰ those based on the following concepts:

- **Cultural** experiences and sites of significance.
 - **Ecotourism** experiences with the potential to link into local biodiversity projects and ecotourism experiences.
 - **Agritourism** experiences showcasing the region's primary sector from Te Āpiti's working farms.
 - **On-water** experiences, e.g. kayaking and fishing⁴¹.
 - **Over-water** experiences, e.g. flying foxes.
 - **Cycling** experiences catering for all skill levels and ambitions – including a circular ride from Ashhurst, traversing the new Te Āhu a Turanga – Manawatu Tararua replacement State Highway Two walking / cycling trail to Woodville, then via the Lindauer Trail to Ferry Reserve and then back to Ashhurst via local trails located south of the Gorge.
 - **Land-based** experiences, e.g. canopy walks, ziplining, ecotourism.
 - **Built environment** experiences, e.g. views from a new 350m bridge to be built over the Manawatu River and windfarm attractions.
 - **Hybrid experiences**, e.g. river journeys connecting Palmerston North and Te Āpiti or using the river to access experiences within the Gorge.
- Details about the best means to progress Te Āpiti visitor opportunities are being collaboratively developed by the Te Āpiti – Manawatu Gorge Governance Group led by Palmerston North City Council.

⁴⁰ This list has been developed with the assistance of information prepared by CEDA. The list is relevant to the wider Tararua District as well.

⁴¹ We have been informed (but cannot confirm) that 1,500 fishermen walked from the eastern entrance of the Gorge in search of trout in 2018.

This Group includes representatives from Tararua District Council. The key recreation projects in the proposed masterplan include:

- A new shared path (walk/cycle) around the northern side of Te Āpiti to provide a 35km loop around both sides as well as connections into Ashhurst and Woodville at either end. This is to be delivered as part of the NZTA's replacement Gorge Road project known as Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatu Tararua Highway.
- Connecting the Ruahine Ranges with the Tararua Ranges across and around Te Āpiti to provide a 45km 'Skyline' circular walk linking into the Te Araroa Trail.
- Creating a new walking loop at the eastern end of Te Āpiti which utilises a 2km section of the old Gorge Road.
- Creating a new purpose built 11km mountain bike track across the southern side of Te Āpiti.

Well known cycling advocate Jonathan Kennett's projections⁴² about future visitor use (assumed to be at 2030) of the Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge area, indicate substantial destination development potential arising from these proposed experiences (Table 5, over page).

⁴² These projections have been drawn from an internal report prepared by Jonathan Kennett for NZTA in 2018



Table 5: Estimate of use numbers per year of Manawatu Gorge and Te Ahu a Turanga Highway separated cycle / walk path

Market Sector	Projected users of a recreational trail located near but not abutting the highway	Projected users Manawatu Gorge
Commuters	10/day 2,000/year	30/day 6,000/year
Local Recreational Riders and Walkers	50,000	80,000
Domestic Holiday Makers	20,000	40,000
NZ bike-packers/cycle tourists	2,000	3,000
International bike-packers/cycle tourists	400	600
International tourists travelling by car/campervan	2,000	5,000
Equestrians	0	1,000
Events	1,000	1,000
Total	77,400	136,600

Other advantages identified by Jonathan Kennett arising from the upgrade of Te Āpiti trails include:

- At the Ashhurst end - establishment of good connectivity to / from the Manawatu River Path and the proposed clip-on access across the Ashhurst Bridge.
- At the Woodville end - good connectivity into Woodville via the Lindauer Arts Trail, as well as to Ballance Valley Road which is likely to become a part of the NZCT network.
- Health benefits amounting to \$1.2m equivalent over ten years.
- Economic benefits calculated based on \$160 expenditure per person at 12,200 visitors per year amounting to \$19.5m over ten years.

What will be important for Tararua is the need to ensure opportunities at the eastern side of Te Āpiti are optimised and that the risk of all the benefits being focused on the Ashhurst end are managed. An ideal potential scenario is one with the following features:

- Woodville is the chosen location for a refreshment break midway through, before or after enjoying Te Āpiti experiences.
- Market and experience development are carried out in a manner enabling Ferry Landing and Woodville to be viewed as equal to Ashhurst in popularity as starting points for Te Āpiti experiences. (NB without this focus, there is a risk the benefits of visitor expenditure to the Tararua economy may be less than anticipated).

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- The Lindauer Trail concept (see further details below) is given priority attention by Tararua District Council.
- Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Trust is supported in its desires to implement their ideas about using Te Āpiti and the windfarm to expand appreciation of art, culture and heritage.
- Exploring (on a slightly slower time frame) the safety and unique engineering solutions that may be applied to enable some or all the old Gorge road to be used as an integral part of the walking / cycling fabric of Te Āpiti.

The Lindauer Trail

The works required to establish and secure visitor interest in the Lindauer Trail have been developed by a small group established for this purpose. Their core current need is to develop a project plan to assist with securing the funds and access agreements to bring the concept into fruition.

The proposed Trail would extend 7 km from Woodville near the Coronation Baths. It would then traverse Troop Road, road reserve (with three separate bridges), rail reserve to finish at Ferry Reserve. Access right-of-way agreements would need to be secured with all parties, including three private landowners.

Points of interest include the old Gorge cemetery, the Old Coach Road, other heritage sites and views of the Te Āpiti windfarm. The additional unique attraction of the walk / trail is the proposal to erect large scale replicas of selected Lindauer artworks and to place these strategically throughout the length of the trail.

The core opportunity provided by the Lindauer Trail is to leverage and extend the commitment by NZTA to establish a safe, sealed, 3-metre-wide and shared path physically separated from motorised vehicles using the

Te Āhu a Turanga replacement highway and ending at Hampson Street Woodville. The shared path would include an extension of the existing walkway west of Woodville's eastern roundabout. The path is to be put in place prior to the opening of the new road.

Development of the Lindauer Trail should be placed on a timeframe running in parallel with construction of the new Te Āhu a Turanga - Manawatu / Tararua replacement State Highway Two walking / cycling trail. This implies an immediate need to commit to the design, funding and construction of Lindauer art replicas and associated information. It also implies resolving land access issues including with KiwiRail, ongoing maintenance costs that the Council could not absorb and preparing cost estimates and applications to third parties for funds.

Preliminary estimates of the cost of creating all elements of the proposed Lindauer Trail are in the vicinity of \$0.5m excluding ongoing maintenance. Some of this cost could be met with the assistance of TIF, third-party funding, or Heritage NZ. In addition, we note that the conditions attached to the Notice of Requirement for the new Te Āhu a Turanga road require NZTA to establish a \$1m recreational paths fund accessible during the period of road construction. NZTA envisage this fund being expended on paths determined to have priority after application of collaborative work by various stakeholders.⁴⁹ The Lindauer Trail could be the type of project suited to support with the help of this fund.

What is now required is strong leadership from Tararua District Council, alongside the existing working group and other stakeholders, to finalise the Lindauer Trail proposal, secure funding and access rights and then commence construction. As noted previously, the ideal timing for all this to occur is between now and 2024 so that the Lindauer Trail can be

⁴⁹ Correspondence to Tararua District Council from NZTA, 7 June 2019

officially opened in conjunction with completion of the Te Ahu a Turanga replacement highway and pathway. Necessary progress could be made by Tararua District Council commissioning an experienced consultant to prepare an implementation plan⁴⁴.

Mountain bike trails on the southern side of the Gorge

Additional information in support of the development of Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge mountain bike trails is outlined in a report prepared for DOC in 2016.⁴⁵ Six trail options were analysed against various criteria including access, likely market interest and cost of construction and maintenance. Some of these options were rejected as being impractical and others have now been superseded by the track and trail decisions related to the Te Ahu a Turanga replacement highway. Others, particularly those located south of the Gorge, remain alive (Figure 16, over page).

The Manawatu Mountain Biking Club believe that, with a cycleway now locked in for the northern side of the gorge, focus should shift to development on the southern side traversing from Hall Block Rd to Ashhurst Bridge. Subject to the normal consultation with landowners, local bodies, DOC, recreational users and other interested parties this track could encompass:

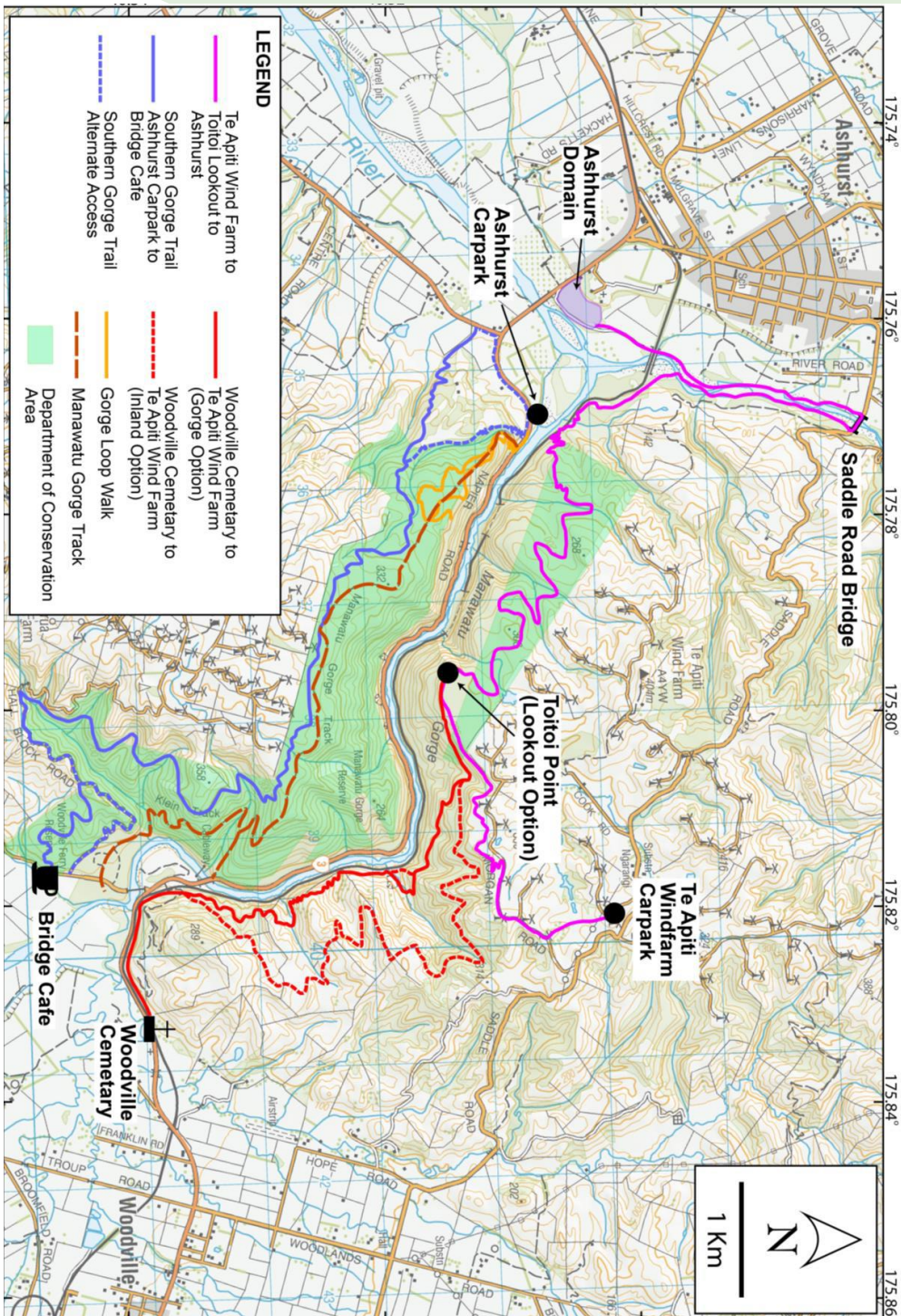
- A trail from Hall Block Rd (Woodville side) to Whatonga as follows:
 - New trail off Hall Block Rd in DOC land to Windy Point built as intermediate (grade 3) trail

- From Windy Point up 4-wheel drive service road to ride to Whatonga with great vistas of first windmills.
- Riders disembark and visit Whatonga. (NB No biking access is proposed to join the walking trail)
- Trail initially an 'out and back' trail, with the added benefit of increasing usage of existing MTB trails.
- Te Aro Mahurangi, located at the bottom of Hall Block Road could be linked to North Range Road and Pahiatua track, provided land access can be secured.
- An extension of this trail from Whatonga to Ashhurst bridge or old Gorge Road carpark as follows:
 - Complete a traversing trail from Whataroa to Ashhurst when and if land access can be secured.

⁴⁴ We estimate the cost of preparing such a plan to be about \$10,000

⁴⁵ TRC, Manawatu Gorge Mountain Bike Trails, July 2016

Figure 16: Mountain bike options identified in a report prepared for DOC, 2016



Horse riders

Not to be forgotten are the needs and wishes of horse riders. Horse riders vary in their focus and ambition. They include pony clubs, endurance riders, hunt clubs, dressage / jumping, trek riding groups and others who would just enjoy getting together for an afternoon 3-5km ride in an area with good horse float parking. Mangatainoka provides riding for the disabled services. A horse trek business operates in the Gorge Road area. Opening part of the eastern access to the Manawatu Gorge would provide a multi-use facility for horse riding and wagon opportunities alongside walking and cycling opportunities.

Some existing or proposed tracks lend themselves to shared multi-use. Options include use of: the unblocked eastern part of the old State Highway road in the Manawatu Gorge – including the possibility of providing for a horse and gig / cart riding route; the Lindauer Trail; provision for horse riding on the proposed walk / ride track to be located next to the new Saddle Road State Highway and; beach rides.

One way of progressing these various ambitions is for Tararua District Council to establish a small group of stakeholders with a passion for walking, cycling and horse riding. This group could be charged with the task of reaching agreement about how their varying needs could be collaboratively met.

Summary – Te Āpiti walking, cycling and horse tracks and trails

We do not take Te Āpiti cycle and walk trails and track development options any further here because they are at the heart of work currently being carried out by the Te Āpiti Master Planning Governance Group.

In addition to the benefits described above we note that when completed and after a few years of market development, the selected trails and related experiences could generate more than ten new full-time jobs within the broader area's economy, under a medium growth scenario⁴⁶.

The other point we would like to emphasise, in respect of the potential for developing further Te Āpiti experiences, is the importance of Tararua District Council actively engaging with neighbouring local authorities in a way that brings cross-over benefits to all parties. Visitors seldom recognise local authority boundaries. What concerns visitors most is the availability of connected awe-inspiring experiences, linked with food and accommodation within a defined and accessible area. This implies a need to develop market material that talks not just about a track or trail but also about the history, culture and 'connected-experience brand' of an area, in a way that creates a 'story' worthy of being repeated to other potential participants.



Entrance to Bridge Cafe, Horse Treks and MTB car park on Gorge Road

⁴⁶ This employment generation calculation reflects a report prepared by Jonathan Kennett for NZTA in 2018.

TARARUA TRACKS AND TRAILS LOCATED BEYOND TE
ĀPITI

Track from the bridge to the Brewery

The second area with a 'live' track / trail proposition is Pahiatua. Given the popularity of the Tui Brewery experience, the concept being progressed is to establish a walk / cycle track alongside the Mangatainoka River between the bridge at the north west end of the Pahiatua township and the Brewery.

The point of difference and therefore likely visitor interest in this trail is the intent to plant trees and bushes with edible fruit, nuts and berries and other riparian vegetation to help improve the quality of the river. The proposal also recognises the Fonterra-related growth occurring in Pahiatua and the associated need to expand recreation choices in the area.

A Committee involving all affected stakeholders has been formed with the objective of progressing the proposal in four phases. A subsequent 'fifth' phase could include extending the track south toward Carnival Park. The first phase is ready to proceed at a cost of under \$10k. Some parts of subsequent phases will require further negotiation with affected landowners.

This proposal looks worthy of Council support. The critical factor falling in its favour is the leadership and support provided by local stakeholders, as well as the relatively low cost of construction.

We do not have information about the number of expected users but on the surface it appears it would produce a favourable cost-benefit, particularly as it will provide further 'experience' choice to the increasing number of visitors and campervan users taking advantage of the refurbished Mangatainoka Reserve located across the road from the Tui Brewery. As with the Tui Brewery commitment to the Mangatainoka Reserve, the local committee would need to work through the costs of ongoing track maintenance. We recommend that the Tararua District Council consider making development of this track a relatively high priority.

Other town-based tracks and trails

For some time, the Tararua District Council has suffered from rates pressures and population decline. This has been reflected in an appropriate need to give priority to expenditure on roads and water infrastructure. The district is now experiencing population growth and a healthier economy. This may provide grounds to support a programme for refreshing the district's Reserve Management Plans⁴⁷ and for building on this report to develop a refreshed district Recreation Strategy. At the core of this work could be consideration of the priority to be accorded to the upgrade of tracks and trails around Dannevirke, Woodville and Pahiatua. While these tracks and trails will be of primary interest to residents, we are conscious that what is good for residents will also be good for visitors.

Dannevirke is perhaps the prime location to have cycle paths woven into future road improvements. This would be an excellent contribution to road safety in the district's busiest town. Dannevirke has many school children walking or cycling at the beginning and end of each day. The main State Highway 2 is at a "pinch point" with a narrow road through the

⁴⁷ A spread sheet provided by the Tararua District Council identifies over 76 reserves of varying sizes, value, purpose and area.

high street. Cycle paths, if woven into the adjacent streets would keep users safe and away from the main road.

We are also conscious that with an ageing population more residents may consider ditching the car and buying an e-bike. Establishment of new walking and cycle paths in urban Dannevirke would be timely and a good fit with this trend. We are conscious of the positive contribution such works and such trends have made to the quality of the Wellington CBD over the last two years.



Image credit: stuff.co.nz

Route 52

The total length of the Hawkes Bay to Wairarapa Route 52 cycle ride is 263kms. This is usually completed over 3-4 days. Route 52 is part of the

⁴⁸ Classic New Zealand Cycle Trails, page 136, fourth edition, the Kennett Brothers

⁴⁹ Jonathan Kennett has suggested an improved variation for this ride would be to re-route the final section from Alfredton west to Eketahuna, Parkville, Hastwell, Mauriceville and then into Masterton. Adoption of this variation would be of further value to the Taranua District.

‘officially recognised ‘New Zealand Cycle Trails’ network and has been described⁴⁸ as having enough well-spaced country taverns and rural towns to be possible with a minimum of gear and food. Highlights include the Wimbledon Tavern, the place with New Zealand’s longest place name, the Pongaroa pub, Glenross Lodge, Alfredton Camping area and the possibility of a revised route for the final leg to Masterton⁴⁹. We estimate that less than 500 cyclists traversed this route in the 2018 calendar year. The route is attractive to touring drivers and motorcyclists. The rural landscapes are expansive and the side route toward Pahiatua on Pongaroa road to the Puketoi Conservation area is impressive.

Some commentators have expressed caution about the wisdom of using the narrow and windy sealed parts of this road because of the risk posed by the recent increase in the number of logging trucks. The absence of enough road-shoulder width is viewed as not enough to achieve a clear separation between vehicles and cyclists.

While sympathetic to this view, our knowledge of the cycle tour market suggests Route 52 should be included in the marketing of the district to cyclists.

In addition, the positive attitude to investment in road upgrades to achieve higher public interest in cycling could be considered by the Taranua District Council as a strong element for inclusion in the resubmission of an application for NZTA funding assistance for road improvements to improve cyclists’ safety. We also note the Government’s 10 June 2019 decision to allocate \$20 million from the PGF toward the upgrade of the section of Route 52 between Waipukurau and the coastal town Porangahau.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ The PGF allocation to the Waipukurau to Pongaroa part of Route 52 was half of the \$40 million allocated to Central Hawkes Bay District – with most of the remainder (\$14.7m) directed toward the Tukutuki water project.

Cycle and walk trail between Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre and Eketahuna

Although not a high priority, we can see merit in considering construction of a cycling / walking friendly connection between Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre and Eketahuna. This could be by means of extending the road shoulder on State Highway 2 or by making use of rural roads / the rail corridor located to the East and passing through Hastwell before then connecting to Route 52.

Source to sea – the Manawatu River Walk

Iwi involved with the Manawatu River Leaders' Accord have advocated for a track or trail to be constructed from the source of the Manawatu River near Norsewood to the proposed Te Āpiti walks / trails and then seaward using existing and new trails located near Ashurst and Palmerston North. Underpinning this advocacy is a desire to not only provide recreation opportunities but also to encourage a greater appreciation and connectivity with the cultural, heritage and environmental values and importance of the river. We support this ambition but note the likely challenges to be encountered in securing access across adjacent farmland may slow progress. We therefore suggest the proposal be 'kept alive' and progressed whenever land access opportunities arise.

Growing the value of existing experiences and services

Putting aside cycling and walking opportunities for now and as noted earlier in this report, the focus of destination development can all too easily concentrate on new experiences and services and forget to nourish and grow the value of existing experiences and services.

With the assistance of participants at the workshops and informed by the views of the persons we interviewed, we consider the following experiences and services to be deserving of further support or investment:

- Waihi Falls
- Pahiatua / Woodville / Manawatu Gorge railcar journeys
- Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre
- Tui Brewery
- Norsewood experiences
- Woodville / New Zealand International MotoX

Details about the propositions to grow these experiences and services follow.

WAIHI FALLS

Located 45kms east of Dannevirke, the 25m drop of the falls over a wide sheer cliff into a large deep pool makes an attractive scene for sightseeing, picnicking and swimming.

Visitor numbers are currently un-recorded, but estimates based on observation of the site indicate the likely annual visitor numbers range from 2,000-4,000 persons⁵¹. With the increasing number of "Free Independent Travellers" venturing to New Zealand, together with the increasing number of retired domestic and Motorhome travellers, the visitation numbers to this site are likely to increase and could easily reach or exceed 10,000 visitor per annum within 10 years, especially if freedom camping is permitted and encouraged at this site. In summary, we can easily see the Waihi Falls becoming part of a sought-after visitor Facebook photo opportunity.

⁵¹ Waihi Falls Track Upgrade, Frame Group Ltd, April 2019

The existing walkway to the base of the Falls is in poor condition and the configuration of the road end and parking area is not well designed. In addition, toilet facilities, biodiversity enhancements, the viewing area, safety features, the boardwalk and the platform at the pool and the site heritage, botanical and geological information could all be improved.

Consultants have estimated the cost of necessary upgrades to the track and pool edge access construction to be \$67,000. Improvements to the configuration of the road-end, the toilet facilities and other upgrades have not been estimated, but our estimate is they add a further \$300,000 to this cost. There are also opportunities to further develop the Waihi Falls area by creating additional track(s). We can see merit in increasing the diversity of the experiences offered to increase the attractiveness of this destination. We recommend these opportunities be fully investigated by the Tararua District Council.

Some of these upgrade components lend themselves to co-investment from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF). If each of the expected 6,000 extra visitors was to contribute just \$50 to the economy because of inclusion of Waihi Falls (alongside other experiences such as a visit to the Pongaroa Pub) into their itinerary, then the pay-back on this investment may be reasonably quick.

We recommend that the Tararua District Council finalise a comprehensive Waihi Falls development plan and seek TIF funding to assist with the cost of the site's upgrade.

PAHIATUA / WOODVILLE / MANAWATŪ GORGE RAILCAR JOURNEYS

The combination of a ride in a heritage railcar and the opportunity to experience uninterrupted views of the splendour of the Manawatu Gorge is a potential visitor attractant with great future potential.

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Currently the limited functioning railcar rolling stock is operated on an infrequent basis by the Pahiatua Railcar Society, with the assistance of the Woodville i-SITE. Available journeys are usually oversubscribed with participants.

The current objective of the Society is to add resilience by completing the



Standard Railcar RM31

major rebuild of the nationally significant Drewry twinset railcar RM 121 which is the last substantial surviving example of 35 railcars of its class. The Society also intend to overhaul the recently acquired Standard Railcar RM34 to mainline operating standards to be able to operate in partnership with its already well-travelled sister railcar RM 31 (see photo one) and operate more frequently to cater for a larger number of visitors to the district than at present.

On the surface there appears to be a case to bring this objective to life. The next step may be for the Tararua District Council to partner with the Society to seek co-investment funding⁵² and then to develop a comprehensive business case and operating model that includes engineering training to deliver this visitor attraction on a more regular / frequent basis. This partnering approach may see further expansion of the inbound operator international tour group market that Pahiatua Railcar Society have more recently started to work with.

PŪKAHA NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE

Although sitting on the boundary or doorway between Tararua and Masterton districts, Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre is clearly an experience that is making a significant contribution to Tararua's brand and visitor economy.

The sanctuary is now visited by 45,000 persons per annum. This is a significant step up from the peak year visitation of 35,000 visitors recorded in any one of the previous eight years.

We were informed⁵³ the key to this increase was the recent shift in focus toward recruiting and building the capability of sanctuary staff, new branding / marketing, better involvement with iwi and better community 'reach-out' including an open day attended by 2,500 persons.

Interest in the sanctuary has been assisted by the presence of 70 kōkako and the ability to interact on most occasions with a strong population of free-ranging kiwi and/or the opportunity to view the albino kiwi. Attendance has also been helped by the roll-out of novel programmes directed toward the interests of 'junior rangers', the provision of guided

tours, the provision of other specialist services and the presence of well-run café services.

The sanctuary's management and Board of Trustees are currently considering a range of further development options for the site including such ideas as:

- A 'high end' overnight food and accommodation option.
- Rejuvenation of 'aviary five' to provide more interactive experiences.
- Overnight stays for children.
- Serviced facilities at minimal charge for use by freedom campers and motor homeowners.
- Expanded use of the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre facilities for conferences, workshops and other events.
- More placement of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre experiences in the itineraries of inbound tour operators.
- More marketing directed toward domestic and international bird enthusiasts.

The turn-over of revenue at the sanctuary now exceeds \$2m. It has over 2,000 Instagram followers and enjoys strong links / support from the Woodville i-SITE.

We see the future role of Tararua District Council as being providers of support and guidance to the management and Board of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre when required, including prominent placement of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre's attractions in any district marketing material. On other fronts, the Board appear to have clear plans capable of being led under their own auspices. Funding support from third-party funding or support-in-kind or cash from agencies like Tararua District Council may be required to deliver on some of these plans including the possibility of a TIF application for powered and serviced sites / facilities for campers.

⁵² We note that the Society enjoys strong support from a number of trusts and other funding organisations already.

⁵³ Interview with Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre Manager, 26 March 2019

TUI BREWERY

The entertainment, events, quality management and general wide range of experiences and services provided at the Tui Brewery have been the recipe for the success of this establishment. The partnership role played by the managers / owners in assisting the Tararua District Council with development of the Mangatainoka Reserve, the popularity of this reserve with freedom campers and the employment provided at the Brewery to local residents is testimony to the establishment's commitment to the community.

There are several measures that may be considered for adoption by the Tararua District Council to help ensure the on-going success of the Brewery and to thereby enable it to continue to contribute to the district's economy. These may include:

- Support for convening additional events.
- On-going close leverage of the proposed market development and event promotion skills of Tararua District Council and the Woodville i-SITE / Council.
- Greater use of the establishment's conference and meeting facilities.
- Marketing of the investment opportunity to construct quality nearby accommodation.
- Commitment to assist with the construction of the proposed walkway / trail between Pahiatua and Mangatainoka.

NORSEWOOD EXPERIENCES

Despite requiring visitors to divert off the main road and despite being a community divided into two hubs, Norsewood remains a significant Tararua attraction.

The Norsewood NZ Natural Clothing Shop is one of these attractions. It features woollen garments and non-extravagant thinking around fashion and functionality including the properties of natural fibres for health and comfort. The Norsewood shop also provides stock from the Kiwi Sock Company, art created by carver Jeff Bryan and the Wop Wop Wetland Park where visitors can feed the native long fin eels and experience the Maori and Nordic history provided by the Kuikui Charitable Trust.

The old dairy factory adjacent to the NZ Natural Clothing shop in Norsewood is operated by well-known musical leader David Selfe.

What more can or should be done to secure Norsewood's contribution to Tararua District's economy? Our workshop participants and expert informants suggested the following:

- On-going Council support, including market development, for each and all Norsewood's business ventures.
- Focused market development support for the music and arts-based events, music recording and house concerts convened by David Selfe with attendance trending toward 1000 participants in 2018.
- Assistance, perhaps via preparation of a prospectus or a Tararua District investment workshop, directed at investors who may have an interest in improving the quality of Norsewood accommodation options.
- Better signage to and between upper and lower Norsewood to encourage more 'transiting' visitors to understand what Norsewood has to offer and to thereby 'take their travel-break' at this location.

WOODVILLE / NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL MOTOX

The annual success of the Woodville / New Zealand International MotoX event is testimony to the benefit of the Tararua visitor economy of convening large regular events to targeted markets.

This MotoX event has been hosted by the Manawatu-Orion Motorcycle Club for 58 years. In 2018, 5,500 people attended inclusive of: 1,400 support staff, 500 riders and 3,500 spectators. The estimated economic benefit of the event to the Tararua District and the broader region was close to \$100,000.⁵⁴

Both the event hosts and Tararua District Council have already committed to exploring how they may grow the size and value of this event. The opportunities to achieve this goal, as identified in a review of the 2018 event carried out earlier this year, include:

- Market the opportunity for event participants to be accommodated not only at the site but also elsewhere in Tararua.
- Provide a higher level of professional assistance to the event organisers.
- Establish wi-fi facilities at the event location.
- Capitalise on the new Te Ahu a Turanga replacement highway to promote the ease of access to the event and Tararua District.
- Enrol Woodville and other Tararua businesses more closely into the event so they may provide higher levels of service to event participants.
- Improve the quality of core event infrastructure such as in-district mobile event infrastructure e.g. container toilets and grandstands.
- Seek higher levels of corporate sponsorship and establish a 'trade-display' zone.

⁵⁴ Summary document about the International Woodville New Zealand Grand Prix MotoX event, Cloud 9, 2019

The key action to ensure the above opportunities are progressed is for Tararua District Council to appoint a person capable of working with MotoX event organisers to leverage additional latent opportunities and thereby secure the continued and long-term success of the event. This person could / should also consider how the event model established by the Woodville MotoX could be replicated for application elsewhere in the region to other events targeted at other specialist markets.

Other events

Tararua District was an 'early achiever' on the events scene with the Akitio multi-sport event being one that was fondly remembered by some of our expert informants. Events are a key component of the visitor economy. They are a highly visible marketing vehicle that can build a district's identity while pumping money into the local economy.

Niche events are becoming a global trend. Events are being created which reflect trends in lifestyle and interests⁵⁵. 'Niche' however, doesn't mean small. 'Wanderlust', which attracts thousands to its events globally, has piggybacked the growing trend around mindfulness, yoga and wellbeing and 'Beervana' in Wellington has grown in proportion to the growth in the craft beer movement. There is also a trend to add additional complementary activities to events. This may be adding an after-party to a marathon, food and wine experiences to an arts festival or concerts to a garden show.

Capacity issues in our large cities, where demand has outstripped supply for a few years now, is causing event organisers and attendees to look beyond the tried and tested to discover new places to hold events.

⁵⁵ Pers. Comm. Terri van Schooten, Director, Verve Consultants / Event Managers

But it's not all about capacity and price. There's a change in motivators too that leaves attendees ready for new and different experiences and open to check out the paths less travelled.

Having a comprehensive event strategy that aligns with the district's economic and visitor strategy is imperative. The strategy needs to have

clear targets and KPIs, leverage existing events such as the MotoX and events sponsored by Tui Brewery, identify the type of events the destination will support, and define what support is available and what returns are expected.

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CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this report was to identify how Tararua's destination development and destination management opportunities may be further developed. Annual visitor spending in the district is now \$52m. This expenditure flows to many parts and many participants in the Tararua economy. The sought-after outcome is visitor sector growth capable of further contributing to the economic resilience, attractiveness, environmental sustainability and economic diversity of the Tararua District.

The new 'Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatu Tararua Highway' between Ashhurst and Woodville will be in action in 2024. This provides a useful target date for delivery of new and expanded Tararua visitor experiences and services. We believe that a 5% annual growth in visitor numbers and spending is achievable across the district from now up until and beyond that date, provided that conscious effort, leadership and 'enabling' resources are directed toward this task.

The strengths of the existing visitor sector and the opportunities for growth are clear and apparent. Of most significance are the walking and riding opportunities capable of being developed in the area around the Manawatu Gorge / Te Āpiti. There are also clear opportunities to increase the volume and expenditure of visitors who are in transit through the district as they travel to other locations. Other opportunities lie in growing the number of visitors enjoying Pukaha National Wildlife Centre, the Tui Brewery, the Waihi Falls, Railcar journeys through the gorge and the experiences on offer at Norsewood and within the other four Tararua Towns.

Successful growth in the visitor sector in Tararua will require adoption of an approach that integrates new experiences, agritourism, events and services with further investment in the 'enablers' that will ensure these experiences and services are able to be delivered in a manner suited to the visitor market. To achieve success, the commitment of the Tararua District Council to these 'enablers' of destination development and management actions will be important. These 'enabler' actions, in general order of priority, may be summarised as follows:

- **Sector leader and facilitator:** Act as a coordinator and facilitator of information sharing and support to the leaders amongst visitor sector experience and service providers.
- **Collaborator:** Be an active participant in the visitor development and management initiatives commissioned by adjacent local authorities and agencies.
- **Implementer:** Be an employer of a lead officer capable of implementing the sector development and management ideas listed here.
- **Data gatherer:** Be a visitor sector information gatherer / interpreter and commissioner of an intercept survey of visitors who are visiting or in transit through Tararua as a means of gathering critical information about the needs and interests of these visitors.
- **Town centre development leader:** Provide on-going investment in town centre gentrification.
- **Partner with the private sector:** Act as a catalyst and supporter for visitor sector investors.
- **Website enhancement leader:** Be a provider of clear and enticing visitor attraction content on the Council website.

- **Brand development leader:** Lead the process of developing a distinctive Tararua District brand and socialiser of wide awareness of that brand.
- **Co-investor and seeker of funds from third parties:** Apply for co-investment from TIF, PGF and NZTA for funds for priority destination development and visitor infrastructure proposals including funds for the upgrade of Waihi Falls, tracks and trails in the Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge area (particularly the Lindauer Trail) and funds required to expand the services and experiences offered by the Pahiatua Railcar Society.
- **Reserves enhancement leader:** Develop priority reserve plans, with associated track and trail investment upgrades.
- **Market developer:** Participate in developing the visitor market, analyst / supporter of new and expanded experience opportunities and leverage of opportunities being considered or applied by neighbouring local authorities and agencies.
- **Public sector experience / service delivery partner:** Develop relationship with senior managers in agencies such as NZTA, DOC and other public sector organisations with responsibility for providing visitor experiences and services.
- **Māori economy supporter:** Support and provide services to assist iwi to develop their visitor development and management ambitions
- **Policy developer and influencer:** Participate and influence new visitor policy development initiatives of third parties such as those proposed by MBE's tourism policy unit, DOC, Tourism New Zealand.
- **Skills developer:** Facilitate the provision of capability and capacity building assistance, as a way of improving the quality of visitor sector service provision and digital presence.
- **Road and transport infrastructure provider:** Provide visitor friendly transport infrastructure services.
- **Digital connector:** Support and advocate for the provision of extended digital connectivity and be a facilitator of capability

building services to assist users to make full use of available connectivity.

- **Recruiter of new investment:** Consider developing an 'investment prospectus' to assist establishment of new experiences or for services such as a three-star accommodation facility.
- **Events supporter:** Consider preparing an events strategy and generally facilitate events, including by providing limited and contestable 'seed' funding or easy access to other 'event-related' Council services such as traffic control and rubbish collection.
- **Red carpet provider:** Provide regulatory services in a way that expedites and supports visitor development proposals
- **Road-side information facilitator:** Be a catalyst for the provision of 'road-safety approved' road-side information about Tararua overnight stay experiences. Through this information raise awareness of the refreshment / short stay experiences available to 'break the journey' for those in transit to other locations.
- **Monitor of destination development and management:** Provide regular reports documenting the progress made to achieve the objectives and actions described in this report.

We are conscious implementation of the above actions will incur costs for the Tararua District Council, but the evidence included in this report suggests clear benefit for the Tararua economy from making this investment.

An immediate step forward could be for the Council to add 'destination development and management' to the position description of a lead member of the Council's economic development unit or by other equal contractual arrangements. A first task of this team member could be to prepare a paper for the Council providing detail about the costs that may be incurred and to refine the priority to be accorded to each of the above 'enabler' actions. A second task could be preparing necessary applications for TIF funds for such things as the proposed Waihi Falls upgrade and third-party funds for such things as the proposed Pahiatua Railcar Business Case.

On the question of growing current and new visitor experiences and services, we have identified several development and management opportunities.

Our priority ranking for cycle trails and walkways development in the Tararua District is as follows:

- Te Āpiti / Manawatu Gorge experiences including the Lindauer Trail.
- Pahiatua Bridge to the Tui Brewery trail.
- Route 52 cycle tour enhancements.

These tracks, trails and routes should be constructed or enhanced over the next few years. Other walking and cycling opportunities should be progressed as and when Council or external funding allows or when local community leaders are willing to contribute 'time or cash in-kind'.

In addition, Tararua has several existing visitor experiences and services that are ripe for further assistance and development. We recommend that the Tararua District Council consider undertaking the following:

- **Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre:** Provide support and guidance to the management and Board of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre when required, including prominent placing Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre's attractions in any district marketing material and providing assistance with applications for funds forwarded to third parties to grow the range and depth of the experiences and services offered at the Sanctuary.
- **Tui Brewery:** Ensure the on-going success of the Brewery and its contribution to the district's economy by:
 - Supporting additional events at this location.
 - Providing guidance and assistance to the market development and event promotion skills of the Brewery managers and staff.
- Encouraging greater use of the establishment's conference and meeting facilities.
- Marketing the investment opportunity to construct quality nearby accommodation.
- Committing to assist with the construction of the proposed walkway / trail between Pahiatua and Mangatainoka.
- **Waihi Falls:** Finalise a comprehensive Waihi Falls development plan and seek TIF funding to assist with the cost of the site's upgrade.
- **Railcar experiences in the Manawatu Gorge:** Partner with the Pahiatua Railcar Society to seek co-investment funding and then to develop a comprehensive business case and operating model to deliver this visitor attraction on a regular / more frequent basis.
- **Norsewood experiences:** Support the on-going high level of visitation to Norsewood's experiences by providing:
 - On-going Council support, including generalised market development assistance for Norsewood's business ventures.
 - Focused market development support for the music and arts-based events, music recording and house concerts convened by David Selfe.
 - Assistance, perhaps via preparation of a prospectus or a Tararua District investment workshop, directed at investors who may have an interest in improving the quality of Norsewood accommodation options.
 - Better signage to encourage more 'transiting' visitors to understand what Norsewood has to offer and to thereby 'take their travel break' at this location.
 - Encourage sharing of tourism knowledge from established businesses e.g. NZ Natural Clothing and David Selfe to raise the standard of the whole Norsewood offering.
- **Woodville / New Zealand International MotoX:** Appoint a person capable of working with the event organisers to leverage additional latent opportunities and to secure the long-term success of the event.



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Report

Date : 21 March 2024
To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council
From : Raj Suppiah
Group Manager - Corporate & Regulatory
Subject : **2024-2034 Long-term Plan Options Report**
Item No : **9.5**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Group Manager - Corporate & Regulatory dated 20 March 2024 concerning the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan Options Report be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Council adopts the option to release an unaudited 2024-2034 Long-term Plan consultation document for consultation to enable Council to meet the 30 June 2024 adoption deadline.*

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In December 2023, as a result of the incoming Government's intention to repeal water services legislation, the Government looked to provide councils with some relief in preparation of their Long-term Plan (LTP) and councils were presented with options in relation to adoption of their LTP.
- 2.2 These options were: to continue with adoption of the LTP by 30 June 2024 as usual; to extend adoption of the LTP to the end of September; to defer adoption of the LTP by 12 months and instead prepare an enhanced Annual Plan; or to release an unaudited LTP consultation document for consultation to enable councils to meet the 30 June adoption deadline.
- 2.3 Management has considered these relief options, including the impact on LTP timelines risk associated with each option and recommends Option 2. These are detailed in Section 4 of this report.

3. Reason for the Report

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to discuss and seek direction from the Council on management's analysis of options for the 2024-2034 LTP.
- 3.2 A separate report was tabled at the Audit & Risk Committee on 26th March to make recommendation(s) to full Council the preferred option and then following that the full Council meeting to consider the recommendation and make its final decision on the option chosen.

4. Background

- 4.1 The current Government has now passed the Water Services Acts Repeal Act 2024 ("the Repeal Act"), which came into force on 17 February 2024 and repealed the previous Government's water services legislation.
- 4.2 Further legislation to implement Local Water Done Well will progress in a two-stage approach. The first bill, which will establish the framework and transitional arrangements for the new water services system, will be passed by the middle of 2024. A second bill to provide for the long-term replacement regime will be introduced in December 2024 and enacted by mid-2025.
- 4.3 In December 2023, as a result of the incoming Government's intention to repeal water services legislation, and in acknowledgment of the additional work now required by councils, councils were provided with options in relation to adoption of their LTP. These options were presented to councils to provide relief in the form of additional time in the LTP process, should they require it, to include water services work programmes and funding in their LTPs. The options available to councils included:
 - 4.3.1 Continuing with their LTPs, including funding for water services, on the standard timeline (adoption by 30 June 2024) with an audit opinion issued on the LTP consultation document; or
 - 4.3.2 Extending the statutory deadline by which the 2024-2034 LTP must be adopted by three months to 30 September 2024; or
 - 4.3.3 Releasing an unaudited LTP consultation document for consultation in order to meet the 30 June 2024 adoption deadline.
- 4.4 In February 2024, the Repeal Act provided councils with two additional options:
 - 4.4.1 One is an additional option to defer adoption of the LTP by 12 months.
 - 4.4.2 The second is to include transitional provisions that enable councils to defer the review of water services bylaws. The deferral of the water services bylaw is not being considered in this report and will be discussed with Council in due course.

4.5 We considered the option to delay the adoption by 3 months in a LTP workshop and decided not to take the relief. The analysis in Para 5 explains the risk in detail.

4.6 We have now included option 5 that takes advantage of the 3 months relief provided in Option 3 but only extends the adoption up 3 weeks. This option allows Council to set rates (as normal) and avoid the rate setting issues in Option 3.

5. Significance Assessment

5.1 Given the importance and the potentially wide-ranging implications of this decision, staff have sought legal and other industry advice prior to finalising their advice to this Committee.

5.2 The decision on the option for the 2024-2034 LTP (able to be made by Council resolution) and is not considered to be a significant decision when assessed against the criteria in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

6. Considerations and Option Analysis

6.1 In this section we have provided the following:

6.1.1 Key considerations - 5 options presented in this report grouped into appropriate topics/risks.

6.1.2 Detailed options - analysis that looked at the Benefits (advantage) and Risk (Disadvantage) specific to each option.

6.1.3 Summary matrix - looks at the impact of the key consideration against each option.

7. Key considerations

7.1 The following list the considerations and the management draws your attention to the ones highlighted.

A. Audited Consultation Document

7.2 An unaudited consultation document runs the risk of significant audit findings not included for consultation. It may also have impact on community confidence in the consultation process, possible perception of consultation lacking reliability / impacts to community trust in the process.

B. Audited LTP

7.3 The LTP will be audited in all options. Despite the consultation document being unaudited, the final LTP will be audited, and an Audit opinion issued.

7.4 Audit NZ has indicated that Council's audit opinion are being review by OAG's Opinion Review Committee (ORC). The main reasons for an ORC, at the moment, are around funding assumptions – especially around Waka Kotahi and other large external revenue sources that aren't secure. The capital do-ability is also another

one. The option may range from an emphasis of matter, or a potential qualification.

C. Meeting the planned timeline

- 7.5 Management believes there is merit in meeting the planned timeline which is adopting the LTP this year and is confident we will be able to do so. This will, however, require a timely decision from Council regarding the preferred option.

D. Ability to meet statutory deadline for adoption

- 7.6 Management had already pushed out the adoption of the Draft LTP to 10th April 2024 to allow for the completion of the CD and Supporting Information. The audit review process prior to consultation with the community has also been factored in.

E. Certainty of water delivery and funding arrangements

- 7.7 There is currently a lack of certainty on the future of water delivery, funding arrangements and ongoing conversations with the community on the challenges in the Three Waters' activities.
- 7.8 Deferring the LTP provides the opportunity to consider in depth our responsibility for ongoing water service delivery, impact on levels of debt and options for service levels, and more time to have ongoing conversations with the community about the challenges we are facing in funding water services. However, not all of these will be achievable within even a 1-year deferral timeframe.
- 7.9 Another outcome for deferring the LTP is that it allows more time for better integration of the work in the Growth Strategy and District Plan rezoning with the 3 waters AMP. However, if consultation outcomes and work are not completed on these items as at time of writing there is a risk there will not be enough time to fully integrate those themes into the LTP.
- 7.10 Management has completed the Draft 3 Waters AMP and workshopped with the Councillors. The final steps required are tweaks to programmes to create a full alignment with financial constraints and insertion of consultation feedback from Elected Members and the public. The AMP also requires completion of the improvement plan which will include items to work on during the first three years such as Level of Service investigations/options (which is likely a 12-to-18-month project) and Growth Strategy and District Plan integration. Continuing with the LTP will require these last few steps to be completed and timeframes laid out for the improvement items.
- 7.11 Continuing with the LTP now, and based on paras above, Council may be required to consult 2025/26 AP or if changes are significant, then an amendment to the LTP maybe required.

F. Certainty of Waka Kotahi funding arrangements

- 7.12 Waka Kotahi will give us a provisional indication of funding by the end of April 2024 and will formally confirm our funding around October 2024. Having this confirmed as we prepare our LTP will provide clarity on the work programme that

will be subsidised, allowing us to be clear with our community about what we will deliver and the rates impact. If we defer our LTP out 12 months we will need to make an independent decision whether to stick with whatever level of funding we receive from Waka Kotahi or to reduce the level we agree to receive to reduce rates impact. This may be able to be performed and consulted on as part of an Annual Plan process instead of the LTP process.

G. Cost increase implication

7.13 Potential for a prolonged audit as well as implications on staff time and associated cost.

7.14 An amendment to the LTP (if LTP adopted in Options 1,2,3 and 5) might incur additional audit cost.

H. More time for development of CD and LTP

7.15 Deferring the LTP would allow Council more time to have ongoing conversations with the community about the challenges we are facing in funding water services long term, rather than only having this conversation over the LTP consultation period.

7.16 This is also an opportunity to build the next LTP on a sounder basis, for example with more certainty on the future of water delivery (shared services with other Council) and funding arrangements (Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV), CCO model and CG funds).

7.17 However, key to note is that regional negotiation, availability to external funding options and legislative changes may not have progressed as anticipated. It is likely that with these factors not locked down it will be very difficult to forecast financially a scenario that isn't still 100% rate payer funded and any efficiency gains through different delivery models will not be realised quickly enough to be a factor either.

I. Some work will require more effort and time

7.18 Levels of Service option for the 3 waters will involve scoping, legal and regulatory risk assessments, investigation, optioneering etc to be ready for consultation with the community. These works are very unlikely to be completed in time for the deferred LTP. There is also not currently a budget for this project and staff resources are at capacity so this would likely require consultant input to complete it so a budget line will be included for consideration.

J. Implications for the setting of rates for 2024/2025

7.19 Staff are unable to set new 2024/2025 rates as normal (using year 1 rates from the LTP) until the LTP is adopted. However, staff can set interim rates using s50 of the Local Government (Rating) Act (LGRA) for the first rates instalment.

7.20 There will likely be system issues with setting an interim rate. Staff need to set rates based on current Annual Plan property attributes, values and rates requirement. Uneven rates instalments given the inability to set rates using LTP

year 1 figures meaning there will be uncertainty for ratepayers. There will be additional cost and time involved with setting interim rates.

K. Risk confusing residents/ratepayers

7.21 Council may create confusion for residents with the two different rates setting process and rates invoices, and uneven rates instalments.

7.22 This risk is also present if Council is undertaking an Annual Plan process while other councils are consulting on their LTP.

L. Give full effect to our District Strategy in the plan adopted

7.23 Significant work has been completed to align the LTP Strategic Framework with the District Strategy and changes to the structure of Council activities to better align to the four Focus Areas. An enhanced AP means Council will need to retain the current Strategic Framework and activity structure in the 2021-2031 LTP. Because the enhanced AP is year 4 of the current LTP it will maintain the same structure ie current structure.

7.24 The strategic framework and objectives in the current LTP are not aligned well to Council's District Strategy.

7.25 An enhanced AP will not allow for a change in Strategic Direction as it is completed as part of LTP.

7.26 Deferring the LTP by 12 months would result in the current set of 2021-2031 LTP performance measures being rolled over and reported on in 2024/25. This would impact Council's ability to give effect to the District Strategy via the AP Performance Measures.

M. Risk of LTP Amendment being required

7.27 We initially planned an LTP amendment in year two particularly for the introduction of development contributions. The s17a reviews planned to be completed could as well trigger an amendment. There are cost and other resource requirements to conduct an LTP amendment.

N. Advance separately other Policy reviews

7.28 Other key policy reviews can be advanced separately away from the Long-term Plan. The Council had planned to have in place both a new Development Contributions Policy and completed a review of its Revenue and Financing Policy, as part of this LTP. Both of these policies can be promulgated for public input outside of the LTP process.

O. Risk of unknowns (natural disaster)

7.29 Risk of unknowns or another event like Cyclone Gabrielle that could impact our ability to deliver on the LTP.

P. Duplication of efforts

7.30 Staff have spent significant work and time to progress the LTP to date. Efforts will be needed to be repeated, duplication if LTP is delayed.

7.31 For the enhanced AP, staff will have to pivot and redo some of the work, eg amend the consultation document, change planning software, effort to prepare and publish AP with the additional requirements.

7.32 Key to note also is that the work done to date for this LTP (for example Strategic realignment, Activity and Asset Management Plan, Assumptions and financial models) will not be wasted and needing to be undone.

Q. Capacity to deliver

7.33 Likely impact on staff and Elected Member capacity as two LTPs would need to be produced within 2 years of each other, with an election in between.

7.34 Timeframes to pivot and deliver a 2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan, consulting with the community and adopted by 30 June 2024 will be challenging.

7.35 Significant work is already planned in Year 1 of the LTP eg 17a reviews, rationalisation of land and buildings, integration of Council services which will require engaging/consulting with the community.

7.36 Acknowledge the potential for staff fatigue and burnout due to prolonged project engagement and workload demands. Management will need to manage this. Impact on staff and ability to deliver on Business as usual.

R. Conflicting commitments

7.37 Overlap of auditing processes for the LTP and 2023/2024 Annual Report impacting the same staff. Also note the delayed preparation of 2023/2024 Annual Report has already impacted staff.

7.38 Significant workstreams (eg s17a reviews, Development Contribution Policy) is already planned for Year 1 of the LTP and combining that work with the LTP workstream will have an impact on staff capacity.

7.39 Delaying the LTP by 12 months would then coincide with the start of public-facing electoral activities. There are sound reasons why the LGA had the LG election and LTP on different cycles. Key dates are:

- Election information is published on Council websites by 30 May 2025, with the nationwide elector enrolment campaign starting 1 July 2025, and the pre-election period starting on 11 July 2025.
- Candidate nominations open on 18 July 2025.
- Deferred LTP adopted by 30 June 2025.
- Council would be publishing a pre-election report within one month of adopting the LTP (Pre-election report to be adopted no later than 31 July 2025).

S. Change to Consultation requirements

7.40 An 'enhanced' Annual Plan will require a different consultation document and there are also additional content requirements.

- 7.41 Consultation is mandatory for the 'enhanced' Annual Plan using section 82 principles of consultation not Section 83 Special Consultative Procedure. This means Council has more discretion as to how it consults with the community rather than being tied to the requirements in the Special Consultative Procedure (required for LTPs).

Options and Analysis

- 7.42 Management have considered the options put forward by Central Government.
- 7.43 The options have been carefully considered and attached in Appendix 1

Summary matrix to the key considerations

		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
		Proceed without taking advantage of any of the relief offered by Central Government	Consult with an unaudited Consultation Document	Delay adoption of LTP for 3 months	Delay adoption of LTP for 12 months	Delay adoption of LTP for 3 weeks to 24 th July
Ref	Options Analysis					
A	Audited Consultation Document					
B	Audited LTP					
C	Meeting planned timeline					
D	Ability to meet statutory deadline for adoption					
E	arrangements					
F	Certainty of Waka Kotahi funding arrangements					
G	Cost increase implication					
H	More time for development of CD and LTP					
I	Some work will require more effort and time	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
J	Implications for setting of rates fro 2024/2025					
K	Risk confusion residents/ratepayers					
L	Give full effect to our District Strategy in the Plan adopted					
M	Risk of LTP Amendment being required					
N	Advance separately other Policy reviews					
O	Risk of unknowns (natural disaster)					
P	Duplication of efforts					
Q/R	Capacity to deliver / conflicting commitments					
S	Change to Consultation requirements					
			No Impact			
			Slightly impacted			
			Impacted			

8. Consistency With Existing Policies and Plans

- 8.1 The proposed decision is not significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by Council. Central Government has passed temporary legislation to enable councils to access this relief and take up any of the options above in relation to their LTP, ensuring Council's ultimate decision is not significantly inconsistent with any plan Council is required to have under the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

9. Advice sought

- 9.1 The legal implications of the various options are largely detailed above. Council has open to it any of the options provided by central government, and Council's consideration of the most appropriate option must focus on the uncertainties and the associated risks that are significant (for example the 3 waters and Waka Kotahi funding), impact to staff and elected members' workloads and the likely ability to deliver to timeframes, and weigh up the costs and benefits of each option.
- 9.2 Staff have sought advice from other councils, local government membership network Taituarā, legal advisors, our auditors and central government in reaching their recommendation. Many councils are now faced with similar decisions due to the change in direction regarding 3 Waters legislation by the incoming government.
- 9.3 Advice has been provided by central government that councils can elect to take any of the five options in respect of adoption of their LTPs and supporting legislation and processes have been identified as wrap arounds to support councils in whichever path they choose.
- 9.4 Should Option 2 be selected, our auditors have identified supporting processes and mitigations that they can undertake to ensure there is some oversight of the CD prior to it being released for consultation (short of a full audit opinion), and the CD and LTP documents will be reviewed simultaneously following the consultation period.
- 9.5 As identified above, the options that include delaying adoption of the LTP require some additional processes to be followed by staff under the Local Government (Rating) Act to ensure interim rates can be set (Option 3). These processes will have flow on effects regarding Council's ability to deliver on its District Strategy and Yr 1 projects identified in the LTP. These are detailed in the report.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 The preferred option is Option 2, and it is recommended that the Council resolves to adopt Management's recommendation to consult on the LTP with an unaudited consultation document.
- 10.2 It is considered that the disadvantages associated with this option can be mitigated.
- 10.3 The risk of significant issues being identified within the supporting documentation is low. Audit New Zealand are auditing the supporting documentation to the LTP concurrently with our development of the CD.

Attachments

1 [↓](#). Appendix 1 - Report on 2024-2034 LTP Options

Option Analysis

Option 2 - Consult with an unaudited Consultation Document		Option 4 - Delay adoption of LTP for 12 months		Option 5- Delay adoption of LTP for 3 weeks to 24th July	
<p>Council will be permitted to have unaudited LTP CD. Review of the underlying and supporting information will be carried out as Council prepares its CD.</p> <p>Though Audit will not issue an opinion for the CD prior to the CD's release for consultation, Council and community can still gain some assurance from Audit's review.</p> <p>Key point to note is that audit of the final LTP will proceed and be completed prior to adoption by 30 June 2024. An Audit opinion will be issued on the Final LTP.</p>		<p>The statutory deadline by which the LTP must be adopted will be extended by 12 months and in its place, Council will prepare an enhanced Annual Plan.</p> <p>This allows more time to develop material for those Councils who have not planned to include 3 Waters activities in their draft LTP or who have been severely impacted by the 2023 storm events.</p>		<p>The statutory deadline by which the LTP must be adopted can be extended for up to three months to 30 September 2024.</p> <p>This option looks at using this relief to adopt the LTP in time to strike rates using the rates resolution for Year 1 of the LTP and be compliant with the requirements of the LG Rating Act (eg s48 of LG Rating Act - <i>A rates invoice must be delivered to the ratepayer of a rating unit or separate rating area at least 14 days before the date on which a rates payment is due</i>).</p> <p>This requirement can be met using this option, and rates issues issued as normal.</p>	
Benefits (Advantage)	Risk (Disadvantage)	Benefits (Advantage)	Risk (Disadvantage)	Benefits (Advantage)	Risk (Disadvantage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LTP will be audited. Despite the consultation document being unaudited, the final LTP will be audited, and an Audit opinion issued. Audit review completed in tandem with consultation. The planned timetable can be maintained, and statutory timelines achieved. Reduces risk of staff capacity to enable adoption of LTP on time. No additional cost implications. Risk of unknowns or similar event like Cyclone Gabrielle is reduced in shorter timeframes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community's confidence on the consultation due to unaudited document and possible perception of consultation lacking reliability/ impacts to their trust in the process. Uncertainty around NZTA Waka Kotahi NLTP funding exist. Waka Kotahi will give us a provisional indication of funding by the end of April 2024 and will formally confirm our funding around October 2024. Not able to provide certainty on the future of water delivery, funding arrangements and ongoing conversations with the community on the challenges in the 3 Waters activities. Potential for additional audit cost if there is an LTP amendment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More time for development of the CD and LTP. An opportunity to build the next LTP on a sounder basis, for example with more certainty on the future of water delivery and Waka Kotahi funding arrangements. Reduces the potential risk of the need for LTP amendments in 2025/2026 year. Deferring the LTP would allow Council more time to have ongoing conversations with the community about the challenges we are facing in funding water services long term. Allows for better integration of the work in the Growth Strategy and District Plan rezoning with the 3 waters AMP. No additional audit cost implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An enhanced AP will not allow for a change in strategic direction as it is completed as part of LTP. Deferring the LTP by 12 months would result in the current set of 2021-2031 LTP performance measures being rolled over and reported on in 2024/25. Likely impact on staff and Elected Member capacity as two LTPs would need to be produced within 2 years of each other, with an election in between. Delaying the LTP by 12 months would then coincide with the start of public-facing electoral activities. Risk of unknowns or another similar event like Cyclone Gabrielle that could impact our ability to deliver on the deferred LTP. Significant work is already planned for Year 1 of the LTP and combining that work with the LTP workstream will have an impact on staff capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both documents can be audited, and an Audit opinion provided. CD can be audited prior to going out for consultation. Rates can be levied based on the LTP 2024-2034 Yr 1 rates resolution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community's confidence on the consultation due to unaudited document and possible perception of consultation lacking reliability / impacts to their trust in the process. Uncertainty around NZTA Waka Kotahi NLTP funding exist. Waka Kotahi will give us a provisional indication of funding by the end of April 2024 and will formally confirm our funding around October 2024. Not able to provide certainty on the future of water delivery, funding arrangements and ongoing conversations with the community on the challenges in the 3 Waters activities. Potential for additional audit cost if there is an LTP amendment.

Option 1 - Proceed without taking advantage of any of the relief offered by Central Government		Option 3 - Delay adoption of LTP for 3 months	
Normal LTP		<p>The statutory deadline by which the LTP must be adopted will be extended by three months to 30 September 2024.</p> <p>This allows more time to develop and consult on LTP planning material for those councils who have not planned to include 3 Waters activities in their draft LTP or who have been severely impacted by the 2023 storm events.</p>	
Benefits (Advantage)	Risk (Disadvantage)	Benefits (Advantage)	Risk (Disadvantage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council will consult with an audited CD.• The LTP will be audited.• Adoption by 30 June 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability for staff to meet the statutory deadline for adoption.• Uncertainty around NZTA Waka Kotahi NLTP funding exist. Waka Kotahi will give us a provisional indication of funding by the end of April 2024 and will formally confirm our funding around October 2024.• Not able to provide certainty on the future of water delivery, funding arrangements and ongoing conversations with the community on the challenges in the 3 Waters activities.• Potential for additional audit cost if there is an LTP amendment.• Risk of unknowns or similar event like Cyclone Gabrielle is reduced in shorter timeframes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both documents can be audited, and an Audit opinion provided.• More time for development of the CD and LTP.• Reduces risk of staff capacity to enable adoption of LTP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implications for the setting of rates for 2024/2025:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Staff are unable to set new 2024/2025 rates as normal (using year 1 rates from the LTP) until the LTP is adopted. Staff can set interim rates using s50 of the Local Government (Rating) Act for the first rates instalment.- There will likely be system issues with setting interim rates. Staff need to set rates based on current Annual Plan property attributes, values and rates requirement.- Uneven rates instalments given the inability to set rates using LTP year 1 figures meaning there will be uncertainty for ratepayers.- Additional cost and time involved with setting interim rates.• Community may be confused with the two different rates setting processes and rates invoices, and uneven rates instalments.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for a prolonged audit which has implications on staff time and associated cost.• Uncertainty around NZTA Waka Kotahi NLTP funding exist. Waka Kotahi will give us a provisional indication of funding by the end of April 2024 and will formally confirm our funding around October 2024.• Not able to provide certainty on the future of water delivery, funding arrangements and ongoing conversations with the community on the challenges in the 3 Waters activities.• Overlap of auditing processes - LTP and 2023/2024 Annual Report.• Delayed preparation of 2023/2024 Annual Report effects same staff.• Potential for additional audit cost if there is an LTP amendment.



Report

Date : 19 March 2024
To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council
From : Jessica Smith
Legal Counsel
Subject : **Significance and Engagement Policy**
Item No : **9.6**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Legal Counsel dated 14 March 2024 concerning the Significance and Engagement Policy be received.*
- 1.2 *That Council adopt the amended Significance and Engagement Policy.*
- 1.3 *That if Council determines any changes to the policy are required, the Chief Executive be delegated the power to make such amendments.*

Executive Summary

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy has been reviewed alongside the Long-Term Plan review process.

Councillors and Iwi have been presented with the proposed changes to the Significance and Engagement Policy through Council's Long-Term Plan workshops and Council has directed that the reviewed policy be presented for adoption by Council resolution ahead of the Long-Term Plan consultation process so that it can guide decision making as part of that process.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report presents the reviewed Significance and Engagement Policy for adoption by Council.

3. Background

- 3.1 Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 (“the Act”) requires Council to have a Significance and Engagement Policy, and states that it “may be amended from time to time” (s76AA(4)). It is good practice to review this policy in advance of the Long-Term Plan process because Council makes so many critical decisions as part of the Long-Term Plan. The policy itself also provides for a review every three years to ensure it accurately reflects Council’s position.
- 3.2 The Significance and Engagement Policy was reviewed and an updated draft was presented to Council at its Long-Term Plan workshop on 6 March 2024.
- 3.3 The direction provided by Council regarding that reviewed policy was that officers prepare a final draft and present this to Council for adoption at the next full Council meeting.
- 3.4 The Significance and Engagement Policy guides all decision and engagement processes of Council, not only those related to the Long-Term Plan.
- 3.5 The Act does not require that the full Significance and Engagement Policy is included in the Long-Term Plan as with other policies and strategies. The Act requires that only a summary of the policy is included.

4. Description

- 4.1 There is no need to consult on the reviewed Significance and Engagement Policy as part of the Long-Term Plan consultation.
- 4.2 It is appropriate to adopt the reviewed and updated policy in advance of consultation on the Long-Term Plan so that it can be used to guide decisions made as part of the Long-Term Plan process.

5. Significance Assessment

- 5.1 The Significance and Engagement Policy addresses Council’s approach to assessing significance. The reviewed policy proposes only minor changes to the policy, within prescriptive legislative guidelines, so there is no perceived business risk to the Council in adopting the reviewed policy.
- 5.2 The minor changes to the policy are not considered significant when assessed against the criteria contained in the Significance and Engagement Policy, and this is not considered a significant decision.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 No community consultation is required to adopt the reviewed policy.
- 6.2 The community will be informed of the changes to the policy as part of the Long-Term Plan consultation document and may provide feedback on the changes. The

updated and adopted policy will form part of the information that must be provided publicly to support the consultation document.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Upon adoption, the policy will be operative for all of Council's subsequent decision and engagement processes.

Attachments

- 1 [↓](#). Significance and Engagement Policy 19032024 FINAL



Significance and Engagement Policy

**He Kaupapa Here Hiranga,
Whai Waahitanga**





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Significance and Engagement Policy

Council is empowered to consider and make decisions on a wide range of matters on behalf of our communities. Whether these decisions are considered significant, depends in part on how they will impact our communities.

This policy sets out those decisions and activities which Council and its communities consider to be significant and how our communities can expect to be engaged with and to participate in Council's decision making.



Part A

Purpose

1. To provide guidance for Council and its communities to identify the degree of significance attached to particular issues, proposals, assets, decisions and activities.
2. To provide clarity about how and when communities can expect to be engaged in decisions made by Council.
3. To inform Council from the beginning of a decision making process about the extent of any public engagement that is expected before a particular decision is made, and the form and type of engagement required.
4. To enable Council to operate in a way that meets the needs of local communities, sector good practice and the intent of the Local Government Act 2002.

Context

5. Under section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002, councils are required to develop a Significance and Engagement Policy to consider and plan for how they will engage with their communities on significant matters.
6. A Significance and Engagement Policy is the tool that Council uses to let its communities know:
 - what decisions or matters the Council and the community consider particularly important,
 - how the Council will go about assessing the significance of matters, and
 - how and when the community can expect to be consulted on both significant and other matters.



Determining Significance

7. The range of issues requiring decisions by Council is very wide, and Council's ability to consider individual views on every decision, is frequently very limited. Council will use the table below to consider how many of the specific thresholds are met, as to whether the potential decision requires a higher level of specific community engagement.
8. In determining the degree of significance of any issues, proposals, assets, decisions, or activities, Council will assess and consider the following criteria and measures:

Criteria	Measure
The degree to which the issue/decision affects the district	Has a substantial tangible impact on the whole District based on changes to services levels or the manner in which revenue is to be obtained.
The degree to which the issue / decision affects the level of service of a significant activity	A significant multi-year change in the levels of service at an activity level.
The degree to which the issue/decision results in a failure to adhere to legislation.	All overarching legislative requirements are considered when evaluating the issue/decision
The impact on the ability of future Councils to reverse the decision, where financial or legislative agreements permit	Future Councils will be committed to long-term (>5 year) contract costs (>5% of Council operational costs), without the ability to periodically consider viable alternatives.
The degree to which the issue / decision has a new financial impact on Council or the rating levels of its communities	Impact on rates is not within the Financial Strategy limit (BERL plus or minus 2% in one year).
The degree to which a decision or action would require a change in an underlying strategic policy	The decision represents a new strategic direction for Council.
The level of district interest in the decision	A decision or proposal on a matter where the majority of a community expresses considerable interest or the community is deeply divided.

9. The degree of importance attached to each criterion and measure will be considered on the merits of each decision. If an issue meets two or more of the above criteria, the matter is more likely to be considered significant, requiring a higher level of community engagement.



Strategic Assets

10. For the purpose of this Policy, the Council considers its network and other large assets as completely single assets because it is the asset class as a whole that delivers the service.
11. Listed below are the assets that Council considers to be strategic. Council needs to retain these assets to maintain its capacity to achieve or promote outcomes that it determines to be important to the well-being of the community.
 - The roading network.
 - Wastewater reticulation and treatment network.
 - Water supply reticulation and treatment network.
 - Pensioner housing.
 - Storm water collection and disposal network.
 - The total of the land designated as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.
12. Decisions on transferring the ownership or control of strategic assets require the use of the Special Consultative Procedure under the Local Government Act 2002 and are not covered by this Policy.
13. The Council would not necessarily undertake specific engagement for decisions that relate to changes to a part of a strategic asset, unless that part would have a tangible and significant effect on the level of service being sought and provided to the community.
14. In emergency situations physical alterations to strategic assets may be required without formal consultation to:
 - prevent an immediate hazardous situation arising; or
 - repair an asset to ensure public health and safety.



When Council May Not Consult or Engage

15. The size and scale of any decision includes the longer-term consequences, not just the immediate impacts. Some decisions made by Council are bound by other legislation or processes that can restrict the ability of Council to select a flexible process with the community.
 - Procurement and tendering processes in accordance with agreed Council Policies.
 - Compliance with standards set by National Policy Statements.
 - Any decisions that are made by delegation/ sub-delegation to officer, except where
16. There are times when Council will not normally consult with the community because the issue is routine, operational or because there is an emergency. The Council will not engage on:
 - Emergency management activities, during a state of emergency.
 - Decisions that have to be made urgently where it is not reasonably practicable to consult.
 - Decisions to act where it is necessary to comply with the law.
 - Decisions that are confidential or commercially sensitive as prescribed under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
 - Organisational decisions (such as staff changes and operational matters) that have been delegated to the Chief Executive or staff to deliver in accordance with Council policies. This includes decisions with regard to delivery of regulatory and enforcement activities as required by legislation or existing Council policy.
 - the Council specifically requires separate consultation.
 - Any matter where the costs of consultation outweigh the expected benefits of any consultation process or procedure.
 - An issue where Council already has a good understanding of the views of the persons, community or communities likely to be affected by or interested in the matter.
 - A matter that Council has specifically consulted on in the last 24 months where there has been no material change to the issue over this period.

Policy Review

17. This policy will be reviewed at a minimum of every three years during the first six months of the new triennium, or as required by any legislative changes or other reason.
18. Changes to this policy do not have to be made through the Special Consultative Procedure and can be made by Council resolution.



Part B

Procedures and Guidelines

When Considering Significance

1. In considering the degree of significance of every issue requiring a decision, Council will be guided by the following:
 - The potential effect on delivering Council's vision and strategic goals.
 - The potential impact on the current and future well-being of the Tararua district.
 - Whether the proposal or decision will affect a large portion of the community.
 - How the decision aligns with historical Council decisions.
 - The impact on Te Ao Māori me ona Tikanga (Māori world views, values and customary practises).
 - The level of community interest in the decision and whether community views on the issue are already known.
 - The impact on the scale and cost of services delivered by the Council.
2. On every issue requiring a decision, Council will consider the degree of significance and the corresponding level of engagement (unless a special consultative procedure is required by legislation) including how and when communities can expect to engage.
3. In general, the more significant an issue, the greater the need for community engagement.

4. Council will make available background information on the options available relative to the issue, including previous reports and background documents that are not confidential. The level of information and the assessment of options will reflect the significance of the decision, the interest and involvement of the community and Sections 76-79 of the Local Government Act 2002.
5. Significance and engagement will be considered in the early stages of a proposal before decision making occurs and, if necessary, reconsidered as the proposal develops.
6. Differing levels of engagement may be required during the varying phases of decision-making on an issue, and for different stakeholders.
7. Memoranda of Partnership, Memoranda of Understanding or any other similar high-level agreements will be considered as a starting point when engaging with Māori and the community in general.

Engagement with Iwi and Māori

8. Māori have a unique relationship with councils through the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti ō Waitangi) and supporting legislation. This relationship is reflected in the principles and requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 to ensure participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes.





9. Council has duties, obligations and commitments to Māori and our iwi partners. In the Tararua District, our relationships with our iwi partners are informed by Treaty settlement legislation and our Memoranda of Partnership.
 10. These commitments guide our decision-making including on matters of significance, and our engagement approach.
 11. To meet our duties, obligations and commitments, Council will:
 - Protect Māori rights and interests within the Tararua District;
 - Give effect to Te Tiriti principles;
 - Enable Māori and iwi participation in Council's significant decision-making processes;
 - Recognise Māori values and perspectives;
 - Contribute to building capacity for Māori to participate in decision-making;
 - Work in partnership with iwi to give effect to Treaty settlement legislation and any provisions that result from this.
 12. In addition to meeting our statutory requirements, we aspire to give effect to the principles of meaningful partnership in working with Māori and iwi, as they are best placed to express and advocate for their aspirations, interests and values. Council has developed the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy, which ensures uniformity across the Council in actioning specific principles and requirements that facilitate participation by iwi and Māori in Council decision making.
- (Appendix 1) as a guide for engagement planning. This will provide a consistent but flexible process to guide Council on how and when communities can be engaged in decision making.
15. Council will choose the form of consultation that best suits the community affected and the decision being made. While this will vary between specific issues, assets, or other matters, Council has a preference for:
 - Direct communication with the most affected parties;
 - The use of digital media including websites, social media and e-mail based surveys;
 - Background information through local newspapers;
 - Written and oral submissions;
 - Inclusive planning sessions open to the public;
 - Formal public meetings only if requested by affected communities or required by legislation.
 16. Council will select the exact method that it considers appropriate after considering criteria or circumstances such as:
 - who is affected by, interested in, or likely to have a view on the issue, , who else might be affected by the issue or is likely to submit;
 - the significance of the matter, both to Council and to those who are or may be interested in or affected by the issue;
 - the community's preferences for engagement;
 - what information already exists on community views on the proposal or decision and the circumstances in which that information was gathered (for example when was the information gathered, what changes in circumstances have there been since that time).

When and How to Engage

13. When any issue is determined as having a high degree of significance:
 - The issue will be considered by Council.
 - The report to Council will include an assessment of the degree of significance of the issue, how Council has given effect to the Policy on Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making and a recommendation on the engagement proposed.
14. Council will apply the principles of consultation (section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002) and consider the options stated in the Community Engagement Toolbox
17. Council will cater for sign language and Te Reo Māori interaction but will require reasonable advance notice (at least one week) in order to organise a translator and forum convenient to all parties.
18. Council will normally respond to written/oral submissions in formal hearing processes. In other processes involving large numbers of resident input, the Council response will be more general themes-based feedback through local newspapers, local newsletters, Council's social media or the Council website.



The following table provides an example of the different levels of engagement that might be considered appropriate, the types of tools associated with each level and the timing generally associated with these types of decisions/levels of engagement. The following table is not a definitive list of available engagement techniques. Other techniques may also be used in addition to those listed below.

Level	Council decides	Council seeks opinions
What does it involve	One-way communication providing balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen or has happened.	Two-way communications designed to obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives and proposals to inform decision making.
Types of issues that we might use this for	Water restrictions Procurement of goods and services Maintenance and renewals of existing Council assets Restricted fire season	Dog Control Policy Playground equipment design Combined service centre / libraries Local Alcohol Policy Gambling Policy Speed Limits Bylaw Footpath priority list Dannevirke wastewater treatment Dannevirke impounded water supply
Tools Council might use	Websites Information flyer Public notices Council Reports Council Social Media	Formal submissions and hearings, focus groups, surveys
When the community can expect to be involved	Council would generally advise the community once a decision is made	Council would advise the community once a draft decision is made and would generally provide the community with up to 4 weeks to participate and respond



Discussion and Involvement	Partnership	Residents Decide
Participatory process designed to help identify issues and views to ensure that concerns and aspirations are understood and considered prior to decision-making.	Working together to develop understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions.	The final decision making is in the hands of the public.
<p>Rates Review</p> <p>Reserve Management Plan</p> <p>Mainstreet upgrades</p> <p>Swimming pool upgrades</p> <p>Coastal erosion</p> <p>Earthquake prone public buildings</p> <p>Long Term Plans and Annual Plans</p>	<p>Manawatū River Leaders Accord</p> <p>Community Response plans under Civil Defence and Emergency Management</p> <p>Issues of importance to Iwi or Māori</p>	Election voting systems (MMP, STV or first past the post)
<p>Workshops</p> <p>Focus groups</p> <p>Citizens Panel</p> <p>Community Boards and Committees</p>	<p>External working groups (involving community experts)</p> <p>Community Boards and Committees</p>	<p>Binding referendum</p> <p>Local body elections</p>
Council would generally provide the community with a greater lead in time to allow them time to be involved in the process.	Council would generally involve the community and iwi at the start to scope the issue, again after information has been collected and again when options are being considered.	Council would generally provide the community with a greater lead in time to allow them time to be involved in the process, e.g., typically a month or more.



Appendix 1

Community Engagement Toolbox and Principles

Decision Making

Community engagement is part of a good decision-making process. The extent of engagement required is relative to the significance of the decision being made.

It is important to identify how results will be used and who the decision makers are before beginning an engagement process. This will help to set community expectations at the beginning of the process.

In developing engagement plans for each issue requiring a decision, the following things should be considered:

- Engagement objectives - the feedback that is sought from communities;
- Timeframe and completion date;
- Communities to be engaged with;
- Engagement tools and techniques to be used;
- Resources needed to complete the engagement;
- Communication planning needed;
- Basis of assessment and feedback to the communities involved.

For most routine decisions, the Council already has a good understanding of the views of the community. This is supported by the local knowledge of the elected members, regular customer surveys and service requests. In these cases, it may not be cost effective or timely for Council to carry out consultation or engagement. In other cases, Council has already consulted and prepared plans and strategies that guide the future provision of assets and changes to levels of service. These plans include Asset Management Plans and Reserve Management Plans.

Cost Benefit Analysis

Community engagement occurs across a spectrum at differing levels. As you move from providing information to full community engagement, Council must balance the benefits of community input against the time and cost of achieving this.

Council does not always have control over decision making timeframes, and the costs must be in proportion to the issue being addressed.

However, Council recognises that the costs of poor decisions can be very high over time.

Engagement Tools and Techniques

Over the time of decision making, Council may use a variety of engagement tools and techniques on any issue or proposal based on a range of other factors, including history and public awareness of the issue, stakeholder involvement, and timing related to other events and budgets. Council will also take into consideration that the community can feel “over consulted”. Each situation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Council will have regard to -

- the extent to which the current views and preferences of persons who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter are known; and
- the nature and significance of the decision or matter, including its likely impact from the perspective of the persons who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter; and



- the provisions of Part 1 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (which, among other things, sets out the circumstances in which there is good reason for withholding local authority information); and
- the costs and benefits of any consultation process or procedure.

Which Tool(s) to Use and When?

There are a range of situations where engagement is necessary or desirable and a wide selection of approaches to choose from for any given situation. Each situation, therefore, needs to be assessed according to both the issue and the phase of decision making and the individual circumstances it presents.

It will not always be appropriate or practicable to conduct processes at the participatory end of the consultation continuum. Many minor issues will not warrant a participatory approach and constraints of time and money will limit what is possible on some occasions.

It should also be remembered that even in situations where there is plenty of opportunity to gain community input, it may not be possible to have significant control over what is done with the results. There are a number of government legislative and regional council policies that can influence, or in some cases limit, the options for Council decisions.

Information Requirements when Consulting with the Community

There are some legal minimum requirements for Council that are set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (Section 82a(2)). This includes the following specific issues requiring decisions:

- Adopting or amendment to the annual plan if required under Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002;
- Transferring responsibilities to another local authority under Section 17 of the Local Government Act 2002;
- Establishing or becoming a shareholder in a council-controlled organisation;

- Adopting or amending a revenue and financing policy, development contributions policy, financial contributions policy, rates remission policy, rates postponement policy, or a policy on the remission or postponement of rates on Māori freehold land.

For such consultation, Council will develop information fulfilling the requirements of Section 82a of the Local Government Act 2002, and will make this available to the public, allow written submissions for a period of up to four weeks, and will consider all submissions prior to making decisions.

The local authority must, for the purposes of Section 82 (1)(a) and (c), make the following publicly available:

- (a) the proposal and the reasons for the proposal; and
- (b) an analysis of the reasonably practicable options, including the proposal, identified under section 77(1); and
- (c) if a plan or policy or similar document is proposed to be adopted, a draft of the proposed plan, policy, or other document; and
- (d) if a plan or policy or similar document is proposed to be amended, details of the proposed changes to the plan, policy, or other document.



Appendix 2

Definitions

Legal purpose of this Policy (Local Government Act 2002, Section 76AA) The purpose of a significance and engagement policy is:

- a) to enable the local authority and its communities to identify the degree of significance attached to particular issues, proposals, assets, decisions, and
- b) activities; and
- c) to provide clarity about how and when communities can expect to be engaged in decisions about different issues, assets, or other matters; and
- d) to inform the local authority from the beginning of a decision-making process about –
 - (i) the extent of any public engagement that is expected before a particular decision is made; and
 - (ii) the form or type of engagement required.

Community A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. Includes interested parties, affected people and key stakeholders. Specifically this would be:

- An urban area (Dannevirke, Woodville, Pahiatua and Eketāhuna)
- Rural townships combined (such as Norsewood, Pongaroa, Mangatainoka)
- Rural residents
- Businesses

Decisions Refers to all the decisions made by or on behalf of Council including those made by officers under delegation. Decisions include deliberations on any issue, proposal or other matter. Management decisions made by officers under approved delegations will generally not be deemed significant.

Engagement Process of seeking information from the community to inform and assist decision making. There is a continuum of community involvement.

Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) A defined and mandated form of consultation that must be used for:

- adoption/amendment to the Long Term Plan (including significant alterations to levels of service, financial strategy or the rating system);
- adoption or amendment to a significant bylaw;
- transfer of ownership of a significant strategic asset (such as pensioner housing);
- changes to some policies that are specified under other legislation, such as a Local Alcohol Policy, the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan or a class 4 venue policy under the Gambling Act 2003;
- adoption of an Annual Plan (where a material change from the Long Term Plan is proposed).

The SCP includes a formal proposal, at least one month for submissions, and a formal hearing.



Significance Significance, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter that concerns or is before a local authority, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter, as assessed by the local authority, in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for –

- the district or region
- any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter
- the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so

Significant Significant, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance.

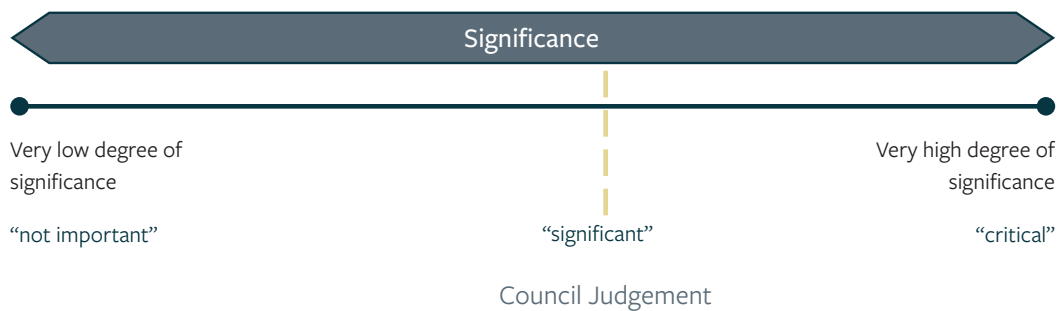
The relationship between Significance and Significant is shown in the diagram below.

Strategic asset (Section 5 Local Government Act 2002) Strategic asset, in relation to the assets held by a local authority, means an asset or group of assets that the local authority needs to retain if the local authority is to maintain the local authority’s capacity to achieve or promote any outcome that the local authority determines to be important to the current or future well-being of the community.

Section 5 of the Local Government Act requires the following to be listed in this Policy:

- any asset or group of assets listed in accordance with section 76AA(3) by the local authority; and
- any land or building owned by the local authority and required to maintain the local authority’s capacity to provide affordable housing as part of its social policy; and
- any equity securities held by the local authority in—
 - a port company within the meaning of the Port Companies Act 1988
 - an airport company within the meaning of the Airport Authorities Act 1966

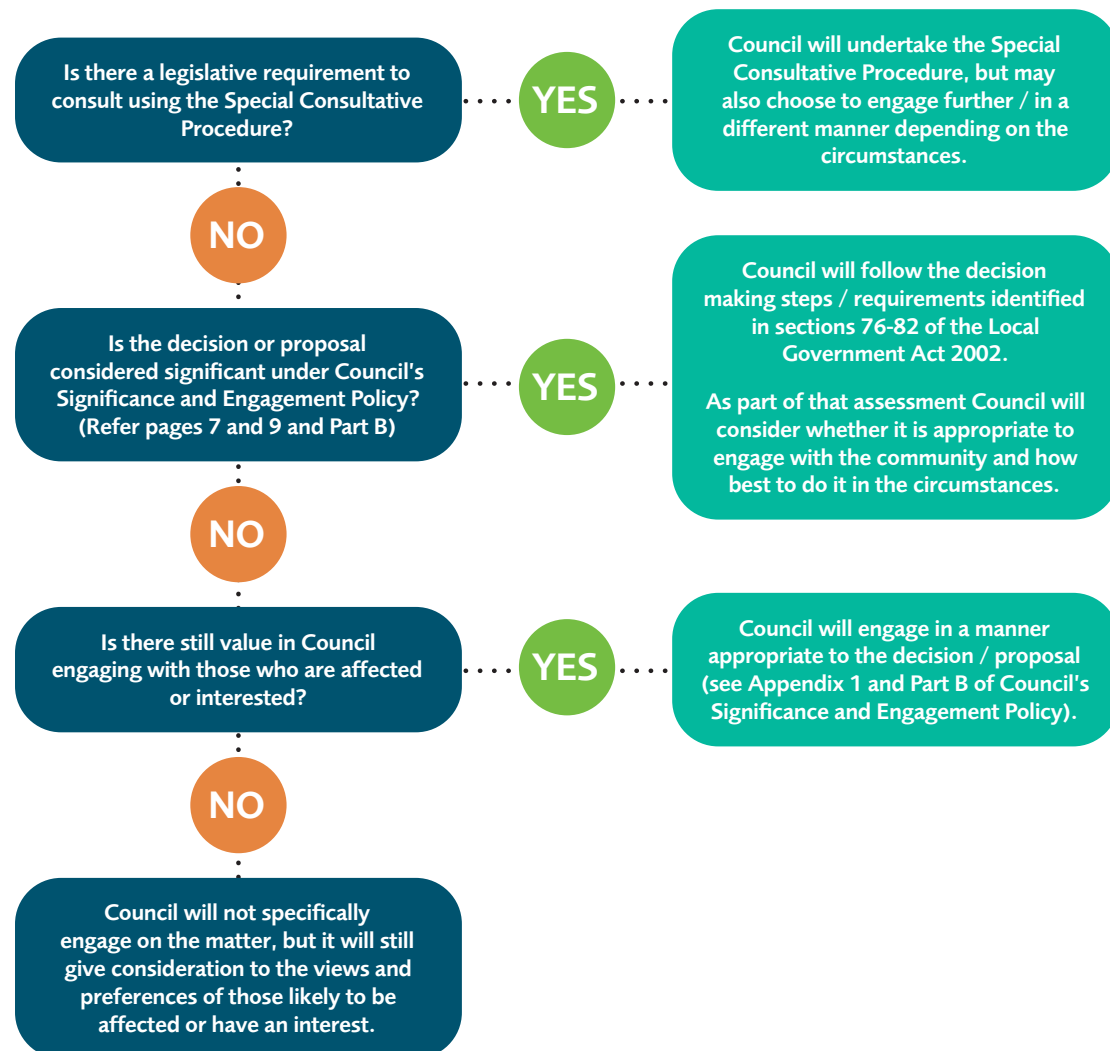
Strategic aspirations Any high level, direction setting goal or document that councils aim to deliver.





Appendix 3

Process for determining whether to engage





Report

Date : 22 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Adele Small
Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing

Subject : **Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy**

Item No : **9.7**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy be received.*
- 1.2 *That Council adopt the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy.*
- 1.3 *That if Council determines any changes to the policy are required, the Chief Executive be delegated the power to make such amendments.*

Executive Summary

Tararua District Council is committed to its role as Tangata Tiriti, to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government. The Council acknowledges its relationship with both iwi in the Tararua District, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua and Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and will continue to act respectfully and reasonably as a Treaty partner for iwi and Māori alike. This will be enacted through the actioning of specific principles and requirements for local authorities that facilitate participation by iwi and Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

The purpose of the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy is to ensure uniformity across Tararua District Council with actioning the specific principles and requirements for local authorities to facilitate participation by iwi and Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

The Policy will apply to all permanent and fixed term staff, and Elected Members of Tararua District Council, as well as all contractors under the guidance of Council staff. The policy will be reviewed three yearly or as legislation or other factors change and substantially influence the policy content.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report seeks adoption of the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy by Council.

3. Background

- 3.1 Te Tiriti o Waitangi stands as the foundational document upon which Aotearoa New Zealand was built. Much has been thought, written and said about Te Tiriti, the circumstances of its creation, the differences between the English and Māori texts and the consequent difficulties of understanding its meaning and implications in the modern day.
- 3.2 Tararua District Council has statutory, constituent and organisational obligations to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making. These specific principles and requirements are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes. Through aligning with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Council can pave the way for a more inclusive and just society where indigenous voices are not only heard but also respected and acted upon.
- 3.3 Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, who represent their many hapū with their own whenua and awa tributaries, have both signed deeds of settlement with the New Zealand Government and have partnership agreements with Tararua District Council. These memoranda of partnership recognise the relationship and responsibility of Council to support iwi aspirations for the future of their whānau. While the Council has obligations to all Māori, it has a further responsibility to act in good faith and in a manner of mutual respect with its iwi partners. This includes acknowledging and respecting iwi priorities, their traditions, particularly ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna as well as other taonga.
- 3.4 To support organisational capability to uphold obligations to iwi and Māori under Te Tiriti, Council has adopted a framework to underpin their Tiriti commitment (refer to table 2, page 6 of the policy). Council's responsibilities as a Tiriti partner, and our vision for the standard of partnership we desire, has been framed in response to the Tiriti articles themselves.

4. Significance Assessment

- 4.1 The immediate decision before the Council is to adopt the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy. Therefore, regarding Council's

Significance and Engagement Policy, adoption of this policy is not in itself a significant decision.

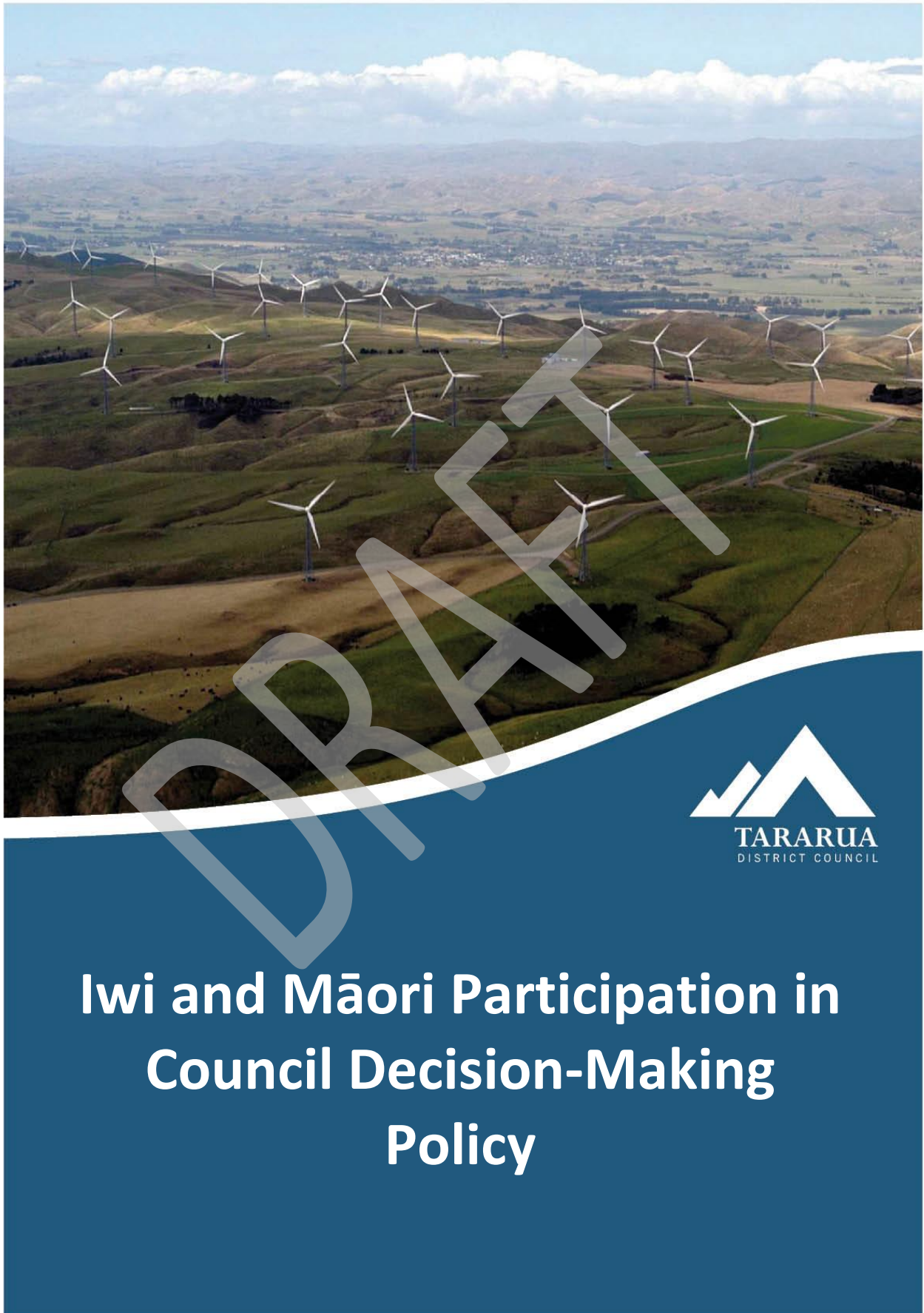
- 4.2 However, when engaging with iwi and Māori it is important all Council staff have a sound understanding of the full scope of the matter they are preparing to engage on. This will prepare staff for determining the impact on iwi and Māori. Engagement should occur early to fully understand the scope of the matter from the perspective of iwi and Māori. This is a key principle for effective engagement. Early engagement can help clarify issues, support communications, and ensure that iwi and Māori are fully informed to participate. Furthermore, it is important to remember that engagement doesn't have to be a one-off process, it can and should be ongoing and occur at various stages of the process.
- 4.3 Considering the significance of matters for iwi and Māori and how they will be affected, either now or in the future, is fundamental for determining how staff should engage. Engagement may be required at different levels, both operational and governance. Furthermore, having ongoing relationships with key iwi and Māori leaders will be useful.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 This report seeks adoption of the Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making Policy by Council. This is a new policy that will support organisational capability to uphold obligations to iwi and Māori under Te Tiriti.
- 5.2 Council's activities span a broad range of areas, and all activities are required to demonstrate how they will give effect to Council's Tiriti commitment and how this will be achieved. It is pertinent to monitor how well each activity is upholding their respective commitments, therefore a reporting framework will be developed to support continual review of performance across Council.

Attachments

1. [Policy - Iwi and Māori Participation in Council Decision Making - FINAL DRAFT - 26 February 2024](#)





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1 Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure uniformity across Tararua District Council with actioning the specific principles and requirements for local authorities to facilitate participation by iwi and Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

2 Introduction

Tararua District Council is committed to its role as Tangata Tiriti, to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government. The Council acknowledges its relationship with both iwi in the Tararua District, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua and Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and will continue to act respectfully and reasonably as a Treaty partner for iwi and Māori alike. This will be enacted through the actioning of specific principles and requirements for local authorities that facilitate participation by iwi and Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

3 Background/Context

Te Tiriti o Waitangi stands as the foundational document upon which New Zealand was built. Much has been thought, written and said about Te Tiriti, the circumstances of its creation, the differences between the English and Māori texts and the consequent difficulties of understanding its meaning and implications in the modern day.

Tararua District Council has statutory, constituent and organisational obligations to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making. These specific principles and requirements are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes. Through aligning with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Council can pave the way for a more inclusive and just society where indigenous voices are not only heard but also respected and acted upon.

Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, who represent their many hapū with their own whenua and awa tributaries, have both signed deeds of settlement with the New Zealand Government and have partnership agreements with Tararua District Council. These memoranda of partnership recognise the relationship and responsibility of Council to support iwi aspirations for the future of their whānau. While the Council has obligations to all Māori, it has a further responsibility to act in good faith and in a manner of mutual respect with its iwi partners. This includes acknowledging and respecting iwi priorities, their traditions, particularly ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna as well as other taonga.

4 Scope

This policy applies to all permanent and fixed term staff, and Elected Members of Tararua District Council, as well as all contractors under the guidance of TDC staff.

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At an operational level for TDC staff and contractors, the application of this policy is enhanced through the Kaupapa Māori Policy, thus both policies should be read and understood in conjunction with each other.

5 Objectives

Tararua District Council aspires for the people of Tararua to thrive together. This aspiration is amplified through the recently adopted district strategy, Thriving Together 2050. The strategy brings to life the Council vision – thriving together, vibrant, connected communities. A key strategic objective of the Council strategy is to have effective partnerships with iwi. Council is therefore committed to working inclusively with iwi and Māori across all aspects and supporting increased iwi capacity to participate in Council’s decision-making processes.

Council’s approach to fostering iwi and Māori participation in Council decision-making includes building the capability and capacity of the organisation to provide for this, as well as ensuring there are opportunities for it to occur. Table 1 (page 5) outlines Council’s vision and outcomes framework which underpins this position.

Together with Council, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua and Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua share a vision for a prosperous and healthy district that supports its people and their cultural values. These are the principles of kotahitanga and kaitiakitanga, where sustainability, care for the environment and appropriate management of natural and physical resources is achieved through working together.

To give effect to the relationships, all necessary information must be shared for iwi and Māori to make informed contributions to Council decision-making. This will not only allow for open and transparent engagement, but the foundation to build enduring trust and opportunity, for Council to iwi and iwi to Council.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

Engagement with iwi and Māori needs to be enacted in a culturally competent manner, which is informed by staff responsibilities and expected capabilities as outlined in the Kaupapa Māori policy.

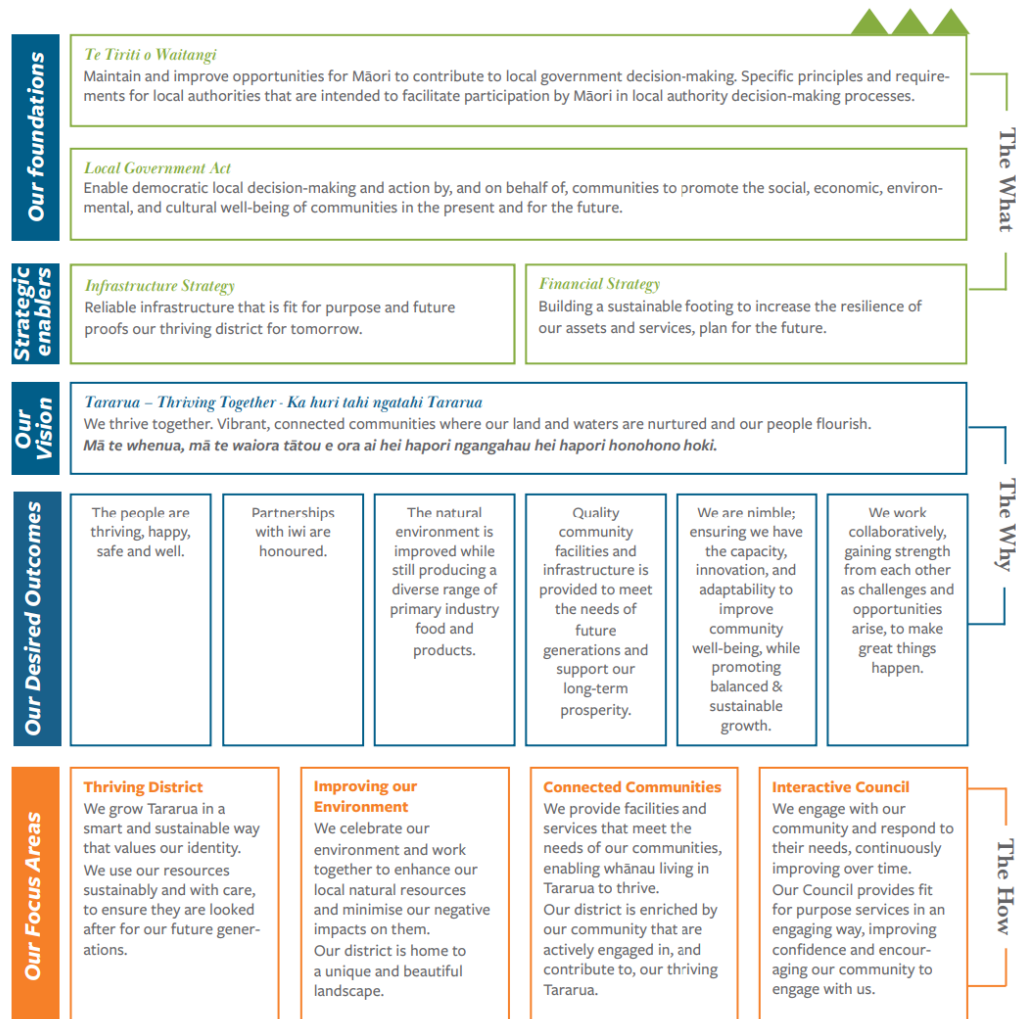
When engaging with iwi and Māori it is important all Council staff have a sound understanding of the full scope of the matter they are preparing to engage on. This will prepare staff for determining the impact on iwi and Māori. Engagement should occur early to fully understand the scope of the matter from the perspective of iwi and Māori. This is a key principle for effective engagement. Early engagement can help clarify issues, support communications, and ensure that iwi and Māori are fully informed to participate. Furthermore, it is important to remember that engagement doesn’t have to be a one-off process, it can and should be ongoing and occur at various stages of the process.

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Considering the significance of matters for iwi and Māori and how they will be affected, either now or in the future, is fundamental for determining how staff should engage. Engagement may be required at different levels, both operational and governance. Furthermore, having ongoing relationships with key iwi and Māori leaders will be useful.

Table 1



To support organisational capability to uphold obligations to iwi and Māori under Te Tiriti, Council has adopted a framework to underpin the Tiriti commitment (refer table 2, page 6). Council's responsibilities as a Tiriti partner, and our vision for the standard of partnership we desire, has been framed in response to the Tiriti articles themselves.

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Council's activities span a broad range of areas. All Council activities are required to demonstrate how they will give effect to Council's Tiriti commitment and how this will be achieved. It is pertinent to monitor how well each activity is upholding their respective commitments, therefore a reporting framework will be developed to support continual review of performance across Council.

Table 2

Te Tiriti o Waitangi principle	Kāwanatanga - governance and the relationship between Treaty partners (shared decision making)	Tino Rangatiratanga - the right to be self-determining in all areas (self-determination)	Ōritetanga - equity between Māori and tangata Tiriti	Te Ritenga - protecting the customs, beliefs, values, faiths and aspirations of Māori (whakapono)
Commitment	Council shares decision-making for the district with iwi partners.	Iwi aspirations are factored into Council priorities.	Council understands, acknowledges, and redresses inequity.	Council values te ao Māori.
Action	Council respects and acknowledges the diverse functions, roles and responsibilities of mana whenua and ensures its decision-making power is accessible to iwi partners.	Council seeks to understand and explore iwi visions for rangatiratanga and seeks to engage, resource and support iwi authority and capacity.	Council seeks to understand and remove barriers to participation in Council decision making and supports mana whenua perspectives and responses to inequity.	Council seeks to understand and have regard for the customs, practices, and differing world views of iwi partners, and acknowledges and empowers the application of these across all Council activities.

7 Related Internal Policies, Processes and Documents

- Significance and Engagement Policy
- Kaupapa Māori Policy
- Code of Conduct

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8 References

Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi Guidance -

<https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/assets/Tools-and-Resources/CO-19-5-Treaty-of-Waitangi-Guidance-for-Agencies.pdf>

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as expressed by the Courts and the Waitangi Tribunal - <https://waitangitribunal.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/WT-Principles-of-the-Treaty-of-Waitangi-as-expressed-by-the-Courts-and-the-Waitangi-Tribunal.pdf>

Crown engagement with Māori - <https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/tools-and-resources/crown-engagement-with-maori/>

9 Definitions

- Kotahitanga - Unity/Solidarity
- Kaitiakitanga - Guardianship/Stewardship
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi - The Treaty of Waitangi
- Kāwanatanga - Governorship
- Tino Rangatiratanga - Self-determination/Sovereignty
- Ōritetanga - Equality/Equal opportunity
- Ritenga - Customary practice

10 Review

This policy will be reviewed three yearly or as legislation or other factors change and substantially influence content.

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Report

Date : 21 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Adele Small
Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing

Subject : **Redirection of Three Waters Better Off Support Grant Funding**

Item No : **9.8**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy & Community Wellbeing dated 19 March 2024 concerning the Redirection of Three Waters Better Off Support Grant Funding be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Tararua District Council notes that the following approved projects under the Three Waters Better Off Grant Fund are currently unspent:*
- *Actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy - \$1,500,000*
 - *Upgrade of Council Owned Reserves - \$500,000*
- 1.3 *That the Tararua District Council approve the application for a portion of the unspent Better Off Funding projects to be redirected to support the transition to Local Water Done Well, with the balance remaining allocated to a previously approved Better Off Grant Fund project as follows:*
- *Local Water Done Well projects - \$1,750,000*
 - *Actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy - \$250,000*

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To consider redirection of two allocations agreed for projects from the Better Off Support Package, to support the transition to Local Water Done Well.

3. Background

- 3.1 On Wednesday 27 October 2021 the previous Government announced that the Three Waters Reform process would become mandatory for all councils and would include councils transferring control and effective ownership of their water assets to one of the four new water entities.
- 3.2 In recognition of the significance to the local government sector (and the communities they serve) of the transfer of responsibility for water service delivery, an investment by the Crown into the future for local government and community wellbeing was made available, known as the Better Off funding package.
- 3.3 The Tararua District was allocated a maximum of \$3.8 million in tranche 1, and \$11.39 million in tranche 2, a total of \$15.19 million. The tranche 2 funding was subsequently withdrawn in April 2023, as part of the Government's reset of the Three Waters Policy.
- 3.4 Following the initial approval for Council's allocation of the Three Waters Better Off Grant Fund of \$3,800,000 across five projects, due to a change in priorities the Council reconsidered its initial allocation of the fund across projects. The following is the current agreement, as resolved by Council on 31 May 2023 and approved by the Department of Internal Affairs:

"That the Tararua District Council approve the application for the following projects for the Three Waters Better Off Grant Fund application totalling \$3,800,000:

- *Building iwi capacity - \$500,000*
- *Future community urban design - \$700,000*
- *Actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy - \$1,500,000*
- *Upgrade of Council Owned Reserves - \$500,000*
- *Digitisation & E-Services - \$600,000"*

- 3.5 The Coalition Government has recently enacted the Local Water Done Well legislation, which repealed the previous Government's Three Waters reform legislation.

- 3.6 During Council's discussions on options for the proposed Long-term Plan, members asked that options be brought before Council for consideration of

redirecting allocations to two of the above projects, to support the transition to Local Water Done Well.

4. Discussion

4.1 The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) confirmed that the existing arrangements for Better Off funding, including the projects already underway, are still committed, and it is to individual Council's discretion as to whether they continue applying the Better Off funding as agreed, or to consider how any unspent Better Off Funding could be redirected to support the transition to Local Water Done Well. Two examples for how the funding could be redirected were provided by the Department of Internal Affairs, and these are:

- Investment in improving water infrastructure; or
- Supporting the establishment of new water services delivery vehicles and/or structures.

4.2 This report focuses on the Better off funding allocated to the following two projects for which allocated funds are currently unspent:

- The upgrading of Council-owned reserves - \$500,000; and
- Actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy - \$1,500,000.

5. Significance Assessment

5.1 The matters considered in this report are not significant in terms of the Council's policy on significance and engagement.

6. Options

6.1 There are three options put forward for consideration:

- Option one

Full redirection of the actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy funding allocation (\$1.5m) into Local Water Done Well; and,

Full redirection of Council-owned Reserves funding allocation (\$500,000) into Local Water Done Well.

- Option two

Partial redirection of the actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy funding allocation (\$1.25m) into Local Water Done Well. This will ensure Council sustains the current resolution to apportion

\$50,000 of this funding to the Dannevirke Multisport Complex Incorporated (DMCI) Proposed Dannevirke Skate Park Project, with \$200,000 remaining available to support further actioning of PARS; and,

Full redirection of Council-owned Reserves funding allocation (\$500,000) into Local Water Done Well.

This is our recommended option.

- Option three (status quo)

That the Better Off Funding allocations towards upgrading of Council-owned reserves and actioning Council's Play, Active Recreation and Sports (PARS) Strategy as per the previous resolution remains.

7. Statutory Requirements

- 7.1 Consideration was given to whether the procedure set out in Standing Orders, in Clause 24.6, relating to revoking or altering a resolution previously made, would need to be followed.
- 7.2 This clause gives authority to the Council, on a recommendation in a report by the Chief Executive, to revoke or alter all or part of a resolution passed by a previous meeting.
- 7.3 When a Council intends to revoke or alter all or part of a resolution previously made, any steps to action the previously made decision are required to be halted until such time as the Council considers the revocation / alteration resolution.
- 7.4 In this case however, the resolution previously made had been actioned, with the resulting approval of the Better Off Grant Funding being given, and projects approved for funding underway.
- 7.5 For this reason, the process being followed is for the intention to make an application to the Department of Internal Affairs to redirect the unspent portion of the previously approved Better Off Funding projects to be clearly documented in a report for Council consideration and resolution.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 There are no community consultation requirements associated with this matter.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 In conclusion, this report recommends that the Council revoke the previous resolution made regarding the Government's Better Off funding support package and approve an amended resolution in its place.

- 9.2 The report explains the changes that have occurred since the previous resolution was made, including the recently enacted Local Water Done Well legislation by the Coalition Government and confirmation from the Department of Internal Affairs that councils can consider redirecting any unspent Better Off Funding to support the transition to Local Water Done Well. It also presents three options for consideration, with the preferred option being option two.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 20 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Jaron Vince
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator

Subject : **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Report**

Item No : **9.9**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Coordinator dated 01 March 2024 concerning the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Report be received.*

Executive Summary

The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Employment Programme (CEP) continues to have a significant impact in the transition to work for rangatahi. Our high level of work to meet the needs of jobseekers and local employers, including strategic networking with our partners and stakeholders to maximise local resources has had ripple effects producing repeated business and word of mouth referrals to our programme.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report seeks to update Council on the completed and planned activities within the Tararua MTFJ Programme.

3. Staff

- 3.1 I was hired at the end of January as the new coordinator of the Tararua MTFJ Community Employment Programme, taking over from previous coordinator Fontayne Chase. Having been in the role for six weeks I understand what is required from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Local Government

New Zealand (LGNZ) in meeting our contractual obligations for our MTFJ contract which ends 30 June 2025.

- 3.2 My previous role as Employment Liaison at Tararua REAP has ensured I've been able to hit the ground running heading into the final quarter of 2023/24 and I am fully confident we will surpass the targets set by MSD & LGNZ.

4. Funding

- 4.1 MTFJ Tararua received the first tranche of funding for year one of the two-year contract in June 2023 (\$150,000) with the expectation of 15 Sustainable Employment Outcomes achieved with a pipeline to deliver a total of at least 38 Sustainable Employment Outcomes in Year One.

- 4.2 Having met all milestones, the second tranche of funding for year one (\$175,000) was approved and received in December 2023.

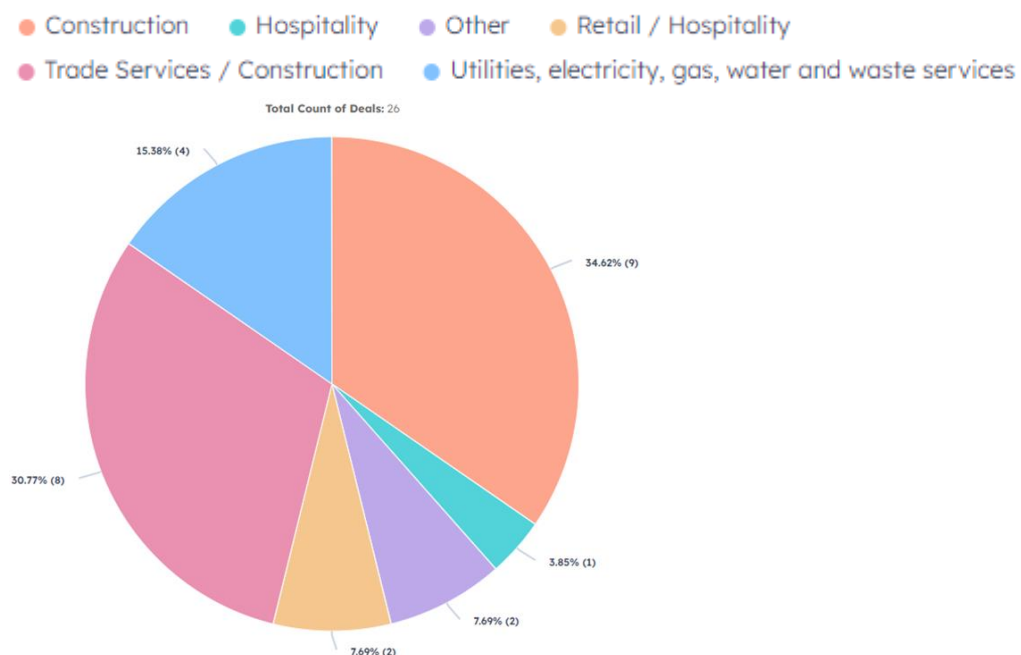
- 4.3 LGNZ has reported that MTFJ Tararua is one of nine (of a total of 33) to achieve or be ahead of target heading into FY2025.

5. Outcomes

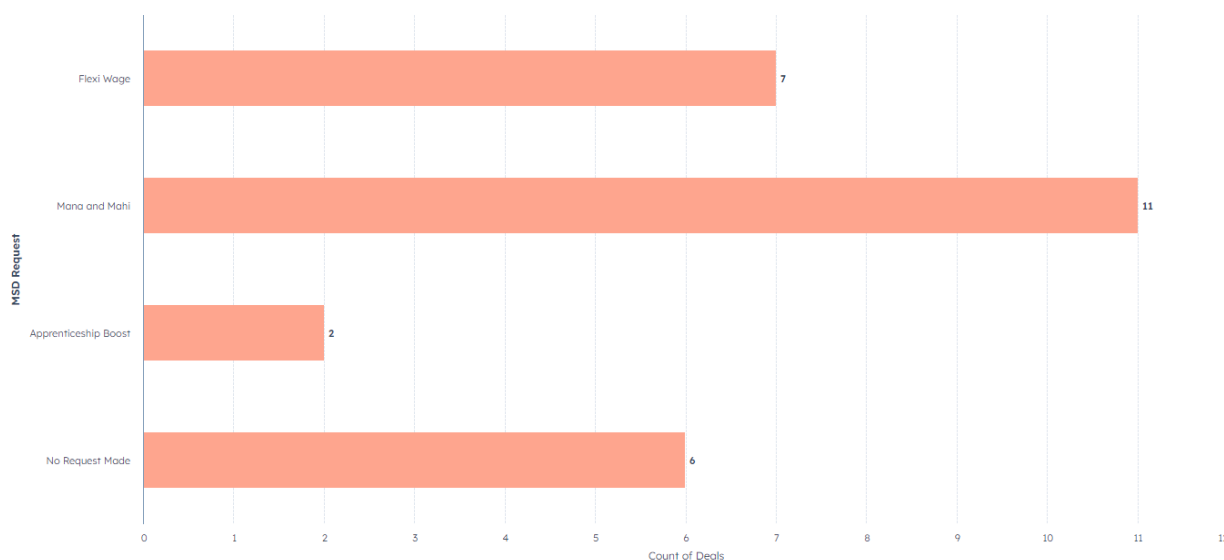
- 5.1 The MSD Contractual Outcomes required for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025 is 38 placements (Sustained Employment > 91 days).

- 5.2 The results achieved to date are 25 people placed into Sustained Employment (> 91 days) with one other placement made (< 91 days). These results are 68% of the required contractual outcomes.

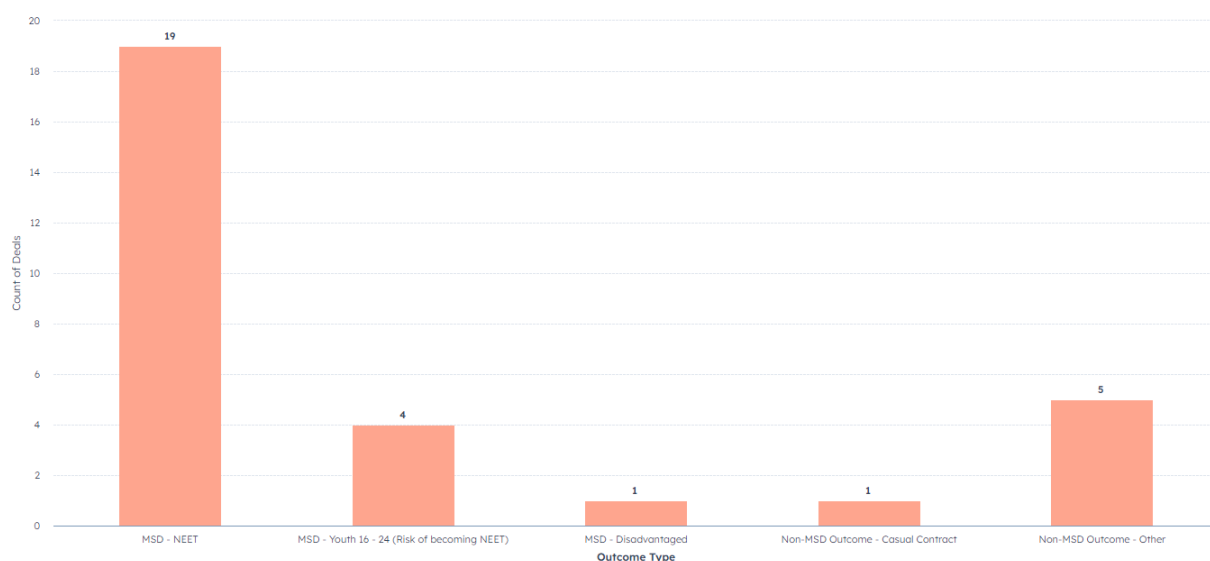
- 5.3 The following graph represents the 2023/2024 job placements by industry:



5.4 The following graph represents the MSD support for Tararua MTFJ placements:



5.5 The following graph represents the outcomes by candidate type:



5.6 In addition to the abovementioned outcomes, the MTFJ programme is also working with 18 other candidates who have been matched with potential permanent employment opportunities.

5.7 Example of a recent MTFJ candidate experience from being at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to meaningful employment:

- 31st Jan 2024 –

Mum shared with Mayor Tracey the challenge of her 16yr old son not wanting to return to school after the summer break. The son had helped in

the shearing sheds over the holidays and has a passion for farming, but Mum required him to return to school as he had no full-time job to step into.

Mayor Tracey referred the case to the MTFJ team – and a call and meeting were organised with the whānau immediately.

- 1st Feb 2024 –

I spoke with mum about what her son was after, and mum shared her sons schedule and CV. I supported with refining the CV and passed on relevant information to Catherine Gavigan, the MTFJ Pastoral Care Specialist, including details about programmes aimed at getting young people into farming careers.

- 9th Feb 2024 –

Catherine met with Mum and her son to discuss wants and needs as well as potential next steps. After the conversation, Catherine got in touch with the Federated Farmers local office and located a sheep and beef farm in Kumeroa who were keen to offer a local rangatahi some farming experience.

- 16th Feb 2024 –

Catherine went with the son to the farm in Kumeroa where they had a tour and a run through of some of the tougher jobs on the farm. In passing the test the son was offered a casual contract for 3-days per week on the spot with an opportunity to go full-time in due course.

5.8 There are a few obstacles to overcome for our rangatahi to turn this casual part-time role into a full-time permanent role. The employer has highlighted the lack of a full car licence, chainsaw training, first aid and shearing training as the priorities so the next step for MTFJ is to clear these obstacles from the son's path to enable sustainable employment and a long, fruitful farming career.

5.9 In the meantime, Mum is driving her son the 30mins to and from work each day and is happy to do so as the plan to obtain his full licence is underway with MTFJ leading the collaboration with Tararua Community Youth Services. Contact with other training providers is also underway.

6. Training & Programmes

6.1 Outward Bound – Mind, Body, Soul (MBS) Compact Course:

Four of our local rangatahi received Outward Bound Scholarships to attend an 8-Day MBS Compact Course at Outward Bound HQ (Anakiwa, Marlborough). MTFJ Tararua supported the rangatahi in travelling to the South Island where they had the opportunity to connect with young people from all over Aotearoa, challenge themselves physically and mentally, with the aim of developing a positive identity and mindset to tackle challenges head on. The course involved being device-free

for a week, learning camping and bush craft skills, conquering a high ropes course, and spending 3 days exploring the Marlborough Sounds applying those skills learned. While there our rangatahi also developed service skills by giving time to the local community there. [Disconnect to Reconnect: Going device free at Outward Bound - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx3CSVDKI04) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx3CSVDKI04>)

6.2 Comment from a course attendee:

"...you've helped me become a 2.0 version of myself. I couldn't be more grateful. You have pushed me outside my comfort zone while standing on the side cheering on and supporting me your mahi doesn't go unnoticed. Getting out of my comfort zone more often being open and honest about myself. Trying harder to be on time. Teamwork and gratitude. One thing I loved about this was that we got to jump in the ocean hike the mountains and sail the seas all of this has brought me closer to mother nature. "

6.3 Additionally, through the Downer Traffic Management Training Programme (TTM Worker Level 1), four candidates have received Level 1 training in Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) from Downer at Oringi Business Park. The TTM certification enables a candidate to operate on the road as a TTM worker as part of an active worksite and become a controller for alternating flow (stop/go). TTM certification is the first step to becoming a Traffic Management Operative (TMO) and then a Site Traffic Management Specialist (STMS), all of which are in high demand.

7. Next Quarter

7.1 Tararua Driving Simulators.

Now schools are back in full swing the South Tararua District Council (TDC) Driving Simulator is heading from Tararua Community Youth Services (TCYS) back to the Tararua College Driving Programme office. Currently with the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua (NKKTNAR) Youth Team, the North TDC Driving Simulator may be looking for a new host in the next quarter. I will be contacting potential hosts in the coming weeks and getting feedback from NKKTNAR regarding their experience.

7.2 Industry Training Solutions (ITS).

I have contacted MTFJ training partners ITS and will look at what options are available to provide industry training and short courses locally in the coming quarter.

7.3 Tararua REAP Collaboration.

I am assisting in the hiring of a new Employment Support Coordinator at REAP and will coordinate efforts once the new staff member is on board, to meet with local businesses in the next quarter.

7.4 Tararua MSD and Tararua MTFJ.

I will be meeting with the local MSD case managers, work brokers, and office managers in March to coordinate a plan of attack to help manage and meet the expectations of the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 22 March 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Allie Dunn
Manager - Democracy Services

Subject : **Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

Item No : **9.10**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 12 March 2024 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.*

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To provide information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 makes provision for public access to Council information.
- 3.2 The Act also details requirements for how Council must deal with any requests for access to information that it holds.
- 3.3 Each month a report is provided to Council on the requests received. This report details a list of requests received over the preceding month to date, timelines associated with the requests, and the subject matter of the requests.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 Following are tables that detail requests that were received from the start of the preceding month, up to the date of completing the report. Also included are any requests listed in the previous report to Council that have been resolved since reporting to Council. Under the Privacy Act 2020, details and information relating to individuals have been withheld.

Resolved Requests

Received	Completed	# Days	Requester	Subject
2/02/2024	2/02/2024	0	Individual	Stormwater flooding issues Woodville
7/02/2024	8/02/2024	1	Individual	Eketāhuna Swimming Pool Management Contract
12/02/2024	22/02/2024	8	Individual	Waisplash - amount of grant made to Waisplash, plus amount of separate allocations paid for maintenance
14/02/2024	15/02/2024	1	Individual	Further information re Eketāhuna Swimming Pool Contract
15/02/2024	16/02/2024	1	PPPS Project Coordinator for Packaging Forum	Waste and Recycling Data
15/02/2024	19/02/2024	2	Individual	Further information re cost of bridge repairs, Rawhiti Street, Dannevirke
20/02/2024	7/03/2024	12	Individual	Waisplash - costs and patronage and Skatepark questions
20/02/2024	13/03/2024	16	Individual	Communication between Yinson/Aurecon and councillors, council employees and publicly listed landowners
20/02/2024	13/03/2024	16	Individual	Processes used to consent windfarms

Received	Completed	# Days	Requester	Subject
20/02/2024	22/02/2024	2	Individual	Input into proposed Fast Track Consenting Bill
20/02/2024	22/02/2024	2	Radio New Zealand	Council debt and spending
21/02/2024	22/02/2024	1	Individual	Operating costs for staff for Tararua Alliance
21/02/2024	21/02/2024	0	Individual	Use of Tararua ratepayers properties as security for loans
21/02/2024	23/02/2024	2	Individual	Dannevirke Impound Supply
22/02/2024	23/02/2024	1	Individual	Water Efficiency Initiatives
23/02/2024	13/03/2024	13	Individual	Cost of Depot at Oringi and running costs of vehicles
29/02/2024	15/03/2024	11	Building Consent Approvals Ltd	Information on claims brought against Council related to buildings, including costs awarded
5/03/2024	13/03/2024	6	Individual	Dannevirke Fluoridation Plant project
10/03/2024	11/03/2024	0	Individual	Start date for fluoridation in Dannevirke
12/03/2024	14/03/2024	2	Individual	Easton Fountain Upper Domain
12/03/2024	21/03/2024	7	Individual	Reducing Council fleet emissions
13/03/2024	15/03/2024	2	Individual	Correspondence re their property [named address] Dannevirke
13/03/2024	14/03/2024	1	Labour Leaders Office	Proposed Rates Increase and Proportion for water services and water infrastructure
14/03/2024	15/03/2024	1	Individual	Further clarification of question re Dannevirke Fluoridation Plant Project
19/03/2024	20/03/2024	1	Individual	Information re dates and functions hosted by council

Received	Completed	# Days	Requester	Subject
				buildings and costs paid by Council to Rainbow Storytime
20/03/2024	21/03/2024	1	Pahiatua Swimming Baths Committee	Copy of Minutes - Pahiatua On Track meeting held 1 December 2004

Requests pending completion

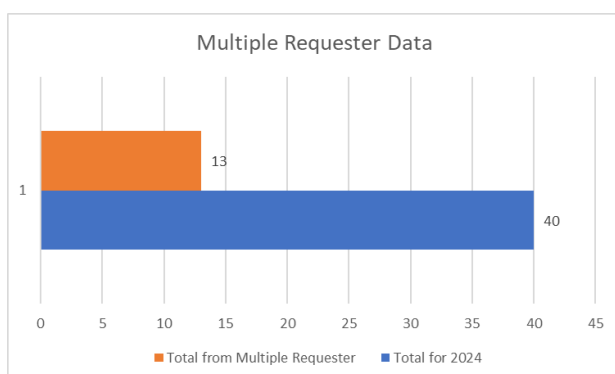
There are currently six open requests pending completion.

Received	Completed	# Days	Requester	Subject
5/03/2024			Stuff	Woodville water supply
19/03/2024			Individual	Information re TDC owned buildings in Dannevirke assessed as an Earthquake risk or need earthquake risk assessment.
19/03/2024			Individual	Costs of supplying, installing 3.5km water pipe from Alliance Works Dannevirke to Railyard, including info about pipe and funding
19/03/2024			Individual	Costs of works at Victoria Street Queen Street Roundabout Dannevirke
19/03/2024			Individual	Funding from TDC to DMCI since 2015
20/03/2024			Individual	Information held re pricing of trees taken from specified address plus transactions with Forest 360

Multiple Requests from an Individual

This year we have been receiving multiple requests from one individual, which has seen a rise in the amount of officer time that has needed to be diverted from their day-to-day responsibilities, to providing answers to the questions being asked.

To date, one individual has been responsible for 32.50% of the total number of requests for information processed in 2024 (13 out of 40 requests for 2024).

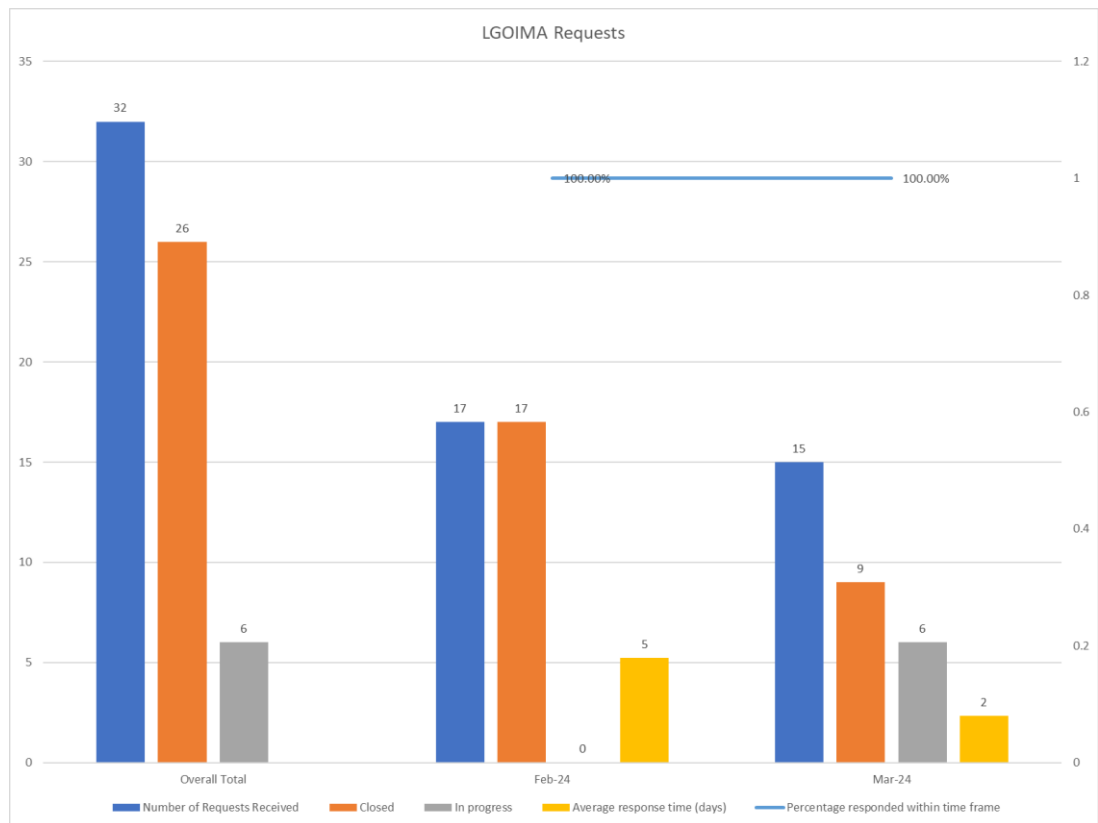


The Office of the Ombudsman provides guidance on dealing with multiple requests for information from a single person, allowing officers to consider aggregating multiple requests, and dealing with these as if they were a single request for information. The guidance also includes processes for charging for the provision of the information being requested, in order to recoup a portion of the costs incurred by the Council in providing the information being sought.

Due to the number of requests being received, this process has begun and the requester advised accordingly.

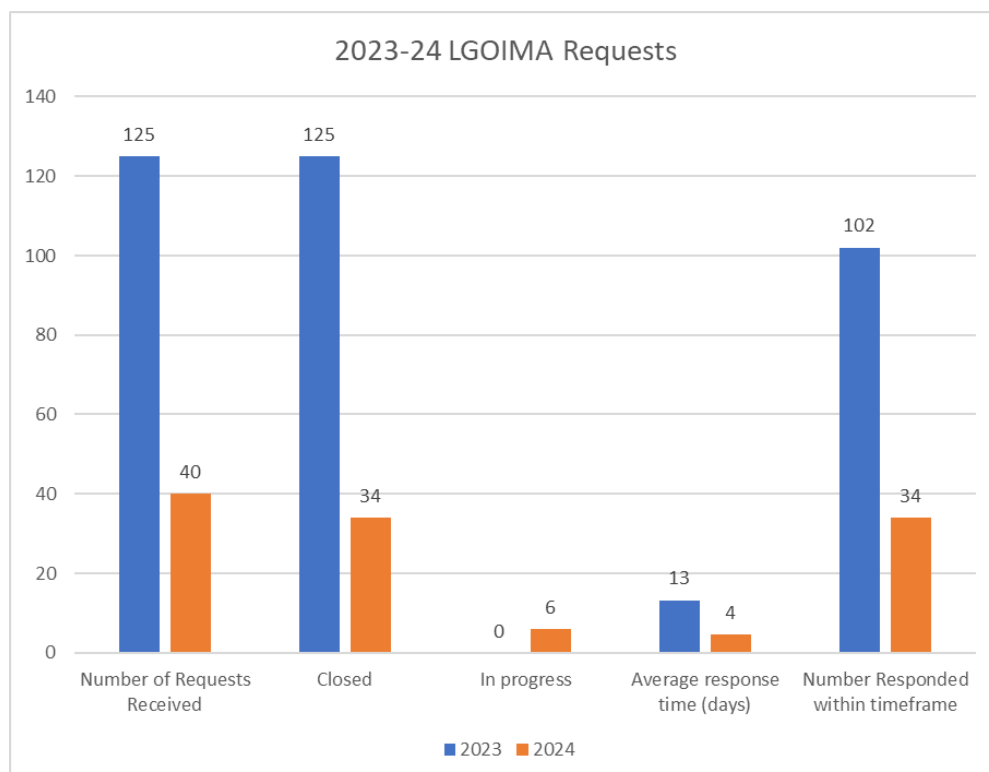
Status of Requests Received and Timelines for Response

The following graph provides a snapshot of the status of requests received and timelines for response, for the period covered by this report.



Statistics for Calendar Year 2023 and Comparative Data for 2024

- 4.2 The following graph provides statistics relating to the requests for information processed during the year 1 January to date, compared against statistics for the previous calendar year.



Proactive Release and Publishing of Local Government Official Information

- 4.3 Proactive publishing of official information is an opportunity for Council to increase the transparency and accountability of its operations. The Office of the Ombudsman strongly encourages Councils to engage in effective proactive release of official information, and proactive release is in line with the purpose of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, which requires that information shall be made available unless there is good reason to withhold it.
- 4.4 Many of the requests for information responded to by Council could have an element of public interest, which means it would be appropriate to publish the information via Council's website when the information is released. For example, where there is a level of interest in the information, such as numerous requests for similar or related information. Also, whether public interest considerations such as transparency and accountability would be served by publication of the information.
- 4.5 Development of processes are underway for proactively releasing information, noting that any personally identifying information for the requester would be removed. If it was not possible to redact sufficient information from the request and response to prevent identification of individuals, neither the request nor the response would be published.
- 4.6 As part of the processes being developed, the templates used for acknowledging receipt of LGOIMA requests, and responding to the requests, will be updated to include advice for the requester that their request and the response will be published on Council's website, and that any personal identifying information will be redacted from both the request and the response to ensure compliance with the Privacy Act 2020.

5. Statutory Requirements

- 5.1 The statutory requirements associated with access to local authority information, and the procedures for dealing with requests received for information held by local authorities, is set out in Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
- 5.2 There are also requirements within the Privacy Act 2020 and the Information Privacy Principles within that Act to comply with.
- 5.3 As part of the requirements for providing access to local authority information, the Act sets out timeframes for:
- Making a decision on whether to grant a request and communicate that decision;
 - Making the requested information available, which can be at a later date, after the decision to grant has been made;

- Transferring all or part of a request to another agency;
- Extending timeframes for both transferring a request, and making a decision and communicating it.

5.4 The Office of the Ombudsman also publishes a Guide to assist local authorities in recognising and responding to requests for information. The processes outlined in this Guide are followed by officers in responding to requests.

6. Conclusion

6.1 This report presents requests for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 that have been received from 1 February 2024 to 21 March 2024.

Attachments

Nil.