



Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Tararua District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on **Wednesday 27 November 2024** commencing at **9:30am**.

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
	<i>Recommendation</i>	
	<i>That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 October 2024 (as circulated) , Extraordinary Council meeting held on 5 November 2024 (as circulated) , Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 November 2024 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 15 November 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.</i>	
8.	Community Boards and Community Committees Reports	
8.1	Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee	31
	<i>Recommended</i>	
	<i>That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 6 November 2024 be received.</i>	
8.2	Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee	43
	<i>Recommended</i>	
	<i>That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 5 November 2024 be received.</i>	
8.3	Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board	47
	<i>Recommended</i>	
	<i>That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 18 November 2024 be received.</i>	
	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	Draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes	55
9.2	Proposed Solar Farm - Dannevirke Wastewater	69

9.3	Contestable Fund Process	73
9.4	Operational Projects Update	79
9.5	Report from Local Government New Zealand - July to October 2024	83
9.6	Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	107
10.	Correspondence	
10.1	Toll Free Tararua Submitters Letter	114

11. Portfolio Reports

Councillors assigned the responsibility to undertake the portfolio for a specific activity can report back on any of these matters.

12. Mayoral Matters

13. Items not on the Agenda Accepted in Accordance with the Procedure Outlined as per Agenda Item 4

14. Public Excluded Items of Business

Recommendation

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

Land Purchase - Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply - Delegation to Negotiate - 27 November 2024

Chief Executive Key Performance Indicators 2024-25

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>Chief Executive Key Performance Indicators 2024-25</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i>	<i><Section (1)(a)(i)</i>
<i>Land Purchase - Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply - Delegation to Negotiate - 27 November 2024</i>	<i>To protect commercial and industrial negotiations</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)(i) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).***
- s7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.***

15. Closure



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 30 October 2024 commencing at 9:30am.

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

Mrs M Mullins	- Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua
Mr S Lines	- Te Tahua o Rangitāne
Mr R Piddington	- Mercury Energy Ltd (via Teams)
Mr G Young	- Mercury Energy Ltd
Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory (via Teams)
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Infrastructure
Ms G Nock	- Strategy and District Development Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor
Mr M Dunn	- Manager – Programmes and Projects
Mr J Single	- Regulatory Services Manager
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Ms A Charmley	- Planning Services Manager
Ms K Stevens	- Community Partnerships Coordinator
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Public Forum

Nil

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 25 September 2024 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 2 October 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Crs Sutherland/Peeti-Webber

Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Proposed Dannevirke Wastewater Plant Solar Farm

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Advisor dated 23 October 2024, that provided an update on the change of direction for the proposed Dannevirke Wastewater Plant Solar Farm. A copy of an example of what a floating solar plant could look was shown to the meeting. It was noted that the pond proposed for use was the fourth pond of the system, which is the overflow of stormwater inflow. The Chief Advisor spoke about the proposed solar farm, advising the panels were transparent which would allow ultraviolet light to penetrate to the pond, however it was acknowledged that some light would be blocked by the floating pods. The contract that the Council would enter into would be for procurement of electricity for Council. It was noted that in the future when batteries were included, it would allow storage of generated electricity for use in night time hours. Mavis Mullins, of Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua, advised that the Ministry of Building, Innovation and Employment had expressed comfort that the project had moved in the right direction. She spoke about the change of location from the original proposal, due to discussions with the Maniapoto whanau about their concerns. She noted the risk for the project was being taken by the Charitable Trust, not by the Council.

In discussion, the following matters were covered:

Discussions and contingencies for unintended events, for example sludge –

clarification was provided on how this would be managed.

Discounts and fixed price costs, whether any thought had gone into what that would look like as a benefit to ratepayers, and social benefit to lower income residents. Clarification was provided on how a return would be generated to the charitable trust which would distribute to its beneficiaries. For Council, its current electricity procurement was a fixed contract for five years, under this proposal one site would have its electricity supplied from another source. For Council to gain, the price would need to be less than what is currently paid. It was clarified that the capital cost would be paid by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for this project.

Clarification was also sought on any risk assessment on this project. The Chief Advisor advised that this was currently underway, and it was likely that there would be simple mitigations that could be undertaken to minimise these.

It was noted that the site selected had been chosen for this project due to the high energy demand for running the site. It was asked that information on sludge assessment and mitigation be provided to Council for information.

With regard to dispersing excess power to the grid, Shaun Lines of Te Tahua o Rangitāne spoke about the discussions underway with Scanpower to develop other sites in the Tararua District, and evolving the network without burdening the customers with costs, and the technology shaping that. He felt the Council may wish to examine other parcels of land that could be useful for generating power.

It was clarified that no additional land would be required for the proposed plant and information would be brought back on exact land requirement for the project.

It was asked that information also be provided regarding the anaerobic science for the ponds, and insurance responsibilities.

With regard to the price to be charged to Council, it was advised that this was a negotiation that was underway.

Clarification was sought on any potential impact with any CCO arrangements entered into in the future for Local Water Done well.

It was asked that a future update provide information on the benefits to ratepayers for this project. Mavis Mullins advised that the whole project is based on a win:win basis. The criteria for the recipients of the Trust had been developed by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, with the ability for this project to make a material benefit to families.

Information was also requested to be provided on sludge assessment and any

mitigations that may be needed.

It was noted that the next steps after completing research and putting any required mitigations in place, would be the resource consenting process that is required. Those papers were currently being completed and agreements to have in place during the month of November. Mavis Mullins noted the cultural values assessments were currently underway. She spoke about a technical report that she would be able to distribute to Council.

It was advised that the next report to Council on this matter was scheduled for the November Council meeting.

That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 23 October 2024 concerning the Proposed Dannevirke Wastewater Plant Solar Farm be received.

Crs Johns/Wards

Carried

9. Petitions

9.1 Petition to Stop the Tararua District Council's Keeping of Animals Bylaw

A petition to stop the Tararua District Council's Keeping of Animals Bylaw, received on 3 October 2024 from Bec Smith with 137 signatures, was presented. The statement of petition was: "We, the undersigned residents and ratepayers in the Tararua District, advise the Tararua District Council that we do not want the new proposed bylaw to come into effect."

That the petition from Bec Smith be received.

Crs Gilmore/Chase

Carried

10. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

10.1 Minutes - Eketahuna Community Board

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 14 October 2024 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Peeti-Webber

Carried

10.2 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 21 October 2024 be received.

Crs Johns/Wards

Carried

10.3 Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting

held 1 October 2024 and the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee Annual General Meeting held 1 October 2024 be received.

Crs Johns/Gilmore

Carried

10.4 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 2 October 2024 and the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee Annual General Meeting held 2 October 2024 be received.

Crs Collis/Gilmore

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 10:55am and reconvened at 11:10am.

11. Reports continued

11.1 Mercury Energy Request for Road Stopping - Puketoi Ranges

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Network Manager dated 24 October 2024 that presented a request from Mercury Energy to undertake pre-consultation on their proposal to undertake a road-stopping process in accordance with Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974.

An overview of the proposal was provided, noting that consent was held for constructing a windfarm on the Puketoi Range by Mercury Energy. In working through their windfarm development, Mercury found they needed to relocate some of their assets. They would like to change from a licence to occupy to a stopping of the paper road in order to allow for this.

In discussion, the following matters were covered:

Clarification was sought on the process under Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974 for public consultation – the Planning Services Manager advised that the process was that if pre-consultation was favourable, then the proposal for road-stopping would be publicly notified. Should any objections be received, unless the Council agreed to allow the objections, the Council was required to send the objections to the Environment Court for consideration and final decision-making.

Clarification was sought on definition of the key stakeholders – it was advised that these had been identified as being adjoining landowners, iwi partners, and Te Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission. The Council asked that the Pongaroa Way to Go Committee, the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association and Ruahine Deerstalkers Association also be included as stakeholders.

Clarification sought on what “road stopping” meant – the definition provided was

that it meant that a road can no longer be formed there, and it applied in perpetuity.

A level of discomfort was expressed by members with the use of the term “approve” in proposed recommendation 1.3, with a proposal to substitute the word “consider” in its place.

It was asked that motions be taken separately.

That the report from the Network Manager dated 24 October 2024 concerning the Mercury Energy Request for Road Stopping - Puketoi Ranges be received.

Crs Gilmore/Wards

Carried

That the Council approve Mercury Energy Ltd’s request to undertake Pre-Consultation with key stakeholders over their proposal to stop the Paper Road along the Puketoi Range ridge line within their proposed Windfarm area.

Crs Long/Wallace

Carried

That the Council, subject to Pre-consultation feedback, consider Mercury Energy’s request to undertake Road Stopping of the Paper Road along the Puketoi Range ridge line within their proposed Windfarm area, following the process outlined in Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974.

Crs Wards/Gilmore

Carried

Cr M F Long recorded his vote against the motion.

11.2 Request for funding received from Pahiatua Museum Society Inc

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 3 October 2024 that presented a request for funding assistance from the Pahiatua Heritage Trust Special Reserve Fund, towards the costs of erecting new welcome to Pahiatua town signs.

In discussion it was noted that the Council’s intent had been to fully utilise all the funds left in the reserve fund, however accrued interest had left a balance. A suggestion was made to include in the resolution, a statement that the grant would include any accrued interest in that account so that the reserve fund could be fully utilised and closed.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 03 October 2024 concerning the Request for funding received from Pahiatua Museum Society Inc be received.

That the Tararua District Council approves the request from the Pahiatua Museum Society Inc for funding of \$820.47 plus any accrued interest to fully utilise the remaining funds in the Pahiatua Heritage Trust Fund, towards the costs associated with erecting new welcome to Pahiatua signs.

Crs Gilmore/Sutherland

Carried

11.3 Contestable Fund Process

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Strategy and District Development Manager dated 15 October 2024 that presented progress made towards establish a contestable grant process, for feedback from the Council.

An outline of the procedure that was followed to develop the proposed process was provided.

In discussion, the following matters were covered:

Concerns that the proposed process seemed complicated, and would involve a lot of administrative time.

Concern that community boards and community committees would not be able to apply for funding. If a proposed project had merit, then those organisations should be able to apply to the contestable fund.

Regarding the number of grant consideration cycles proposed, it was suggested that more should be provided for, including provision for out of cycle considerations, especially for international representatives.

With regard to the proposed eligibility clause that limited groups to one application per year, it was noted this could impact on umbrella groups making applications on behalf of individuals, and some groups could have more than one worthy project.

With regard to the assessment panel, if it was to have five members, a suggestion was made that the membership should be two councillors from the North Ward, two councillors from the South Ward, plus the Mayor. Forming this as a grants committee could be considered, including whether there could be a contestable fund decided by a community committees / boards.

Following discussion, it was suggested that a simplified grant fund be made available for this year, with applications to come back to the Council for decision-making. A more in-depth look at criteria and processes could be made after working with the simplified process.

The previous funding limits for international representatives of \$500 and \$800 were noted. A method for dealing with unspent funds was also required.

That the report from the Strategy and District Development Manager dated 15

October 2024 concerning the Contestable Fund Process be received.

That the Council requests the Chief Executive to provide a simplified process for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year.

That final approval for this process be brought to the nearest Council meeting for consideration.

That a working group be established with a mix of elected members and officers to finalise the process for the 2025/26 financial year.

Crs Gilmore/Long

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:14pm and resumed at 12:47pm.

11.3 Existing Pahiatua Pool

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Programmes and Projects dated 18 October 2024 that presented the current situation with the existing Pahiatua Pool and sought Council direction on whether to proceed or not with leak repairs.

That the report from the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 18 October 2024 concerning the Existing Pahiatua Pool be received.

That the Council agree that the proposed repairs proceed with Council funding \$3,500 for the period of the 2024/25 financial year.

Crs Johns/Gilmore

Carried

Crs S A Wallace and N L Chase recorded their votes against the motion.

11.4 Appointment of Councillors to Community Boards

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 8 October 2024 that sought amendment of the appointments of Councillors to Community Boards.

Her Worship thanked Councillors Wards and Gilmore for their service to their respective community boards.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 08 October 2024 concerning the Appointment of Councillors to Community Boards be received.

That the Council amends its appointments of Councillors to the Dannevirke and Eketāhuna Community Boards as follows:

Dannevirke Community Board: Councillor Erana Peeti-Webber

Councillor Wards left the meeting at 1:10pm.

11.5 Adoption of Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 3 October 2024 that presented the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for adoption.

It was noted that this was the final step in the adoption of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, following the community consultation that had been undertaken. All matters raised in submissions were all related to content within the plan, therefore no changes were required to be made to the plan.

Mention was made of the noticeable improvements made to the transfer stations since the service was brought in house, and the team were congratulated for their work.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 03 October 2024 concerning the Adoption of Waste Management and Minimisation Plan be received.

That the Tararua District Council adopt the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024.

11.6 Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Regulatory Services Manager dated 9 October 2024 that presented an update of statistical information.

Questions were asked about the number of infringement notices issued, and any information that could be shared with the community to demonstrate action that the Council was taking. The Regulatory Services Manager noted that seven infringements were issued in the past financial year, and these statistics could be provided to Council.

That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 09 October 2024 concerning the Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024 be received.

11.7 **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 15 October 2024 that provided an update on requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 15 October 2024 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

12. Portfolio Reports

12.1 **Update on Toll Road** – Her Worship the Mayor spoke about several Official Information Act requests that had been made, and noted that NZTA seemed to be needing to take the full 20 working days to respond to these. At this stage Council did not know how many submissions had been received to date, as were still awaiting response on that question.

12.2 **Horizons Passenger Transport Committee meeting** – noted the funding from NZTA had been cut, and Horizons were doing some work on alternative funding. In year 3 of the Horizons Long Term Plan \$80,000 was tagged for the Tararua District, which is 100% matched by the Government. Follow up was required to ensure that funding remains. It was agreed that Mayor Tracey Collis would find out more information about that fund and its purpose.

12.3 **Mad Hatters Day** - being held on Sunday 3 November 2024, starting at 10:00am at Fountaine Square. All welcome to attend.

12.4 **Polish Reunion** – an update on arrangements was provided, noting higher level of attendance was now expected, with 373 people attending from the Polish Association, which had meant the organisers making some changes to venues, catering and parking facilities to accommodate this.

12.5 **Marching Teams Display Day** – it was advised that there would be 15 marching teams at the Dannevirke Sports Stadium from across the country on Saturday 2 November, participating in a display day hosted by the Ruahine Ramblerz.

13. Mayoral Matters

13.1 **Armistice Day 11 November 2024** – Her Worship the Mayor checked in with members about the commemoration services that each member would be attending. She noted that the Council was also holding an extraordinary meeting that morning, to deliberate on matters raised through submissions on the draft Rates Postponement Policy. She advised that members would be able to attend

this meeting via teams, to assist with the logistics of arriving at their respective events in time.

- 13.2 Final Council meeting in current Council Chambers – it was noted that this was the final Council meeting that would be held in the current Council Chambers. The room would retain usage as the Emergency Operations Centre, as well as being an office for staff. The change was as part of a move to be more cost effective and utilise the Council-owned buildings more effectively, with the lease on 40 Denmark Street Dannevirke not being renewed, and the Council Chambers would be set up in the Dannevirke Town Hall Concert Chamber in the future. The Pahiatua Council Chambers would be used in the meantime while those spaces are prepared.

14. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

15. Public Excluded Items of Business

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

Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes

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 Public Excluded Minutes</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.

Crs Wallace/Sutherland

Carried

The meeting returned to open session at 1:51pm.

16. Minutes of Public Excluded Meeting Released to Open Session

- 16.1 The minutes of the public excluded meeting of the Tararua District Council held 4 September 2024 were agreed to be released in open session – refer to the attachment to these minutes.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 1:51pm.

Mayor

Public Excluded Items of Business

Minutes of a public excluded Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 4 September 2024 commencing at 9:35am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Ms R Bell	- RFB Consulting
Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Reports

3.1 Rates Rebate Direct Debit Error

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Advisor dated 16 August 2024 that informed the Council about an administration error that had persisted over several years, resulting in the failure to increase or reduce direct debit payments for those receiving rates rebates. The Council noted the significant amount of work that would be required to enact any decision made by the Council, and for that reason Rebecca Bell, of RFB Consulting, would be engaged to assist with this work. The Chief Executive introduced Rebecca Bell, and outlined her extensive experience in local government. Council's Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager spoke about the complexity of the situation from a legal perspective, and advised that advice had been provided by Simpson Grierson (New Zealand Commercial Law Firm, and specialist in local government law), and incorporated into the report being considered. Options were recommended for Council consideration based on this advice.

With regard to the examples provided of rates remission and postponement policies, it was noted the examples provided were general however if development a rates postponement policy, this could be made specific to the situation faced by Council. Any policy proposed for adoption would be developed subject to feedback provided by the Council, and presented to Council for adoption of a draft for consultation.

The following matters were discussed:

- Whether it was an opportunity to develop a wider policy, and if so, the legal ability for using income as an eligibility criteria under the Local Government Act.

- Concern about implementing a drawn out process that consultation would involve, and empathy needed about the impact on the people involved.

- Impact on workload on officers for administering a postponement policy.

- If a person was unable to pay their arrears now, and owned the property, one of the options would be to pay the balance owing at time of sale of property.

- Whether the system could be changed so that the rates rebate showed on the rates invoice.

- How any material impact from waiving current arrears would be

managed, should that option be taken.

What the cost to administer would be, compared to what would be gained. In response it was advised that if postponing rates option taken, it would not take much additional work, as outstanding rates were always settled on transfer of property.

The role of Audit New Zealand and whether the error should have been discovered through the year end audits. In response it was noted that the level had only now reached the threshold for recognition, and noted that payments were always applied to the oldest outstanding debts.

From a risk perspective, the main risks related to the impact on Council's credibility and reputation. There was also discussion of the legal risks relating to the overpayment of rates, now that Council is aware that it has taken payments that it was not entitled to take. In response it was noted that acknowledging and communicating that error promptly to affected parties, and working through with affected parties on the best solution, whether that be repayment, or crediting their rates account.

The Chief Executive stressed the importance of affected parties being contacted directly prior to any information being made publicly available.

4. Return to open session

That the meeting return to open session.

Crs Gilmore/Peeti-Webber

Carried

The meeting returned to open session at 10:54am and resumed public excluded session at 11:33am.

5. Reports

5.1 Rates Rebate Direct Debit Error – Consideration continued

The Council continued discussion of options. One of the options discussed was the suggestion to keep the solution simple, let everyone have a postponement of the rates arrears that could be settled on sale of property, and for those that wish to enter into a payment plan to clear the arrears could do so if they wished.

Council's Legal Counsel and Procurement Management provided clarification on statute of limitations for settling debt within six years, and how it would apply in these circumstances.

Clarification was also sought on the length of time that people had been in credit, and how long Council had been aware that some ratepayers had overpaid their rates.

In response to a question about whether there was potential for Council to receive a qualified audit from the Auditors relating to the rates rebate direct debit error. The Chief Executive advised that would not be likely through this process, however through the Annual Report it would be highlighted but Audit New Zealand would focus on the processes put in place to remedy the error.

The Council noted that accountability for the error would be sitting heavily on some staff shoulders, and sought advice on what help was being provided to these staff to help with their wellbeing. The Chief Executive noted that this was in process, and there had been a meeting to understand the struggles they were facing. He summarised the error as arising from a combination of human error, system error and people not speaking up when the problem was noticed.

Assurance was sought that a report providing a summary of the outcome of the investigation be provided to Council, including information on steps that would be taken to ensure that the situation could not happen again. There was also concern expressed that there would need to be accountability taken for the error, and concern about the controls that have allowed this to happen and it was asked that be included in the report to Council.

With regard to the communications plan, it was asked that elected members be included as stakeholders in the plan. The Chief Executive noted that consideration was being given to seeking external expertise for the communications plan.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22pm and reconvened at 3:38pm.

Councillors M F Long and S M Wards left the meeting at 3:38pm.

The meeting discussed option 4 Rates Postponement and option 5 Rates Postponement and Remission as set out in Appendix 6 to the report, with consideration being given to the impact of the error on affected parties.

With regard to option 4 – creation of a rates postponement policy, members considered this would provide a fairer process, as it would provide a way to respond without creating equity issues. It was noted that there was a need for better management going forward, and investment in systems.

The Chief Executive advised that the next steps once Council had adopted its preferred way forward, would be for a project plan to be developed and brought back to Council.

The Council expressed the need for the matter to be fronted by the Mayor and Chief Executive due to the level of importance.

That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 16 August 2024 concerning the Rates Rebate Direct Debit Error be received.

That Council remedies the debts and credits evidenced in the Ratepayer accounts opening balances on 1 July 2024 by:

- ***Applying the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 process to either refund overpayments/credits or reduce the Direct Debits this Rating year.***
- ***Requiring that current direct debit payments be adjusted to equate to rates for the current year; and***
- ***Addressing the potential financial hardship to ratepayers who receive rates rebates and pay by direct debit caused by the Direct Debit recalculation error; and***

That Council adopts option 4 – Rates Postponement and drafts a Rates Postponement Policy with specific provisions on this matter for consideration by Council.

Crs Johns/Chase

Carried

The meeting returned to open session at 4:10pm.



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Training Room, Business Network Building, 40 Denmark Street, Dannevirke on Tuesday 5 November 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, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace.

In Attendance

Ms R F Bell	- RFB Consulting
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Councillor S M Wards and Councillor A K Franklin be approved and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Crs Chase/Gilmore

Carried

3. Hearing

3.1 Hearing of Submissions - draft Rates Postponement Policy

Submission 019

Hamish Cameron, of Cameron Lawyers, spoke on behalf of his client, who was in attendance, and had an arrears balance as a result of the rates rebate direct debit error. His submission was about the draft policy and included suggestions for how the policy should be implemented.

His client's daughter was also in attendance and spoke about the personal impact from the direct debit issue on her mother, and shared how this had impacted her mother and their family. She noted that her mother was elderly with significant

health issues, and was a pensioner. She spoke about the call she received from her mother prior to Christmas advising of this issue, during which her mother was extremely upset. She spoke about the matters raised by her mother, and how an attempt was made to have her mother agree to a payment plan that was above her means, which she then had to make changes to on her mother's behalf. She spoke about how it had been a long drawn-out process of trying to understand how the issue happened, and asked Council to consider the impact on her mother's wellbeing.

Mr Cameron spoke about the technical aspects of his submission. He gave credit to the handling of this issue which showed the Mayor and Councillors genuinely were regretful that the error has happened. His view of the proposed Rates Postponement Policy was that it took too broad a definition of equality, noting the yardstick that had been used was the equality between every single ratepayer, and the view that if someone hadn't paid, then they should. However he felt that as the circumstances here were different, a different approach was required. He noted that the impacted people were a small number of ratepayers who were vulnerable, wouldn't have great reserves of money, and the amounts owing could be quite significant to them. He spoke about it being an egregious error in that it had continued for a number of years. His final point that he wished to make was that the impacted people were ratepayers that had tried hard to meet their obligations, they had set up direct debits, and they relied on the Council to ensure the direct debits were set at the right amount. His view was that these factors meant that taking a broad view of equity was not appropriate. He did not have an issue with a different treatment for ratepayers that failed to make payments because of a more flippant approach to meeting their obligations.

In response to questions, the following matters were covered:

Regarding implementation of the policy, it currently envisaged an impacted ratepayer having to make an application to the Council. This would be another hoop to go through, and not every person would have access to someone to advocate on their behalf. Mr Cameron asked that Council consider amending the policy, so that if it was adopted, it would apply on a blanket basis to all those that were eligible.

Clarification was provided that there would not be a caveat put on a property's title to secure the funds owing. The process that was undertaken when a property was sold was for the rates owing to be sorted between the vendor's and purchaser's lawyers.

Suggestion that the layout of the rates invoices be made more clearer to understand, with an example provided of the Horizons Regional Council's rates invoices.

In response to a request for Council to specify the cause of the problem, Her Worship the Mayor advised that an independent review and investigation

was currently underway, and the results of that review would be shared with the impacted people and made public.

Submission 12

Submitter 12 sought an explanation of the cause of the error, and believed there should be accountability for the error.

The submitter spoke about how the impacted ratepayers should not have to pay the arrears, due to the error being Council's error. However, the option of being able to postpone payment of the rates arrears would be useful.

Her Worship the Mayor responded about the independent investigation that was being undertaken, and once the review was complete it would be shared with the impacted people and made public.

In conclusion, the submitter noted their concern that they did not receive their dog registration notice this year, and believed a number of people were similarly affected. Her Worship the Mayor noted she would discuss this with the Regulatory Services Manager.

Submission 10

Submitter 10 noted that they had pointed this issue out a while back. The submitter provided history about when they set up their direct debit, and last year had queried the amount of the direct debit as it was incorrect. At this time they had visited the Council office with their rates demand, and asked for an explanation of why their payments had not been sufficient. At that time their direct debit was increased, yet they were still in arrears. The submitter spoke about their disappointment that they had been put into arrears through Council's mistake, and felt that the ratepayers should not have to pay for this mistake. They spoke about the tone of the letter received that said that legally they had to pay, and how they found that to be threatening. They felt that the responsibility was on the Council to set the direct debits at the correct level, and was concerned that the error was not picked up by the Council's auditors. In closing the submitter spoke about how it was a traumatic letter to receive, advising that they were in arrears when they had done their best to ensure that they were paying their rates on time.

As clarification, Her Worship the Mayor advised that there would be no interest or penalties charged for rates postponed. The process following the hearing would be for the Council to meet to deliberate on changes to be made to the proposed policy, in light of consideration of submissions, and then the final policy would be brought to Council for adoption on Friday 15 November 2024. At that point impacted ratepayers would be able to postpone their rates arrears should they wish to take that option. Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged that trust in the system had been broken.

Councillor P A Johns left the meeting at 2:16pm and returned at 2:17pm.

4. Reports

4.1 Hearing of Submissions - draft Rates Postponement Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 17 October 2024 that provided the Council with a copy of all submissions received in relation to the draft Rates Postponement Policy, including two additional submissions circulated separately.

Having heard from all submitters that wished to present their views to the Council in person, the Council was asked to provide direction to officers on any matters that they wished to be considered as part of the deliberations on matters raised through submissions.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 17 October 2024 concerning the Hearing of Submissions - draft Rates Postponement Policy be received.

That the Tararua District Council provide direction to officers on matters to be considered at the extraordinary Tararua District Council meeting scheduled for 11 November 2024 as follows:

Officer comment on the matters covered by submissions

The need to keep any process for application of the rates postponement policy simple;

External advice to be provided on application and interpretation of the policy, and any risk arising from the consultation

Crs Johns/Long

Carried

5. Closure

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 2:43pm.

Mayor



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on Monday 11 November 2024 commencing at 9:00am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Ms R Bell	- RMB Consulting
Ms K Bailey	- Shared Science
Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor (via Teams)
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

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

Crs Gilmore/Long

Carried

3. Reports

3.1 Deliberations on Draft Postponement Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Contractor dated 22 October 2024, that presented a summary of the submission feedback on the draft Rates Postponement Policy for Council's consideration.

In discussion, the following questions were covered:

Confirmation provided that removing the application requirement from the policy would not preclude anyone from choosing to postpone their rates arrears. It was noted that once adopted, impacted households that had either advised

they would prefer to postpone their rates arrears, or had not yet decided, would be contacted to advise of the availability of the option for postponing rates arrears.

An explanation of the scope of the amended criteria, noting that eligible households would include those that authorised Council to apply direct debits during the specified period and as a result of the direct debit not being set at correct level had been impacted by this process error.

Confirmation that the number of impacted households that were not subject to rates rebates, was limited to a small number of approximately 15 households.

An explanation was provided on how the policy would be reviewed on an annual basis, which would include reviewing how the policy was working in practice. If any amendments to the policy were needed, a consultation process would be required.

It was noted that a report would be provided to the December meeting of Council to provide Governance oversight of the number of impacted households that had decided to postpone their rates arrears.

It was noted that management oversight of the policy would be through reporting by the Chief Executive to the Council, providing both management and governance oversight. The report would be provided as part of the financial reports to Council, and it was asked that the format of the rates reporting be reviewed.

That the report from the Contractor dated 22 October 2024 concerning the Deliberations on Draft Postponement Policy be received.

That Council note the submissions received on consultation of the Draft Postponement Policy.

That Council makes the minor amendments to the Draft Postponement Policy indicated in the tracked changes version of the Postponement Policy attached to the report.

That Management finalises the Draft Postponement Policy for adoption at an extraordinary Council meeting on 15 November 2024.

Crs Johns/Long

Carried

4. Closure

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 9:32am.

Mayor



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on Friday 15 November 2024 commencing at 1:00pm.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah	- Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager – Infrastructure (via Teams)
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor (via Teams)
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Councillor S M Wards be accepted and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Crs Collis/Gilmore

Carried

3. Reports

3.1 Adoption of Rates Postponement Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Contractor dated 11 November 2024 that presented for adoption the Rates Postponement Policy.

The Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager spoke to the report, and outlined the process that was followed to get to this point.

It was noted that the Rates Postponement Policy had been amended to take into account additional impacted parties, that had relied on the Tararua District Council to set their direct debit at the correct level to fully settle their rates each year, but had nevertheless found their accounts to be in arrears due to the

Council not setting their direct debits at the correct level during the 2018-2024 period.

That the report from the Contractor dated 11 November 2024 concerning the Adoption of Rates Postponement Policy be received.

That Council adopts the Rates Postponement Policy.

Crs Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

4. Closure

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 1:10pm.

Mayor



Minutes of the Explore Pahiataua Incorporated Society meeting held at the Tararua District Council Service Centre 136 Main Street, Pahiataua on 24 November 2024 at 7:00pm

1. Present

- 1.1. Committee Members: Ali Romanos (Chair), Raylene Treder (Deputy Chair) Georgina Morrison (Secretary), Marie Kissick (Treasurer), Ingrid de Graaf, and James Devoe.
- 1.2. Tararua District Council Representative: Cr Scott Gilmore.
- 1.3. Members of the public: Nil.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Cr Alison Franklin

James Devoe/Ingrid de Graaf

Carried

3. Conflicts of Interest

- 3.1. Raylene Treder – Youth centre discussion.

James Devoe/Ali Romanos

Carried

4. Notification of Items not on the agenda / General Business

- 4.1. Urban Draft Strategy – Raj Suppiah (TDC) (discussed after Council report).
- 4.2. Toy Library funding application (discussed at end of meeting).

5. Confirmation of Minutes.

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiataua meeting held Wednesday 2 October 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Ali Romanos/Raylene Treder

Carried

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1. Scott Gilmore explained that at last Wednesday's Council meeting a discussion was held about the contestable fund and the CE has been asked to simplify the process for applying, refers to 11.0 - Contestable fund – third bullet point in the Explore Pahiataua October meeting minutes.
- 6.2. Polish Memorial – Lawn mowing – Bevin Bisset is no longer interested in continuing but has found someone to replace him.
- 6.3. Ali Romanos noted he had overlooked filing a submission to NZTA/Waka Kotahi on behalf of Explore Pahiataua on the Toll Road. Ali apologised for the oversight.

- 6.4. **Action: Ali Romanos** to contact Babu Jacobs to present his idea about an online jobs board to the committee at the next meeting.

7. Correspondence

Inwards

- Rocket Spark – Buy a Block \$1,000.00 Woodville School
- Companies Office – Reminder to file Annual Return
- Mike Butterick MP – Easter Trading
- Allie Dunn – TDC Urban Strategy
- Jeannie O’Brien – Tararua Community Youth Services
- Esther Romp – Pahiatua Toy Library – Discretionary Grant
- Kimberley Stevens -TDC – Confirming date and time of presentation of the Community Plan to Council.
- Hillary Webb – Bunnythorpe Community Committee – Asking for a copy of the community plan.
- Adam Craig – Regent theatre invoice for the Patrol Treat – Discretionary grant.

Outwards

- Esther Romp – Pahiatua Toy Library – Email acknowledgement of grant received.
- Jeanne o’ Brien – Ali Romanos replied to acknowledge email.

- 7.1. The committee discussed the process around moving and seconding non-contentious resolutions and decided that this was an antiquated formality no longer required as a meeting procedure going forwards. If the Chair considers procedural matters to be non-contentious they will simply be carried upon a basic heads of agreement, with contentious issues to be reserved for debate, votes and/or abstentions as necessary.
- 7.2. Action points will be recorded explicitly to ensure accountability.

That the inwards be received and outwards noted.

Carried

Action: Ali Romanos to contact Hilary Webb to provide copy of Community Plan and offer attendance at Bunnythorpe meeting.

8. Tararua District Council Report (Cr Alison Franklin)

- 8.1. Cr Alison Franklin emailed her Council report (**annexed**), which the meeting took as read. Cr Gilmore noted Ali Romanos’s presentation of the Community Plan to the Council was well received and thanked him for his work.
- 8.2. The Committee commended Cr Franklin’s large amount of work for the Polish Reunion Weekend.

That Cr Alison Franklin’s Council Report be received.

Carried.

9. Urban Design Strategy

- 9.1. Raj Suppiah spoke to the committee to explain the background of the Design Strategy which serves to complement the growth plan and allow public input into the infrastructure they want as their urban landscape. The Council want to ensure connections with growth areas and infrastructure. Raj noted the Pahiatua Community Plan is excellent and speaks to how engagement with the community will feed into the Urban Design Strategy. The questions for the Committee were posed as: Are there any other aspirations or requirements that the community have beyond the Community Plan? Would the Committee like to set up some drop-in sessions with the community?
- 9.2. The Committee noted there will likely be more concern with ensuring infrastructure is right before focusing on Urban Design. Cr Gilmore clarified the Infrastructure Plan is required to sit in the District Plan and inside the Growth Plan. It was noted projects such as combining the library and youth space would sit elsewhere.
- 9.3. Raj clarified there is no set date for feedback and there is only funding for creating the strategy, not for any projects that arise out of it as these would need to come from future long-term plans. He recommended that, based on the discussion, waiting to see what comes out of the Urban Designs completed by the other towns. The Committee agreed.

10. Financial Report (Marie Kissick)

10.1. Current status

- The balance of the main account is \$151,391.60.
- The balance of the Business Group account is \$444.33.

The following invoices to be approved for payment on 20 November:

	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	NZME	Bush Telegraph feature (usual feature plus ad for Polish reunion)	\$1,077.68
2.	Mitre 10 (previous owners)	Community Garden (Seedlings, infrastructure works, compost)	\$57.87
3.	Mitre 10 (new owners)	Community Garden (seedlings)	\$ 7.11
4.	RocketSpark	Annual Website & email fee (x3)	\$839.50
5.	Louise Reimbursement	Community Garden Seedlings	\$40.00
6.	Freedom Designs	Explore Christmas Signage	\$186.30
		TOTAL	\$2,208.46

The following invoices were paid during the month for retrospective approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
J. M Intense	Explore Christmas Stage Deposit (30%)	\$936.33
Ingrid	Reimbursement for Polish decorations	\$266.19

10.2. Tagged funds

	Project	Amount
1.	Swimming Pool	\$30,000.00
2.	Explore Pahiata signage	\$20,000.00
3.	Harvard Playground	\$20,000.00
4.	Carnival Park (originally \$9,289.33 but reduced by \$1,736.25 for Jan invoice, \$985 for seedlings, \$1,471.25 ABC invoice June, \$1,000 tree removal June.)	\$4,096.83
5.	Youth Centre refurbishment	\$3,000.00
6.	Contribution towards Polish reunion event in November	\$ 5,000.00
7.	Dog Park – Waireka Grant - \$10K less \$260 digger works, \$3,256.11 seats and \$1,301.96 at Mitre 10).	\$5,181.93
8.	NZME Partner Programme less payments since 1 August	\$3,680.80
9.	Community Garden remaining infrastructure works	\$181.70
10.	Community garden operating costs for year ended June 2025	\$1,688.39
11.	Community Garden Mural (reflecting grant received)	\$2,000.00
12.	Explore Christmas	\$10,000.00
	TOTAL	\$104,829.65

The Committee reviewed the tagged funds on a line-by-line basis and noted:

	Tagged projects to stay	Amount
1.	Swimming Pool Raylene noted the process is in place for tender documents for construction will be out in January with an aim for the pool to be built before next year's season.	\$30,000.00

	Tagged projects to stay	Amount
2.	Harvard Playground It was noted there should be an Asset Management Plan with a budget attached. Action: James Devoe to send a request to Carter TDC group manager for this information and invite Fountaine to a future Explore meeting to provide an update on Community Assets in general.	\$20,000.00
3.	Carnival Park (originally \$9,289.33 but reduced by \$1,736.25 for Jan invoice, \$985 for seedlings, \$1,471.25 ABC invoice June, \$1,000 tree removal June.)	\$4,096.83
4.	Contribution towards Polish reunion event in November	\$5,000.00
5.	Dog Park – Waireka Grant - \$10K less \$260 digger works, \$3,256.11 seats and \$1,301.96 at Mitre 10).	\$5,181.93
6.	NZME Partner Programme less payments since 1 August	\$3,680.80
7.	Community Garden remaining infrastructure works	\$181.70
8.	Community garden operating costs for year ended June 2025	\$1,688.39
9.	Community Garden Mural (reflecting grant received)	\$2,000.00
10.	Explore Christmas	\$10,000.00
	New Tagged Funding lines	
11.	Polish Memorial signage.	\$1,000
	Committee agreed to remove	
	Explore Pahiata signage -	\$20,000.00
	Youth Centre refurbishment	\$3,000.00
	TOTAL	\$82,829.65

10.3. **Further notes:**

- Ingrid requires public liability documents from TDC and has been requesting these.
Action: Cr Gilmore to look into these being provided.
- Ingrid requested funds for window prizes.
- **Action: Marie Kissick** will look at options for short-term term deposits and bring to the next meeting.

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

11. **Community Plan**

- 11.1. The Committee discussed the best places to make the Community Plan available around town. An electronic copy will be available on the TDC website.
- 11.2. **Action: Ali Romanos** to distribute hard copies to Committee members to go out to locations such as the library, The Regent, the dentist, coffee shops etc.

11.3. **Action:** Ali Romanos to get Explore website log-ins from Louise Powick.

11.4. **Action:** Ingrid de Graaf to promote the Community Plan on Facebook.

12. Portfolio Reports

12.1. Pahiataua Districts Business Group (PDBG) (Ingrid de Graaf)

- As per report (**annexed**).
- Ingrid noted she has been focused on Polish Reunion Weekend but now focusing on quiz.

12.2. Explore Pahiataua Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)

- As per report (**annexed**).

12.3. Carnival Park (Karolyn Donald)

- As per report (**annexed**).

12.4. Community Garden (Emma Elliott)

- As per report (**annexed**).

12.5. Swimming Baths (Karolyn Donald)

- As per report (**annexed**).

12.6. Swimming Pool (Raylene Treder)

- As per report (**annexed**).

12.7. Rotary Dog Park (Raylene Treder)

- Slow progress due to the weather.

12.8. Road Safety Committee (Marie Kissick)

- No updates.

12.9. Civil Defence

- No updates.

12.10. Harvard Plane Upgrade (James Devoe)

- As per portfolio report (**annexed**).

12.11. Explore Christmas (Ingrid de Graaf)

- As per report (**annexed**).
- Ingrid noted her main focus was confirming the road closure.

- The Committee discussed having the Explore Pahiatua Gazebo erected at the event, with the Community Plan available.
- Ingrid discussed creating a risk plan for the event which the Committee supported.

12.12. Youth Centre (Ali Romanos)

- Raylene Treder left the meeting at 8:56pm owing to identified conflict.
- Ali Romanos noted that, following the loss of the TCYS's funding, it would be vacating the Youth Centre building in December. Explore has several options to consider, such as: selling the asset, becoming a commercial landlord, or another option such as finding another community-focused tenant.
- Ali explained Raylene, in her role as a Real Estate agent, knows of interested parties in buying the property. Raylene has a conflict of interest given she could potentially make a financial benefit as the broker.
- The Committee discussed an appropriate process to evaluate the options which could be laid out as an evaluation document that considers
 - Pros and cons: e.g. Property management of either time or paying to manage it. We need to identify possible management fees.
 - Risks: e.g. The income from rent is \$13,000 per year which, if sold, will mean a reduction of income per year, noting that Explore Pahiatua has lost income from council.
 - If sold, how the proceeds would be managed: e.g. local projects such as the swimming pool.
- It was agreed a history of decision-making and where the money initially came from would be a good background.
- The committee decided putting some options to the Community could be helpful
- **Action: All Committee** to contribute to the document, for further discussion at December meeting.

13. Items not on the Agenda / General Business

13.1. Toy Library funding application:

- The Toy Library has requested money for a laptop.
- The Committee discussed the status of giving out discretionary funding. Marie confirmed the Explore service agreement contained \$7,507 for discretionary funding and recommended this be added to the tagged funding minus the pottery grant agreed.
- **Action: Georgina Morrison** to ask for income details to accompany the request.

Meeting Closed at 9:17pm.

Ali Romanos (Chair): _____

Annexures

Council Report (Cr Franklin)

After months of planning, the big day finally arrived. Everything went according to plan, apart of course, from the weather which can never be relied upon to perform as required. The numbers blew out to 420 which meant a change of venue and thankfully Tararua College came to the rescue. The College Hall turned out to be an absolute winner and we were most grateful for them for the use of the weekend.

Special thanks to TC for coming to the rescue. If you haven't been out to the Polish Memorial to see the magnificent story-boards that now adorn a concrete plinth and tell the story of the former Polish Children's Camp site "Little Poland", make sure you do, they look amazing. Personal thanks from me to Louise who agreed to MC the Saturday programme – as per usual, she did an outstanding job.

I was most relieved to see the catering come in within the budget offered by Explore Pahiatua.

I was very honoured to be invited by Mayor Tracey to accompany her to Christchurch for the dedication of a newly established Park at Oakbridge, which is a new 500 home subdivision. The park been developed and extensively planted by the Christchurch Polish Association, and, in honour of the Pahiatua Polish Childrens Camp; will be named "Little Poland".

Pahiatua Town Baths

A majority Council vote saw the minimal funding required in order for the Pool to be open this coming season, agreed to at a full meeting of Council last week. Whilst Cr Scott and I were concerned that this was an about-face on the original decision made when approving the Loan Funding for the BAT covered sprung heated swimming pool where it was agreed that no further funds would be used to repair the town baths. However, underwater testing using Council's submersible drone and dye to highlight where the pool was leaking, revealed that for minimal cost, a temporary repair job that would enable the pool to open, could be carried out at a cost of \$3,500. All that is required is to gouge out the holes and fill with an expiry 2-pot resin. Marilyn informed me that 3 years ago all the holes were found and they didn't lose a drop of water for that season, so it is hoped that this will be the case again this season. There are no guarantees but at least the amount being spent is minimal and there is funding available for this. It was determined that the cost of providing to transport children to other vapour's pools, would be far more expensive than this minimal temporary fix.

Closing of Dannevirke Council Chamber.

Tomorrow's Council's Community Development & Wellbeing Meeting is being held in the Pahiatua Chamber, the first of many meetings to be held in Pahiatua over the next 6 weeks. Council is quitting a lease building opposite the Council Chamber in Denmark Street and will be converting the Chamber into office space for those who have been working out of the Hub. The Council Chamber is to be relocated to the top floor of the Dannevirke Town Hall, which of course, is a Council-owned facility. This move will create a considerable saving to ratepayers and for Councillors and Staff, it will be welcome change to meet in a building with windows creating external light after years of holding meetings in an internal chamber. The estimated saving of rent is \$7620.29 per month which equates to \$91,443.48pa and \$9,144,348.00 over 10 years. This move is one of the first in our rationalisation

and integration of Council services, either Council owned, or in this case, leased, consulted on in the 2024/34 LTP. There won't be any funds spent on renovations, the main work being done inside the Town Hall to facilitate the new Council Chambers will be, the installation of cameras and microphones to facilitate various functions, such as;

- Council meetings
- Conference calls
- Citizenship ceremonies
- Public meetings

And there is no monetary cost to converting the existing chamber with all existing staff furniture being brought over from the Tararua Business Network at 40 Denmark Street. The only real requirement is some Cat5 cabling to enable connectivity between staff and TDC servers when required. No requirement for extra electric sockets and all work will be carried out by Council's IT staff.

Armistice Day – 11th November 2024

Armistice Day commemorations are being held across the District at the majority of our RSA cenotaphs next Tuesday at 11am. All are welcome to attend these ceremonies, with our local commemoration being held at the cenotaph in the Town Centre Gardens. Mayor Tracey and I will be attending on behalf of Council.

PDBG (Ingrid de Graaf)

Recent focus has been around the Polish Reunion – creating decoration starter packs and distributing around the businesses and organisations along the Main Street (huge thanks to Gerry & Wendy Parker for their help with this). Also creating and publishing marketing materials to promote the community celebration aspect of the event.

Next event is the second annual PDBG Social Quiz Night on the 20th November (thanks to Raylene Treder for the prompt to get this off the ground and the help to organise the event).

Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)

October Bush Telegraph – ½ page for Explore Christmas + additional ½ page for Polish Reunion

November Bush Telegraph (25 Nov) will be main Explore Christmas advert

December Bush Telegraph will be Explore Christmas debrief

Facebook: post re. AGM, created event for Explore Christmas, shared TDC post re. Funders Forum 2024, posted re. Explore Christmas (coming soon), posted re. Parade & Float Competition, shared PDBG post regarding Christmas Window Competition, updated cover photo to Polish Reunion, posted re. Polish Reunion, shared PDBG post re. decorating for Polish Reunion, shared PDBG post re. Polish quotes, posted again re. Polish Reunion, posted re. Explore Christmas (main poster), shared Pahiataua School post re. Blue Light Orienteering Race (requested by Glynis De Castro), shared PDBG post re. PDBG Social Quiz Night, posted re. Polish Reunion convey route, updated cover photo

10

to Explore Christmas

Still need to do post regarding Carnival Park BBQ – have taken photos and received info from Karolyn – just need to do the post!

Carnival Park (Karolyn Donald)

Attended funders forum and have set up an account with GrantGuru for funding. No funds applied for to date.

DOC have secured funds and will be removing the dangerous pine trees and overhanging branches on the north boundary down the western end of the reserve. Date still to be confirmed for that but expect it will be late November / early December.

Community Garden (Emma Elliott)

We currently have just two committee members attending our monthly meetings. This issue will be addressed during our meeting this week.

Recent working bees at the garden have seen the completion of our funded infrastructure work. The gravel path, around the compost bins and in front of the shed door to combat mud, is finished. A new volunteer has organised large quantities of mature mulch to feed our growing beds. Many, many barrow loads have been wheeled and spread. The same volunteer has offered to collect horse manure from RDA also. Growth on spring brassicas has been slow and the gate is currently locked so that plants can mature before harvesting. We await warmer weather for summer planting and look forward to no more frosts! Each working bee is followed by a cuppa and cake. There is always lively discussion and sharing of knowledge. All current, regular volunteers are already home gardeners and there needs to be a concerted effort to try and attract newer gardeners as volunteers.

Our Beginners gardening session on October 24 had five enrolments but only three turned up. Feedback from attendees was great. Our final session in November will need better advertising with posters up across town.

There are just two working bees left in the year. Our second one in November will be followed by a volunteer BBQ. There will be no working bee on the first Saturday in December due to Explore Christmas.

Creative Communities awarded \$2000 for our mural project although the payment was short of GST. It is proposed that we approach the mural artist and ask what can be achieved with the \$2k funding. Our priority is the bare back boards of the shelter over the picnic table.

Swimming Pool (Raylene Treder)

Lotteries have been in touch to have a discussion about the grant request made, commented that it was a comprehensive and worth application and has been forwarded onto the committee. Decision mid December.

BAT committee meet with Mike Dunn, Hayden Mischefski and Jodine Hood (TDC) to discuss action points. Great progress is been made and the plan is to have tenders out late January 2025.

Buy a Block donations still being received \$2,000 received in the last week.

Mike Dunn has meet with HMC who recently constructed the pool in Christchurch with a sprung structure.

Mayor Tracey and CEO Bryan TDC to meet with Mercury Energy in regards to sponsorship.

Harvard Playground Upgrade (James Devoe)

Re Assets information from TDC. Jeffery from TDC has left, and Robert Hood will be taking over the role. Once he has the plans for Harvard Playground, he will share them with us.

Explore Christmas (Ingrid de Graaf)

Still waiting on TMP and quote (TMNZ are waiting on Tararua District Council to supply a copy of the Public Liability Insurance) for road closure. Notices to residents and businesses along affected route to go out 2 weeks prior to the event. Rebus to assist with road closure.

Advertising in full swing – posters going out this week, corflute sign going up tomorrow, Bush Tele booked for 25 Nov, Facebook to ramp up

Concert planning well underway, stage booked, DJ sorted

Elf Land activities pretty much all locked in

Community decorations to roll out leading up to the event

Registrations from food trucks and market stalls rolling in steadily

Next steps are to promote parade and window comp, collect in trophies, organise prizes/certificates, finalise judges etc

Frustrating that we can't finalise budget due to not knowing cost of road closure!

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

Present: J Kopa, M Carroll, P Cocks, Raj Suppiah (TDC) Cr S Gilmore, C Wilton, V Tomlinson,
R McMillan, A Sowry, B Hutton, Cr P Johns, C Archer, P Tayler, A Hapuku, J Lovett

1. Apologies:

B Tomlinson, K Stevens, P Bonser, S Bonser
That the apologies be accepted
C Wilton / P Johns

Carried

2. Other General Business

3. Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

4. Minutes of previous meeting:

***That the minutes are confirmed as a true and accurate record with the following
amendments***
P Johns / V Tomlinson

Carried

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

5.1 Skatepark

***Moved that a separate suffixed bank account be set up to handle funds for Woodville
Skatepark Project***
V Tomlinson / P Johns

Carried

5.2 Flower Baskets & Flag Trax:

Mounting of these may have some problems. It has been suggested that the streetlight
standards may not be sturdy enough to hold flags.
The flower baskets hanging low on verandas may be open to theft.
These subjects continue to be a work in progress

5.3 Historic Gas Lamp Post Project:

Posts are now sandblasted, rust proofed and painted with commercial paint. They will be
taken to Scanpower to be prepared for installation outside the Tararua isite.
Tararua Alliance has agreed to do the Traffic Management and Corridor Access Request free of
charge. We are now awaiting written confirmation from Council that we can proceed with
installing the posts in our proposed location.
We hope to have these posts in place early in 2025 in line with the 150yr celebrations.
We still need to find a sponsor for a plaque to be mounted.

6. Correspondence:

Inward: Woodville & Districts RSA – Armistice Day
Woodville School – Water Tank
Max Sutherland – Woodville Xmas Market (stall query)
Lion Foundation- funding
TDC – Urban Design Strategy
Electrify Wairarapa Conference & Expo

After discussions re the request from Woodville School for a water tank it was moved:

That the water tanks behind Rinitawa that are not being used to shifted to the school for use in the school gardening club.

V Tomlinson/C Archer

Carried

Outward: Nil

That the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outward approved
B Hutton / P Johns

Carried

7. Finance:

The finance report was presented.

Moved that the Financial Report be accepted and accounts paid with the addition of \$1150 for sandblasting of streetlight poles & Murrays Contractor \$26 for Mad Hatters Day bins

V Tomlinson / C Wilton

Carried

Moved that the reimbursements for Mad Hatters be paid from ring fenced fund
V Tomlinson / C Wilton

Carried

8. TDC Report – Cr S Gilmore:

Illicit Dumping

There has been a spike of illicit dumping around Woodville. Council always seeks to identify the culprits, with 7 infringements notices being issued in the last financial year.

If you see anything, please report it to council. Illegal dumping of rubbish is a cost to all ratepayers.

Council Chamber Move

The council chambers are moving from the main building to the Dannevirke Town Hall concert chambers. As an early part of the building rationalisation project and following requests for rationalisation in the Long-term Plan process, council will be ending its lease on the Tararua Business Hub on Denmark Street, with staff relocating to the main building where space will open up as the chambers are moved.

Although this is not a perfect solution, it will have significant long-term savings of \$7,620.29 per month, or \$91,443.48 per year.

Council and committee meetings will be held in Pahiatua in November and December and will begin in the new location next year. All council and committee meetings will continue to be recorded and available on the council website and YouTube.

Bylaw Consultation

Consultation for the Draft Trade Waste Bylaw, Draft Traffic and Road Use Bylaw and the Draft Waste Management & Minimisation Bylaw are still underway. Consultation Closes 16 December 2024, so please get your submissions in as it's the only way we can make changes to the drafts.

Mad Hatters Day

Congratulations to Positively Woodville on another hugely successful Mad Hatters Day. It is a significant amount of work to hold events of this standard and the feedback I received on the day from locals and visitors alike was universally positive. Thank you for organising such a special community event, with a particular thanks to Jenny and Nigel for all their efforts.

Mayor and Councillor Drop in Meetings

The next Woodville session will be on 25 November from 2:30 to 4:30 at the isite. You can drop in anytime between these times. I'm also available to catch up on the phone or in person at other times if this doesn't suit. Just let me know.

Urban Design Project (presented by Raj Suppiah from Tararua District Council).

Summary: The design strategy will explore medium to long term visions for the future of our town centres, using strategic plans and guidelines focused on provision of public amenities, the creation of designed public spaces and beautification. This plan is intended to be used for future development within our town centres by developers, community, and council to ensure future development and enhancements are undertaken cohesively across the town. The development of Urban Design Strategy is funded by "Better Off" funding

TDC would like a community driven response to develop the Urban Design Strategy. This is why we need your help; we would like to hear what you think is important in our town centre, and what you, as community, would like to see prioritised and considered in the strategy. To begin building key recommendations for the future of our communities and towns we would like to undertake community engagement in the form of drop-in sessions and workshops. Dates for the workshops are as follows:

NOTE: THESE NEED TO BE CONFIRMED

- Woodville - 26th Nov, 3 - 6pm, Sports centre
- Norsewood – 2nd Dec, 5.30-7.30pm Town hall
- Dannevirke - 3rd Dec, 3 - 6pm, Town hall

9. General Business:

Mad Hatters Day

J Lovett reported on the Mad Hatters Day stating that whilst it was a very successful day there were a few issues which she hopes would be resolved for next year. The next Positively Woodville Meeting will be presented with the financial report of the day.

A suggestion was raised that for next year that due to funding issues for our events like this we look at only holding one event rather than a Mad Hatters Day and Xmas Parade.

Cr S Gilmore suggested that decision re this be held off until discussion with the council for funding. The Contestable Funding was bought up as unsure how this will look in relation to allocation. It is designed for small events to occur.

B Hutton raised that as a Steampunk themed event it is the only one of its kind in the Lower North Island.

It was noted that one of the days issues was the failure of volunteers to turn up.

Funding:

J Kopa suggested that in the new year we look at appointing a person in charge of finding funding as there are different layers of funding for low decile areas to help pay for activities.

Fountain Square:

Some discussion regarding the equipment at Fountain Square. Some of the equipment is now classified as no longer safe. We are looking at ways to support council with their programme of upgrades and/or replacements.

It was suggested that perhaps two committee members work with the TDC with regard to the future plan for the square and what the expected timeline for completion of projects would be. Cr P Johns and J Kopa to arrange a meeting with the TDC for options.

There is also Woodville District Vision equipment at the Park that needs to be evaluated. Council has offered to ask for a specialist skilled in appraisal of playground equipment to evaluate the items to determine what can be kept, what needs to be fixed and what (if any) needs to be removed.

Draft Community Plan:

The draft has been completed. We are waiting for a few more details to be provided by project leads, then, following a final read through the plan will be released.

Storage shed:

Our funding applications for the storage shed have been declined. It was discussed that the storage at the Woodville 4 Square may have some access issues.

Perhaps we can look at kitset garages, existing flatpack options or other potential storage options within the community.

Armistice Day:

The RSA is hosting a service 11th November 10.45am

Requested that we lay a wreath on behalf of Positively Woodville - budget of \$150

V Tomlinson / P Johns

Carried

Meeting closed at 8.44pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Date:



Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Tararua Business Network Training Room, 40 Denmark Street, Dannevirke on Monday 18 November 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 Cr E L Peeti-Webber

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs T H Collis

Ms F Chase	–	Facilities Manager
Mrs A Charmley	–	Planning Services Manager
Mrs A Dunn	–	Manager – Democracy Services
Ms S Ellis	–	Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Public Forum

There were no requests for Public Forum.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Board Member Hynes – Proposed closure of Bush Telegraph.

Board Member Hynes – Board submissions to current tranche of bylaws (Draft Trade Waste Bylaw, Draft Waste Management and Waste Minimisation Bylaw, Draft Traffic and Road Use Bylaw).

5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 21 October 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Hynes/Wallace

Carried

6. Tararua District Council Report

6.1 Report from Tararua District Council

That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 30 October 2024 and the extraordinary meetings held 5 November and 11 November 2024 be received.

Wallace/Walshe

Carried

7. Reports

7.1 Management Report

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 11 November 2024 that provided an update to the Board on key activities and items of interest as reported to the meeting of the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee held 6 November 2024.

Regarding the rates postponement policy, it was noted that the policy had been adopted on Friday, and that response letters would be sent soon. It was underlined that a review and report would be provided to the Community Board as soon as it was released.

It was outlined that community groups would be able to apply for funding from both the Community Board Discretionary Fund, and the Contestable Fund, but would only receive funding from one source due to their similar funding pool.

In response to a request about the cost of the Toll Free Tararua campaign, it was advised that a recent LGOIMA request had sought this information and the response was available to view via the Council website. The total cost advised in this response was \$6,948.90.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 11 November 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Wallace/Hynes

Carried

7.2 Community Board Satisfaction Survey Results

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 12 November 2024 that presented the results of a

satisfaction survey undertaken by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and the Community Board Executive Committee (CBEC) regarding Community Board effectivity, and the opportunities and actions that could be taken to provide further support to Community Boards.

It was requested that the report be reviewed and discussed in conjunction with Council, and noted that many of the issues and mitigation items presented in the report could be implemented within Council business.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 12 November 2024 concerning the Community Board Satisfaction Survey Results be received.

Peeti-Webber/Walshe

Carried

7.3 **Proposal for Solar Farm at Dannevirke Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 13 November 2024 that presented for information a report considered by the Tararua District Council at its meeting held 30 October 2024, regarding a proposal for a solar farm at Dannevirke Wastewater Treatment Plant.

An update was requested on the project, and it was advised that further updates provided to Council would be shared with the Dannevirke Community Board. It was noted that the solar farm would be primarily pond based due to concerns surrounding its original location.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Proposal for Solar Farm at Dannevirke Wastewater Treatment Plant be received.

Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

Board Member Christison recorded a vote against the motion.

7.4 **Capital Programme Report**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 11 November 2024 that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses as reported to the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee on 6 November 2024.

An update regarding Carnegie Hall was requested.

It was noted that a public drop-in session for the Urban Design Strategy would be held on 3 December 2024 from 3-6pm in the conference room at the Hub.

It was asked what provisions would be given for disabled members of the public wanting to attend Council meetings in the new chamber, as the area was only accessible via stairwell. It was responded that an area downstairs could be

connected via Teams, to enable the livestream of the meetings to be viewed, and should any members of the public wish to speak in public forum and could not manage the stairs, the Council would reconvene their meeting downstairs to hear from them.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 11 November 2024 concerning the Capital Programme Report be received.

Hynes/Walshe

Carried

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

Chamber of Commerce: Board Member Hynes reported that planning for the Christmas Parade was underway, and that the event would take place on 7 December. He added that Waka Kotahi had kindly provided funding for traffic management on the day.

Community Vehicle Trust: Board Member Hynes reported that the service was operating as usual, and while funding issues from some organisations had been encountered, extra funding for management had been provided by the Tindall Foundation.

Information Centre: Board Member Wallace reported his attendance at an information centre meeting on 11 November, and noted that both local and out-of-district visits had recently been increasing. He informed the Board that the Information Centre would be closing for the Holiday period on December 23, and would reopen on January 13, 2025. He also noted that the next meeting would not be until February 2025.

Concerns had been raised regarding the power usage for the renovations of the new Council Chamber within the Town Hall, as a recent increase had been observed. It was noted that this would be looked into.

It was also asked whether the Community Board still paid for the electronic sign placed above the Information Centre, given they had funded its placement; it was noted that the Board would generally pay \$500 per year for its operation, to be invoiced at the end of the year. It was stated that this expense should be included in budgeting in future.

Dannevirke Brass Band: Board Member Wallace reported that the band was practising for Christmas, with a good amount of new learners getting involved. He noted that December would be busy.

Norsewood Armistice Day: Board Member Wallace reported his attendance at Armistice Day celebrations in Norsewood. He commended Norsewood school on their contributions to the proceedings.

100th Birthday Celebration: Board Member Wallace and Her Worship the Mayor

spoke about the recent gifting of a 100th birthday commemoration card and noted that Council's were no longer automatically informed when residents were turning 100. Her Worship the Mayor advised that she would contact MP Mike Butterick regarding this to ask that he inform Council, similar to the arrangement that existed with the former minister.

Skatepark: Cr E Peeti-Webber noted that builders would be arriving next month to consult with stakeholders as part of the project planning process. This would include iwi and community groups.

A & P: Board Member Christison noted that, due to scheduling conflicts, Wheels of Attitude 2025 show had been postponed.

Road Safety Committee: Chairperson Walshe noted that no Road Safety Committee meeting had been held. He spoke about the recent visit to Te Ahu a Turanga highway with Council, that Board members attended.

Dannevirke Armistice Day: Chairperson Walshe and Board Member Hynes noted their attendance at the Dannevirke Armistice Day celebrations.

Kapa Haka Festival: Correspondence was received from Tararua REAP expressing appreciation for the Community Board's support of the event.

9. Discussion Items

Report back on Market Day: It was noted that the weather on the outset had been rough, with 7 stallholders initially packing up, but the weather cleared up later on and a fantastic day was had. Board Member Christison submitted his apologies for not being available to assist with putting out the flags for the event.

Concerns were noted regarding the large gaps between stallholders and long travel distance between the beginning and end locations of the event. It was suggested to instead hold the Market Day in the Ward Street carpark to promote ease of access, noting that brick and mortar shops would still be holding event day sales, however it was noted that a temporary road closure process would be needed.

Budget 2024-25 Prioritisation: It was noted that the remaining Community Board budget totalled \$17.5k, with Board members expressing disappointment at the decreased total from previous years.

The cost to install Christmas lights was reported to be \$9000, but it was recommended that this figure be looked into as other Community Committees within the district had managed to put up their lights for less. It was suggested that a conversation be had with Scanpower regarding the cost.

It was underlined that a decision should be made regarding the lights as soon as

possible, as they would normally be put up on 1 December.

Allocation of District's Speed Indicator Sign: Board Member Wallace proposed the installation of a speed indicator light on Smith Street, due to high numbers of people speeding in the area. It was recommended that the issue be raised at the next road safety meeting.

It was noted that the draft Land Rationalisation Project would be brought back to Council at its next meeting.

Board Member Christison outlined that the local voices event would be held later that night at 6pm, and that a Community Board presence had been requested. He noted that he would be in attendance.

10. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil.

11. Items not on the Agenda

Bush Telegraph Closure: Board Member Hynes raised concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Bush Telegraph, given its importance as a Tararua community link. He questioned what should be done by the Board and other community groups to promote the survivability of the paper. It was noted that it was a proposal, with decisions still to be made.

The Board discussed sending a letter outlining their views on the proposed closure, and importance of having printed media available for those without access to social media or online sources of local news.

That the Dannevirke Community Board sends a letter of support of keeping the Bush Telegraph in production, noting the closing date for submissions being 27 November 2024.

Christison/Hynes

Carried

Bylaw Submissions: Board Member Hynes queried whether the Board should provide a submission for each Bylaw out for consultation in the current tranche. It was underlined that submissions closed on 16 December, and therefore the Board would need to informally get together to decide on what to include prior to that date.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:02am.

Chairperson



Report

Date : 22 November 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Aimee Charmley
Planning Manager

Subject : **Draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes**

Item No : **9.1**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Planning Manager dated 20 November 2024 concerning the Draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Council adopt the draft of the Proposed District Plan for pre-consultation purposes and note that the pre-consultation will extend over three (3) month period between 28th November 2024 to 1st March 2025.*
- 1.3 *That the Chief Executive be authorised to approve any final edits required to the Draft Proposed District Plan.*

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report presents the draft of the Proposed District Plan for Tararua District Council for adoption by Council for pre-consultation purposes.
- 2.2 Pre-consultation with the public will extend from 28th November 2024 to 1st March 2025. This is an opportunity to work with our community, Iwi Partners and key stakeholders before we publicly notify the proposed district plan under Schedule 1 of the RMA (1991) in May 2025.
- 2.3 As a draft plan change, we expect to be making changes to the provisions as we respond to matters raised in feedback, new technical advice received, and any change in national or regional direction. These changes will be made before public notification of the plan change documents under the Resource Management Act 1991 takes place.

- 2.4 Public notification of the plan change will enable formal submissions to be lodged which can then be considered as part of a hearing and final decision-making process.

3. Background

- 3.1 Tararua District is growing and more than ever before, people from outside our District are looking to make our whenua their home. It's exciting, because it's time for us to dream about our future and how we can accommodate and welcome our new arrivals.
- 3.2 The draft of the Proposed District Plan has been prepared in partnership with Rangitāne-o-Tamaki-nui-a-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua. Together we support the principles of tāria te wā and kaitiakitanga – it's our collective responsibility to ensure the effects of our growth on the district's natural and physical resources is sustainable for all future generations.
- 3.3 We believe in Tararua District – Thriving Together, ka huri tahi ngatahi Tararua. Let's look forward to prosperous times and a healthy environment for our community. For Councils, honouring this collective responsibility is also a legal requirement under the Resource Management Act 1991. The District Plan is a blueprint for our district's future, and therefore one of the most important documents a Council produces.
- 3.4 The current generation District Plan adopted by Tararua District Council in 2012, and amended in 2019, was a highly permissive plan, flexible to the benefit of development, but to the detriment of our natural resources. Our growth up until now has been opportunistic, with a lack of clear direction. Many opportunities to improve infrastructure and community wellbeing have not been easily obtained, and we are at risk of becoming a district of disconnected and poorly integrated development. We have also seen the loss of productive rural land to adhoc subdivision, with little focus on connected communities or sustainable environmental outcomes.

4. Proposed District Plan

- 4.1 In 2024, our refreshed draft of the Proposed District Plan now seeks to give effect to Council's District Strategy, Growth Strategy and maintain an enabling environment for growth to occur whilst improving the ability to ensure good outcomes are achieved.
- 4.2 The plan now sets out clear pathways for development to ensure that this occurs in a sustainable manner that is considerate of existing environments, infrastructure and communities. The District Plan recognises the vast areas of valuable soils, biodiversity values, ensures water and unique landscapes are protected, recognising our rich cultural heritage and acknowledging the differing needs and identities of our rural settlements and our townships. As a rural district, it also embraces farming culture and rural economy at its heart.

4.3 The overarching theme of the review has been to maintain, as far as possible and practicable, the permissive and ‘open for business’ nature of the current District Plan and carry this over into the new Plan. The key themes for the review are as follows:

- Maintain an ‘open for business’ feel to the Plan that enables development to occur in the District.
- Recognise that the character and amenity of the District is going to change over time and recognise that such change is not automatically an adverse outcome.
- Provide more flexibility for development within the commercial centres to encourage growth and investment.
- Provide a framework for greenfield development within the identified growth areas.
- Provide a less restrictive framework for the development of Māori owned land.
- Provide a framework that enables increased housing choice to those that choose to live within the District.
- Protect the Rural resource and versatile land within the District.
- Provide more direction on the desired outcomes for development within the District.
- Provide Council consent planners with more discretion to ensure good outcomes are achieved.
- Provide more direction on how stormwater is to be managed within private development.

4.4 Structure and Layout of Proposed District Plan

4.4.1 The structure and layout of the District Plan chapters is different to the look and feel of the existing plan. The new format of the proposed district plan has changed to meet the requirements of the National Planning Standards 2019 and it will take a little bit to get used to.

4.5 Summary Document of the Key Chapters of the Proposed District Plan

4.5.1 To help understand the key changes between the operative and proposed district plan we have prepared summary documents on the key chapters. The Summary Document provides an overview of the key provisions and changes compared to the Operative District Plan. It is important to read the summary document first

and then go to the specific chapter of the Draft District Plan review to see the specific details.

4.5.2 Definitions Section of Draft District Plan

4.5.3 You will also need to reference the definitions section of the Draft District Plan. The definitions section is located in Part 1 of the Proposed District Plan. The definitions sections is fundamental to understanding how the plan and the rules work.

4.6 Zoning Principles

4.6.1 The zoning patterns in the Draft District Plan have been informed by the Tararua Growth Strategy 2024-2054. The Urban Growth Strategy was developed to help us understand our growth requirements for our District, outline the challenges faced with increased housing demand, and provide recommendations for how we can meet these demands efficiently and effectively.

4.6.2 Reports and information on hazards and infrastructure have also helped inform the zone boundaries and a detailed review of reserves, sporting and recreation facilities and conservation areas has been undertaken.

4.7 Key features for the revised zoning pattern are:

4.7.1 Changing the existing Residential Management Area to the General Residential Zone.

4.7.2 Separating the existing Rural Management Area to the General Rural Zone and the Rural Lifestyle Zone.

4.7.3 Changing the existing Industrial Management Area to the General Industrial Zone.

4.7.4 Changing the existing Commercial Management Area to the Town Centre Zone.

4.7.5 Establishing a new Māori Purpose Zone.

4.7.6 Rezoning existing Rural Management Area land to new General Residential Zone to provide for new residential Growth.

4.7.7 Rezoning existing Rural Management Area land to new General Industrial Zone to provide for new industrial Growth.

4.7.8 Enabling medium density development within the new General Residential Zone.

4.7.9 Converting existing open space and settlement areas into new Open Space Zone and Settlement Zone areas.

4.8 District Plan Framework

- 4.8.1 The Plan takes an integrated management approach to the subdivision, use, development, and protection of land and associated natural and physical resources. In some cases, the integrated management of effects requires the use of other mechanisms such as bylaws, advocacy, education and incentives to help achieve environmental outcomes. Where a rule or a regulatory approach, is the best solution to an issue, this plan contains those provisions.
- 4.9 The District Plan is broken up into four main parts as outlined below. Beneath each heading is a summary of the key elements within each Part.
- 4.10 Part 1 – Introduction and General Provisions
- 4.10.1 This part provides an introduction to the Proposed District Plan, its purpose, the key pieces of relevant legislation and information about how to use the Plan. They also provide context and process-related information in relation to tangata whenua.
- 4.10.2 This chapter is similar in purpose and content to the introductory chapters of the Operative District Plan but has been revised to meet the requirements of the National Planning Standards. The structure of Part 1 is as follows:

PART 1	Introduction & General Provisions
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mihi • Foreword • Contents • Purpose
How the Plan works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Context • General Approach • Cross boundary matters • Relationships between spatial layers
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions • Abbreviations
National Direction Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy Statements and NZ Coastal Policy Statement • National Environmental Standards • Regulations • Water Conservation orders
Tangata Whenua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tangata Whenua

- 4.10.3 This part of the Plan sets the scene for how the document is to be implemented and outlines the context it has been developed within and to be implemented within. The following extract from the draft Plan, is an outline how the Plan works:
- 4.11 Part 2 — District-Wide Matters
- These relate to:
- Strategic Direction

Energy, Infrastructure & Transport

Hazards & Risks

Historical & Cultural Values

Natural Environmental Values

Subdivision

General District-Wide Matters

4.11.1 The rules in these chapters apply generally across the District and are not separately covered in Part 3 Area Specific Matters. The strategic direction chapter contains objectives which address key strategic matters and provide district-wide strategic considerations. The objectives in this chapter have the same status as all other objectives in the plan but provide guidance across the district.

4.11.2 The district-wide provisions apply to the use and development of natural and physical resources across the district regardless of the zone or precinct in which they occur.

4.11.3 The provisions for overlays, scheduled sites and features are also contained within this section. Overlays, scheduled sites and features manage the protection, maintenance or enhancement of particular values associated with an area or resource. These can apply across zones, however their boundaries do not generally align to zone boundaries and often they do not align to land parcel boundaries.

4.12 Application of Part 2 District-Wide Matters

4.12.1 Tararua District Plan has provisions contained in Part 2 District-Wide Matters, that apply across the District in different ways:

4.12.2 1. Strategic Direction chapters

The following chapters provide a framework of objectives that set the overarching direction for the District Plan:

- RLR — Rural Land Resource
- SRC — Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Change
- TW — Tangata Whenua
- UFD — Urban Form and Development

The objectives and policies may also be relevant when considering resource consent applications for Discretionary and Non-Complying Activities.

4.13 2. Overriding District-Wide chapters

4.13.1 The following chapters contain provisions and rules relating to specific types of activities that take precedence over the Zone provisions and rules (unless otherwise specified within the chapters):

- NU — Network Utilities
- Eng — Energy
- ASW — Activities on the Surface of Water
- PKH — Papakāinga and Kaumātua Housing, and Associated Marae-based Development
- TEMP — Temporary Activities (temporary buildings, temporary events, and temporary military training activities)

Note: the provisions and rules in other Part 2 District-Wide chapters (refer below) may also apply.

4.14 3. All Other District-Wide chapters

- The following remaining chapters contain provisions and rules that may apply alongside/in addition to the Zone provisions and rules (some of which respond directly to features and areas shown on the Planning Maps):
- TRAN — Transport
- CL — Contaminated Land
- HAZS — Hazardous Substances
- NH — Natural Hazards
- HH — Historic Heritage
- SASM — Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori
- TREE — Notable Trees
- ECO — Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
- NFL — Natural Features and Landscapes
- OSR — Open Space and Recreation
- PA — Public Access
- SUB — Subdivision

- CE — Coastal Environment
- EW — Earthworks (including mining, quarrying, and hydrocarbon extraction activities)
- LIGHT — Light
- NOISE — Noise
- SIGNS — Signs

4.15 Part 3 — Area-Specific Matters

4.15.1 a) Zones:

Zones manage the way in which areas of land are used, developed or protected. The spatial application of zones identifies where similar uses and activities are anticipated. The zones provide the main provisions to direct activities. Zones are identified on the planning maps.

A zone spatially identifies and manages an area with common qualities and environmental characteristics or where particular environmental outcomes are sought.

The entire district is zoned and all land is identified as part of a 'zone' on the Planning Maps, with rules which specifically address zone-based activities and effects. The zones seek to enable similar, compatible activities or effects to be located in appropriate areas together, while managing those that are incompatible.

4.15.2 b) Designations:

This part contains the designations that have been included in the District Plan under section 168, section 168A or clause 4 of Schedule 1 of the RMA.

Designations authorise the use of land by requiring authorities for a particular project or public work. The District Plan rules do not apply to a public work, project or work undertaken by a requiring authority that is in accordance with the designation. However, if the designated land is used for a purpose other than the designated purpose, then the provisions of the District Plan do apply. Other people may not, without the prior written consent of the requiring authority, do anything in relation to the designated land that would impede the public work, project or work.

4.15.3 Part 4 — Appendices and Maps

Appendices: These contain technical information and data, such as schedules of identified sites, areas, items and features, where these have not been included in relevant chapters in Parts 2 and 3.

Maps: Planning maps spatially define zones, areas, items and features referred to within the District Plan chapters.

4.16 Using the Plan

4.16.1 Each chapter contains objectives, policies and rules. Objectives are a statement which seek to direct or resolve an identified resource management issue. All of the chapters in Part 2 District-Wide Matters and Part 3 Area-Specific Matters contain objectives and policies which set the policy framework for the plan. Policies set the course of action to achieve or implement an objective. Within Part 2 District-Wide Matters and Part 3 Area-Specific Matters of the Plan, each chapter generally follows the format and order of provisions as set out below:

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Policies
- Rules (if any)
- Standards (if any)
- Assessment Matters (if any)
- Methods (if stated)

4.16.2 Each chapter has a unique acronym which identifies the topic being covered. For example, the General Residential Zone is identified as GRZ, Transport is identified as TRAN.

4.16.3 The introduction provides an overview of the topic covered by the chapter.

4.16.4 The objectives set out the outcome to be achieved for the topic. There may be a number of objectives that apply. Each objective has a specific number; for example GRZ-O2 or TRANS-01.

4.16.5 The policies set out the direction to be taken to achieve the objective. There may be a number of policies that apply. Each policy has a specific number; for example TRAN-P1.

4.16.6 The rules (if any) have the effect of regulations and set out the activity status for different activities that may be proposed (refer Table 1 – Classes of Activities below). There may be a number of rules that apply (or none at all). Each rule has a specific number; for example GRZ-R4.

4.16.7 Rules are presented in two formats – as provisions in an Activities Rules table and as provisions in a Performance Standards table.

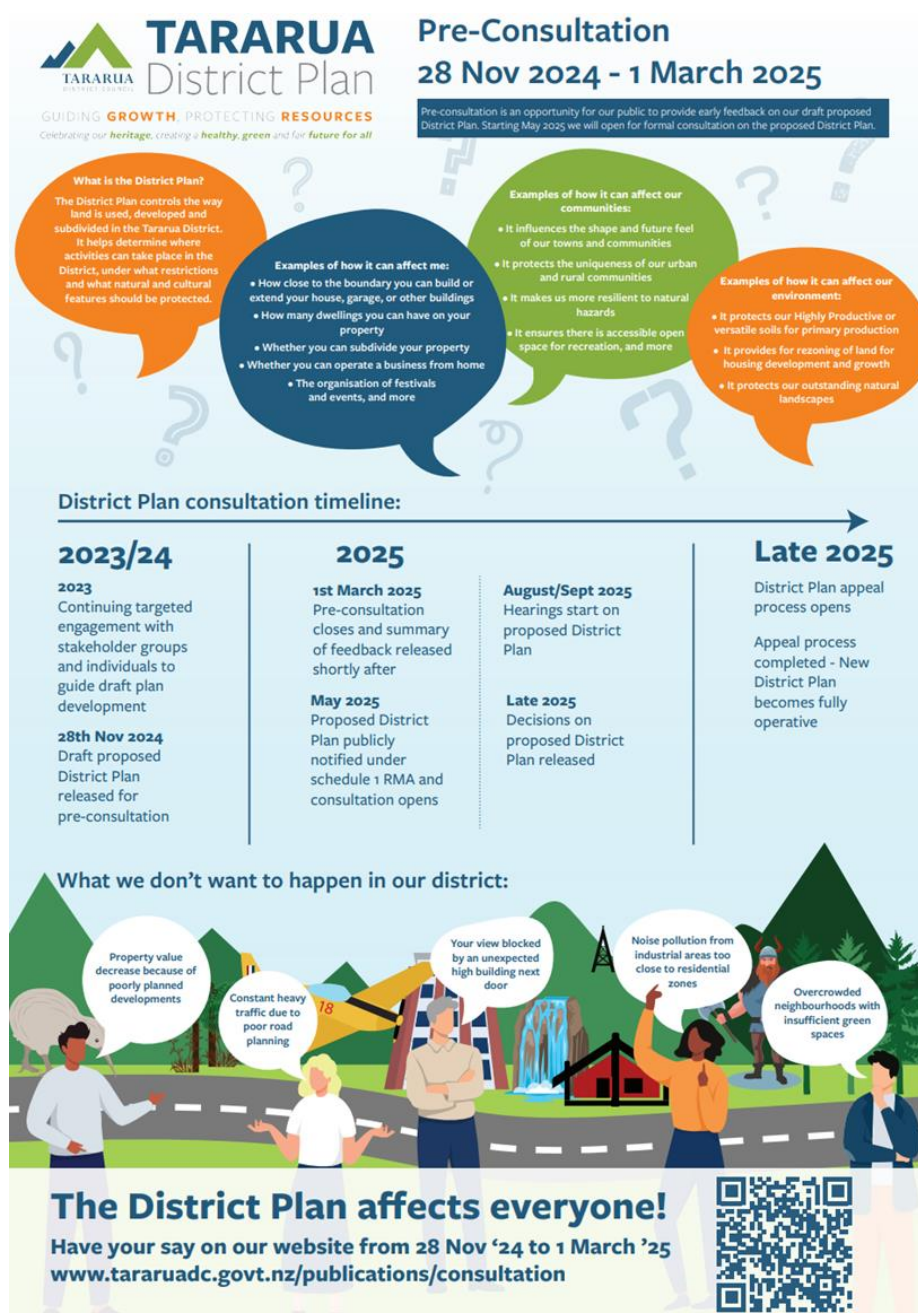
- 4.16.8 Activities rules are rules applicable to the type of activity that is being undertaken and provide the activity status. Where activities rules are used, they are usually found as Table 1 in the chapter. Activities provided for in Table 1 as permitted, controlled or restricted discretionary activities are normally subject to performance standards. Performance standards set limits on the extent to which an activity is permitted or may be assessed as a controlled or restricted discretionary activity. Exceedance of a performance standard normally results in the activity being considered as a more restrictive class of activity. The performance standards are found in Table 2 of most chapters. Some chapters do not have performance standards.
- 4.16.9 Rules may refer to standards that need to be complied with. Again, there may be a number of standards that apply. Each standard has a specific number; for example GRZ-S4.
- 4.16.10 Rules may also refer to assessment matters that may be considered when assessing an application for resource consent. There may be a number of assessment matters that apply. Each assessment matter has a specific number; for example GRZ-AM4.
- 4.16.11 Methods (if stated) outline other means of achieving the objectives and policies, other than District Plan rules, where relevant. Each method has a specific number; for example TRN-M1.
- 4.16.12 Wherever there is a conflict or inconsistency between rules, the most restrictive rule status applies to the activity in the first instance. Wherever there is a conflict or inconsistency between policies or between objectives, in the first instance, the most specific policy approach applies. Please note: Any activity not expressly provided for within this plan is a non-complying activity.
- 4.16.13 Where “all zones” is used in a rule, it applies to all precincts within that zone, unless otherwise specified.
- 4.16.14 Formed roads are not subject to the provisions of coastal/hazard areas, overlays, scheduled sites and features unless otherwise specified in a rule.
- 4.16.15 For avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between the rules, the more stringent rule applies.
- 4.16.16 Classes of Activities

Activity Status		Requires a Resource Consent	Explanation
PER	Permitted	No	Permitted activities do not require resource consent, provided standards and all other relevant rules are met. A Certificate of Compliance can be applied for stating that an activity can be done lawfully in a particular location without resource consent.
CON	Controlled	Yes	Council must grant consent for a controlled activity, except for in specific circumstances

Activity Status		Requires a Resource Consent	Explanation
		Consent must be granted	under sections 104 and 106 of the RMA, and can only consider matters, or impose conditions, over which the District Plan or a national environmental standard has specifically reserved control. The activity may need to meet specified standards.
RDIS	Restricted Discretionary	Yes Consent may be granted or declined	Council may or may not grant consent or impose conditions for a restricted discretionary activity but only on the matters over which the District Plan has restricted its discretion. These matters of discretion will be listed in the relevant rule or standard. The activity may need to meet specified standards.
DIS	Discretionary	Yes Consent may be granted or declined	Council may or may not grant consent or impose conditions for a discretionary activity and may consider any relevant matter. The activity may need to meet specified standards.
NC	Non-Complying	Yes Consent may be granted or declined	Council may or may not grant consent or impose conditions for a non-complying activity and may consider any relevant matter. Council must first be satisfied that the effects of a proposal are no more than minor or that the proposal is not contrary to the objectives and policies of the District Plan (and any relevant proposed plan), before determining whether or not to grant consent.
PR	Prohibited	No application possible	No resource consent can be applied for or granted for a prohibited activity. If you are wanting to undertake a prohibited activity, you would need the activity status to be changed through a plan change process.

- 4.16.17 The type of resource consent required is generally dependent on the degree of change anticipated and the effects that the proposed change is likely to have on the environment.
- 4.16.18 For controlled and restricted discretionary activities, the plan lists matters over which the Council reserves its control (for controlled activities) and restricts its discretion (for restricted discretionary activities).
- 4.16.19 The most restrictive activity status used in the plan is 'prohibited'. Applicants may not apply for a resource consent to undertake any activity that is prohibited.
- 4.16.20 Any activity which is not permitted (PER) or prohibited (PR) requires a resource consent.
- 4.16.21 The Proposed District Plan Review Team will work with the community, directly affected parties, our Iwi Partners and key stakeholders throughout pre-consultation period.
- 4.17 Pre-Consultation and Consultation timeline

4.17.1 The Draft District Plan Review Pre-Consultation and Consultation timeline is outlined below:



4.17.2 We will be presenting the draft of the Proposed District Plan to the Community Boards in December, and we will be having drop in sessions with the community in the new year at the following dates and venues:

Dannevirke - 28 January 2025 – Located at The Hub - 24 Allardice Street, Dannevirke 4930 between 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Woodville - 29 January 2025 - located at Woodville Sports Centre - 64 Ross Street, Woodville 4920 between 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Pahiatua - 30 January 2025 – located at Pahiatua Council Chambers - 136 Main Street, Pahiatua between 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Eketāhuna - 4 February 2025 – located at Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall – 27 Herbert Street, Eketāhuna between 4.30pm – 7.30pm

5. Significance Assessment

- 5.1 The proposed district plan review is significant in terms of Council’s policy on significance and engagement. As a draft plan change, we expect to be making changes to the provisions as we respond to matters raised in feedback, new technical advice received, and any change in national or regional direction. These changes will be made before public notification of the plan change documents under the Resource Management Act 1991 takes place. Public notification of the plan change will enable formal submissions to be lodged which can then be considered as part of a hearing and final decision-making process.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The draft of the Proposed District Plan for Tararua District Council is presented to the Council for adoption for pre-consultation purposes with the public.
- 6.2 Pre-consultation will extend from 28th November 2024 to 1st March 2025.
- 6.3 Any final amendments made by the Council will be incorporated into the draft of the Proposed District Plan prior to public notification under Schedule 1 of the RMA (1991).

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 22 November 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Peter Wimsett
Chief Advisor

Subject : **Proposed Solar Farm - Dannevirke Wastewater**

Item No : **9.2**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 21 November 2024 concerning the Proposed Solar Farm - Dannevirke Wastewater be received.*

Executive Summary

In respect of the Council's queries to the meeting of 14 October 2024, we have not identified any critical matters that would prevent the project from proceeding at this time. However, the project remains a work-in-progress and we cannot yet fully answer the questions raised. There is much in the way of engineering design, geo-technical and operational matters to confirm and agree.

Some consent information has been submitted and we are awaiting further information. The respective parties are now addressing matters raised to ensure the application can be completed.

The cultural value assessments have not yet been received but one has been drafted and is going through Iwi review.

A draft electricity supply agreement has been received but negotiations are yet to commence on the price and terms of supply.

A robust assessment of insurances and health and safety by all parties is now required.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To provide an update to Council on the proposed solar farm planned to be sited on Pond 4 of Dannevirke Wastewater at Makirikiri Road.
- 2.2 The information requested is as follows:
 - 2.2.1 The exact land requirement for the project
 - 2.2.2 The anaerobic science for the ponds
 - 2.2.3 Insurance responsibilities
 - 2.2.4 The potential impact with any CCO arrangements entered into in the future for Local Water Done well.
 - 2.2.5 The benefits to ratepayers for this project.
 - 2.2.6 Information on sludge assessment and any mitigations that may be needed.

3. Response to Questions Raised

- 1. The exact land requirement for the project:
 - a. Further work is required to identify the exact land areas required for documentation (e.g. Right to occupy.)
 - b. The electrical plant and future battery array, with a capacity of ~500kW storage, is likely to be accommodated within a 20m by 15m area adjacent to the Scanpower Transformer. A site visit is being planned to identify the location and underground servicing requirements.
- 2. The anaerobic science for the ponds
 - a. The reduction in sunlight will likely reduce heat and risk of algae bloom. Overseas experience is that this can have a positive effect, resulting in improved oxygenation and reduced odour.
 - b. However, both the potential adverse effects of reduced biological activity from shading and positive effects are considered minimal because only approximately 20% of the surface area will be fully shaded and a further 20% with partial pass-through light.
 - c. The flow in and out of the pond and its volume will likely allow management of the potential issues and is being considered in the operational design for risk mitigation.

3. Insurance responsibilities

- a. We have identified multiple policy cover that will be required by the owner and supplier of electricity to Council.
- b. Council will seek advice from our Broker AON as part of this process.

4. Potential impact with any CCO arrangements entered into in the future for Local Water Done well.

- a. The operation and supply of electricity by a third party is a major consideration for transferring the Water assets ownership to a CCO or another party.
- b. These supply arrangements are broadly typical and will form part of contractual hand-over requirements that will be generally expected to be honoured by the CCO, once it has formed, as a condition of the assets transfer.

5. The benefits to ratepayers for this project.

- a. We are expecting to be provided with a stable electricity price and a discount to current pricing, which is reflective of a win-win outcome for Iwi and Council, as the provider of the site.

6. Information on sludge assessment and any mitigations that may be needed.

- a. An assessment of the current state of sludge is to be undertaken by Council to confirm the timing and need for this work.
- b. Modification of engineering design to allow future access for under-water desludging and site management will be critical in forward planning.

Finally, any commitment of Council to this project does mean that other wastewater uses for the Pond 4 may be difficult to provide for in the future.

The Dannevirke Wastewater consent expires in 2028. Any new pre- and post-treatment systems that might be delivered from the Pond 4 site, if required, are unlikely to be possible. However, this is likely a minor risk, as the current purpose (stormwater infiltration surge control) is likely to remain advantageous. There are also several other sites that may support additional treatment processes without requiring changes to Pond 4's operation. For example, the lower site below Pond 4 (ex-tephra site) is potentially a more favourable location for any new post-treatment systems that may be required under a new consent.

A further update will be reported to the 11 December 2024 Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 20 November 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Grace Nock
Strategy and District Development Manager

Subject : **Contestable** **Fund** **Process**

Item No : **9.3**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Strategy and District Development Manager dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Contestable Fund Process be received.*

Executive Summary

Following the Council meeting on October 30, 2024, where feedback was provided on the initial proposed process for a contestable grant fund, this report presents a refined approach to address identified concerns. Council members raised issues related to the complexity of the application process, restricted eligibility for community boards and committees, and the limited flexibility in funding cycles. In response, a simplified and more accessible process has been implemented to manage grant applications for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year. This report outlines the process and criteria for the revised contestable grant process.

2. Revised Process

- 2.1 Attached to this document is an outline of the below revised process in infographic format.
- 2.2 *Application Timeline:* For the 2024/2025 financial year, the contestable grant fund will be for two applications rounds. The first round will open in January for a month, with decisions to be finalised at a Council meeting in March, the second round will open in April for a month, with decisions to be finalised at a Council

meeting in May. Each funding round will have \$50,000, with carry over from the first funding round to the second-round if not all funding is allocated. Having predetermined rounds for applications to be reviewed is crucial to ensure that assessment can be conducted with comparisons to other applications. If applications were left open all year, it would not be possible to accurately assess the value of an application and would result in a funding process on a first come first serve basis. Future financial years should have between one to four rounds for applications.

2.3 *Eligibility Criteria:* Applicants must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify for funding. Applications will be screened based on the following:

2.3.1 *Applicant Requirements:*

- Must operate within the Tararua District.
- Must demonstrate a clear benefit to the community or district.
- Must have no outstanding accountability reports for previous Council funding.

2.3.2 *Eligible Expenses*

- Eligible expenses include salaries, training and development, administration, rent and utilities, promotional materials, and small capital items directly supporting project delivery.

2.3.3 *Ineligible Expenses:*

- Activities promoting religious, ministry, or political purposes.
- Debt repayment.
- Legal and medical expenses.
- Public services covered by central government (e.g., education, primary health care).
- Alcohol purchases.
- Retrospective costs (except where specified as a condition).
- Major physical works requiring consents or permits (conditional release of funds).
- Services delivered outside the district (except for international representation).

2.4 *Application Submission:* To assist applicants through the process, the Tararua District Council website will host a dedicated section on the contestable grant

fund. This section will provide applicants information on eligibility criteria, application steps, deadlines, and expectations for accountability reporting. It will also provide links to guidance materials and direct access to the SmartyGrants portal.

2.5 Applicants will be directed to create an account on SmartyGrants and submit their applications online. The application form will request details such as:

- Applicant's contact information.
- Type of applicant (individual, charity, business, community group).
- Purpose of the grant request and description of activities.
- Expected community benefits and outcomes.
- Activity timeline.
- Financial details and budget.
- History of previous TDC grant funding.
- Signed declaration agreeing to terms and conditions.

2.6 The website will also outline the timeline for application review and decision-making, including Council meeting dates. Additionally, applicants can find a summary of the criteria that will be used to assess each application.

2.7 *Application Review and Assessment:* Upon submission, applications will be reviewed by the Community Partnerships Coordinator, with additional support from the Strategy and District Development Manager, to ensure eligibility criteria are met and that the application aligns with district funding priorities.

2.8 Eligible applications will be evaluated using the following weighted criteria:

- Community Benefit (40%): Extent of community impact and alignment with community needs.
- Feasibility of Request (30%): Clarity and achievability of the request, applicant capacity, and sustainability.
- Financial Viability (20%): Accuracy of the budget, financial need, and cost-effectiveness.
- Innovation and Creativity (10%): Originality and potential of the activity request to offer new solutions.

2.9 Applications will be prioritised based on how well they support community goals and the District Strategy, Thriving Together 2050. Grant requests that help make the district a better place to live by improving well-being, safety, health, and

bringing people together will be a high priority. Applications will also be evaluated by whether they celebrate local culture and traditions, building pride and inclusiveness in the district. Efforts to protect and care for the environment, including sustainable practices and support for local industries, will be encouraged. Additionally, grant requests that improve community facilities or infrastructure to meet today's and future needs are prioritised, as well as those that strengthen community well-being by building skills and supporting local growth. Finally, grant requests that bring people and groups together to work on common goals are highly valued for helping to create a stronger, more united community.

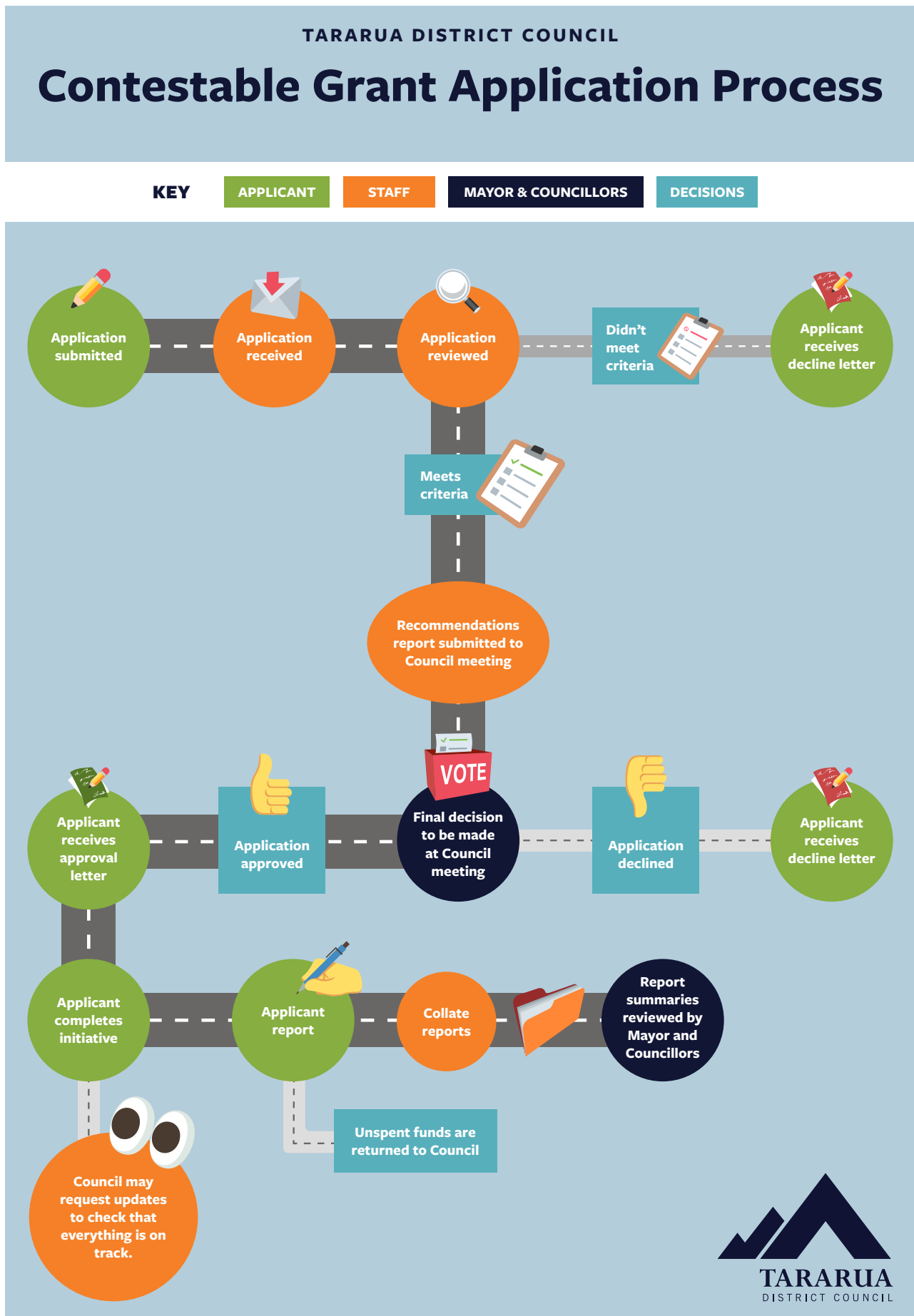
- 2.10 After reviewing an application, the Community Partnerships Coordinator, with additional support from the Strategy and District Development Manager will develop a recommendation for funding of the application.
- 2.11 *Council Review and Notification:* A report summarising each eligible application, including the requested amount, summary of activity, and staff funding recommendations, will be submitted to the Council. The final decision on funding amounts will be made by the Mayor and Council members.
- 2.12 Applicants will be notified of the Council's decision no later than one week after the meeting in which their application was reviewed. Payments to successful applicants will then be processed following the decision.
- 2.13 *Post-Funding Requirements:* Successful applicants must submit a activity completion report within 12 months or upon activity completion, whichever occurs first. This report must include a summary of the grant request outcomes and an account of fund usage, accompanied by receipts and relevant financial documentation.
- 2.14 Periodic updates may be requested to track progress, and the Council reserves the right to conduct site visits to validate the impact of the grant request activity. Compliance with grant terms is mandatory, with non-compliance potentially impacting eligibility for future funding.
- 2.15 Any unspent funds must be returned to the Council. Misuse of funds or failure to submit reports may result in a requirement to repay the grant.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The refined process will remain in effect through the 2024/25 financial year to facilitate timely fund distribution. A review will be conducted to assess effectiveness, with potential policy establishment and a working group formed by June 30, 2025, if further amendments are necessary.

Attachments

1 [↓](#). Process Infographic





Report

Date : 20 November 2024
To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council
From : Kawtar Tani
Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Subject : **Operational Projects Update**
Item No : **9.4**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That *the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 19 August 2024 concerning the update on operational projects be received.*
- 1.2 *That Council agrees to a workshop with Elected Members to go through the draft Rationalisation report.*
- 1.3 *That Council agrees to a workshop with Elected Members to go through s17a reviews for swimming pools and camping grounds.*
- 1.4 *That Council agrees to a workshop with Elected Members prior to consulting with the community for the adoption of the Reserve Management Plan.*

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report is to update Council on three operational projects:
 - 2.1.1 Rationalisation of Land and Buildings.
 - 2.1.2 s17a Reviews of Swimming Pools and Camping Grounds.
 - 2.1.3 Reserve Management Plan.

3. Rationalisation of Land and Buildings

- 3.1 **Stage 1 Completed** - Develop list of potential reserve land/community buildings. A list of land and buildings will be provided at the workshop in Stage 4.
- 3.2 **Stage 2 Completed** - Individual investigations into each property to inform report.
- 3.3 **Stage 3 In Progress** - Prepare draft rationalisation report. The report will include clear and concise summary of information to assist informed rationalisation decisions for each site, and relevant disposal processes requirements/estimated costs and timeframes.
- 3.4 **Stage 4** - Workshop findings with Elected Members proposed on 4th Dec ahead of Council meeting on 18th Dec. Xyst to present finding via Teams.
- 3.5 **Stage 5** - Present a report for Council decision – Xyst to present final report to Council in person on 18th Dec.

4. Section 17a Reviews

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 Under the Local Government Act 2002, Section 17a Review is designed to ensure that local authorities are delivering services in a cost-effective and efficient manner.
- 4.1.2 The general purpose of s17a reviews is to evaluate the current arrangements for providing infrastructure, public services, and regulatory functions to see if they meet the community's needs and provide good value for money.
- 4.1.3 Typical Scope of a Section 17A Review:
- 4.1.4 **Cost-Effectiveness:** Assessing whether the current service delivery arrangements are cost-effective.
- 4.1.5 **Service Levels:** Evaluating if the service levels meet the community's needs.
- 4.1.6 **Options for Delivery:** Exploring different options for governance, funding, and delivery, including in-house delivery, outsourcing, or shared governance arrangements.
- 4.1.7 **Performance:** Reviewing the performance of the services and identifying areas for improvement.
- 4.1.8 **Community Impact:** Considering the impact of the services on the community and whether they are meeting the desired outcomes.
- 4.1.9 The current s17a review aims to identify opportunities to improve service delivery, ensure financial sustainability, and enhance the overall quality of services provided to the community.

4.2 **Progress Update**

- 4.2.1 **Stage 1 Completed** - Staff workshop with Xyst to complete preliminary questions.
- 4.2.2 **Stage 2 Completed** - Site visits and interviews with Campground and Swimming Pool managers.
- 4.2.3 **Stage 3** - Information Analysis - **To be completed by 28th November.**
- 4.2.4 **Stage 4** - Workshop with Council - **to be held 18th December.**
- 4.2.5 **Stage 5** – Final Analysis - **Completion date to be determined.**

5. **Reserve Management Plan**

5.1 **Completed Milestones**

- 5.1.1 Sep – Oct 2023: Round 1 notification – intention to prepare the management plan and invitation to provide suggestions.
- 5.1.2 July – Oct 2024: Engagement with iwi, Domain Boards, and key stakeholders.
- 5.1.3 October 2024: Prepare draft Reserve Management Plan.

5.2 **Next Milestones**

- 5.2.1 Consultation with iwi on proposed land classification: next workshops planned for Thursday 22nd November and Friday 23rd November.
- 5.2.2 Council workshop prior to consultation with the community: Xyst to run a workshop with Elected Members providing an update on the draft, methodology used for the land classification, and recommendation to proceed with public consultation on the Draft Reserve Management Plan.
- 5.2.3 Public engagement: public notification process is a two-month period on the draft Reserve Management Plan.
- 5.2.4 Public hearing: submissions on the draft plan will be heard by a panel of Councillors (the hearing panel). After the hearing, the panel will provide recommendations to the full Council who can approve the final plan.
- 5.2.5 Once an RMP is adopted, any additional funding required to implement the plan may be sought through Council's annual plan or Long-term Plan processes.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 13 November 2024

To : Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District Council

From : Tracey Collis
Mayor

Subject : **Report from Local Government New Zealand - July to October 2024**

Item No : **9.5**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 ***That the report from the Mayor dated 13 November 2024 concerning the Report from Local Government New Zealand - July to October 2024 be received.***

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To present the update report from Local Government New Zealand for the period July to October 2024.

3. Background

- 3.1 The report from LGNZ summarises their work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It is structured around LGNZ's purpose: to serve local government by championing, connecting and supporting members, and provides an in-depth look at what they do.
- 3.2 The report is provided to enable elected members the opportunity to review the information provided and provide feedback to LGNZ.
- 3.3 The President and Chief Executive of LGNZ are also happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it, on request.

Attachments

1 [↓](#). LGNZ_four-monthly_report_for_members_October_2024



LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024





Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ's work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It's structured around LGNZ's purpose: to serve local government by **championing**, **connecting** and **supporting** members.

Many councils have found it useful to put this report on the agenda for their next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam and Susan are also happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it, on request.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

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Introduction

This busy four months included our SuperLocal conference in Wellington, which attracted more than 700 people and dominated the news agenda all week. This was partly thanks to headline-grabbing comments from the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister, but also because of the LGNZ team's proactive generation of many other topics in the media spotlight at our conference, from four-year terms and tourism levies to localism and regional deals.

Alongside preparing for and delivering SuperLocal, our small team managed a huge range of other work, which is covered in this report. Highlights include:

- Launching our third rates rise toolkit in July, including NZIER's research uncovering the costs of unfunded mandates for councils. Unfunded mandates are costs that local government ends up carrying as a result of central government legislation.
- In October, launching our Electoral Reform Working Group's issues paper exploring the current state of participation in local election and asking for feedback.
- Local Government Minister Simeon Brown announcing a framework for Regional Deals that aligns with many of the elements LGNZ called for in our May proposal.

As you'll see below, we've had many meetings with Ministers, the Prime Minister and other politicians across a wide range of topics. And we've engaged in a range of policy issues, with our work driven by the high-level advocacy priorities that members and National Council agreed earlier this year:

- Funding and financing
- Water
- Resource management reform
- Transport
- Climate change

Right now, we're preparing for the 21 November Combined Sector meeting, focused on the Government's local government reform programme. It features a strong range of speakers including the Local Government Minister, Regional Development Minister, Opposition Finance Spokesperson, Australian local government speakers on their rates capping experience, and a briefing from the Treasury on New Zealand's fiscal situation.

During the meeting, we'll also be launching a funding and financing toolkit, showcasing a range of tools that could be used (alongside rates) to boost local government's financial position and help councils deliver for ratepayers. Watch out for an email direct to your inbox on 21 November with all the details. We'll be advocating strongly for these tools – and sharing resources so you can too.

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan



Champion

Local government funding and financing

Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

In July we released work we had commissioned from NZIER on the impacts of unfunded mandates on local government. NZIER's research highlighted:

- that many central government reforms have resulted in increased costs for ratepayers;
- that central government does not adequately estimate or address what its reforms cost councils;
- that constant policy changes lead to high sunk costs for councils with no tangible outcomes; and
- the true costs of government reform are hidden because councils absorb them by reducing other service delivery.

Our third rates rise toolkit packaged this research with slides and key messages that members could use. The release generated significant media interest and engagement from members.

Tourism and cost recovery

From 1 October, the Government raised the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) from \$35 to \$100 to ensure visitors contribute to the upkeep of the facilities, services and natural environment they use and enjoy during their stay. LGNZ is advocating for councils to have a greater say in how the additional funding is spent on tourism-related initiatives. We are also continuing to advocate for the Government to enable cost recovery tools (such as a local tourism bed night charge).

Revenue capping and other measures

At SuperLocal, the Government announced that they would investigate performance metrics, benchmarking, and revenue capping for councils modelled on New South Wales and Victoria. The policy team has been engaging with local government experts from New South Wales and Victoria to understand how these policies have worked for them and what the impact has been. We will provide insights from these discussions and research on these policies with members soon, including at the November Combined Sector meeting.

Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

We are working on a toolkit for release at the November Combined Sector meeting that details a range of 24 funding and financing tools that would benefit councils (but potentially require enabling legislation). This toolkit will include:

- Basic information about each tool, how it can be used and what it might deliver
- Data to support our approach and inform members' conversations
- Messages local government can use



- A draft op ed and draft letter to an MP that can be customised

The toolkit launch will be supported by media and advocacy activity, in the same way that the rates rise toolkits were.

Regional deals

We were pleased that the Government made announcements around its Regional Deals framework at SuperLocal, and that our advocacy has been taken on board with the framework largely reflecting our position. This framework includes partnership, new funding tools and a commitment to long-term planning, and is modelled on LGNZ's proposal released earlier this year.

We know funding tools and regulatory relief will be made available in the regions that secure deals. We have been advocating for those benefits to be available for all of local government (where that makes sense).

Our focus now is on ensuring that the regional deals model has room to evolve and deepen – as it's become clearer that the first iteration will be limited in scope.

Government relations

We appeared before select committees in support of our submissions on the water services preliminary arrangements and fast-track bills.

We've also had productive meetings with Hon Chris Bishop and Hon Casey Costello.

The meeting with Minister Bishop included Hastings District Council Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and chief executive Nigel Bickle. They were able to provide the Minister with their reflections on the recent Kāinga Ora review and some examples of what they were doing locally to promote better housing outcomes, as part of our effort to position local government as a key partner in resolving the housing crisis.

The meeting with Minister Costello was about what role councils may play in reform of vaping regulations, and resulted in an agreement that LGNZ would further engage with health officials on what a system in which councils have greater control over where vape retailers are located could look like.

In early July we hosted MPs who were former local government elected members or staff for a casual evening function at parliament. Six MPs joined Sam and the LGNZ team for some good conversations and bridge-building across party lines.

We have reached out to ACT leader and Minister of Regulation David Seymour to work with him and his party on streamlining the regulatory burden on councils, and on the ACT commitment in its coalition agreement with National to look at improving housing incentives on councils through GST sharing.

At our July meeting with Minister Brown, we raised concerns regarding NZTA's proposed changes to emergency works funding. We also discussed the Ratepayers' Assistance Scheme (RAS), which is an



innovative financing scheme that LGNZ has been developing with a group of Metro councils, the Local Government Funding Agency and Cameron Partners. The purpose of the RAS is to make local government policies and charges more affordable for ratepayers. RAS would provide ratepayers with:

- Flexibility to decide when to pay local government charges; and/or
- Very competitive finance terms (below standard mortgage rates).

The recess period gave us the opportunity to connect with staff in the Beehive. These conversations have provided insights into the Government's perception of local government and help myth-bust staffers' perceptions (where that's been required).

In late September, we met with the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister together, as part of our series of regular quarterly meetings. Talks took a practical approach to tackle the challenges facing local government. Before the meeting, we asked mayors and chairs for practical cost-cutting ideas to relieve pressure for ratepayers and help councils operate more efficiently. Here's a selection of the ideas you shared:

- Simplify audits with a tiered, risk-based system
- Review Long Term Plans less often
- Let councils set their own fees for things like parking and animal control
- Review District Plans and conduct Representation Reviews less frequently
- Encourage shared services between councils
- Better align local and central government decisions
- Create a "Fast Track" process for land rezoning
- Address the contributors to civil construction price increases.

The Prime Minister and Local Government Minister were interested to hear about possible changes.

In early October, we again met with the Minister for Local Government. The Minister was open to receiving further advice from us on how to cut costs for councils, including a proposal to change Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act to make it less cumbersome and more accessible for the community. The Minister was open to coming to our sector meetings in February and May next year.

The Government announced a raft of proposed changes to the building consents system in late October and we are meeting with Hon Chris Penk in early November.

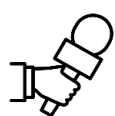
Media

The June Infrastructure Symposium, including Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop's speech at our networking function the night before, received very strong media coverage, with stories in The Post, BusinessDesk, NBR and RNZ focused on our support for more funding tools to pay for infrastructure. We also used the opportunity of the Infrastructure Symposium to further our advocacy against proposed changes by NZTA to emergency works, which was a lead story on 1News. Other media interactions in July focused on elected members' behaviour and Christchurch City Council's exit from LGNZ.



SuperLocal24 generated widespread national coverage, making it one of the top stories of the week. The Prime Minister's politically charged speech, rate increases, and large media attendance contributed to the event being so widely covered. The overall media result was the result of significant planning by LGNZ. We developed a range of proactive stories and pre-briefed media on issues important to members, which ensured balance in stories and coverage of our proactive angles.

Feedback from media about the conference experience was very positive.



6 press conferences



33 accredited media



400+ media items



9 proactive story topics

Earlier in August, LGNZ led out positively on the Government's Local Water Done Well announcement. LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry spoke to [1News](#) and said while it was a welcome step, we need to temper expectations about the effect on rates short-term. LGNZ National Council members Tim Cadogan and Neil Holdom spoke to [Stuff and Three News](#) about the need for certainty from all sides so councils can get on with business. Concerns still playing out in the media centre around [credit ratings](#) of the LGFA and the new CCOs, which S&P put a statement out about. LGNZ engaged with S&P at the end of last week and will share updates in the coming months.

Confirmation of time-of-use or congestion charging was also announced in August, with LGNZ Transport Forum Chair Neil Holdom putting LGNZ's support [on the record](#) saying, "it's a prudent and pragmatic step that LGNZ has long advocated for".

Coverage of our unfunded mandates research launch included LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry speaking to [The Post](#), [RNZ](#) and [Newsroom](#) about the report and joining [ZB's Early Edition](#) to highlight the cost of flip-flops on policies when the government changes. Then in [The Post](#), Ex-Chief Press Secretary for the National Party Janet Wilson reflected on our research, reiterating the impossible situation for councils as "rates as a share of GDP have hovered around 2% for 20 years" and "central government ... have all the power, with local councils forced to carry out its wishes."

Also in August, rates invoices began to hit letterboxes. LGNZ has consistently raised this as a national issue in the media and ensured there is good data to support these conversations with communities. Infometrics CE and economist Brad Olsen commented in [The Post](#), giving this perspective on rates rises – "if you look at the amount of money that people pay in their rates versus what they pay to central government, you're talking chalk and cheese."

In mid-July, in response to the Government's announcement it would not progress the Future for Local Government report, we issued a media statement saying "LGNZ developed our own response to the FFLG review, in collaboration with members, and that underpins all our advocacy. We won't give up advocating for these key changes."



Earlier in July, a disturbing story was front page in the [Herald on Sunday](#) with former Mayor of Nelson Rachel Reese telling her story after an intruder entered her home back in February. This targeting of former and current elected members is rising, and a poll at LGNZ's Combined Sector meeting in April showed 53% of elected members say it's worse than a year ago. LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene spoke to NZ Herald about members' concerns and highlighted the work LGNZ has been doing to support members – including previously championing a removal of candidate addresses from election advertising, and our roundtable zooms with the likes of NZ Police and Netsafe.

Also in July, LGNZ President Sam Broughton joined the [On The Tiles](#) podcast to discuss our city and regional deals framework and what we could learn from the likes of Australia and the UK.

The Government's building consents reform was welcomed by LGNZ: Sam was interviewed on RNZ and Newstalk ZB. A few days later, when the International Visitor Levy went up, we proactively called for the Government to share the increase with councils to support tourism costs. This advocacy was picked up by the radio stations.

In October, LGNZ was in the media spotlight as we advocated for central government funding of emergency responses. This was part of [our response](#) to the Government's announcement following the North Island Severe Weather Events report. Our President Mayor Sam Broughton and National Council member Mayor Rehette Stoltz shared the workload, with Sam speaking to outlets like [Newsroom](#) and Radio NZ, while Rehette had interviews with TVNZ's Breakfast news and Newstalk ZB.

We marked one year until local body elections by [calling](#) for candidates to start thinking about getting prepared. LGNZ Deputy CE Scott Necklen chatted with Newstalk ZB and RNZ on the subject. During our YEM Hui in Christchurch last month we shone the [spotlight](#) on young leaders in local government, pointing to YEM numbers doubling over the past three elections. We used speakers at the YEM hui to tell a breadth of stories about the importance of this network.

With the Electoral Reform issues paper being released this week, we set up an interview with the Electoral Reform Working Group's Chair Mayor Nick Smith and Jack Tame on [Q & A](#). Securing an interview with one of the only longform political news programmes was a crucial part of our work to raise these issues in the political sphere – and to ensure the work helps inform the Government's decisions. Following our Electoral Reform [article](#) on Sunday, we also organised interviews with Mayor Rehette Stoltz (who is also part of the Working Group) on [Hosking Breakfast](#) and Radio NZ to discuss some of the issues.

LGNZ also [spoke out](#) about the Government's proposal for self-certification for building professionals, speaking to [Three News](#) and Newstalk ZB about the issue of long-term security over the indemnity insurance – to ensure that neither councils nor affected homeowners are saddled with costs if an issue occurs.

Amid public calls for tougher booze rules, Sam Broughton also spoke with both [The Press](#) and [Stuff](#) about how Local Alcohol Policies work.



Electoral Reform Working Group

The Electoral Reform Working Group, chaired by Mayor Nick Smith, developed an issues paper that was launched in late October. It sets out the current state of participation in elections. It explores:

- Understanding of local government and why it is important
- How easy it is to vote, especially with the decline of post
- Knowing candidates and what they stand for
- Administration and promotion of elections
- Four-year terms including their implementation and transition

From mid-October to 5 January, we will seek feedback on the paper from members, key stakeholders, and the wider public. This will include presentations at all zone meetings.

Engagement on the issues paper will inform a draft position paper, which will be engaged on from March-May, before a final paper is drafted. National Council will be asked to adopt that final position paper, which will be launched at SuperLocal25.

Remits

This year, to better prioritise resource allocation to remits, National Council adopted a two-step process for remits agreed at LGNZ's AGM. As part of this process, the AGM ranked remits in order of priority, with the following results:

1. Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives
2. GST revenue sharing with local government
3. Local government Māori wards and constituencies should not be subject to a referendum
4. Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings
5. Representation Reviews
6. Community Services Card
7. Graduated Licensing System

At its September meeting, National Council decided to take the maximum approach for the first four remits. This means commissioning advice or research, or in-depth policy or advocacy work. National Council decided to take a less resource-intensive approach to the remaining remits, which could involve writing a letter to the relevant minister or agency. However, remits may get additional resource if they align with other existing work programmes.

LGNZ's policy team will shortly be in touch with all councils who proposed successful remits to agree on next steps.



Māori wards

Forty-five councils established or resolved to establish Māori wards since the law change in 2021. The Coalition Government enacted legislation that required those 45 councils to make decisions to retain or disestablish their Māori wards by Friday 6 September. If councils chose to keep the wards, they have to fund a poll at next year's local elections.

Two councils decided to disestablish their Māori wards: Upper Hutt City Council and Kaipara District Council. The other 43 decided to retain their wards and a number of these decisions were unanimous, including: Far North, Porirua, South Taranaki, South Wairarapa, Hauraki, Stratford, Marlborough, Whakatāne, Rangitikei, and Ruapehu.

Some councils indicated they would investigate the implications of refusing to hold a binding referendum. Palmerston North City Council will present a report at an upcoming council meeting; Whakatāne District Council has sought legal advice; and Far North District Council has asked the chief executive "to investigate options of not conducting a binding poll at the next local body election in 2025".

LGNZ is supporting councillors affected by this legislation. Connected to this is our work around supporting Iwi Māori to stand for (re)election in 2025 and promoting voter participation.

Water services reform

The passing of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act in August marked the second stage of the Government's *Local Water Done Well* reforms. This Act provides the framework and preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. There is a requirement for councils to develop and adopt Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs) by 3 September 2025. Successful elements of [our submission](#) include the expansion of streamlining provisions for water service entity creation, the scope and timeframe for WSDPs, and the Secretary for Local Government's role in making regulations. However, we were unsuccessful in securing a longer timeframe for WDSP development or greater support for councils in implementing this legislation, including funding.

The Government has announced the third stage of these reforms, which will shape the final bill, due to be introduced by the end of 2024. We released an [explainer](#) covering the key elements of this reform in *Keeping it Local*.

We're engaging with the Commerce Commission on how transitional and permanent economic regulation would work under Local Water Done Well. The Commission will be presenting at the November Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings to support members to develop a greater understanding of what economic regulation is and how it operates in other sectors.



Resource management reform

RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop outlined the Government's plans for stage two of its resource management reform at SuperLocal. These will be progressed via a package on national direction and a second piece of legislation amending the RMA. There will be new national direction issued for infrastructure, housing, and natural hazards, as well as amendments to a wide range of existing national direction, with seven new national direction instruments and amendments to fourteen existing ones in total.

The changes cover four areas:

- infrastructure and energy,
- housing,
- farming and the primary sector, and
- emergencies and natural hazards.

Also included are measures to put into effect the Government's Going for Housing Growth and Electrify New Zealand reforms.

The expansion in national direction must be undertaken in close consultation with local government to be workable, and we will raise this with the Minister and officials. We have met with Simon Court to discuss the NPS-Infrastructure, which he is taking responsibility for developing. This was a positive meeting and further engagement with officials is likely to follow.

The Government has announced that two pieces of legislation would be passed to replace the Resource Management Act as part of stage three of their three-stage approach to resource management reform. One piece of legislation will deal with managing "environmental effects arising from activities", while the other one will "enable urban development and infrastructure".

Cabinet has agreed to 10 core design features for the new resource management system. These will guide the work of an Expert Advisory Group (EAG), which was also announced by the Minister. This group will report back to the Minister before the end of the year with a "blueprint" for new legislation.

Resource management lawyer and former Environmental Defence Society director Janette Campbell will chair the EAG, which also features local government experience in Christine Jones (General Manager – Strategy Growth & Governance at Tauranga City Council) and Gillian Crowcroft (former Auckland Council and Auckland Regional Council staffer).

We will be keeping a close eye on how development of the new RM "blueprint" unfolds between now and the end of the year, ahead of our final catch-up of the year with Minister Bishop in December.

Transport

In August, the Government announced that legislation to enable congestion charging schemes would be introduced by the end of the year. This is a significant and long-awaited announcement,

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particularly for metro councils. We will submit on the legislation when it makes its way to Select Committee.

We submitted on the Commerce Commission's review of Auckland Airport's pricing decisions for the 2022-2027 period. We expressed concern about the flow-on effects that Auckland Airport's proposed increased charges to airlines could have for ticket prices, regional connectivity, and the competitiveness of New Zealand's aeronautical sector.

In August, Sam and Transport Forum chair Neil Holdom met with the NZTA board just ahead of an in-person meeting of the Transport Forum.

In September, the Government released its 2024-27 National Land Transport Programme, which is largely in line with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024. It includes significant funding increases for major roading projects and road maintenance, balanced by a decrease in funding for active and public transport initiatives.

Following the release of the National Land Transport Programme 24-27, we have been building a picture of the impact on members, including through a discussion at the in-person meeting of the Transport Forum. While funding decisions were largely as anticipated (based on the signals from the GPS Transport earlier this year), some members were surprised about the extent of funding cuts for safety improvements and public/active transport. The lack of alignment between the NLTP and LTP planning cycles has also created instances in which projects in LTPs no longer have expected co-funding from central government, meaning councils need to find alternative funding sources or scale the project back.

The impact of the reversal of speed limit reductions will be a focus over the coming month, particularly the fiscal impact given the need for new signage around schools. The new Government's speed limit rule includes:

- Reversing Labour's blanket speed limit reductions on local streets, arterial roads, and state highways by 1 July 2025.
- Requiring reduced variable speed limits outside schools during pick up and drop off times by 1 July 2026.
- Enable speed limits up to 120km/h on Roads of National Significance where it is safe.

We will be engaging with councils to get a picture of the overall fiscal impact of these changes.

Climate change

We submitted supporting the intent of the Government's draft Second Emissions Reduction Plan (2026–30). We also highlighted that most of the actions would require direct or indirect contributions from councils.

We sponsored the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network's (ACAN) annual hui again this year, which was held in the Bay of Plenty in October. ACAN is a network of council staff working in climate adaptation focused roles. We engage closely with ACAN on all our climate adaptation work.



The Finance and Expenditure Committee has completed its [inquiry into climate adaptation](#). The high-level objectives and principles it set out will inform the development of New Zealand's climate change adaptation policy framework. The report acknowledges the leading role councils will play in climate adaptation, and adopted much of what was proposed in [LGNZ's submission](#). The report does not resolve crucial questions relating to roles and responsibilities or how to decide who pays for adaptation and retreat.

The Department of Internal Affairs is consulting on an exposure draft of regulations for natural hazard information in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs). The regulations have been drafted to support local authorities in implementing changes to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act that are due to come into effect on 1 July 2025. LGNZ submitted on the amendment Bill in February 2023. We supported the Bill but said we would like to see a few changes, many of which have now been incorporated into the updated Bill and proposed regulations. These regulations, in conjunction with the legislative changes that are due to come into effect next year, will provide certainty for councils about sharing natural hazard information in LIMs and reduce their risk of legal liability.

Localism

At SuperLocal, Susan launched our Choose Localism guide and research showing public attitudes to councils and localism.

To produce this research, we worked with Curia to poll members of the public. [The data](#) looks at perceptions around the effectiveness of councils, how councils could improve their effectiveness, and who should deliver services.

[Localism: A Practical Guide](#) sets out a wide range of tools and approaches councils can use to make a localist future a reality and apply a localism lens across their day-to-day work. This is a high-quality, comprehensive piece of work featuring many council cases studies. When we launched the guide to members during SuperLocal, this email had a 65% open rate (which is incredibly high by direct-email standards). We will be posting a physical copy of this guide to all Mayors and Chairs later in November.

Other policy issues

Earthquake prone buildings

In August we submitted on the Building (Earthquake-prone Building Deadlines and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, which delivers on the Government's commitment to extend remediation deadlines for earthquake-prone buildings. We expressed strong support for the legislation and outlined local government's expectations for the upcoming wider review of earthquake prone buildings.

We have also engaged with MBIE to make sure there is suitable local government representation in the wider review's steering group, particularly individuals from the South Island and/or medium risk councils.

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We understand that decisions on the MBIE steering group for the review of the earthquake strengthening regime are imminent. We put forward a number of names to represent local government on this group, and are following up with MBIE to determine if any of them were ultimately chosen.

Emergency management system improvement

We engaged on the Government's response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry's report and wider emergency management system improvement as a member of the steering group. We facilitated engagement between the project group and a group of Mayors, Chairs and CEs, to test the group's current proposals. A Cabinet paper will set out a new Emergency Management Bill (to be introduced next year) along with budget bids and other system changes.

The Government's response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry's report, and wider emergency management system improvement, has been released. We have been contributing to this work as a member of the Steering Group. This response will form the basis for the development of a new Emergency Management Bill to be introduced next year, along with budget bids and other system changes. The key recommendation is to retain the locally led, regionally coordinated approach – but with NEMA taking on a standard setting and assurance role. This could require increased investment by councils, but at this stage there are no additional funding mechanisms proposed.



Connect

Member visits

In June, Susan and Sam visited 14 councils. These visits are vital for connecting with members, helping them understand what LGNZ delivers, and hearing their feedback and ideas. Visits resumed in early September with visits to a range of Zone 2 councils. Susan visited the Chatham Islands in late September, with Susan and Sam's other member visits scheduled for October and November.

NC members and LT members have also appeared at several member council meetings via zoom to support their consideration of the LGNZ four-monthly report.

SuperLocal24

This year's conference was the "place to be" for local government, with the PM, many Ministers and the Leader of Opposition all speaking alongside impressive international and New Zealand keynote speakers. SuperLocal dominated media and public discourse that week.

We had nearly 800 people attend – and generated 394 media mentions across a huge range of topics (bed tax, PM speech, regional deals, localism, women in local government, four-year term, SuperLocal award winners, and much more).

We asked attendees to complete a feedback survey. While feedback was again positive, there were slightly more negative/neutral comments this year, partially driven by the political polarisation prompted by the PM's speech.

We are incorporating feedback into our planning for SuperLocal25, which will be held in Christchurch (supported by the councils in the region). In response to comments about this year's conference length and timing, we will be starting SuperLocal25 on the Wednesday morning (with the AGM prior) and wrapping up the conference by the end of Thursday, with the awards dinner on the Thursday night.

Combined Sector meetings

We received a huge amount of positive feedback on the programme and organisation of the Infrastructure Symposium on 14 June. Nearly 200 people attended, with Peter Nunns of the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga and Sir Bill English particularly popular speakers.

Our November Combined Sector meeting will take a deep dive into the Government's local government reform, including benchmarking, efficiencies and rates capping. Confirmed speakers include Local Government Minister Simeon Brown, Regional Development and Assoc Finance Minister Shane Jones, Labour Finance spokesperson Barbara Edmonds, Auckland Mayor Wayne



Brown (via zoom), and New South Wales and Victorian speakers on their experience of rates capping.

We are planning for the 2025 Combined Sector meetings, with the theme for February to be around accountability and demonstrating value, and May to be around delivering infrastructure for growth.

2025 calendar

We released our [calendar of events for 2025](#) in October. This will be updated with Zone 5/6 events shortly.

Te Maruata

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere have met regularly, and also initiated a regular Teams drop-in session Piki te Ora that enables members to come in and kōrero, share thoughts and ideas on their mahi and what is happening in their rohe.

Te Maruata's pre-conference hui was attended by approximately 100 people. The hui is the annual face-to-face event for the wider membership but also welcomes non-members who have a strong connection to LG and Kaupapa Māori. The Rōpū welcomed Green MP Hūhana Lyndon, and MP Willie Jackson and MP Shanan Halbert were also in attendance. The programme included a workshop on sharing issues, ideas and solutions given the current climate, and a panel on "how to move the waka forward" with a particular focus on action on the ground, rangatahi participation and civics education.

YEM

Our Young Elected Members held a successful pre-SuperLocal hui in Wellington attended by around 40 YEM. It included a presentation from Dr Jess Berentson-Shaw on how to communicate effectively to achieve change, and a workshop on how to increase young people's participation in local government.

The annual YEM Hui took place in Christchurch regardless of Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ. This is because the YEM Committee decided earlier this year to shift away from having a host council, with the Committee taking on full responsibility for hosting. We worked closely with Cr Deon Swiggs (Environment Canterbury and member of the YEM Committee) on planning for the event. Former Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel delivered the keynote address, with the theme of the hui being "mā mua kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua" – driving change through community leadership. The programme was about councils empowering community leaders to make real change and equipping YEM with the key skills needed to make good decisions around council tables. Tikanga sessions were organised to support members to prepare for the whakatau at the commencement of their hui.



Women's lunch

Before SuperLocal, we hosted a lunch for women that was attended by more than 100 elected members including nearly every woman Mayor. Finance Minister Nicola Willis was a very effective speaker and the event was well covered by media, with [this local democracy reporter story](#) carried prominently by every major outlet. The lunch also included a workshop. We are now considering next steps for this work.

CBEC

Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ means that Co-Chair of CBEC Simon Britten stepped down in July, with Sarah Lucas becoming the sole Chair.

CBEC has been focused on the Community Boards Conference which, for the first time, was held in conjunction with the LGNZ SuperLocal Conference. While organising the two conferences at the same time was challenging, the Community Boards Conference went well. At their September meeting CBEC resolved not to hold a community board conference in 2025. Instead, they are investigating the possibility of having a dedicated session at the 2025 Super/Local conference that would attract community board members. They are also looking at facilitating smaller zone or regional-based seminars for community boards.

CBEC is continuing to develop a work plan to implement recommendations around community board members' satisfaction and their relationships with their councils. A key part of the work plan is developing a guide to assist councils and community boards to build effective relationships. This will include a model agreement to enable councils and boards to set out mutual expectations.

Sarah Lucas has been actively assisting community boards going through representation reviews.

Work is progressing on the development of an approach to enable the Remuneration Authority to fairly recognise and compensate those community boards with additional responsibilities.

Metro Sector

The Metro Sector held a workshop in September to discuss metro-specific priorities and agree on actions that will complement and support LGNZ's broader advocacy work programme over the next year. Members agreed that the key priorities for metros are centred around enabling growth and economic prosperity, and achieving these priorities requires removing obstacles and improving things that currently slow us down. This is reflected in the following agreed areas of focus:

1. Improve alignment of central and local government investment cycles to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more bipartisan agreement on key infrastructure decisions.
2. A strategic approach to supporting economic development and growth.
3. Lift governance and accountability in order to improve LGNZ's impact in the Metro space.



Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector

The online meeting of the Regional Sector in June covered a number of key issues for the sector, including emergency management system improvement, Taumata Arowai's work on wastewater performance standards, and work on the climate adaptation framework. Their October online meeting focused on the Finance and Expenditure Committee's Inquiry on Climate Adaptation, the Regional Sector's views on how Core Services should be defined in upcoming legislative changes, and NZTA's Public Transport programme's priorities.

The Regional Sector's ever-popular Regional Tour prior to SuperLocal explored a range of flood protection, recovery, and biosecurity and biodiversity initiatives across the Hawke's Bay and Wellington regions.



Support

Ākona

Ākona users continue to grow, with another 138 people logging in for the first time since July. We have started a monthly email that highlights new Ākona courses and content. Please let us know if you're not receiving it.

In July we launched a new course on the CE Relationship – featuring the insight of Mayor Sandra Hazelhurst, Nigel Bickle, Nigel Corry and Chair Daran Ponter. This course was developed after receiving multiple requests from members. In August we launched a course on Leading Complex Communities, which will eventually include at least two Ako hours with expert host Jo Cribb.

The Climate Change course (released two months ago) caught the attention of the Aotearoa Council Climate Network, who were impressed with the content and keen to encourage elected members to engage with the learning. To support that mahi, a cloned copy of the Climate Change course was made available to sustainability staff from all member councils two weeks ago.

Five Ako hours were run from June-August, including a session that was arranged in response to the change in Māori ward legislation. Another three Ako hours were scheduled during September/October. These sessions are becoming increasingly popular, whether through attending the live sessions or viewing the recordings later.

We are working to confirm logistics and continue development of materials for Induction 2025 before the end of 2024. A draft design was produced and tested with members across October along with a prototype for an upgraded Ākona platform and programme that delivers a more personalised learning experience. The response from testers was very positive and the tīma have now begun development, starting with the production of pre-elected materials ready for release in March 2025. Existing courses have been reviewed in preparation for the shift in format with their redevelopment due to begin in November.

Roundtable zooms

Our second zoom in this series on sovereign citizens was popular and provoked a lot of conversation and positive feedback. We then held a well-attended zoom for elected members on physical security in early August. Our next zoom on 24 September featured the Security Intelligence Service speaking about the new threat assessment for New Zealand, which contained specific commentary on the vulnerability of local government. The presentation provoked a lot of member questions.

These recordings and all other security-related resources can be found in a [special section of Ākona](#).

Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

Work continues on the development of this strategy. Related kaupapa include:



- **Toitū te Reo** – This annual symposium launched in Hastings at the start of August and is a partnership between Heretaunga District Council and Ngāti Kahungunu, with the support of many others. Three LGNZ team members attended.
- **Tangihanga of Kiingi Tuuheitia Pootatau te Wherowhero VII** – The Māori King passed away on 30 August and his tangi was held from 31 August-5 September at Tūrangawaewae. LGNZ acknowledged the King's passing on social media and issued a media release acknowledging the ascension of the King's daughter to the throne, to become Te Arikinui Kūiini Ngā wai hono i te po Pootatau te Wherowhero VIII. The team will firm up a plan to connect with the Kiingitanga in the coming months, in support of the Kōtahitanga vision.

Governance guides/support

LGNZ has worked with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Party to update the LGNZ standing orders template. The update will ensure legislative consistency and introduce plain English. A draft has been circulated for member feedback and the final draft is now being legally reviewed. The changes made to the template involve updating it to include legislative amendment from the past three years and introducing plain English where possible. The templates, which include a territorial/unitary council version, a regional council version, and a community board version, are expected to be ready in early 2025.

MTFJ

MTFJ members and networks gathered for the Annual Breakfast meeting at the SuperLocal conference. At this event, Social Development and Employment Minister Louise Upston confirmed \$9 million in funding for the next financial year. Justin Lester of Dot Loves Data launched a revamped youth employment data dashboard, which sets out a council's local landscape in terms of youth and NEETs.

We would like to acknowledge Mayor Max Baxter's service and mahi for MTFJ. Max stepped down from the role in early October. MTFJ held a thank-you and farewell afternoon tea in his honour to celebrate his contribution.

Mayor Alex Walker has been elected as the new MTFJ Chair.

Moata Carbon Portal

This month we've extended the Moata portal subscription for Queenstown Lakes District Council for another 12 months. We've also provided a demo of the portal and had conversations on carbon accounting with Horowhenua District Council.



Mott MacDonald, LGNZ and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council held the 2nd Aotearoa Carbon Crunch event in Auckland on 12 September, with approximately 100 industry players and council staff attending the breakfast event.



Report

Date : 19 November 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 : **9.6**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 13 November 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	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
8/10/2024	16/10/2024	6	Disability Assist Dog Advocates	Information on disability assist dogs being rushed, attacked or refused entry
8/10/2024	15/10/2024	5	Tararua Community Law Centre	Rates Rebate Direct Debit Error Information
10/10/2024	11/10/2024	1	Individual	Further information re stock grazing near Dannevirke Wastewater Treatment Ponds
11/10/2024	7/11/2024	1	Individual	Policy on workshops and briefings
14/10/2024	16/10/2024	2	Individual	Information re stock crossing traffic management plans
14/10/2024	15/10/2024	1	Individual	Costs of Toll Free Tararua Programme
14/10/2024	11/11/2024	19	Individual	Number of years staff have grazed land surrounding the Dannevirke Treatment Ponds, plus all relevant information re grazing of land surrounding the sewage ponds in Woodville, Pahiatua and Eketāhuna
16/10/2024	23/10/2024	5	Individual	Costs of Toll Free Tararua Programme

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
16/10/2024	23/10/2024	5	Individual	Public tree removal and planting records
22/10/2024	23/10/2024	1	Individual	Staff and contractor payments, Council debt, number of LTPs implemented
22/10/2024	23/10/2024	1	Individual	Number of Special Purpose Vehicles Council has funded / contracted with
31/10/2024	31/10/2024	0	Individual	Fluoridation of Dannevirke Water Supply
31/10/2024	11/11/2024	7	Individual	Dannevirke Skatepark
31/10/2024	11/11/2024	7	Individual	Fluoridation of Dannevirke Water Supply
5/11/2024	6/11/2024	1	Community Law Centres of Aotearoa	District Licensing Committees
9/11/2024	11/11/2024	0	Individual	Fluoride recordings for Dannevirke Water Supply

Requests pending response

There are currently four open requests pending response.

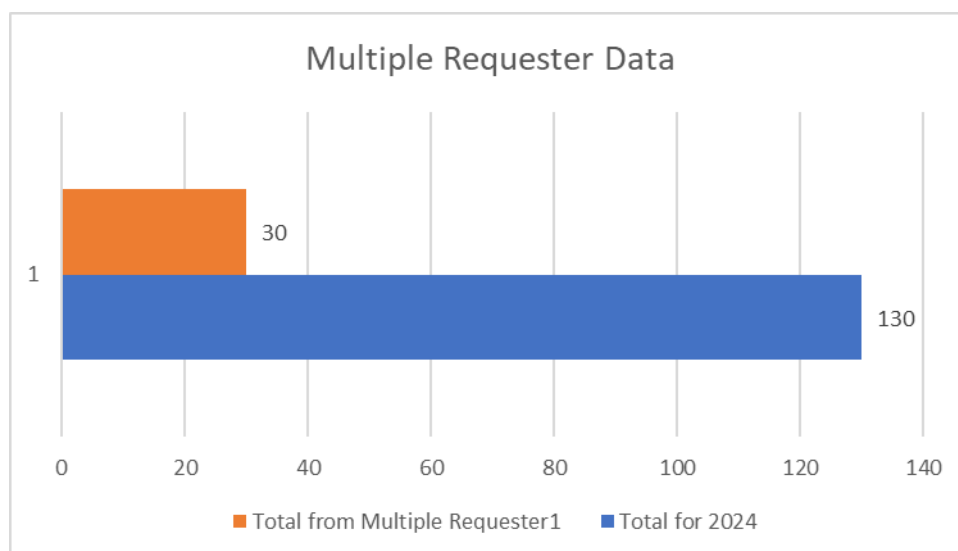
Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
30/10/2024			Individual	Request for information relating to Council error for rate payments
6/11/2024			Act Party	Council's liability for its role as BCA
8/11/2024			350 Aotearoa	Correspondence with MPs, Ministers or Central Government Officials re Fast

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
				Track or Fast Track Projects
19/11/2024			Individual	Information re Denmark Street Leases

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 23.08% of the total number of requests for information processed in 2024 (30 out of 130 requests for 2024).

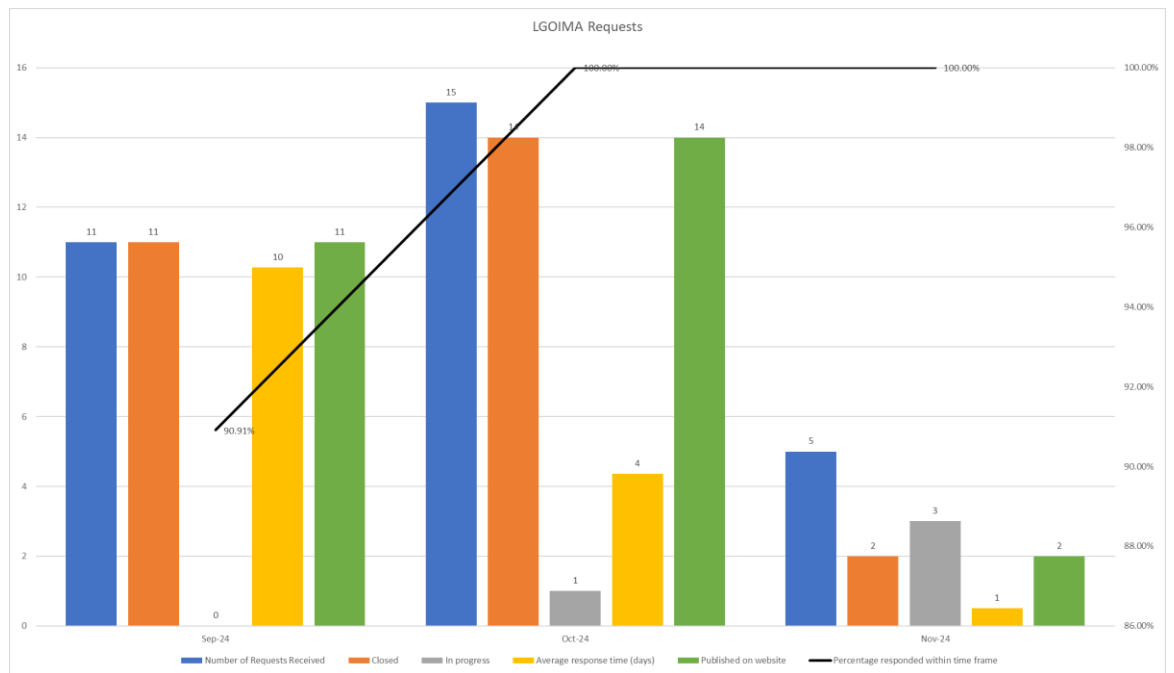


The Office of the Ombudsman provides guidance on dealing with multiple requests for information from a single person, allowing officers to consider aggregating multiple requests, and dealing with these as if they were a single request for information. The guidance also includes processes for charging 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 is being followed and the requester advised accordingly.

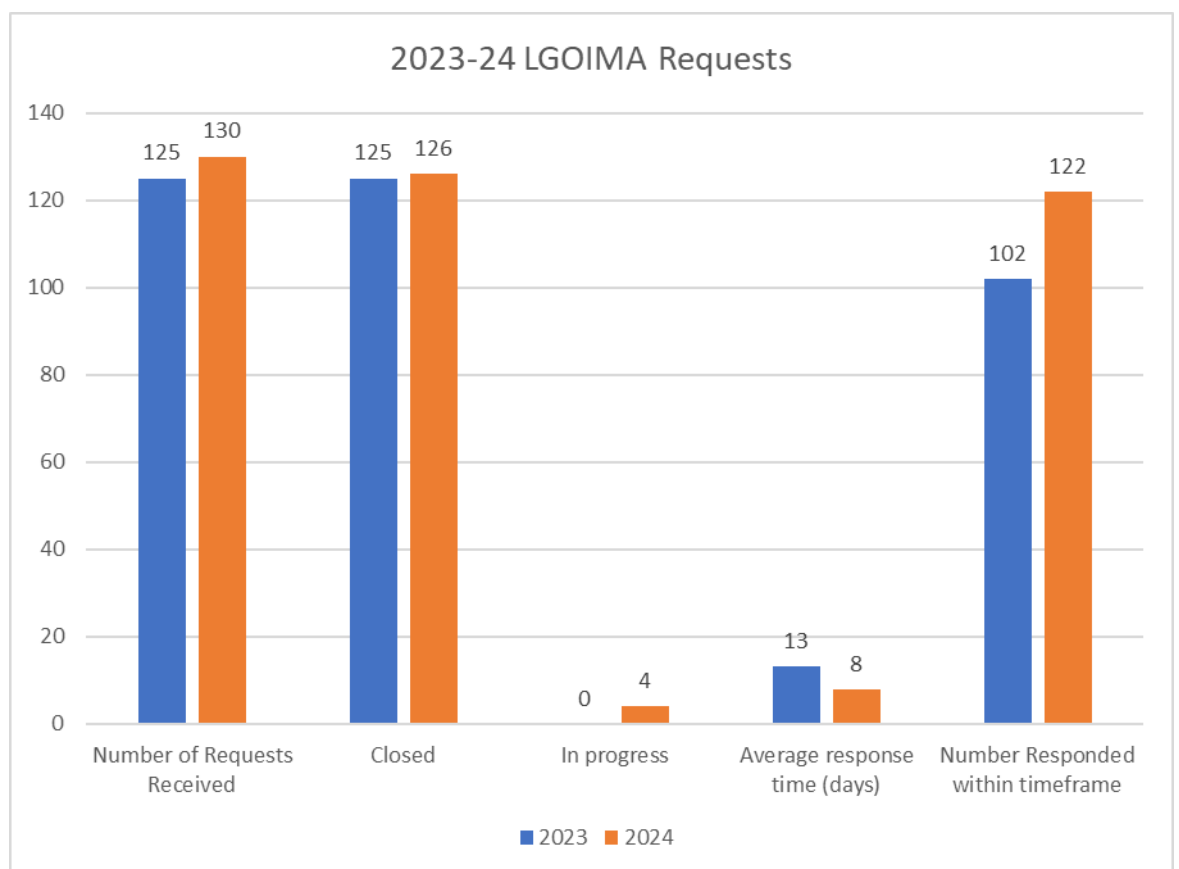
Status of Requests Received and Timelines for Response

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 Processes for proactively releasing information have been developed, including the redaction of any personally identifying information from the request and response removed.
- 4.6 The template used for acknowledging receipt of LGOIMA requests, has been updated to include advice for the requester that their request and the response would be published on Council's website, and that any personal identifying information would be redacted from both the request and the response to ensure compliance with the Privacy Act 2020.
- 4.7 The proactive release of LGOIMA requests started from 1 July 2024. The information released can be viewed on Council's website, from the following page:
- <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/information-requests-proactive-release>

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 October 2024 to 21 November 2024.

Attachments

Nil.



18 November 2024

Kia ora

I am writing to you as I believe you have submitted to, or have a keen interest in, the NZTA tolling proposal for Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū-Tararua Highway.

There are a vast number of us, and while we all have unique perspectives on how this toll would impact our community, business, or whānau, it is important to share the information I have gathered over the past few months as it raises serious concerns about the proposal process and the accuracy of the information that the Minister will base his decision on.

As a Council and community, we do not support the proposed toll of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū-Tararua Highway but we have come to see that this is bigger than just Tararua. The concerns that the proposal process has raised about the lack of transparency, the lack of adherence to policy, and the quality of the information that is being provided to the Minister have wide and far-reaching ramifications for all New Zealanders.

We have requested an opportunity to address the NZTA Board, along with iwi and mayors through our region, and have been deemed “not necessary and important that the tolling process is worked through”.

Here are the facts:

1. In order for Te Ahu a Turanga to meet the threshold for tolling, over 10,000 vehicles a day must use the road.

Recent traffic count data captured by the Tararua District Council on the Tararua side of both the Pahiatua Track and the Saddle Road shows traffic counts used for the tolling assessment are significantly inflated.

This is due to misleading locations used in the NZTA traffic count, an assumption that traffic would stop using the Pahiatua Track, and a growth projection that does not reflect reality.

To break this down for you:

- The NZTA toll assessment includes a projected figure of 10,902 vehicles. This is a 5% per year growth on the 7,600 vehicles per day that used the Gorge Road before it closed. When we look at the current traffic volumes using the Saddle Road and the Pahiatua Track, they are actually similar to 2016 levels, showing no real growth.
- NZTA's counter for the Pahiatua Track was located nearer Palmerston North where it would also have picked up subdivision traffic going straight to Palmerston North.
- The counter on the Saddle Road will have picked up additional construction traffic; demonstrated by the 10% rise in heavy vehicle traffic linked to highway construction. The Saddle Road counts have been between 6132 and 6935, which includes highway construction traffic.

Tararua District Council · Dannevirke · Woodville · Pahiatua · Eketāhuna

26 Gordon Street PO Box 115 Dannevirke 4942 Tararua Tel: 06 374 4080 email: tracey.collis@tararua.govt.nz



Average Daily Traffic Count Comparisons							
	NZTA Toll Assessment Count	NZTA Counter	NZTA Counter	NZTA Counter	TDC Counter	TDC Counter	TDC Counter
	(2016)	(Sept 2022)	(August 2023)	(Sept 2024)	(2017-2018)	(Sept 2024)	(Oct 2024)
Saddle Road	150	6231	5810 (15.6% Heavy Vehicles)	7418 (25.5% Heavy Vehicles)	5655 - Aug 2017 (12% Heavy Vehicles)	6935 (16.6% Heavy Vehicles)	6132 (24.6% Heavy Vehicles)
Pahiatua Track	2220	4483	4447 (12.4% Heavy Vehicles)	4049 (13.7% Heavy Vehicles)	3892 - Nov 2018 (10% Heavy Vehicles)	3001 (14.3% Heavy Vehicles)	3194 (13.4% Heavy Vehicles)
Manawatu Gorge	7620						
Total	9990	10714	10257	11467	9547	9936	9326
Notes	Pre-closure	Counts on Palmerston North side of Saddle and Pahiatua track			Previous Closure	Similar to Pre and Previous Closure	Similar to Pre and Previous Closure

Source: Tararua District Roading Team

2. There is no mention in the Tolling Assessment of the regular users of the Pahiatua Track and assumes the majority of the Pahiatua Track traffic would divert to Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū-Tararua Highway - as a second and more distant alternate route. The fact is, many people from the Wairarapa and Pahiatua will continue to take the Pahiatua Track whether the highway is tolled or not, as it's the most direct route to Palmerston North from the South, and to go via Woodville and then back to Palmerston North would add 14 minutes to the journey.

This represents a fundamental lack of understanding of the local traffic network in the tolling assessment and makes the traffic modelling unreliable; as well as incorrectly contributing to the over 10,000 projection. While the Pahiatua Track is an alternate route if the Saddle Road or highway is closed, it is not a realistic alternate route for people from the South day-to-day.

3. While now billed as a new four-lane expressway saving 12-14 minutes compared to the Saddle Road, the reality is that this is a replacement road. It required four lanes due to the gradient; and was built to replace a closed (flat) SH3 that only took 7 minutes to travel. As a replacement road for a State Highway, Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū-Tararua Highway is not eligible to be tolled based on NZTA's own policy.

4. NZTA forecasts 3000 vehicles would continue to use the Saddle Road with a toll on the highway. Before the closure of the Gorge, the Saddle Road carried only 150 vehicles per day. The NZTA policy states that in order to apply a toll, 'The toll rate is reasonable and does not result in a traffic volume change that unduly impacts the wider network.'

The Tararua District Council, and the ratepayers of the Tararua would bear the cost of maintaining this road, on top of paying the proposed toll. NZTA's own maintenance numbers put this figure between \$4M - \$6M per year since the Gorge closure, with significant additional investment required. This has not been factored into the tolling assessment.

5. In NZTA's own business case, the fact that the Saddle Road was unsafe was a key factor in the build of the replacement highway. The NZTA policy states that in order to be eligible for tolling "There is a feasible free alternative route available for use." There have been 155 reported accidents and three fatalities in the seven years since the Gorge Road was closed on the Saddle Road, which was designed for 150 vehicles per day. The Saddle Road has 6% more Serious crashes than the entire areas covering the Wellington, Manawatu-Whanganui, Hawkes Bay regions.

Wellington, Manawatu-Whanganui, Hawkes Bay Regions			
2018-2024			
Crash Severity	Number	Average	
Fatal Crash	324	1%	
Minor Crash	9996	26%	
Non-Injury Crash	25951	67%	
Serious Crash	2452	6%	
Grand Total	38723		
Saddle Road			
2018-2024			
Crash Severity	Number	Average	% Variance to Regional
Fatal Crash	3	2%	1%
Minor Crash	34	22%	-4%
Non-Injury Crash	99	64%	-3%
Serious Crash	19	12%	6%
Grand Total	155		

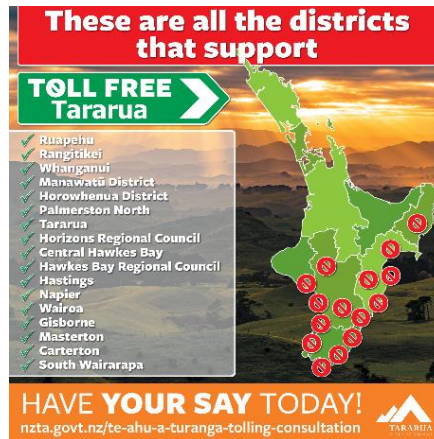
Source: Tararua District Roading Team

6. The MobilityLab report, used in the Tolling Assessment, estimates net revenue from tolling could be between \$5.8 million and \$21.1 million in 2025. However, the report warns there are many uncertainties, so these numbers may not be accurate and don't factor in the ongoing maintenance cost of the Saddle Road. It also notes a 33% cut in safety benefits, which equals a loss of \$7.9 million. I am concerned that this report is being used to justify a toll, which in reality (after maintenance costs for the Saddle Road, tolling administration and ongoing maintenance and construction for the highway) has a very small net gain.

7. NZTA have not followed their own policy when it comes to consultation. Key information was withheld, and the tolling assessment was only released halfway through the consultation period, under the Official Information Act. Additional modelling came out just days before the consultation ended, which unfairly disadvantaged those who had already submitted their feedback.

8. The NZTA Policy on tolls states that a toll must be supported by the region and the community. We know that there has been an extremely high volume of submissions on this, but that only the sentiment of the submissions will be provided to the Board and we do not know if this will include the names of the organisations and individuals who have made submissions.

As a close partner for the project, I asked for the number of submissions after consultation had closed, and I was directed to request it through the Official Information Act. After 20 working days, I was advised that the request was too complex for it to be given a response within the legislated time frame. This information has now been withheld "to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials". With such high public interest, we find the withholding of this most simple information to be alarming. I am aware that submissions have been made questioning the rationale for the proposed toll by every Council in the wider region, by numerous education and healthcare providers, by economic development agencies, business associations, all five of our Iwi and by community and industry groups.



9. Although the community was told there would be significant road maintenance during the Gorge closure, most of the work has been temporary patching. Many sections still need major repairs. The tolling assessment doesn't include the cost of maintaining these alternative routes, meaning local councils and communities will pay both for the toll and for maintaining roads not built for heavy traffic. With around 3,000 vehicles expected to continue using these routes to avoid the toll, maintenance costs will remain high. Repairs are estimated at \$5.1 million per year, with ongoing costs of \$2.4 million for this year. This has not been factored into the tolling assessment.

10. A toll was never discussed during the business case process. Iwi and landowners may not have agreed to this project had tolling been on the table as many agreed believing in the wider good this road would provide.

11. The proposed toll would come at a significant and ongoing generational cost to taxpayers, particularly by limiting our people's access to healthcare, education and employment. The NZTA Policy states that in order to be applied "Tolling aligns with the GPS priorities of: inclusive access, economic prosperity, healthy and safe people, environmental sustainability, and resilience and security." We believe that it is clear that this criteria has not been met, and we know our fellow submitters share this belief.

I am happy to provide raw data to any individual or organisation who would like to validate the above information. I am sure that if the Minister were provided with all of the information, he would make the right decision about Te Ahu A Turanga, seeing that at its core, the proposed toll is not consistent with many policies and that the information that has been used to assess the eligibility and benefit of the toll is incorrect.

We will continue to work collaboratively with NZTA as much as we can, as we know that there are many wonderful people within the organisation working hard for their communities. We hope that the formal process followed by the Government will ensure that the right decision is made, however we are preparing for a judicial review if the Minister is not provided with the correct information.

We would greatly appreciate you sharing this information with any interested parties; in particular those in Government.

Ngā mihi nui

Tracey Collis
Mayor and Councillors
Tararua District