



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 25 June 2025 commencing at 9:30 am.

## 1. Present

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

### In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mr K van der Oord	- Communications Team Manager
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs S Fountaine	- Community Engagement Officer
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

## 2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer.

## 3. Apologies

***That the apologies from Councillors N L Chase and M F Long be accepted and leave of absence granted for the meeting.***

***Mayor Collis/Gilmore***

***Carried***

## 4. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

## **5. Presentations**

### **5.1 Presentation - Positively Woodville**

An apology was received from Positively Woodville that they were unable to make today's meeting, but would reschedule for a future meeting.

## **6. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

The need to consider two urgent late items of business was advised. The first item was in regard to the voting on remits and a discussion paper at the July LGNZ Annual General Meeting was advised. An explanation was provided that the item had not been available in time to be included on the agenda for this meeting. The reason the item could not wait until a future or extraordinary meeting is due to the need to provide direction to the Council's member with voting rights at the Annual General Meeting on how the Tararua District Council would like its vote recorded for each item.

The second item was in regard to a proposal to transfer a loan relating to Pukaha Mount Bruce Board to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust. An explanation was provided that the item had not been available in time to be included on the agenda for this meeting. The reason the item could not wait until a future or extraordinary meeting is due to the need to progress matters relating to the loan.

***That the Tararua District Council accept as a matter of late business the item seeking direction from Council on voting on Remits and a Discussion Paper at the July Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand.***

***That the Tararua District Council accept as a matter of late business the item "Pukaha Mount Bruce Board – proposal to transfer loan to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust."***

***Crs Johns/Peeti-Webber***

***Carried***

## **7. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business**

Nil

## **8. Confirmation of Minutes**

***That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 May 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

***Crs Johns/Sutherland***

***Carried***

***That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 4 June 2025 (as***

*circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Crs Franklin/Wallace*

*Carried*

*That the minutes of Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 June 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Crs Johns/Peeti-Webber*

*Carried*

## **10. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports**

### **10.1 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee**

*That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 04 June 2025 be received.*

*Crs Gilmore/Franklin*

*Carried*

### **10.2 Minutes - Eketahuna Community Board**

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 9 June 2025 be received.*

*Crs Gilmore/Franklin*

*Carried*

### **10.3 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board**

*That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 16 June 2025 be received.*

*Crs Gilmore/Franklin*

*Carried*

## **11. Reports**

### **11.1 Disposal Plans for Rationalisation of Land and Buildings**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Information dated 19 June 2025 that sought approval to proceed with the disposal of land and buildings identified in the report.

An issue with the livestreaming of the meeting was identified by online attendees, who advised that there was no sound coming through the livestream. It was agreed that the meeting would adjourn for a short time to see if the situation could be remedied.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:47am and resumed at 10:05am.*

The technical issue affecting the livestream was unable to be rectified.

In response to questions asked during debate regarding the impact that selling the Dannevirke Rural Bus Depot building would have on the availability of the surrounding car park space, it was clarified that the proposal was to sell the building with an easement for access. It was further noted that if the Council decided not to proceed with selling that building there would be significant expenditure required in the future.

***That the Council pursue the disposal of the following assets:***

***39 Gregg Street, Dannevirke***

***39 Ransom Street Reserve, Dannevirke***

***DVK Rural Bus Depot, Dannevirke***

***Land at 16 Bengston Street, Eketāhuna***

***That, prior to disposal, the Council inform occupiers of each property under consideration for disposal.***

***That the Council initiate engagement with iwi regarding the disposal of identified assets.***

***That the Council engage with the public regarding the disposal of identified assets.***

***Crs Johns/Wards***

***Carried***

*The meeting adjourned at 10:32am and resumed at 10:49am.*

## **11.2 Adoption of Annual Plan 2025-26 and Schedule of Fees and Charges**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Finance Manager dated 11 June 2025 that presented the Annual Plan 2025-26, being year two of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan and the Schedule of Fees and Charges required by Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002 for adoption under section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Finance Manager highlighted the changes in the Annual Plan since the Council meeting held on 4 June 2025, where the Council considered and deliberated on the matters that had been raised by submitters. She noted that the changes to the draft Annual Plan made by Council arising from the deliberations had a cost of \$28,000 and as discussed at that meeting, these have been cost-neutralised. She highlighted a subsequent change request, as set out on page 217 of the agenda, which resulted in a reduction in personnel costs. The impact of these changes has reduced the overall rates increase from the 7.71% originally proposed to an overall rates increase of 7.29%. She noted an error on page 158 of the draft Annual Plan document provided for this meeting, relating to the image provided of sample properties for proposed rates increase. She advised that this image had not been updated to reflect the new rates increase of 7.29% but would be updated prior to publishing the final document.

***That the report from the Finance Manager dated 11 June 2025 concerning the Adoption of Annual Plan 2025-26 and Schedule of Fees and Charges be received.***

***That in accordance with Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Tararua District Council adopts the Annual Plan 2025-26 and the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2025-26 financial year.***

***That the Chief Executive be authorised to approve any final edits required to the Annual Plan required to finalise the documents.***

***Crs Wards/Johns***

***Carried***

### **11.3 Rates Resolution for 2025-26 Financial Year**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Revenue Manager dated 11 June 2025 that presented the necessary resolution under section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to enable the Council to set the rates, the due dates for payment of rates, and authorise the addition of penalties for the 2025-26 financial year.

***That the report from the Revenue Manager dated 11 June 2025 concerning the Rates Resolution for 2025-26 Financial Year be received.***

#### ***Setting the Rates for the 2025-26 Financial Year***

***That the Tararua District Council resolves to set the rates under Section 23 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, the due dates for payment under Section 24 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and authorise the addition of penalties for unpaid rates under Section 57 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 for the year commencing on 1 July 2025 and ending on 30 June 2026 as follows:***

***Please note:***

***All references to sections are to sections of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.***

***All amounts stated are GST inclusive.***

#### ***General Rate***

***Pursuant to Section 13(2)(a), a general rate of \$0.00202642 per dollar of land value per rating unit in the district.***

#### ***Uniform Annual General Charge***

***Pursuant to Section 15(1)(a), a uniform annual general charge as a fixed amount***

*of \$676.36 per rating unit in the district.*

#### ***Libraries Targeted Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a fixed amount of \$221.50 per rating unit in the district.*

#### ***Swimming Pools Targeted Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a fixed amount of \$131.29 per rating unit in the district.*

#### ***Specified Services Targeted Rate - Urban***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a rate in the dollar of land value for all rating units in the urban category of \$0.00004822 per dollar of land value.*

#### ***Specified Services Targeted Rate – Industrial/Commercial – Rural***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a rate in the dollar of land value for all rating units in the industrial/commercial rural category of \$0.00072271 per dollar of capital value.*

#### ***Specified Services Targeted Rate – Industrial/Commercial – Urban***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a rate in the dollar of capital value for all rating units in the industrial/commercial urban category of \$0.00095328 per dollar of capital value.*

#### ***Recycling Targeted Differential Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(b), a targeted rate, set on all rating units in the district on a differential basis as an amount per rating unit for the different categories of land as follows:*

<i>Rural rating units</i>	<i>\$ 57.89</i>
<i>Urban rating units</i>	<i>\$187.61</i>
<i>Industrial/Commercial rating units</i>	<i>\$277.60</i>

#### ***Kerbside Recycling Targeted Differential Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(b), a targeted rate, for the different categories of land as follows:*

*Urban rating units – an amount of \$86.47 per separately used or inhabitable part of a rating unit for urban rating units where the kerbside collection service is available.*

*Industrial/Commercial rating units – an amount of \$86.47 per separately used*

*or inhabitable part of a rating unit for Industrial/Commercial rating units where the kerbside collection service is available.*

#### ***Roading Rate - District-wide***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a uniform rate in the dollar of \$0.00087116 per dollar of land value per rating unit in the district.*

#### ***Roading Rate – Fixed Rate Differential***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(b), a targeted rate, set on all rating units in the district on a differential basis as an amount per rating unit for the different categories of rateable land as follows:*

<i>Rural rating units</i>	<i>\$242.75</i>
<i>Urban rating units</i>	<i>\$ 36.41</i>
<i>Industrial/Commercial rating units</i>	<i>\$ 96.07</i>

#### ***Roading Land Value Differential Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(b), a targeted rate, set on all rating units in the district on a differential basis as an amount per \$1,000 of land value for the different categories of land as follows:*

<i>Dairy</i>	<i>\$0.40076493 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Forestry</i>	<i>\$1.38455120 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Farming (non-dairy)</i>	<i>\$0.14321570 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Industrial</i>	<i>\$0.69635894 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Commercial</i>	<i>\$0.31611031 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Residential</i>	<i>\$0.01991873 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Lifestyle</i>	<i>\$0.04680902 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>\$0.62265963 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>
<i>Mining</i>	<i>\$1.47916518 per \$1,000 Land Value</i>

#### ***Dannevirke Town Centre Refurbishment Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate, set of a fixed amount of \$2.39 per rating unit on every rating unit in the district where a Lump Sum Contribution has not been elected under Part 4A comprising Sections 117A to 117N and Schedule 3A and paid in full.*

***District Town Centre Refurbishment Rate***

***Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate, set of a fixed amount of \$59.42 per rating unit on every rating unit in the district.***

***Water Supply Targeted Rate***

***Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(b), a targeted rate set differently as follows:***

***An amount of \$1,071.56 per separately used or inhabitable part of a rating unit which is connected to a Council operated water supply and which is not metered and charged on a volumetric basis.***

***An amount of \$535.78 on every rating unit where an ordinary supply is available but is not connected, and which is not metered and charged on a volumetric basis.***

***Volumetric Water Charges - Metered Rate***

***Rates for metered supply pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and Sections 16(4)(a), and 19(2)(b) as follows:***

***All rating units that are metered and charged for volumetric supply***

***A targeted rate charged quarterly of \$267.89 per rating unit***

***All extraordinary users***

***For supply in excess of 80 cubic metres supplied during each consecutive three month period per separately used or inhabitable part of a rating unit a volumetric rate of \$5.00 per m3.***

***All large volume users***

***For supply of more than 2,000 cubic metres per quarter per separately used or inhabitable part of a rating unit a volumetric rate of \$2.60 per m3.***

***Pongaroa Water Rate***

***Pursuant to Section 19(2)(a), a targeted rate as an amount of \$142.09 per unit of water supplied from the Pongaroa Rural Water Supply.***

***Wastewater Targeted Rate (excluding educational establishments, multiple unit residential properties and properties charged trade waste fees)***

***Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(b), a targeted rate, set on a differential basis for wastewater as follows:***

***An amount of \$1,057.12 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit connected to a Council operated wastewater system, and***

***An amount of \$528.56 on every rating unit where wastewater is available but is not connected.***

***Wastewater multiple use (pan charge rate) - excluding educational***



***establishments and multi-use residential properties***

***On every connected rating unit with 4 or more water closets/urinals (except for educational establishments and multi-use residential properties), an amount of \$352.34 for each water closet or urinal excluding the first 3, and excluding any in addition to 12.***

***Note: A rating unit used primarily as a residence for one household will be treated as having only one water closet/urinal.***

***Wastewater Rate - educational establishments and multi-unit residential properties***

***Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), for educational establishments and multi-unit residential properties a targeted uniform rate of \$1,057.12 on each water closet/urinal connected to the urban wastewater system.***

***Educational establishments are as defined under Schedule 1, Clause 6 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.***

***Urban Stormwater Targeted Rate***

***Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted uniform rate of \$228.69 per rating unit on every rating unit in the Tararua District stormwater drainage area.***

***Due Date for Payment of Rates***

***All rates (except metered water rates) for the year ending on 30 June 2026 will be assessed in four equal instalments, which will become due and payable on the following due dates:***

<b><i>Instalment</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>	<b><i>Instalment period</i></b>
<b><i>Instalment 1</i></b>	<b><i>31 August 2025</i></b>	<b><i>1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025</i></b>
<b><i>Instalment 2</i></b>	<b><i>30 November 2025</i></b>	<b><i>1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025</i></b>
<b><i>Instalment 3</i></b>	<b><i>28 February 2026</i></b>	<b><i>1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026</i></b>
<b><i>Instalment 4</i></b>	<b><i>31 May 2026</i></b>	<b><i>1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026</i></b>

***Charges for metered water rates for the year ending on 30 June 2026 will be assessed in four instalments on meter readings, which will become due and payable on the following due dates:***

<b><i>Instalment</i></b>	<b><i>Meters Read</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>
<b><i>Instalment 1</i></b>	<b><i>1 September 2025</i></b>	<b><i>20 October 2025</i></b>
<b><i>Instalment 2</i></b>	<b><i>1 December 2025</i></b>	<b><i>20 January 2026</i></b>

<b>Instalment 3</b>	<b>1 March 2026</b>	<b>20 April 2026</b>
<b>Instalment 4</b>	<b>1 June 2026</b>	<b>20 July 2026</b>

### **Penalties**

***That Council resolves pursuant to Section 57 and Section 58 to authorise the following penalties to be added on unpaid rates:***

***For all rates other than water metered rates:***

***A penalty under Section 58(1)(a) of 10 percent on so much of any instalment that has been assessed after 1 July 2025 and which is unpaid by the relevant due date stated in 1.24 for payment, to be applied on the relevant penalty date as follows:***

<b>Instalment Due Date</b>	<b>Rates Penalty Date</b>
<b>31 August 2025</b>	<b>2 September 2025</b>
<b>30 November 2025</b>	<b>2 December 2025</b>
<b>28 February 2026</b>	<b>3 March 2026</b>
<b>31 May 2026</b>	<b>2 June 2026</b>

***A penalty under Section 58(1)(b) of 10 percent on so much of any rates assessed before 1 July 2025 which remain unpaid on 8 July 2025 (Arrears penalty). The penalty will be added on 11 July 2025.***

***A penalty under Section 58(1)(c) of 10 percent on so much of any rates to which a penalty has been added under (b) above which remain unpaid on 8 January 2026 (Arrears penalty). The penalty will be added on 12 January 2026.***

***For water metered rates***

***d) A penalty under Section 58(1)(a) of 10 percent on so much of any water metered rates that remain unpaid after the due date for the relevant instalment stated in 1.24.***

***The scheduled dates to add the penalties to the unpaid water metered rates are as at the following dates:***

<b>Instalment Due Date</b>	<b>Water Metered Penalty Date</b>
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<b><i>20 October 2025</i></b>	<b><i>22 October 2025</i></b>
<b><i>20 January 2026</i></b>	<b><i>23 January 2026</i></b>
<b><i>20 April 2026</i></b>	<b><i>22 April 2026</i></b>
<b><i>20 July 2026</i></b>	<b><i>22 July 2026</i></b>

***Crs Sutherland/Wallace***

***Carried***

#### **11.4 Election Campaigning - Protocols for Current Elected Members**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 16 June 2025 that provided information for the Council on protocols to be followed by elected members seeking re-election.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 16 June 2025 concerning the Election Campaigning - Protocols for Current Elected Members be received.***

***Crs Johns/Wallace***

***Carried***

#### **11.5 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 11 June 2025 that provided information on requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 over the preceding month.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 11 June 2025 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.***

***Crs Gilmore/Franklin***

***Carried***

### **12. Correspondence**

Nil

### **13. Portfolio Reports**

13.1 Pongaroa Way To Go Committee: Councillor Wards advised the Council that the Pongaroa Way To Go Committee had recently held its Annual General Meeting, with new members being added and a new Chairperson elected.

13.2 Chamber of Commerce After Fives Event: Councillor Wards spoke about the interactive and informative myth-busting session held in the Council Chambers

on Tuesday 24 June 2025. She noted that the presentation slides were intended to be published through the Council's website, and noted it was a useful exercise in shedding light on misinformation circulating within the district.

- 13.3 Woodville 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration: Councillor Gilmore thanked Positively Woodville for organising a very successful 150<sup>th</sup> celebration dance. Also a celebration last Sunday for the completion of Te Ahu a Turanga which was well attended, and a good chance for the community to come together. Noted how busy Woodville has been since the opening of the road, with retailers reporting that it's the busiest they've seen it for over 30 years.
- 13.4 Celebration for the opening of Te Ahu a Turanga: Councillor Gilmore reported on the celebration held in Woodville for the completion of Te Ahu a Turanga, which was well attended and a good opportunity for the community to come together. He noted how busy Woodville had been since the opening of the road, with retailers reporting that it was the busiest they'd seen it for over 30 years.
- 13.5 Matariki Celebrations in Woodville and Pahiatua: Councillor Gilmore acknowledged the Matariki celebrations held in Woodville and Pahiatua, noting thanks had been passed on from Te Ahu a Turanga Marae for the grant from the contestable fund that allowed them to hold their Matariki breakfast event.
- 13.6 Horizons Passenger Transport Committee meeting: Councillor Franklin reported on the recent meeting of the Horizons Passenger Transport Committee and noted the growth in ridership of the bush system in both Palmerston North and Ashhurst. The committee had noted that Te Ahu a Turanga was a vital link necessary for passenger transport planning decisions.
- 13.7 Connect Tararua: Councillor Franklin advised that a stage 5 was being considered to improve connectivity for the Route 52 area. This area would now be re-mapped to see where the connectivity blind spots were.

## **14. Mayoral Matters**

- 14.1 Woodville Celebration for Te Ahu a Turanga: Her Worship the Mayor spoke about the number of people attending, with representatives from the NZ Transport Agency and members of the construction team being there as well. She spoke about the beauty of the timing of having the gift of a new road in time for Woodville's 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations. She spoke about the work that Positively Woodville had been putting in to improving the town, for example the hanging baskets, the project to install the Flagtrax for the streetpoles in the central business district. She highlighted this as an example of this being a community committee in action making great achievements. She spoke about the statistics for traffic numbers on Te Ahu a Turanga – day one: 11,087 vehicles. Then from opening day until yesterday there had been 134,671 vehicle movements. She also spoke about the attraction that the shared cycle / walkway was proving to be. She noted that the Lindauer cycle trail project had received funding of \$250,000 from NZ Transport Agency to start the work of building a cycleway that

was intended to go from Woodville to Ferry Reserve.

She further noted that she had been excited to see the work being planned by Explore Pahiatua for their pathway as well.

14.2 Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged the Matariki Celebrations in the district's towns and congratulated the district's iwi for the work they had put into this.

14.3 In closing her update, Her Worship the Mayor advised the Council that James Robbie from Pongaroa had made it into the finals of the Young Farmer of the Year competition.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:39am and resumed at 12:30pm.*

## **15. Items not on the Agenda**

### **L.1 Pukaha Mount Bruce Board – Transfer of Loan to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Executive dated 24 June 2025 that sought the Council's approval in principle for the Chief Executive to enter negotiations to transfer the Loan Agreement from the Board to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust.

It was noted that this had been an emerging issue and given that it had been brought before the Council as a late item of business, the Chief Executive provided a verbal overview of the report. In his overview he gave the history of advancing a loan in 2021 to the Mt Bruce Board, with the option to request security in the terms and conditions of that loan. The purpose of the report today was to seek Council's approval in principle to explore the proposal to transfer the loan to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and for delegation to the Chief Executive to negotiate the terms and conditions the transfer. He noted that any agreement would have to come back to the Council for final approval.

He also highlighted that the previous agreement was approved by resolution of Council and then signed by himself and Her Worship the Mayor as a result of that Council decision.

He noted that the Board was not required to make any repayments of the loan principal until the fifth anniversary of the loan. He advised that there had been no default as to the current loan to the Board, however noted the financial difficulties being faced. The invoice for interest owing was with the organisation and it is understood this would be paid. He noted the changes arising from the Long Term Plan 2024-34 decision making around grant funding and the resulting creation of the contestable grant fund. The Board had received a grant through that process.

He advised that the Council was made aware in March 2025 of the financial difficulties being faced by the Board. At present the Council was an unsecured creditor, and security had been requested as allowed for in the loan agreement.

He noted that there had been ongoing discussions with the Board and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and as a result of these discussions, a proposal had been received from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust to take over the Board's obligations under the loan, on the basis that the loan agreement was varied to not include interest costs for the remaining term.

The Chief Executive then spoke about the financial considerations related to this proposal, noting that the Council had budgeted to receive interest revenue from this loan. The report before the Council outlined a breakdown of a request made through the Long Term Plan consultation with regard to continued support for funding of the Board, however that submission was declined and the Board were invited to make application through the contestable grant fund process. The Board were successful in securing \$12,000 from this fund in February 2025. The Council has invoiced the Board for the interest costs for this financial year, which is due in October 2025.

The Chief Executive stepped the Council through the options in front of the Council that were outlined in the report. The option to transfer the loan to the Trust would mean council forgoing the interest revenue on the loan, however would increase the likelihood of full principal repayment which otherwise might be at risk.

In response to a question for an explanation of who Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust was, Mr Aaron Karena, Board member of Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Charitable Trust was invited to the table. Mr Karena explained that Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust is the Post Treaty Settlement Entity for the two iwi Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua, and Rangitāne o Wairarapa. The proposal had come from this entity.

During debate, concern was raised about the potential loss of \$146,000 of interest revenue, and a question asked about whether there was a possibility of having the liability for payment of the interest remain with the Board as part of the negotiations. In response it was advised that Council was not in a position to discuss the agreement or what that could look like as the Council was not at that stage at this time. Should Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive to enter into negotiations then the results of those negotiations would be brought back to the Council for consideration. It was also not appropriate to discuss any potential terms in an open forum due to commercial sensitivity. It would also be outside the scope of the matter currently before the Council to add negotiating terms to the recommendations outlined in the report. Advice was also provided from the Trust that their proposal required the debt to be unencumbered, and including any fishhooks could likely invalidate their offer.

The Council was reminded of the original purpose of the loan to the Board, which was to support the development of the educational and conservation premises for the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, Te Whare Taio o Manukura, and that Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust's proposal was made on the basis of securing a good

outcome for the future of the centre.

During further discussion, it was highlighted that although foregoing the interest revenue was a concern for everyone, the ability to protect the repayment of the loan principal outweighed this concern. In response to a question to officers about whether the unpaid interest could be treated as tax deductible, Council was advised that as a local authority, the Council was tax-exempt and therefore could not claim such deductibility. It was advised that foregoing the interest revenue of \$146,000 would have a minor impact on the rates, and an example given that if the \$146,000 was incurred in one financial year it would be a rates increase of 0.37% or if Council was to take the average interest costs over the remainder of the term of the loan it would be 0.06% increase each year.

It was asked whether a review of the decision-making relating to the making of the loan to the Board in 2021 could be undertaken and be made transparent so that future Councils could learn from that. Her Worship the Mayor undertook to speak to the independent Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee about undertaking such a review and reporting this to the Audit and Risk Committee.

In summary of the discussions, Her Worship the Mayor noted that the importance of Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre remaining open, and the way forward was through the proposal from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust to take over the debt.

**That the report from the Chief Executive dated 24 June 2025 concerning the Pūkaha Mount Bruce Board - proposal to transfer loan to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust be received.**

**That Council agrees in principle to the proposal to transfer the loan of \$1,000,000 to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust.**

**That the Chief Executive be delegated authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of the transfer of the loan from Pūkaha Mount Bruce Board to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, subject to confirmation of the agreement by Council in a public excluded report.**

*Crs Johns/Sutherland*

*Carried*

**A division was called:**

**Voting for the motion: Her Worship the Mayor and Councillors Peeti-Webber, Franklin, Johns, Wallace, Wards, and Sutherland.**

**Voting against the motion: Councillor Gilmore**

## **L.1 Remits to Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2025**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 24 June 2025 that sought determination of the Council's position on the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2025 remits as well as the discussion paper on Rates Capping, to provide guidance to Council's

presiding delegate on how to vote on each matter on Council's behalf.

***That the report from the Manager Democracy Services dated 24 June 2025 concerning the Remits to Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2025 be received.***

***That the Council:***

***Supports the remit on Security System Payments***

***Agrees for the presiding delegate to make a decision at the AGM regarding the the remit on Improving Joint Management Agreements***

***Supports the remit on Alcohol Licensing Fees***

***Supports the remit on Aligning public and school bus services***

***Agrees for the presiding delegate to make a decision at the AGM regarding the remit on Review of local government arrangements to achieve better balance***

***Agrees for the presiding delegate to make a decision at the AGM regarding the direction of travel set out in the Rates Capping AGM Paper.***

***Crs Sutherland/Wards***

***Carried***

## **16. Public Excluded Items of Business**

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

***Land Purchase - Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply - Memorandum of Agreement***

***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.***

<b><i>General subject matter to be considered</i></b>	<b><i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i></b>	<b><i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i></b>
<b><i>Land Purchase - Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply - Memorandum of Agreement</i></b>	<b><i>To protect the commercial and industrial negotiations</i></b>	<b><i>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</i></b>

***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).***

***Crs Sutherland/Wallace***

***Carried***

The meeting went into public excluded session at 1:30pm and resumed open session at 1:52pm.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 1:52pm.

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Mayor