

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Tararua District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on **Wednesday 30 July 2025** commencing at **9:30 am**.

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

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Recommendation

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 June 2025 (as circulated), Extraordinary Council meeting held on 9 July 2025 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 22 July 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

8. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

8.1 Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee

35

Recommended

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 3 June 2025, and the meeting held 1 July 2025 be received.

8.2 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee

47

Recommended

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 02 July 2025 be received.

8.3 Minutes - Eketahuna Community Board

55

Recommended

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 14 July 2025 be received.

8.4 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board

61

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 21 July 2025 be received.

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

9. Reports

J.1	Camping Bylaw Consultation	71
9.2	Deliberations on Matters During Draft Reserve Management Plan Consultation	85
9.3	Reserve Management Plan - Land Status and Classification	109
9.4	2024/2025 Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices	113
9.5	Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	121
9.6	Cyclone Gabrielle Final Report and Transition Document	131
9.7	Notification of Urgent Contestable fund recipients	211
9.8	Energy Efficency and Conservation Authority Solar Renewable Energy Funding	215
9.9	Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy	221
9.10	Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	225

10. Portfolio Reports

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

11. Mayoral Matters

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

13. Public Excluded Items of Business

Recommendation

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

Confirmation of 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.

General subject matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48 (1) for the passing of this resolution
Confirmation of Minutes	To protect commercial and industrial negotiations	<section (1)(a)(i)<="" td=""></section>

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).

14. Closure



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 Serv ices 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:

Rural rating units \$ 57.89

Urban rating units \$187.61

Industrial/Commercial rating units \$277.60

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:

Rural rating units \$242.75

Urban rating units \$36.41

Industrial/Commercial rating units \$96.07

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:

Dairy \$0.40076493 per \$1,000 Land Value

Forestry \$1.38455120 per \$1,000 Land Value

Farming (non-dairy) \$0.14321570 per \$1,000 Land Value

Industrial \$0.69635894 per \$1,000 Land Value

Commercial \$0.31611031 per \$1,000 Land Value

Residential \$0.01991873 per \$1,000 Land Value

Lifestyle \$0.04680902 per \$1,000 Land Value

Other \$0.62265963 per \$1,000 Land Value

Mining \$1.47916518 per \$1,000 Land Value

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:

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

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:

Instalment	Meters Read	Due date
Instalment 1	1 September 2025	20 October 2025
Instalment 2	1 December 2025	20 January 2026

Instalment 3	1 March 2026	20 April 2026
Instalment 4	1 June 2026	20 July 2026

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:

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

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:

Instalment Due Date	Water Metered Penalty
	Date

20 October 2025	22 October 2025
20 January 2026	23 January 2026
20 April 2026	22 April 2026
20 July 2026	22 July 2026

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

- 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 150th Celebration: Councillor Gilmore thanked Positively Woodville for organising a very successful 150th celebration dance. Also a celebration last Sundy 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 remapped 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 150th 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.

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

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 n	o further	business	the N	∕layor	thanked	those	present for	or their	attendance	and
contri	butions,	and decla	ared the i	neeti	ng clos	sed at 1:5	52pm.				

	Mayor	



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 9 July 2025 commencing at 10:30am.

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

Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive

Ms A Rule - Policy and Planning Advisor

Ms F Chase - Facilities Manager

Ms K Payne - Facilities Property Officer
Mrs S Anthony - Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Reports

3.1 Hearing of Submissions on Freedom Camping Bylaw and Tararua District Reserves Management Plan Consultations

Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submission 020 – Colleen and Warren Cox: submitters did not appear before Council to speak to their submission.

Reserves Management Plan

Submission 003 – Dennis Wakely: spoke to his submission and presented a slideshow of photos taken from the Mangatoro Scenic Reserve. He spoke about his history in the area. He expressed his safety concerns with regard to the walking tracks, noting that the tracks were muddy and slippery, boardwalks were

broken with holes in the boards; there were no tracks in some places, and trees had fallen across paths. The swimming hole is still accessible via one track, however this track requires maintenance and he has been out and cut steps himself to ensure access. He advised that deterioration of the reserve tracks has happened over the last 5-10 years and sustained further damage following Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. He queried the ownership of the reserve and sought information regarding the responsibilities of maintaining the reserve.

In response to questions regarding ownership and maintenance of the reserve, it was advised that Tararua District Council own the reserve and are responsible. When asked if local groups in the area would be willing to carry out maintenance work, he advised that this was not a job for them as most were over the age of 70. He queried whether other working groups such as Corrections could be utilised by the Council to maintain the reserve. It was acknowledged that this is an option and a request was made for the Chief Executive or the Facilities Manager to contact Corrections to carry out the work in the reserve as it is a safety issue and a valued amenity.

Submission 007 – Mark Wheeler: spoke to his submission and noted that the reserves were close to the hearts of the people in Pongaroa. He advised that there are 250 individual parcels of land in Tararua designated as reserves and 74 of those are in the Pongaroa district alone; there are insufficient funds to maintain all the parks and reserves in the Tararua, leading to most of the maintenance falling on the local communities, and it is vital for Council to support and work with the people who are doing the work in these areas already. He expressed that he was disappointed to see in the RMP that iwi are the sole partner for planning and management as in his opinion it does not acknowledge the decades of work done and knowledge amassed by community groups. He stated that Iwi are a business entity and services are charged for; iwi are guardians but in his opinion no support or action is shown on the ground, nor have Iwi representatives entered a submission on the RMP draft to his knowledge.

Reserve development and naming of reserves - he advised that there needs to be a greater emphasis on engaging the views of the community in the immediate area as they are the most knowledgeable and engaged, and most likely to be affected by any changes. Existing names have cultural value, it is acceptable in his opinion to add a second name however current names should be kept, as they are immediately recognised and provide emergency services instant identification of a location.

Health and safety policies – he noted that the draft mentioned preventing vandalism, providing shade and making the spaces smokefree and in his view this did not cover health and safety issues such as broken or damaged pathways, faulty equipment and fallen trees.

Culture, Heritage and Sustainability – he spoke of how equal weight should be given to preserving our European settler heritage as our Māori heritage, it is

important to tell our story as a district and as a people. He spoke of his disappointment that the rabbit weir in Waione, a 145 year relic, was destroyed. He urged that the Council be vigilant about any future attempts to remove traces of our early settlers in our district.

He noted that recent events at Four Mile Bush had created angst in the Pongaroa community, he went on to add that they had been told they generate very few CRM's as they tend to action issues themselves. He stated that better communication and cooperation from the Council is required, especially regarding speed of responses to potentially life threatening issues; the communication between Regional Council and TDC needs to be addressed as differing viewpoints create conflict.

In conclusion, he advised that something positive was required to fix the relationship between the Pongaroa community and TDC. With regard to streamlining delivery and efficiency in the area of managing reserves, he recommended the possibility of funding domain and community boards with a parks and reserves budget similar to the past main stream fund, with work being identified by both ward and council, with regular contact, financial accountability and expectation of service standards from both sides of the ledger. He noted that locals can do more per dollar spent than outside contractors; and recommended Council staff join in on community working bees to help with progress and building relationships.

In response to questions around ways to rebuild community trust and what community responsibilities could be built into the RMP, he advised that Council could invite engagement and look to the local people to take ownership; empower the locals by offering means and opportunity. It was acknowledged that not all Domain Boards operate in the same way, as some Domain Boards do not want any Council involvement. He also suggested that some reserves could be handed off to QE2, for example land locked esplanade reserves, if this was an option.

Submission 008 – Pongaroa Domain Board: Malcolm Ewenson read out a statement on behalf of Gordon Ellmers from the Pongaroa Domain Board. He stated how the Domain Board has a strong Māori presence on the Board, they are unfunded and call on Pongaroa The Way to Go Committee for assistance when needed. The Board was contacted over 2 years ago and asked what activities the Board undertook and he believed that these are what were considered as input into the draft plan. The Board consider the proposal to overlook groups in the future, who have a track record of successful reserve management and improvement, to be insulting and demeaning to the organisations. The Board are concerned over the occupation agreements clause, there are examples of buildings built by communities on council reserve land in past. How does proposed policy impact continuum, are they considered leases? What is the situation regarding ownership? And will there be compensation if council decides to reclaim the land and evict the rugby and squash clubs?

He noted that the Board expressed concern over the grazing leases arrangements, if it were not for the grazing of a small flock on the reserve without charge the Domain Board would be bankrupt, they are self-funding. Income from sheep and overnight camping fees barely cover the payments they must make to council for water rates, building WOF, and other council processing fees, as well as insurance, power, and maintenance.

He spoke about naming rights, the Board believe the current naming of reserves and signs are fine, we all know and identify with them, making changes must be done with input from local community first, then be put out for consultation. Such signage changes will have a cost which will likely diminish the poor funds.

He referred to the recent Four Mile Bush events, stating that Horizons and Council each conducted their own investigation; the Board agreed to pay the fine as cannot afford to fight it. The Board knew of the legal requirements for native timber salvage and had commenced an application through MPI when the log was removed from site. It had been hoped to sell usable timber to fund needed improvement work and pest control, however the timber has been removed. The Board believe compensation should be paid to the Board for the estimated value of the timber. The carpark and driveway were damaged by the removal of tree.

Following discussion, it was acknowledged that the Board's grazing agreement with Council should be formalised in a written agreement.

Submission 009 – Heather Monk: spoke to her submission noting she has been a member of the Pongaroa community for 56 years, beginning when it was still Akitīo Council, then Dannevirke Council, and now Tararua District Council; Pongaroa got lost in the amalgamations. In 2000 the Pongaroa Way to Go Committee decided to make Four Mile Bush a Freedom Camping area; a toilet was added by her husband. She told the story from over the years as flood damage repairs were carried out in the camping/picnic area, arranged by her husband, and weed control had been carried out by herself. They check and clean the toilet every summer and the neighbour mows the area if required; following flood damage and Cyclone Gabrielle - drains were added and dead sheep removed as arranged by her husband and they cleaned silt out of the shelter. She advised that fences were broken in the flood allowing neighbouring cattle to enter and they are eating the regrowth and pugging the ground in the camping area.

She spoke of the RMP section on specimen trees, noting a pre-season check of the camping/picnic area found a dead tree; her husband as a logging contractor decided to fell the tree once tree confirmed dead and a health and safety risk, it was also reported to them by a visitor to the area as it was a significant health and safety risk. She pointed to the felling of trees section of the RMP draft and read out the criteria listed. She advised that they received a formal warning and a fine as a result of addressing the health and safety risk which met the criteria listed in the RMP draft. She stated that CRMs had been lodged in the past for

risky trees and no action was taken.

She pointed to the section of the draft regarding Council continuing to work with iwi regarding future management, and noted that in her opinion iwi have only been involved in a blessing prior to the bank repairs at a cost of \$600, she advised that she has not witnessed any assistance with weed control, maintenance, etc. but noted iwi have shown up since the cutting of the tree.

She advised that she was the recipient of a civic award, and noted that the community undergo many tasks with no cost to the council.

When asked if any CRM was lodged regarding the tree at Four Mile Bush, Heather responded no.

Her Civic Honour was acknowledged and she was thanked for her direct work and contributions to the community. When asked how the Council could work to rebuild trust she stated that she was unsure and advised that locals are now hesitant to carry out any remedial work due to regulations.

Submission 011 – Pongaroa The Way To Go Committee: Heather Monk spoke on behalf of the Committee as a member and read out a statement from the committee, noting that they were not approached for input into the draft document prior to its release and believes this should have been a core part of the plan's development and implementation. They believe consultation regarding the development of reserves or renaming them must be mandatory and place greatest emphasis on the opinions and views of the communities and groups in the areas as they live there and are the most knowledgeable and engaged.

She stated that naming reserves should always been done in consultation with local communities, domain boards or committees, and noted that this section in the draft is poorly worded.

She spoke of how changing names of reserves without notice was very concerning to the committee and must be discussed with the community directly affected to gain their support before any change is contemplated. She stated that existing names have cultural value to the local community. The committee agree that a second name could be added so long as the common usage name remains priority, she noted that new signage comes at a cost and queried what work would need to be sacrificed to fund the signs.

She queried why there is no mention of weed and pest control in the plan, and noted that it is a major issue affecting the survival of our bush reserves as they are fighting a constant battle of old man's beard, ivy, stinking iris, and jerusalem cherry to name a few.

She spoke of the recent events regarding the tree felling at Pongaroa and advised that both TDC and Horizons Regional Council had conducted investigations with Horizons concluding their investigation and TDC yet to finalise. She noted that this process highlighted a breakdown in communication between both sides and

hoped steps would be taken to rebuild relationships that have been badly damaged with the way the matter has been handled.

She outlined the works that have been carried out over the years, which still continues, using volunteer labour and funds drawn from the now disbanded main street funding programme:

- Construction, upgrades and maintenance of picnic area and shelters
- Installing of toilet
- Installation of a rock wall to prevent the reserve being eroded by the river
- Recovery of stuck vehicles
- Metalling of the parking area and driveway
- Ongoing work to remove old man's beard from the reserve area
- Various public safety improvements
- Bush walk in village (Cemetery Road) development and maintenance of metal track network
- Undertaking drainage work
- Erection of signage and track markers
- Picnic table built
- Undertake repairs to fencing to keep stock out of reserve
- Pest control
- Centennial arch and grounds, painting and repair, removal of weeds and undergrowth and repaired pathway

She outlined work carried out by the Committee in the Pongaroa Reserve camping area in conjunction with the Pongaroa Domain Board:

- Development of the parking area
- Installed power points
- An ablution block for motor homes and campers
- Removal of row of pines threatening to fall over the camping area, and continual maintenance of this.

She also outlined work carried out by the Committee at the Pongaroa Community Hall, paid for by the Committee:

- New tables
- Sound system
- New curtains
- Equipped the kitchen with dishwasher, stove, fridge, hob, rangehood, cups, glasses, plates, and cutlery
- Removed school playground from Tiraumea and installed half behind the Hall with the other half in the village and made them code compliant

She spoke of how the current system works when people are engaged and motivated and want to make a difference. The Committee would like to a focus on greater engagement and support for existing volunteer groups that currently undertake work on behalf of the Council rather than hope that some new arrangement will work as well or better. The Committee endorse the previous speakers of mention of funding for domains and reserves in the manner of main

street funding used in the past which worked successfully. She stated that management is too large for council to undertake without the assistance of the entire community, the community which feels badly let down and ignored at the moment.

In discussion, it was asked for suggestions for the best ways to engage with the Pongaroa community. Heather advised that their current appointed Councillor currently engages well with the community. Mark Wheeler came forward as a Committee member and spoke of the difficulty in contacting staff at the council and requested more timely responses from staff when messages are left or enquiries made.

The Committee were advised that it was a legal requirement through current legislation to create the RMP for the Tararua District.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06pm and reconvened at 12:13pm.

The Chief Executive provided an update, stating that Council had received a formal complaint regarding the cutting down of the Kahikatea tree in Pongaroa and Council were obligated by law to investigate the complaint; the cutting down of the tree did fall under the Reserves Management Act (RMA) which meant Council are then obligated to look into it. Initially Council became aware that Horizons Regional Council had also received a complaint and had started their own investigation. He advised that he contacted a Senior Manager at Horizons and requested they keep TDC informed and work collaboratively together so as not to put any undue pressure on those people that needed to be spoken with in regard to the complaint, and was given assurance that that would happen. He was later notified that a Horizons Compliance Investigator had turned up in Pongaroa and interviews were carried out under caution. He advised that he then contacted Horizons to convey his disappointment that the interview had occurred without TDC's knowledge and without TDC being involved so it could be worked on together. At that point it was noted that Council will stop its investigation pending the investigation through Horizons Regional Council, who continued their investigation and a fine and warning was issued to the affected parties. He stated that from Council's perspective we could have continued the investigation under the Reserves Management Act, however, Council made the decision that whatever the result was from Horizons would be final from an enforcement perspective. If the Council had pursued the issue, it would have had to issue a fine under the RMA, however, Council was able to make a decision based on many other factors including that the intent was never there to break the Reserves Management Act, and factoring in the goodwill provided within the community in regard to that area. He advised that a letter has been sent to the affected parties on 30 June 2025. He noted that from Council's perspective this matter is now concluded. TDC's intention was never to work in silos and he has spoken to Horizons about how best they can work together in future. He stated that Council is a regulatory agency and must follow the law, and the RMA is the one piece of legislation that governs the Reserves; it is not a Police matter. He noted that Council is now aware of where the part of the tree is and are working

through what to do with the remains of the tree. He also reassured the Committee that Emergency callout is available to access 24/7.

Mark Wheeler stated that there is a \$3000 mess left from the tree removal including damage to the parking area and driveway, he advised that photos and information has been sent to Council but he has received no response. It was clarified to Mark that Council did not give permission for the tree to be removed and Council did not endorse any illegal activity; there is no commitment from Council to pay for damage from illegal activity. It was noted that the focus would be on learnings to ensure this does not happen again, and looking at how we can work together to come to a solution with better communication and better process, and to tidy up expectations from Council. A request was made for the Facilities Manager to work with Committee to find a resolution for tidying up the damaged area.

A request was also made for the Committee to feedback to their appointed Councillor representative once they have received the letter.

Following discussion, the Facilities Manager clarified that iwi were part of the development of the RMP; the second consultation and development of the final draft was completed with involvement from both our iwi partners, hence why they possibly haven't put in a submission. Next steps for collaboration with iwi is in developing our toolkit for managing the RMP following adoption.

It was also noted that pest control could be referenced in the RMP to the Horizons plan, as this sits under their responsibility as well including the funding requirements that go with it.

Freedom Camping Bylaw discussion — it was noted that there were comments in submissions around enforcement of rules and what this may look like. It was advised that Akitio experiences issues with campers on the foreshore blocking off access to furniture and BBQs that are available to public. It was queried whether the volume of freedom campers on the Akitio foreshore down from the camping ground had an impact on business for the camping ground. It was noted that Herbertville also has unique circumstances that need to be considered.

It was advised during discussion that the freedom camping prohibition in 50 and 70 km zones as mentioned in the bylaw draft, pertains to roadside only. There are visitors who stay on the street in campers outside friends or relatives houses. Councillors were advised that this needs to be considered in deliberations when it comes to the blanket prohibition clause in this area, and work will be done to present a summary of suggestions to Council . It was noted that the NZ Motorhome and Caravan Association submission provided valuable feedback to consider.

Reserves Management Plan:

Submission 012 - Judy Gleeson: Mayor Tracey Collis read out a written statement from the submitter who advised she was unable to attend in person due to being out of the area. The statement advised that she has misgivings about the service delivery review which indicates a change of direction for the parks, reserves, and domains, and recreational spaces may be pruned for financial reasons as well as control moved to other entities. She asked that Council take back control of these spaces, and consider taking care of the lawn mowing and maintenance required. She stated that where the Domain Boards are involved, Council could assign a designated Councillor for closer control. She spoke of her involvement with the Pahiatua Carnival Park Board and maintenance and weed control of the reserve that the Board has carried out over the years. She acknowledged the support they receive from TDC, and noted her plea is for the survival of the Domain Board. She described the operation of the Domain Board, including the financial position that is self-sustaining due to the camping aspect the reserve offers, and how they have been able to provide amenities for public and enhancement of facilities. Any future plan to annex off the Domain from the public would be a retrograde step and one size does not fit all. She noted that putting the Domain Board under the auspices of Explore Pahiatua would not help the cause including answering to Explore Pahiatua for elections guidance which is an ad-hoc decision not conveyed officially. She suggested that a supervisory representative from TDC present to meetings of organisations, residents and ratepayers, and offer opportunities for public to voice their opinions. She noted that Council should not dismiss the contributions of the volunteers, individuals and groups who have maintained and improved these facilities.

A request was made to Council's appointed representative on Explore Pahiatua to take back to Explore Pahiatua the comments around Explore Pahiatua and elections mentioned in the statement.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 24 June 2025 concerning the Hearing of Submissions on Freedom Camping Bylaw and Tararua District Reserves Management Plan Consultations be received.

That the Tararua District Council provide direction to officers on matters to be considered at the meeting of Council scheduled for 30 July 2025 as discussed, including:

Tararua District Reserves Management Plan:

- Community Partnerships with Locals and Councils
- Naming rights and buildings
- Consultation on re-naming of reserves
- Budgets as part of the Annual Plan
- Formal Partnership agreements

- Main Street Funding
- Weed and Pest Control
- Flexibility and autonomy of Council with Domain Board involvement Freedom Camping:
 - Enforcement
 - Akitio and Herbertville what are the unintended consequences
 - Length of stay clearly defined
 - Akitio foreshore management

Crs Johns/Wards Carried

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 1:01pm.	attendance
Mayor	



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Tuesday 22 July 2025 commencing at 1:00pm.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive

Mrs A Dunn - Manager – Democracy Services

2. Apologies

That the apologies from Councillor P A Johns be accepted and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Mayor Collis/Cr Sutherland

Carried

3. Public Excluded Items of Business

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

Appointment of Interim Chief Executive

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.

General subject matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Appointment of Interim Chief Executive	To protect commercial and industrial negotiations	<section (1)(a)(i)<="" td=""></section>

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 Wards/Franklin

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 1.01pm and resumed open session at 2:09 pm.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 2:10pm.

Mayor	



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 3 June 7pm 2025 Woodville Sports Stadium Supper room

1. Present:

J Kopa, V Tomlinson, B Tomlinson, C. Wilton, S Gilmore, M Carroll, D Henman, A Hapuku P Cocks, A Sowry, M Carroll, B Swensson, B Hutton

Visitors: T Collis, Jared Gardner

Apologies:

P Johns, P Bonser, S Bonser, K Stevens, R McMillan, B McMillan

That the apologies be accepted

M Carroll/C Wilton Carried

2. Correspondence:

Civil Defence Training Course – Peter Sinclair, TDC Youth Advisory Panel – Raylene Treder Freedom Camping in Tararua – Consultation – TDC Bruce Turner re Car Club for new highway celebration Parent Coach workshop – Raylene Treder Tracey Collis re CEO resignation De Lesseps Media Limited – invoice Request to speak during public forum – Jared Gardner

Request denied as to short a notice. Email received day of meeting

3. Other General Business:

Nil

4. Conflicts of Interest: Nil

5. Matters arising from Minutes:

\$10K has been ring-fenced for the Xmas Parade 2025 – was not noted in the previous minutes

Dog Toilet Sign - Animal Control removed the Doggy Bag Dispenser as bags were being stolen and it was becoming financially unviable as it was damaging the dispenser.

Reported that this has now been reinstated

Flag Tracks – Reported that all poles have now been inspected.

3 poles not to be used $-2 \, x$ on Corner of Vogel and Mclean and 1 x corner of Burgoyne Street. NZTA have given approval for installation on standards. Should commence in a months time. Kimberley is relooking at the designs and should have some samples by the weekend

1

Positively Woodville Incorporated positivelywoodville@gmail.com

Golf Tournament – Reported by B Hutton that the Tournament was a huge success with 72 attendees. All profit from the event to go to Woodville School. Cartown have committed to a 2yr sponsorship of the event.

That minutes of previous meeting be approved V Tomlinson/C Wilton

Carried

6. Financials

The financial report was presented by the Treasurer.

That the Financial Report be accepted and accounts paid. V Tomlinson/B Hutton

Receipts were presented at the meeting by J Kopa for materials for flower baskets

That these be accepted for payment V Tomlinson/J Kopa

Carried

The Treasurer has been approached by the Karate Club to assist in facilitating their grant for mats - \$1500.

That this be approved until such time as the Karate Club has finished setting up their Society

V Tomlinson/C Wilton

Carried

7. TDC Report - Cr S Gilmore:

Positively Woodville Report 3 June

Alternative energy project - Dannevirke Wastewater.

Rangitane o Tamaki-nui-a-Rua and Tu Mai Ra Energy have been working on a proposal to provide solar energy generation on floating platforms at the Dannevirke Wastewater Treatment plant.

This proposal will provide discounted electricity costs to consumers and to council, and will provide resilience to energy needed as the Treatment Plant.

Council has authorised the Chief Executive to proceed and work through the necessary agreements.

Local Water Done Well

Council deliberated on consultation on options related to Local Water Done Well.

2

Positively Woodville Incorporated positivelywoodville@gmail.com

Council received 83 submissions with the majority in favour of Option 1 - a joint CCO model.

Council agreed that Option 1 be submitted by to the council meeting of 11 June for adoption. In practice, if adopted, this means that council will proceed to the negotiation stage with the other councils and is not final, so there will be more discussions to come.

Reserve management plan and Freedom Camping Bylaw

Consultation for Reserve management plan and Freedom Camping Bylaw are both open and we encourage Positively Woodville to share your views on both through a submission.

Annual Plan deliberations

Confirmed 150k for footpaths but out of depreciation fund, not rates.

Confirmed the land purchase next to Wai Splash if acceptable terms can be reached, with the Chief Executive to begin negotiations.

Chief Executive Resignation

Council's Chief Executive has resigned to take up a new opportunity, finishing in August. Council will look to appoint an interim Chief Executive as soon as possible.

Council will begin recruitment for a replacement Chief Executive, with this to be finalised by the new council following the local body elections. The target date to have a new Chief Executive in place will be February or March 2026.

Pūkaha

Pūkaha - National Wildlife Centre has announced that they are in financial distress and will close their doors if they can't raise more money.

I'm hugely concerned about the future of Pūkaha, and importantly the future of the \$1m loan granted to it by council.

The Pūkaha Board has made public comments that they are committed to putting in place new governance, reviewing operations and restructuring. Also of note is Bob Francis, former long time chair of Pūkaha and former long time Mayor of Masterton has stepped back in to assist the board.

9. Chairperson's Report

Road Opening

3

There is no definite road opening date.

15th June we are to hold an open day at the Community Centre.

A cake cutting for the opening with an invite to go out to NZTA

Possibly purchase 400 x Commemorative postcards showing the sculpture at roundabout for new road.

Cost of \$235 + GST

Flower Baskets

J Kopa presented samples of the baskets which were met with great approval. Believes she should have them finished by middle of next week. Joy requested that we have a gathering to put on the wires for hanging them. Consultation with the local business owners was hugely successful with only two declines. One of these was Caltex and this is due to a franchise issue. Overall we have 26 sponsors agreed and we have a proposed 72 baskets to be installed.

V Tomlinson requested a formal note of thanks to Joy for her work and effort in this project

Shop Window Beautification

A presentation of proposed artwork was presented to put into empty shop windows. Suggested approval from owners to clean the windows before the road opening or price up a local contractor

Fountaine Square Playground Equipment

It has been confirmed that the existing playground equipment is of an unacceptable standard for use including Health and safety issue due to rusting Proposed that the Equipment is removed to make safe for Public"

Moved that we remove equipment J Kopa/B Tomlinson

Carried

Positively Woodville are using \$14k of the ringfenced money to purchase a swing set (2 x swings and a basket swing) complete with safety mats. This should happen in July. The planning will be re-evaluated next year for the inclusion of a jungle gym

Tennis Courts painting

Tom Dodd & P Johns have been and repaired the fence guy wires. Line Painting has commenced and one seat has been installed with another to go in

Xmas Parade/Transport Day

A meeting was called inviting all interested parties to test the viability of moving 2025 Xmas Parade/Transport day to the Woodville Racecourse.

This was poorly attended and general consensus is that we should stay with Fountaine Square and find ways to fit in display vehicles around the Community Centre and elsewhere.

4

Lamp Posts

Pleased to report that the official "turn on" was held today the 3rd June with a very interested turn out from family, bystanders and representatives from Scanpower. A commemorative plaque was inserted into the footpath in front of one of the posts. It was reported back that the family are very happy with the lights and recognition of John Beattie as the donor of the posts.

PROPOSALS/SUGGESTIONS:-

Fountaine Square Art

With the removal of the playground equipment, it is a suggestion that the remaining concrete feet be reutilised as plinths for a display of indigenous rocks/boulders from our area. Eg- Coppermine, Old gorge, Limeworks

Moved that this be investigated and initiated J Kopa/C Wilton

Carried

Treasure Hunt Fountaine Square

Proposal to set up a "treasure hunt" in the park. Obtain 10 each of butterflies, geckos and fairy house doors and distribute around the park. (Cost of approximately \$50 each)

Erect a board on rear of toilets with photos and a QR code for the treasure hunt. Suggested that we obtain permission from TDC and maybe consult with Fountaine family.

Moved that costings and permissions be sought J Kopa/C Wilton

Carried

150 Dinner Dance

At this stage 180 tickets have been sold (there will be no door sales) and it is agreed that any profit from this function is to be donated to playground funds.

Global signposts

Global signposts located in rose garden area of Vogel street requires some repairs. C Wilton to look into what "Woodville" is missing and update if any other "Woodville" have appeared throughout the globe.

Suggested we form a sub-committee to replace the signage and co-ordinate with the Rose Society members to restructure for public to stand under and have photos taken.

Suggested a planting of Anna Leese rose as recognition for our local opera singer.

Tennis court fence signage

5

Presentation with intent to attract people to stop in Woodville.

"Lock it In" – A large heart allowing people to stand at fence have a photo opportunity and add a padlock to the fence. This has been used in other place and seems to have had success in attracting people to stop off.

Moved that costings and council permission be sought to set up "Lock it In" J Kopa/C Wilton Carried

.

Welcome Woodville signs

Suggested welcome Woodville signs at Tennis Club. Possibly use a montage of words for WELCOME TO WOODVILLE.

A Hapuku to discuss with a fellow local teacher who has some experience with this type of thing. And potentially lead a project with school children to paint a mural.

Meeting closed at 8.30	
Next Meeting – 2 July 2025	

Signed: Chairperson

Date:

6



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 1 July 2025 at 7pm Woodville Sports Stadium Supper room

1. Present:

J Kopa, V Tomlinson, B Tomlinson, C. Wilton, S Gilmore, M Carroll, A Hapuku P Cocks, A Sowry, M Carroll, B Hutton, R McMillan, K Stevens, B Swensson

Apologies:

D Henman, P Tayler, B McMillan

That the apologies be accepted

V Tomlinson/C Archer

Carried

2. Correspondence:

Kieran McAnulty – return email to say unable to attend road opening Judi Thomson – Funding application TDC, Fontayne Chase – Woodville Tennis Court update TDC, Sara Walshe – Fountaine Square funding upgrade Leanne Warr – Media release from public re new road Kevin & Mary McAvoy – Vogel St gardens R McMillan – Thank you card Mike Butterick – Woodville Clinic 7th July Rinitawa Funding request

That the inwards correspondence be accepted and the outward approved B Hutton/C Archer Carried

3. Other General Business:

The letter re Vogel St Gardens was read out to the meeting Discussion was had concerning all of the garden spots on the Woodville main street. There may be a potential for funding if we take over the maintenance of the garden but it needs to go through Council as to what the process is for this action. Look at calling a meeting for support from volunteers to actually complete the work. A ring-fenced amount of \$500 for plants soil etc was suggested.

Moved that \$500 be allocated towards the Vogel Street gardens.

J Kopa/R McMillan

Carried

Moved that at least one of the gardens be revitalized before the next meeting B Hutton/V Tomlinson Carried

4. Conflicts of Interest: Nil

5. Minutes of Previous meeting

That minutes of previous meeting be approved

B Hutton/B Swensson

Carried

1

6. Financials

The financial report was presented by the Treasurer.

That the Financial Report be accepted and accounts paid.

V Tomlinson/C Wilton

Carried

A funding grant application for \$1000 was received from Rinitawa and was discussed.

Moved that funding application be approved

C Archer/C Wilton

Carried

B Hutton & Kevin McIntyre abstained from voting

Receipts were presented for refund at the meeting for events during the month.

That these be accepted for payment

V Tomlinson/B Swensson

Carried

Moved that Positively Woodville uses Ask Away Accounting for its financial review V Tomlinson/ C Wilton Carried

7. TDC Report - Cr S Gilmore:

Positively Woodville Report 1 July 2025

Council's annual plan was adopted

The average rates increase settled on was 7.29%, down from the 7.71% average increase consulted on, and down from the 11.79% originally proposed in the Long-term Plan.

Review of council owned land and buildings

Council has agreed to pursue the disposal of four underused properties, subject to engagement with iwi, key users, and the wider community.

This follows an independent review focused on identifying underused or non-operational land and buildings, with the aim of reducing future costs, including maintenance, insurance, and rates. Maintaining community facilities currently makes up 2.7% of the 7.29% average rates increase.

The properties identified for potential disposal are:

- 39 Ransom Street, Dannevirke
- 39 Gregg Street, Dannevirke
- 16 Bengston Street, Eketāhuna
- 53 Denmark Street, Dannevirke

The original proposal to include the Woodville Pioneer Museum will not be proceeded with because the land was derived from the crown and any financial benefits would be limited.

No final decisions will be made until community engagement has taken place.

2

Libraries opening hours change

From Monday 1 July 2025, the opening hours for the Pahiatua and Woodville libraries have changed. Both libraries will now be open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Pahiatua Library will also continue to open on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

These changes bring both sites in line with the hours already in place at other libraries across the district.

All libraries will remain closed on public holidays.

Pukaha

A late agenda item was included in our last council meeting to discuss a proposal to transfer the \$1m loan given by council to Pukaha Trust Board to the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, on an interest free basis. This will protect the \$1m loan for ratepayers, but will result in a potential loss in interest of \$146,000.

By majority, delegation was given to the Chief Executive to enter into negotiations, the result of which will be brought back to council for consideration.

I have also requested a review of the decision making surrounding the original loan in 2021, including monitoring, which will be undertaken through the independently chaired Audit and Risk committee.

Congratulations

Congratulations on the successful 150th dance, which I was sad to miss, and the road completion celebration, with the success of both being discussed in council.

Question from the floor:

A Sowry raised an issue at the Gorge Cemetery that the gate is missing. Cr Gilmore requested that Friends of the Cemetery email him to bring it up at Council

C Archer congratulated Cr Gilmore on his video with local shop owners

8. General Business:

Mad Hatter's Event November 20nd 2025

J Kopa read out an update from Jenny Lovett as to where we are with this event:

This event is ticking along, a lot to organise.

Train is booked and they are getting the advertising under way.

Arena Party Hire is booked

Approximately 40 stalls are booked, more coming in as I'm typing this up

Double decker bus booked. Poster for advertising underway for Whanganui

Go bus booked

Zumba dance booked for children's tea party. Wiggles dance etc. The tea party will be a focus for the children. Jenny and daughter Sammie doing the food.

Pipe band, brass band booked

Lone piper booked for when to get back to the train.

Paige Bolton and 2 friends booked for popcorn and candy floss.

Lions will be picking props up from 4 Square

Horticulture Society providing tables for tea party

3

Food trucks etc booked

Bins from Gerrard Murray booked, confirming closer to date.

Ambassadors for train: 4 confirmed, 2 more would be brilliant.

Traction engine and trailer booked from Feilding, finer details to follow

Small antique fire engine booked, Angus Hutton

Morris minor club booked

Classic cars booked

Have approached Turia and Malcolm re games, they are undecided, I'm not chasing them,

Not using Woodville radio this year. Last 2 years with them have been a disaster, looking at someone to announce through the day what is occurring.

Not having spot prizes this year or goodie bags.

Not having lunch this year, we need to encourage people to use the cafes and food stalls.

Costume prizes: Best male, female. Best group, family and then best child and Shop window display

Contacting businesses in Woodville to sponsor prize money. (In progress) Nigel and I will mark out the park for stalls on 1 November evening.

Still To be organised:

Information for free radio advertising FM, in progress Schedule to be printed to hand out on the train, in progress Information via social media all through North Island and South.

With the traction engine/engines we cannot have pony rides, through their experience at events these ponies bolt and are unpredictable with the noise levels.

With this being the 150th I have tried to incorporate a couple of different and memorable surprises.

Still working on other bits and pieces.

Joy, can you please ask at the meeting for help with the points below: Street decorations, Saturday late afternoon (1st Nov) Nigel and I will be there. Posters around Woodville, these can go up anytime from now. Carole can print more off if needed.

Retail owners to be approached for window displays

Judges: 3 minimum,

2 road signs to be up by 1 July.

Toilets to be cleaned: Who is the contact? Require waterblasting Park and Rotunda to be mowed and tidied. Who is the contact?

Bollard and powerbox keys to be picked up on Friday.

Skate Park

V Tomlinson noted a slight delay in the project due to her starting work full time and the health of P Tayler not being 100%. She asked for more support to take the project forward.

K Stevens and C Wilton volunteered. V Tomlinson noted that Rayleen Treader was also willing to help, as she had been a big driver of the Pahiatua Skate Park.

Thanks was given and V Tomlinson agreed to arrange a meeting.

4

150 Dance and Supper - Summary

The committee would like to thank everyone who attended and supported the event.

There was a fantastic turnout of just over 200 people.

Positive feedback has been received, which is fantastic for our small town.

A special thanks goes out to the Woodville Lions who did a wonderful job organising and running the mystery bottle auction, along with being the main strength behind pack in and pack down.

It was a wonderful jointly run night between Positively Woodville and the Woodville/Pahiatua Racing Club.

\$1,739 was raised from the bottle auction which was advertised to go towards the Woodville Play Park (Fountaine Square). Over all the night did not cost the rate payer a dollar!

A profit (including the \$1,739) of \$4,466.45 was made.

Motion that the whole amount is ring-fenced for the Woodville Play Park / Fountain Square developments.

V Tomlinson/P Johns

Carried

Flag Trax

We had a vote on the choice of flag trax (double sunflower) and this will be now sent to the supplier for making. (4 weeks lead time)

Discussion suggested that down the track we perhaps look at ANZAC, Xmas flags and any other annual events that may occur.

Moved that voted flag be purchased

J Kopa/V Tomlinson

Carried

It was also discussed that the flag be presented on the website along with the significance of the drawing and inviting the public to give feedback on the design choice.

Meet the Candidates

Nominations for Council are from 4th July – 1st August at which time nominees will be announced.

A Meet the Candidates event is pencilled in for 12th August at 7pm but to be confirmed at the August meeting.

J Kopa to MC this meeting

150th Tree Planting

Do we need to plant a tree? If so, what variety and where. Suggested Fountaine Square or the Woodville School.

Parking Area in Vogel Street - Request from R McMillan

 Can we ask the Council for the possibility of purchase the vacant ex garage lot on the corner of Vogel and Ross Streets with the intention of creating a parking area for the business area.

Road Safety - Request from R McMillan

2. Can we request the repair or better visual presence for the pedestrian crossing street lights outside Fishspot.

5

This point further raised the issue concerning the road safety issue for the old BNZ corner at the junction of McLean and Vogel. While a Road Safety meeting was mooted at the time, no further communication has been received from the Road Safety Committee organiser. J Kopa to contact the Mayor via a formal letter requesting a meeting is convened.

Lindauer signage – B Hutton

Can we look into finding some costings for the Lindauer houses signage which have fallen into decay.

Meeting closed at 8.15	
Next Meeting - 5 August, 202	5
Signed:	Chairperson
Date:	Chan per Son
Dutc.	

6



Minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Incorporated Society meeting held at the Tararua Distict Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua on 2 July 2025 at 7pm

- 1. Present
- 1.1. Committee Members: Ali Romanos (Chair), Raylene Treder (Deputy Chair), Georgina Morrison (Secretary), Marie Kissick (Treasurer), Ingrid de Graaf, James Devoe
- 1.2. Tararua District Council Representatives: Mayor Tracey Collis, Cr Alison Franklin, Cr Scott Gilmore
- 2. Apologies
- 2.1. Anaissa Mandal, Sanam Asalmani
- 3. Conflicts of Interest
- 3.1. Nil.
- 4. Notification of Items not on the agenda / General Business
- 4.1. Noting email decision outside of meeting: \$500 grant decision for Pahiatua Museum
- 4.2. Discretionary Grant Application from Maxine Walshe for \$370 for Road Patrol Treat
- 4.3. Help n' Hand funding situation
- 4.4. Town Clock enquiries
- 5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua meeting held Wednesday 4 June 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

- 6. Matters Arising
- 6.1. **Action**: Georgina to collate action items from minutes.
- 6.2. Action: Ali to send Marie through Bailey's details to investigate Explore's Insurance options
- 7. Correspondence

Inwards

- i. Invoices
 - 1. Nova Energy
 - 2. Bisset Honda
- ii. Requests for Funding
 - 1. Gilda McKnight: Pahiatua Museum
 - 2. Maxine Walshe: Road Patrol Treat
- iii. IRD: GST ready to file
- iv. Innes Dean: Engagement Letter

v. Buy A Block for Swimming Pool

Bronze Block \$50

- Jeanie Ferry
- Emma & Josh Davy

Silver Block \$100

- Graeme and Stacey Shilvock
- Joelle Avery

Gold Block \$250

- Al-Wood Joinery
- Donna DeCleene
- Erin Henrickson
- McQueen family

Platinum Block \$500

Natasha & Patrick Baker

Simon Walker - enquiry about cost of blocks

Outwards

- i. Letter to TDC Sarah Fountaine re Civil Defence Funds
- ii. Grant Application form to Karolyn Carnival Park

That the inwards be received and outwards noted.

Carried

8. Tararua District Council Report (Cr Alison Franklin)

2025 Local Body Elections:

As we wind down towards the election period, this could possibly be my last written report as our meetings ease back and all focus is on the Local Body Elections.

I would encourage anybody considering standing for the Southern Ward, to please make sure your Electoral Roll details are up-to-date and your nomination is in on time. Candidate nominations open on the 4th July and close of 1st August. Candidates are announced on 6th August and voting papers will be delivered between 9 – 22nd September. 7th October is the last day for posting votes by mail, after this date all votes must be made via Council's secure ballot boxes.

Election Day is 11th October, with voting finishing at midday. Progress results will begin after midday on the 11th October with the declaration of votes being made 16 - 22 October.

Adoption of Annual Plan 2025-26 together with Schedule of Fees and Charges

Council considered the report presented by the Finance Manager at our Council Meeting last week. Changes in the draft Annual Plan made by Council arising from deliberations had an added cost of \$28,000, and as discussed at this meeting, were cost-neutralised. One of the changes resulted in a reduction in personnel costs. The impact of the changers reduced the overall rates increase from 7.71% to 7.29%. A full report of the Annual Plan discussions and Fees and Charges updates, and the full rates resolutions are available on the TDC Website under Publications – Agenda, Minutes & Meeting Videos.

Disposal Plans for Rationalisation of Land & Buildings

Council agreed to pursue the disposal of several assets in Dannevirke and Eketahuna but that prior to disposal, the Council inform occupiers of each property under consideration for disposal. It was also agreed that Council initiate engagement with Iwi regarding the disposal of the identified assets, and that Public Consultation also be held.

Pukaha Mount Bruce – Transfer of TDC Loan to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust

Council was made aware in March of this year of the financial difficulties being faced by the Board of Pukaha. Council was an unsecured creditor, however security had been requested as allowed for in

the Loan Agreement. There had been on-going discussions with the Board and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and as a result of these discussions, a proposal had been received from the Trust to take over the Pukaha 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 Council has invoiced the Board for Interest costs for this financial year which is due for payment in October. We were stepped through the options by CE Bryan. The option to transfer the loan to the Trust would mean Council foregoing the interest revenue on the loan which would incresse the likelihood of the full principal repayment which otherwise might be at risk. Aaron Karena, Board member for Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Charitable Trust explained that the Trust is a post Treaty Settlement Entity for the two Rangitāne iwi, Tamaki nui ā rua and Rangitāne o Wairarapa. The proposal has come from this entity.

A large part of the discussion was around the potential loss of the interest revenue. Advice was also provided from the Trust that their proposal required the debt to be unencumbered. The original purpose of the Loan was to support the development on the educational and conservation premises for Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre and Tū Mai Rā Trust's proposal was made on the basis of securing a good outcome for the future of the centre.

A motion was put to the Meeting "That the Council agrees in principle to the proposal to transfer the loan of \$1,000,000 to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust. The motion was carried, as a majority decision. It was noted the Chair of Audit and Risk is reviewing the decision making process from the initial loan decision.

Alongside economic downturn and issues relating to Covid, it was also noted that continuously decreasing access to Department of Conservation funding had contributed to the difficult funding position that Pūkaha found itself in.

Resignation of CE Bryan Nicholson

Council is very sorry to be losing the services of CE Bryan who has been in the role since being appointed nearly 5 years ago. Bryan has accepted a new position as General Manager on King island which lies in the Bass Strait between Tasmania and Victoria. The population of King Island is very similar to that of Woodville. The only type of fog Bryan will encounter there however, will be sea fog! Council has appointed an Interim CE who is very familiar to us, he will be in the role in the interim period between Bryan's departure and the recruitment of a permanent, full-time Chief Executive.

Action: Ingrid to share key local body election dates on Facebook

Decision: Agreed to set an early date of 10th September for a Pahiatua 'Meet the Candidates' night.

That Cr Alison Franklin's Council Report be received.

Carried

9. Financial Report (Marie Kissick)

9.1. Current status

The balance of the main account is \$58,943.18.

The balance of the Business Group account is \$895.00.

9.2. Invoices to be approved for payment:

	Payee	Description	Amount
1.	De Lesseps Media Ltd	Bush Telegraph Feature	\$538.84
2.	Mitre 10	Building materials and seedlings to use remaining budget	\$703.73
3.	Nova Energy	Youth Centre – power (due 5 June)	\$99.12
	Bisset Honda	Reimbursement for PDBG GST session: Thyme 2 Ryes - \$35.40 New World - \$30.82 Joy Sushi - \$24.00 Tonic Café - \$44.00	\$134.22
		TOTAL	\$1,475.91
	Payee	Description	Amount

9.3. Invoice since last meeting for retrospective approval:

Bisset Honda	Reimbursement for PDBG Lunch Sanam: New World - \$118.51 Thyme 2 Ryes - \$41.30 Joy Sushi - \$40.00	\$199.81
Bush Multisports	Hire of room for PDBG lunch	\$62.50

9.4. As a reminder, the following amounts are tagged funds:

Project	Amount	
1.	Harvard Playground	\$20,000.00
2.	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 '24, \$3,593 Weed Mngt June '25.) Reflects \$2,708.33 received from Carnival Park 26.6.25 for their share of weed mngt for FY25.	\$3,212.16
3.	Bush Telegraph Advertising (less payments since 1 August)	\$0
4.	Community Garden remaining infrastructure works	\$0
5.	Community garden operating costs for year ended June 2025	\$131.25
6.	Lawnmowing for Polish memorial (until Nov 2025)	\$800.00
7.	Discretionary funding originally \$7,507 (less \$1,700 for Pahiatua Painting and Sculpture Group, \$750 for Toy Library, \$1,000 for Pahiatua Shears, \$1,555 Children's Day, \$2,000 Yellow Plane Gallery)	\$2.00
	TOTAL	\$24,145.41

Action: Marie to request discretionary funding payment from TDC with CPI of 3.5% added to the 2024 amount.

Decision: The committee discussed utilising Bush Telegraph adverts. Agreement to tag but not committing to a contract.

Action: Ali to invite Emma to the next meeting to discuss the future needs of the garden.

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

Carried

10. General Business

10.1. **Pahiatua and District Help-N-Hand** faces crucial funding issues as notified by Emma Elliot. Of note, Help-N-Hand runs Pahiatua Foodbank which is widely used. It was clarified that the funding situation for many services has been reduced. Agreed to ask Emma to provide an update at the next meeting.

Action: Ali to invite Emma to the August meeting to discuss Help-N-Hand situation.

10.2. **Grant application**: Maxine Walshe has requested \$500 for a Road Patrol Treat for Pahiatua and St Anthony's school children. The Committee agreed to the request.

Action: Check the previous grants have been uploaded to the website.

10.3. **Town Clock**: Ross Gillespie has enquired as to the whereabouts of this clock. Action: Committee member will ask Wynn Davidson for further information.

11. Portfolio Reports

- 11.1. Pahiatua Districts Business Group (PDBG) (Ingrid de Graaf)
 - Employment Law with Sanam workshop held 9th June great session, good turnout
 - GST with MCI held 26th June great session, good turnout
 - No new events locked in yet but floating a few possibilities
 - Would like to moot the idea of the PDBG purchasing a portable flag that can be used outside the door when events are held the committee agreed that was a good idea.

11.2. Explore Pahiatua Marketing (Ingrid de Graaf)

- June Bush Telegraph Buy a Block reminder advert
- July Bush Telegraph no plans yet
- Facebook shared PDBG post re. employment law workshop, shared Bush SuperGrans & Help-n-Hand post re. Matariki celebrations, shared PDBG post re. GST workshop, posted Buy a Block reminder
- Decided not to promote discretionary funding (or highlight the use of) until our new allocation is received and the terms of this are openly advertised (level playing field)

11.3. Explore Christmas

First meeting scheduled for Monday, 14th July at 1.30pm at Bisset Honda

11.4. Community Garden (Emma Elliott)

5

- Veggie deliveries to Pahiatua Help-N-Hand
- Mural reveal is likely August. Resene are sponsoring anti-grafitti costing and want to feature
 it in their newsletter.
- Final spend at mitre 10 on Monday last day of financial year- means \$181 infrastructure grant from Lotteries is now spent and majority of our allocated funds from Explore Pahiatua also spent.

11.5. Swimming Pool (Raylene Treder)

- Final designs have been completed by CREATE
- Civil works design completed
- Building Consent being applied for.
- Three parties chose from the EOI process to provide pricing.

11.6. Road Safety Committee (Marie Kissick)

• Road Safety - I have contacted Mayor Tracey to ask about the next road safety committee meeting as suggested at our last meeting and am awaiting a response.

11.7. **Civil Defence** (Georgina Morrison)

- As per emails, funding to be held by Explore to pay for work to ensure Bush Multi Sport is emergency-ready. Heaters to be delivered this week.
- Action: Share break down of \$30K civil defence spend with Raylene

11.8. Harvard Playground Upgrade (James Devoe)

• The design and quotes have finally come in to replace the old monkey bars at the far end. However, keen to get another quote.

11.9. Cycleway project (Ali Romanos)

- Quote/estimate received for \$11,750 from Ryan McNicol who indicated could start around 20th August.
- Sanam said she would assist with Health and Safety and it was noted this plan needed to go to TDC.
- Discussed using the blackberry removal as impetus to get a group together to discuss next steps for the cycleway.

11.10. Carnival Park (Karolyn Donald)

No report received.

11.11. Stage

- The stage has been ordered and is expected to arrive by the last week of August at the latest.
- A big thank you to everyone involved in making this happen—exciting times ahead!

11.12. Youth Centre (Ali Romanos)

 Sale has gone unconditional. Settlement on 7 June. Ali and James have removed Explore items to storage.

6

- The committee members signed a resolution agreeing to sell the property at 183 Main Street and authorising Ali Romanos and Marie Kissick to sign the necessary documents to enable the sale.
- Sale proceeds need to be discussed including ring fencing the money to spend on youth.
- **Action:** Ali to bring recommendations to the August meeting re rationale for ringfencing and proposed parameters for utilising these proceeds.

Next meeting date: 6 August 2025 at Tararua Distict Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatus	a
Meeting Closed at 8:17pm.	

Ali Romanos (Chair):		

Action List:

- 1. Ingrid to share key local body election dates on Facebook
- 2. Ali to send Marie through Bailey's details to investigate Explore's Insurance options
- 3. Marie to request discretionary funding payment from TDC with CPI of 3.5% added to the 2024 amount.
- 4. Agreed to set an early date of 10th September for a Pahiatua Meet the Candidates night
- 5. Ali to invite Emma to the August meeting to discuss Help-N-Hand and the future needs of the Community Garden
- 6. Georgina to share break down of \$30K civil defence spend with Raylene.
- 7. A Committee member will ask Wynn Davidson for further information re the Town Clock.
- 8. Ali to bring recommendations to the August meeting re Youth Centre funds.

Annexures

Xero Report

Cheque Account Reconciliation Summary

Explore Pahiatua (Incorporated) As at 1 July 2025 Cheque Account

DATE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
Totals Sum	mary		
1 Jul 2025	Balance in Xero		58,943.18
	Plus outstanding payments		-
	Less outstanding receipts		
	Plus unreconciled statement lines		
1 Jul 2025	Statement balance (calculated)		58,943.18
26 Jun 2025	Imported statement balance		58,943.18
1 Jul 2025	Calculated balance out by		
Balance in 2	Xero		
1 Jul 2025			58,943.18
Statement	Balances		
1 Jul 2025	Statement balance (calculated)	·	58,943.18
26 Jun 2025	Imported statement balance		58,943.18
1 Jul 2025	Calculated balance out by		-

DATE	Account	DATE IMPORTED INTO XERO	REFERENCE	RECONCILED	SOURCE	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Opening Ba	lance						
1 Jun 2025	iance					-	63,837.32
Statement I	ines						
3 Jun 2025	Thicket Floristry	3 Jun 2025	ANZAC Wreath	Yes	Bank Feed	(180.00)	63,657.32
3 Jun 2025	Inicket Floristry	3 Jun 2025	Ali Reimburs	res		(180.00)	63,657.32
3 Jun 2025	Ali Romanos	3 Jun 2025	Dump Fees	Yes	Bank Feed	(84.00)	63,573.32
5 Jun 2025	Nova Energy	5 Jun 2025	Youth Centre Power	Yes	Bank Feed	(94.99)	63,478.33
9 Jun 2025	Eastern & Central Co	9 Jun 2025	ECCT ECCT	Yes	Bank Feed	9,600.00	73,078.33
10 Jun 2025	Edwards Sound	10 Jun 2025	Stage Depst	Yes	Bank Feed	(9,627.16)	63,451.17
23 Jun 2025	Mitre 10 New	23 Jun 2025	Com Garden	Yes	Bank Feed	(27.48)	63,423.69
23 Jun 2025	Bush Tele-de Lesseps	23 Jun 2025	Bush Telegra Advertising	Yes	Bank Feed	(538.84)	62,884.85
24 Jun 2025	Ali Romanos	24 Jun 2025	Ali Feb to June Meeting Fees Feb to June	Yes	Bank Feed	(1,500.00)	61,384.85
24 Jun 2025	Pahiatua Museum Soc	24 Jun 2025	Museum Dis Grant	Yes	Bank Feed	(500.00)	60,884.85
24 Jun 2025	Raylene Treder	24 Jun 2025	Raylene Feb to Jue Meeting Fees Feb to Jue	Yes	Bank Feed	(900.00)	59,984.85
24 Jun 2025	Marie Kissick	24 Jun 2025	Meeting Fees Feb to June	Yes	Bank Feed	(750.00)	59,234.85
24 Jun 2025	James Devoe	24 Jun 2025	James Feb to June Meeting Fees Feb to June	Yes	Bank Feed	(750.00)	58,484.85
24 Jun 2025	Ingrid de Graaf	24 Jun 2025	Meeting Fees Feb to June	Yes	Bank Feed	(750.00)	57,734.85
24 Jun 2025	G Morrison	24 Jun 2025	Georgina Meeting Fee Morrison Meeting Fee	Yes	Bank Feed	(750.00)	56,984.85
24 Jun 2025	Emma Elliott	24 Jun 2025	Emma Meeting Fees	Yes	Bank Feed	(750.00)	56,234.85
26 Jun 2025	Pahiatua Carnival Pa	26 Jun 2025		Yes	Bank Feed	2,708.33	58,943.18
Closing Bala	ance						
1 Jul 2025							58,943,18



Eketāhuna Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board held in the Eketāhuna War Memorial Hall, corner of Jones Street and State Highway 2, Eketāhuna on Monday 14 July 2025 commencing at 10:00 am.

1. Present

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

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Mrs T H Collis Cr S Gilmore

Ms F Chase – Facilities Manager (via Teams)

Mr D Erard – Alliance Manager

Mr A Desmond – Network Manager – Tararua Alliance

Ms P O'Neale-Searancke – Project Manager

Ms S Fountaine – Community Engagement Officer (via Teams)
Mrs A Dunn – Manager – Democracy Services (via Teams)

Mrs S Anthony – Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

That the apology from Board member Everlyne Chase be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.

Barclay/Long Carried

3. Public Forum

Emma Elliot, Coordinator at Te Whatu Ora - Eketāhuna was in attendance and provided an update. She advised that her role currently encompasses financial administration. Eketāhuna Health Centre passed a recent audit and while they are yet to receive audit feedback from Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand, it was noted by auditors that the Centre provides an exceptional nursing service.

TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

She spoke of the financial concerns experienced by the Health Centre. They consider the Eketāhuna Community Board to be a stakeholder to the Centre and invited the Board members to attend the AGM in September and noted that Board Member Chase is already involved as a Māori representative for the Centre and it was up to the Board whether she could also represent the Board at the same time.

She noted that the Health Centre filed a loss of \$11,000.00 in 2023, this was predominantly due to bringing nurses up to pay parity; 2024 showed a loss of \$15,000.00 mostly due to leave liability; understaffing has meant staff were unable to take leave and this then lifted to \$24,000.00. She spoke of success with fundraising efforts and donations for 2025, however the Centre will show a small deficit. The Centre is now looking at the budget for 2026 and forecasting that with the same level of fundraising, donations and grants they will be seeking close to \$10,000.00 and sought to apply to the Eketāhuna Community Board for a grant towards this.

During discussion the Board advised that the Eketāhuna Community Board General Assistance Grants Scheme was due to open following this meeting and encouraged the Eketāhuna Health Centre to apply via the Tararua District Council website.

4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

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

Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held on 9 June 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Barclay/Long Carried

7. Tararua District Council Report

7.1 Report from Tararua District Council

That the report from the Tararua District Council extraordinary meetings held 4 June 2025, and 11 June 2025, and meeting held 25 June 2025 be received.

Barclay/Long Carried

8. Reports

8.1 Management Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period 11 May 2025 to 6 June 2025 as reported to the meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held 18 June 2025.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 concerning the Management Report be received.

Long/Barclay Carried

8.2 Universal Water Metering

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Project Manager dated 18 June 2025 that presented the case for implementing Universal Water Metering (UWM) across the Tararua District, outlining the project scope, and providing information regarding the delivery and procurement approach.

That the report from the Project Manager dated 18 June 2025 concerning the Universal Water Metering be received.

Long/Barclay Carried

8.3 Portfolio Programme Project Report

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 that provided an update on the key portfolios, programmes and project statuses as reported at the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held 18 June 2025.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.

Long/Barclay Carried

8.4 Eketāhuna Litter Bin Service

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 13 June 2025 providing background information regarding

Meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board – 14 July 2025

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the Eketāhuna litter bin service.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 13 June 2025 concerning the Eketāhuna Litter Bin Service be received.

Long/Barclay Carried

Board member Terry Carew left the meeting (via Teams) at 10.24am.

8.5 **Eketāhuna Community Plan**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Community Engagement Officer dated 03 June 2025 that provided an update on the draft Eketāhuna Community Plan.

The Board advised that the Eketāhuna Community Plan was discussed with the Eketāhuna Our Town Committee and the draft is approved by the Board and the Committee for progression to the next stage of digitisation and placement on the TDC website.

That the report from the Community Engagement Officer dated 03 June 2025 concerning the draft Eketāhuna Community Plan be received

Long/Barclay Carried

8.6 **Discretionary Grant Fund Applications 2025**

The Eketāhuna Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 17 June 2025 that sought a decision by the Board to advertise the availability of its General Assistance Grants scheme and invite applications for funding from the community.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 17 June 2025 concerning the Discretionary Grant Fund Applications 2025 be received.

Long/Barclay Carried

That the Eketāhuna Community Board advertises the availability of the General Assistance Grants scheme for 2025 and invites applications for funding.

Long/Barclay Carried

That the closing date for applications be 22 August 2025

Barclay/Long Carried

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

Nil

10. Correspondence

10.1 Minutes - Eketāhuna Radio Station 22 May 2025

Board member Barclay advised that the radio station is going well; they were no longer experiencing lagging in broadcasting and fundraising is ongoing. They have new team members on board and overall operations are positive.

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Radio Station meeting held 22 May 2025 be received.

Long/Barclay Carried

11. Discussion Items

Eketāhuna Main Street Maintenance — Dan Erard, Alliance Manager, was in attendance and provided an update to the Board noting that the sweep truck services Eketāhuna every 2 months with work undertaken in February, April and June 2025. He advised that a worker goes ahead of the sweep truck and pulls material from areas that the sweep truck is unable to access, they also check sump conditions, grates, and carry out general inspections.

A concern was raised regarding the debris remains left in Church Street and it was advised that this feedback would be investigated. The Board were encouraged to put in CRMs as this helps to notify relevant teams.

It was advised that footpath maintenance and cleaning currently has no routine schedule due to a significantly reduced budget received for footpaths, so the main priority is safety repairs and CRMs will be responded to.

It was noted that Corrections have undertaken some footpath clearing of overgrowth in Newman Road.

It was reported that the covered drain outside the Four Square in Eketāhuna required attention as the cover is not big enough and bark from the garden is getting into it; this is an area of high public use and noticeable. It was also noted that school bus signs in the area that were recently placed are falling over, and potholes have emerged on Bridge Street and Main Street through to Nireaha turn

Meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board – 14 July 2025

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12.	Chairperson's Rema	arks
	Nil	
13.	Items not on the Ag	genda
	Nil	
		ne Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance e meeting closed at 10:42am.
	Chairperson	
Page 6		Meeting of the Eketāhuna Community Board – 14 July 2025

off. These concerns were noted by the Alliance Manager, and the Board were

again advised to submit CRMs.



Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Monday 21 July 2025 commencing at 9:00 am.

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

Mr H Featonby – Group Manager - Operations

Mrs A Dunn – Manager – Democracy Services (via Teams)

Mrs S Anthony – Democracy Support Officer

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Otanga Road update

Maunga Road – concerns regarding resealed section

Riverdale Road update

Carnegie Centre update

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

Nil

TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

5. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 16 June 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Christison/Hynes Carried

6. Tararua District Council Report

6.1 Report from Tararua District Council

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report and a question was asked regarding the Rates Resolution for 2025-26 Financial Year report to further define the meaning of 'mining' as noted under 'Roading Land Value Differential Rate' as to whether this referred to quarries or deep drilling; in response it was advised that this was likely quarries however further clarification will be sought from the Finance and Revenue team and provided at the next meeting.

Further clarification was sought regarding the urban water part charge which is charged to urban ratepayers including those who do not access the service; it was advised that for non-users the service is available for access at any time so hence the charge, unless opted out of service access, the concern with opting-out being that residents may run out of water in drier months and will be unable to access the service. It was noted that the water metering will be transitioned and will initially be utilised to monitor leakage before any charges for water usage are introduced.

That the report from the Tararua District Council meeting held 25 June 2025, and the extraordinary meeting held 9 July 2025 be received.

Wallace/Peeti-Webber

Carried

7. Reports

7.1 Management Report

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period 11 May to 6 June 2025 as reported at the meeting of the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee held on 18 June 2025 and as noted in the memo released 9 July 2025 covering the period from 9 June 2025 to 9 July 2025 as there was no Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held in July 2025.

It was noted that feedback would be sought from the Board regarding school

zones in due course.

A concern was raised regarding rehabilitations completed on Aerodrome Road as it was perceived to be a low usage road; it was advised that assessments had been completed and approved by NZTA but further information will be sought for the Board.

It was noted that a saving of \$10,000.00 was made during the work on the Otanga Road bridge, this work is near completion and will be completed within the subsidy timeframe. It was asked if the grade of the road leading to the bridge would be worked on and it was advised that this was operational and the design would be checked and this reported back.

A question was asked as to whether Norsewood would receive another recycling centre as the previous one had been removed, and it was advised that investigations were currently underway to find a suitable site which met the criteria for placement of bins. A concern was also raised regarding the contamination in waste bins and it was noted that a bin audit process takes place prior to the collection truck pickup; contamination is an ongoing concern and is more problematic in the summer months; there is a good process in place for managing the issue; public education is important.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 concerning the Management Report be received.

Peeti-Webber/Walshe

Carried

7.2 Universal Water Metering

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Project Manager dated 18 June 2025 that presented the case for implementing Universal Water Metering (UWM) across the Tararua District, outlines the project scope, and provides information regarding the delivery and procurement approach. It supported the Council's long-term strategy to manage water demand, reduce wastage, and ensure sustainable infrastructure investment.

A question was asked regarding the costs for installation of the water meters and life span of the meters and it was advised that the process is still underway to define the technology that will be procured for the project so unable to determine costs and lifespan at this stage however this will be reported in due course. It was asked if the water leakage occurring in the district has been located and it was noted that there were some meters installed in the district to attempt to determine this and extraordinary users had been identified as a main cause, however further investigations are underway regarding historical agreements and additional lines unknown to Council, to gain a better understanding for improvements.

A concern was raised regarding the impounded supply and the water running down the hill where the rushes are growing; it was advised that drainage has

Meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board - 21 July 2025

been installed and is working well with low levels of water now recorded and engineers satisfied it is stable. A pre-treatment solution is to be procured with designs in place. It was also raised that pines over water mains could be an issue and it was noted that this would be checked.

That the report from the Project Manager dated 18 June 2025 concerning the Universal Water Metering

Hynes/Peeti-Webber

Carried

7.3 **Portfolio Programme Project Report**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 that provided an update to the Board on the key portfolios, programmes and project statuses reported at the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 18 June 2025.

It was noted that the Carnegie Centre was covered in the report; a further update was requested and it was advised that there was nothing new to add at this stage however next steps would be reported to the Board as investigations continue.

That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 26 June 2025 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.

Walshe/Peeti-Webber

Carried

7.4 General Assistance Grants Fund - Procedures

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 07 July 2025 that presented for discussion and decision, a proposed procedure for making grants from the Board's discretionary budget.

In discussions a request was made to safeguard funding for organisations with historic agreements, however it was advised that historical funding commitments cannot be put in place by the Board as the current Board cannot make commitments for the future Board. The contestable fund is also available for applicants through Council. The Board agreed that applications for funding need to be in line with funding rounds as opposed to the ad hoc process that has been followed to date, and should be limited to up to \$750.00 per applicant. Funding rounds will attempt to avoid coinciding with other available funding rounds from Eketāhuna Community Board and TDC Contestable Funds.

That the Dannevirke Community Board agrees to a limit of up to \$750.00 per applicant for the General Assistance Grants Fund applications.

Hynes/Walshe

Carried

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That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 07 July 2025 concerning the General Assistance Grants Fund - Procedures be received.

That the Dannevirke Community Board agree to set aside one third of its budget for discretionary grants.

That the Dannevirke Community Board advertises the availability of the General Assistance Grants scheme for 2025 and invites applications for funding.

That the closing date for applications be 29 August 2025.

Peeti-Webber/Christison

Carried

8. Public Forum

8.1 Public Forum – Aaron Karena

Aaron Karena of Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust was in attendance at the request of the Board and provided a powerpoint presentation, in response to questions he spoke of the process and negotiations to date for Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust to take over the \$1 million loan without interest for Pūkāha National Wildlife Centre including:

- the loan will purchase the education wharewananga centre not the discovery centre or wildlife reserve, these are owned by the Department of Conservation
- the purchase of the education wharewananga centre is seen by the Trust as an investment, a legacy purchase; forecasted earnings are unknown for the long term.
- the reason for the request for TDC to cover the interest stemmed from the Trust looking at a joint operating model with integrated services; while there will be different ownership this is not visible in the day to day operation of the centre
- agreements are yet to be settled, including the agreement with TDC, and this is expected to happen in the next few weeks.
- the funding application process for the Centre is undertaken by the Pūkāha Board not the iwi.
- Rangitane is not a large iwi and their workplan also involves housing; the
 iwi members are ratepayers as well and it is the view of the Trust to share
 the load with TDC in fairness by requesting not to pay the interest on the
 loan.

The Board requested an update of the solar farm progress and Aaron advised that the Power Purchase Agreement is still to be finalised with TDC.

Meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board - 21 July 2025

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

- 9.1 Dannevirke Multisport Trust The Trust are holding a Boxing event in the Town Hall to raise funds for the skate park, this will be at the end of September or early October. The Trust has applied for funding for the concrete for the basketball hoop and half court, this needs to be done first as there is a time limit for this work to be completed. The Geotech report for that area of the Domain is due in next few weeks and is being completed by David Veale from Wai Waste Dannevirke, once received, plans will be finalised and brought back to the Board.
- 9.2 Dannevirke A&P Association the AGM was held last Thursday where a new committee was adopted. A few members have stepped down, the Chair and Secretary remain the same, with the addition of new energetic members who will assist with the grounds. Funds remain a concern with expenses and maintenance issues; the committee are in discussions as to whether to sell or lease the sports club. The committee wished to note the success of the recent Matariki celebrations provided by Ngāti Kahungunu which was a great event for the district.
- 9.3 **Dannevirke Brass Band** the Band met with the Mayor regarding the historical funding agreement and the band are seeking a second opinion from Community Law around the legal agreement that is in place. The Brass Band could charge for services at ANZAC service. The band is otherwise performing well and have been reassured that they do have Council support.
- 9.4 **Dannevirke Domain Rose Garden** the Sunday working session was cancelled due to weather. The great support from the community minded volunteers is acknowledged and the gardens look fantastic.
- 9.5 **Community Vehicle Trust** last month saw an increase in patronage with the vehicles. The AGM will be on 12 August 2025 at REAP at 7pm and all are welcome.
- 9.6 **Chamber of Commerce** the recent After Fives 'Myth Busting' event was well received. The next After Fives meeting is on 29 July 2025 at REAP from 5:15 onwards; the next After Fives meeting is to be held on 26 August 2025 at Mitre 10, and the Chamber of Commerce AGM is will be held on 18 August 2025.
- 9.7 Lamason Memorial Trust an invitation has gone out to attend the Lamason Buchenwald Memorial Project public launch and information evening to be held 6 August 2025 at 7:00pm at The Hub, Dannevirke. The project has been underway for the last 2 to 3 years; a memorial will be placed at the Dannevirke Domain near the cenotaph to recognise the late Phil Lamason. The Trust have been working closely with council staff to ensure this project runs smoothly and will be wrapped up by the middle to end of next year. It was noted that Buchenwald was a prisoner of war camp in Germany.
- 9.8 **Road Safety** there have been no further meetings as yet. Complaints have been received regarding non-customer cars parking on Denmark street outside of the Vet Clinic. The Clinic is proposing putting up sandwich board signage for vet clinic parking only, so customers are able to drop off and pick up pets from directly

outside the clinic.

Complaints have also been received regarding the large pot holes in the right of way service lane behind the Dannevirke BP Service Station; it was advised that the lane is owned by KiwiRail. It was requested that the Board write a letter to KiwiRail to request they fix the pot holes.

It was suggested that the bus stop in the middle of town by the old post office be converted to public car parking as the bus stop is no longer used. It was advised that a customer request to NZTA be submitted by the Board. It was noted that the bus stop was used in the past by Ruahine School but is no longer used by the school.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Correspondence - Dannevirke Community Board

That the following correspondence be received:

Friends of the Dannevirke Domain – Report dated 31 May 2025

Wallace/Christison

Carried

11. Discussion Items

11.1 Wackrow Memorial Youth Award – Judging is due to be held this Wednesday 23 July 2025 at 10:00am at the Tararua District Council, with the awards evening to be held at the Hub on 5 August 2025 at 7:00pm. The Board agreed that Diane Bowie be approached to provide catering for the event. Notification of the event is due to be published in the 28 July 2025 Bush Telegraph and the event will be advertised on the Dannevirke Radio Station.

That the Dannevirke Community Board engage Diane Bowie as the provider for catering the Wackrow Memorial Youth Award evening on 5 August 2025 at 7:00pm.

Walshe/Peeti-Webber Carried

- **Spring Festival** the Board will meet for discussion on the Spring Festival after this meeting. Quotes are being obtained for the printing of pamphlets.
- 11.3 **Speed Indicator Sign Smith Street** this concern has been ongoing for a year and CRMs have been submitted, the Group Manager Operations advised that this will be followed up and reported back to the Board.
- 11.4 Flagtrax the Board approves of the designs for the Spring Festival flags and the True Honey Company as the sponsor can go ahead and order the flags. It was advised that the management of the booking system for use of the Flagtrax

Meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board – 21 July 2025

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requires further clarification which will be sought and reported back by the Group Manager – Operations.

In determining which poles would have the flagtrax installed on them, it was agreed by the Board that the provider can determine which poles are most suitable for the installations.

- 11.5 **Electronic Sign above Town Hall** it was noted that the sign is not compliant with NZTA regulations and is considered a hazard to drivers. It was requested that any information the Board has regarding the sign and any compliance history be forwarded on to the Group Manager Operations.
- 11.6 **Te Uri Road Re-naming** the process is underway with Tararua Alliance and the landowner who made the submission has been contacted; it is required to be publicly notified and consulted on.

12. Chairperson's Remarks

Nil

13. Items not on the Agenda

- 13.1 **Otanga Road update** this item was discussed and reported in the Management Report.
- Maunga Road concerns were raised regarding the condition of the resealed section and retaining wall that has washed out. There are existing paint markings which indicates works are planned. The Group Manager Operations advised that they are no CRM's entered in the system for this concern however, he will submit a CRM on behalf of the Board regarding this issue. Roading is covered by the Tararua Alliance.
- Riverdale Road update a concern was raised regarding the flood damage to the road that has not been repaired; residents are requesting an update. It was advised that Cyclone Gabrielle emergency works will be wrapped up by the end of the financial year and the Group Manager Operations undertook to follow up to see if there are any planned works in this area and report back to the Board.
- 13.4 **Carnegie Centre update** this item was discussed and reported in the Portfolio Programme Project Report.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:54am.

	Attachment 1 Minute	s - Dannevirke Communit	y Board 21 July
Chairperson			

8.4 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board



Report

Date : 23 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Angela Rule

Policy and Planning Advisor

Subject : Deliberations on Matters During the Proposed Freedom

Camping Bylaw Consultation

Item No : 9.1

1. Recommendations

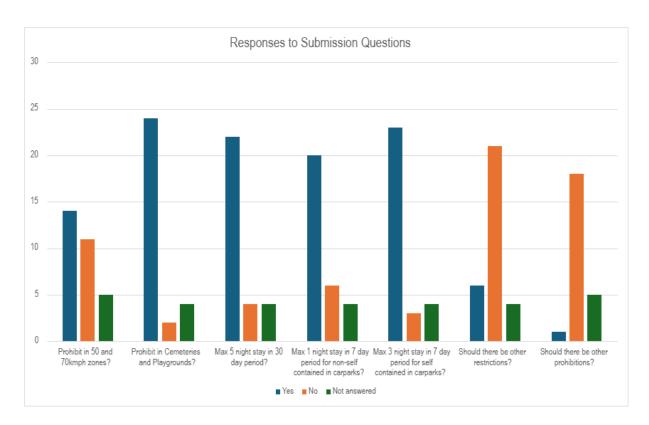
- 1.1 That the report from the Policy and Planning Advisor dated 16 June 2025 concerning the Deliberations on Matters During the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw Consultation be received.
- 1.2 That the Tararua District Council note the matters raised through submissions on the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- 1.3 That the officer recommendations in this report in response to matters raised through submissions regarding prohibitions and restrictions in the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw be made.
- 1.4 That changes and corrections to the bylaw as noted in sections 9 and 10 of this report are made.

Executive Summary

The 50/70kmph zone prohibitions is the most opposed condition in the bylaw. A key stakeholder said this "is overly broad and lacks area-specific justification."

There is significant agreement with the other matters in the bylaw.

The table below shows all responses to all questions in the consultation form.



Council has actively promoted and invested in freedom camping in the Tararua District for over 10 years alongside events to attract such visitors.

Dannevirke, Woodville and Pahiatua have (The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc's (NZMCA) Motorhome Friendly status. "The Motorhome Friendly scheme provides a set of amenities and services that guarantee motor caravanners a warm welcome and an enjoyable visit." (NZMCA.org.nz). This is reliant on continued access to amenities. NZMCA noted in their submission that "The proposed prohibitions may force NZMCA to reconsider their MHFT status, as one of the agreed criteria is to be generally permissive towards responsible freedom camping".

Annual and long term planning cycles will address the provision of toilets, rubbish bins, cleaning and grounds keeping.

Officers will monitor freedom camping, and any nuisance and health and safety concerns, via CRMs, and will enforce all of Council's bylaws appropriately.

2. Reason for the Report

2.1 To present to Tararua District Council (the Council), for its consideration, the results of the public consultation on the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, and to seek decisions from the Council on each of the matters raised through the consultation, which will be applied to the final version of this bylaw for adoption by Council at its 27 August 2025 meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2022 Council was awarded funding from MBIE's Tourism Facilities Development Grant for a freedom camping ambassador in the 2022/23 summer (report provided to the 26 March 2025 Council meeting), for the development of a bylaw and for freedom camping signage.
- 3.2 Prior to commencing a Freedom Camping Bylaw, community engagement took place from 17 February to 2 March 2025, during which Council directly contacted stakeholders and conducted a public survey.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 26 March 2025 the Council considered the research and engagement feedback and approved the development of a new Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- 3.4 S44 of the Reserves Act 1977 sets out that "no person shall use a reserve, or any building, vehicle, boat, caravan, tent, or structure situate thereon, for purposes of permanent or temporary personal accommodation" unless defined on a reserves management plan. Council's current draft Reserves Management Plan, Appendix 2 Overnight accommodation on reserves, lists the reserves that may be identified for freedom camping under a Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- 3.5 In 2024 the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association undertook a judicial review of Queenstown Lates District Council's proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw. Issues of note, in the judgement, are:
 - (a) QLDC had regard to the protection of the economic values enjoyed by private residential and commercial properties and the protection of the amenity values enjoyed by such properties, which are irrelevant considerations;
 - (b) by reason of the reliance on irrelevant evidence (the subject of the first cause of action) and a failure to assess all residential sites at which freedom camping was prohibited, it followed there was insufficient evidence to satisfy QLDC that the 2021 bylaw was necessary, with the consequence the bylaw was ultra vires.

This judgement, along with the judicial review of Marlborough District Council in 2021, is referred to by NZMCA in relation to the proposed bylaw.

4. Statutory Requirements

- 4.1 The general power for the Council to make bylaws comes from the Local Government Act 2002. In the case of freedom camping bylaws, the specific power to make a bylaw comes from the Freedom Camping Act 2011 ('the Act'). A freedom camping bylaw can only be made pursuant to the Act if the Council is satisfied that:
 - the bylaw is necessary to protect the area; and/or protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and/or to protect access to the area; and
 - the bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to the area; and
 - the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 30 April 2025 the Council agreed that pursuant to s11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, a bylaw was the most appropriate way of addressing perceived problems identified for freedom camping in the Tararua District and that the proposed bylaw was not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 At its meeting on 30 April 2025 the Council adopted the proposed new Freedom Camping Bylaw and statement of proposal for consultation in accordance with s83 and s86 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 5.2 Consultation ran from 19 May to 24 June 2025 through:
 - "Have Your Say" page on Council's website.
 - All stakeholders who were directly contacted during the engagement period were contacted directly again as consultation began.
 - The following shows the media format and frequency of posts about the consultation.

Advertisements and banners in the Bush Telegraph	19 May; 2 June
Facebook posts	19 May; 3, 13, 17, 19, 21 June
Antenno posts	13, 19, May; 5, 17, 21 June

• The Hawkes Bay Today ran an article, and this was picked up by 7 Days and News Talk ZB.

- A total of 29 submissions were received, 18 of which were Tararua residents. The out-of-district respondents normally resided in Te Awamutu, Wellington, Hauaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Northland, Christchurch, Blenheim, and Napier. 1 submitter did not state their place of residence.
- The relatively low number of consultation submissions reflects Council's responsiveness to the engagement in February and the accuracy of the proposed bylaw.
- No submitters presented their views to the Council in person at a hearing at an extraordinary Council meeting on 9 July 2025.

6. Key matters arising from consultation

6.1 These matters are addressed here, rather than throughout the considerations of the specific bylaw prohibitions and restrictions below, as they were raised by elected members at the hearings meeting and by submitters.

6.2 **Enforcement**

- 6.2.1 Concerns and questions were raised around how matters within this bylaw would be enforced.
- 6.2.2 Enforcement of the bylaw will be by way of response to CRMs and Council's Enforcement Policy.
- 6.2.3 In terms of enforcement tools available, the Act contemplates that most offending will be responded to by way of infringement notices and/or seizure and impoundment of property.
- 6.2.4 Officers do not anticipate physically monitoring popular freedom camping sites unless a funding opportunity becomes available to resource this activity.
- 6.2.5 Council's Public Places Bylaw, Traffic and Road Use Bylaw, Alcohol Bylaw and Dog Control Bylaw address all nuisance issues raised by submitters. These must be abided by everyone including freedom campers. People can lodge a CRM to advise Council of such issues.
- 6.2.6 CRMs specifically regarding freedom camping will be recorded to enable monitoring of matters in the bylaw.
- 6.2.7 Information provided for freedom campers in the district will be reviewed, including on the Tararua.com website and signage.
- 6.2.8 Officer recommendation: That a review of the CRM system be undertaken to ensure data can be appropriately collected between commencement of the bylaw and the bylaw's first review, to ensure that it provides a clear picture of freedom camping related matters and differentiation from matters enforced under other bylaws.

6.3 Herbertville

- 6.3.1 Council does not actively promote freedom camping at Herbertville.
- 6.3.2 The general conditions (restrictions on camping) in the Bylaw apply at Herbertville.
- 6.3.3 Other bylaws also apply (as in 6.2 above).
- 6.3.4 Any area potentially suitable for freedom camping is difficult to define at Herbertville given the blurred line between roading corridor (i.e. the local authority area that the bylaw can cover) and esplanade/foreshore.
- 6.3.5 Officers intend to review and improve the information provided about freedom camping in the district (including about private land available for freedom camping and camping grounds) so campers can make decisions about where they stay.
- 6.3.6 Officer recommendation: That a review of the CRM system be undertaken to ensure data can be appropriately collected (including location) between commencement of the bylaw and the bylaw's first review, to ensure that it provides a clear picture of freedom camping related matters.

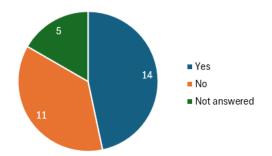
6.4 **Ākitio**

- 6.4.1 Submitters raised the following concerns about Ākitio:
 - the five night maximum stay (too long).
 - that Council should enforce no freedom camping in areas where it is not permitted.
 - restrictions over summer due to water supply issues.
- 6.4.2 The five night maximum stay sits at a medium point in the number of nights suggested by engagement and consultation respondents.
- 6.4.3 The 3 Waters and Facilities teams have been made aware of issues raised in these comments. Matters of water supply are addressed through the 3 Waters team and the Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee, and Council. CRMs support the Facilities team to make decisions about facilities and contracts, which are approved by Council during annual and long term planning.
- 6.4.4 A shorter maximum night stay and/or marked limited freedom camping spaces may raise an expectation for Council to monitor more closely. This is not currently budgeted.
- 6.4.5 Council's other bylaws address nuisances about which residents and visitors may lodge CRMs.

- 6.4.6 A skip bin is already provided at the area during peak summer times. Future communications will encourage all visitors to remove their rubbish.
- 6.4.7 Any CRMS entered will include the location of concern, which will provide an accurate picture of any issues specifically raised at Ākitio. This can then be reviewed prior to the first review of this Bylaw, and the Bylaw could be amended appropriately
- 6.4.8 Officer recommendation: That the restrictions in Schedule 2 of the proposed bylaw regarding Ākitio are kept.

7. Consideration of Submissions on matters within the bylaw

7.1 Prohibition of freedom camping in 50kmph and 70kmph zones

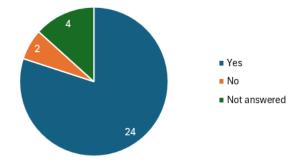


- 7.1.1 Officer notes for consideration:
- 7.1.2 This prohibition was included as an option to ensure the general public's ability to access homes, goods and services, roadside parking, and their safe movement in and out of these spaces.
- 7.1.3 NZMCA raised significant concerns with this proposed prohibition, including in relation to proportionality, enforceability, and potential unintended consequences. It added that its view was that Council has not undertaken genuine township assessments to justify this prohibition for each area and therefore risks being ultra vires something the submitter had successfully judicially reviewed Marlborough District Council on (see NZMCA v Marlborough District Council). NZMCA's view is that the prohibition is excessive and potentially unlawful.
- 7.1.4 NZMCA noted in their submission that the proposed prohibitions may force them to reconsider the MHFT status for Dannevirke, Woodville and Pahiatua.
- 7.1.5 It is worth noting that if Council were to adopt this prohibition as proposed, there could be risk for Council of having its decision making judicially reviewed, given the submission by NZMCA (and its relatively regular judicial reviews of these bylaws throughout New Zealand).
- 7.1.6 As a percentage of responses, at 47%, this bylaw condition had the most opposition. Concerns were raised about this restriction limiting freedom campers' access to retailers and that retailers may miss out on patronage; that it's relatively

safe to park in these lower speed zones; that the district is promoted as motorhome friendly; that people will not be able to park in their self-contained vehicle and sleep in that vehicle outside the property of a friend or family member they are visiting.

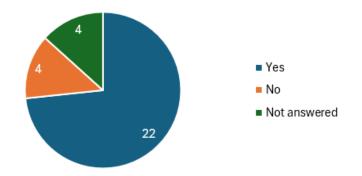
- 7.1.7 On the other hand, concerns were raised about nuisance and mess. Sometimes these types of CRMs are about freedom campers, sometimes about suspected homelessness, and sometimes about day visitors to sites. All scenarios are addressed based on CRMs and normally the nuisance is adequately addressed through the Public Places Bylaw. It is also noted that:
 - Homelessness is not a matter for the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
 - The Freedom Camping Act s5(2)(c) states that resting or sleeping at the roadside in a motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigues is not freedom camping, therefore not covered by this bylaw.
- 7.1.8 Officers considered a requirement for a freedom camper to seek and obtain the permission of the property owner or occupant before parking in front of the property for the purpose of freedom camping, and that freedom camping would only be permitted in these speed zones if permission had been given. This option is not being tabled as the recommended option as, in the officers views, it puts pressure on the property owner or occupant to make a decision (where they may not feel able to say 'no' to someone asking them directly), and then also makes enforcement/proving that permission was or was not given, difficult.
- 7.1.9 If the prohibition is removed, the general conditions stated in the bylaw at clause 5, which include for example a maximum five night stay over 30 days, would still apply. Those conditions should alleviate the concerns raised by submitters and gives enforcement officers an ability to act, should there be inappropriate behaviour or complaints.
- 7.1.10 Officer recommendation: That the prohibition in Schedule 1 of the proposed bylaw regarding freedom camping in 50 and 70kmph speed zones is removed.

7.2 Prohibition of Freedom Camping in Cemeteries and Playgrounds

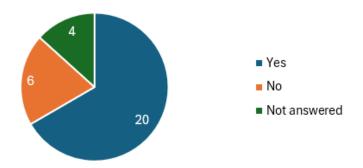


7.2.1 Officer notes for consideration:

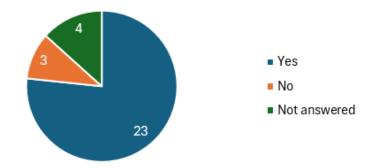
- 7.2.2 When agreeing with this prohibition submitters expressed the respect and safety of the users of these areas, that these areas are targets for rubbish and vandalism.
- 7.2.3 Two comments were made that carparks at these areas may be suitable for freedom camping.
- 7.2.4 Officer recommendation: That the prohibition in Schedule 1 of the proposed bylaw regarding freedom camping in cemeteries and playgrounds is kept.
- 7.3 Restriction of Maximum five night stay in 30 day period



- 7.3.1 Officer notes for consideration:
- 7.3.2 While clear agreement with this restriction came from submitters, one submitter suggested the 30 day period could be shorter, particularly in Ferry Reserve, while another suggested five nights is too long at Ākitio. Another said generally self-contained vehicles have three days water supply on board.
- 7.3.3 The five night maximum stay sits at a medium point in the number of nights suggested by engagement and consultation respondents.
- 7.3.4 Officers will establish CRM based monitoring to understand the effectiveness of the rules in the bylaw and site-specific issues.
- 7.3.5 Officer recommendation: That the general provision in the proposed bylaw regarding a maximum five night stay in 30 day period is kept.
- 7.4 Restriction of maximum one night stay in seven day period for non-self-contained in carparks.

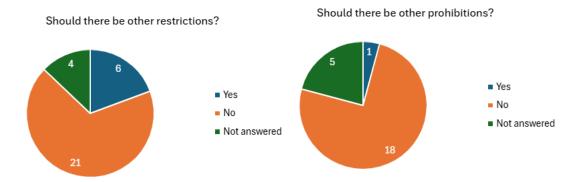


- 7.4.1 Officer notes for consideration:
- 7.4.2 The main concerns for submitters were the lack of ablutions for non-self-contained freedom campers at carparks; and that non-self-contained freedom campers should stay in designated areas or camping grounds.
- 7.4.3 Officers will establish CRM based monitoring to understand the effectiveness of the rules in the bylaw and site-specific issues.
- 7.4.4 Officer recommendation: That the restriction in Schedule 2 of the proposed bylaw regarding a maximum one night stay in seven day period for non-self-contained in carparks is kept.
- 7.5 Restriction of maximum three night stay in seven day period for self-contained in carparks.



- 7.5.1 Officer notes for consideration:
- 7.5.2 Two submitters had concerns about the availability of the carpark at 41 Denmark Street for freedom camping now that there is a health centre across the road.
- 7.5.3 Officers will establish CRM based monitoring to understand the effectiveness of the rules in the bylaw and site-specific issues.
- 7.5.4 Officer recommendation: That the restriction in Schedule 2 of the proposed bylaw regarding a maximum three night stay in seven day period for self-contained in carparks is kept.

8. Consideration of Submissions - Should there be other restrictions or prohibitions?



- 8.1 Officer notes for consideration:
- 8.2 There is a general preference for supporting self-contained freedom campers.
- 8.3 Officers will establish CRM based monitoring to understand the effectiveness of the rules in the bylaw and site-specific issues.
- 8.4 The Public Places Bylaw, the Traffic and Road Use Bylaw, the Alcohol Bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw address many issues that are raised in CRMs and must be abided by anyone freedom camping (and everyone generally).
- 8.5 Officers will review site specific information on its communications channels to ensure all visitors understand local rules and can identify the most suitable place to stay for their needs.
- 8.6 Officer recommendation: That no other restrictions or prohibitions are added to the proposed bylaw.

9. Amendments to clause 5

- 9.1 Clause 5.3(d) currently requires campers to comply with noise limits recorded in the District Plan.
- 9.2 Submissions noted that noise limits are complex, difficult to understand, and can result in unknowing breaches.
- 9.3 It is noted that noise is also dealt with in 5.3(m).
- 9.4 Officer recommendation: That clause 5.3(d) Comply with the noise requirements set out in the operative District Plan, be removed.
- 9.5 Clause 5.3(m) currently creates a breach where there is a nuisance or unreasonable disturbance, in the opinion of an enforcement officer of Council.
- 9.6 Submissions noted that officers' opinions are vague and risk arbitrary enforcement.

9.7 *Officer recommendation: That clause 5.3(m) is changed from:*

Ensure that they do not behave in a manner which, in the opinion of an enforcement officer, causes a nuisance or unreasonable disturbance, through the creation of excessive noise, to other persons camping in the area or local residents;

To

Ensure that they do not behave in a manner which causes a nuisance or unreasonable disturbance to other persons camping in the area or local residents (including but not limited to the creation of excessive noise).

- 10. Correction of drafting errors in proposed bylaw
- 10.1 Offices recommendation: That the following corrections be made to the proposed bylaw.
- 10.1.1 Paragraph numbering in section 8 to be corrected to add 8.2.
- 10.1.2 Makotuku Domain to be removed from Schedule 2 as it operates as a camping ground with appropriate facilities and a fee for camping so it is not covered by the Act.
- 10.1.3 Mathews Park to be removed from Schedule 2 as a fee is charged for camping so it is not covered by the Act.
- 10.1.4 Addition of Fountaine Square, Woodville to Schedule 1 as a playground as it was omitted erroneously.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The proposed bylaw will be amended based on the recommendations made by Council in response to this report. The proposed bylaw will then be presented to Council for adoption at the 27 August 2025 Council meeting.

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Nil.



Report

Date : 24 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Fontayne Chase

Facilities Manager

Subject : Deliberations on Matters During Draft Reserve Management

Plan Consultation

Item No : 9.2

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the report from the Facilities Manager dated 18 July 2025 concerning the Deliberations on Matters During Draft Reserve Management Plan Consultation be received.
- 1.2 That the Tararua District Reserve Management Plan Officers Responses to Submissions be received.
- 1.3 That the Officer recommendations in the Tararua District Reserve Management Plan Officer Responses to Submissions for amendments to the draft Tararua District Omnibus Reserve Management Plan (RMP) be applied to the final version of the RMP for adoption by Council at its August 2025 meeting.

2. Reason for the Report

2.1 To present to the Council for its consideration the results of the public consultation on the Draft RMP, and to seek discussion from the Council on each of the matters raised through the consultation and decide on the final draft of the RMP for adoption by Council at its August 2025 meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council manages parks, reserves and other open space held under the Reserves Act 1977 and Local Government Act 2002.
- 3.2 The Reserves Act 1977 (RA) requires reserve management plans be developed for most types of reserves administered by the Council. Dannevirke Domain and Akitio Reserve are currently the only reserves with existing reserve management plans.
- 3.3 The draft Tararua District Omnibus Reserve Management Plan (RMP) was prepared following the process in section 41 of the Reserves Act. This included the first round of consultation in September/October 2023 and consultation with Iwi and key stakeholders.
- 3.4 The scope of the draft plan is shown below:

In Scope	Out of scope
Most land held under the Reserves Act 1977	Crown owned land for which there is no management agreement, and the council does not wish to advocate for
Land used for parks or recreation held under the Local Government	
Act 2002	Local purpose (cemetery) reserves
	Land subject to treaty settlement

3.5 The final RMP once adopted will:

- replace existing reserve management plans for Dannevirke Domain and Akitio Reserve,
- provide a policy framework to manage use, protection and development of parks and reserves across the District,
- ensure council complies with the requirements of the RA to have a reserve management plan for most types of reserves held under the Act.
- 3.6 Officers have engaged with representatives from both Rangitane and Ngāti Kahungunu multiple times to discuss the content and process for the development of the draft RMP. Iwi provided feedback on various aspects of the plan which has helped develop the draft.
- 3.7 Key areas of feedback and input from Iwi related to:
 - Scope of the plan,
 - Mana whenua partnerships and Te Ao Māori in reserve management,

- Cultural appropriateness and proposals on reserves,
- Cultural heritage and accidental discovery protocols,
- Water,
- Biodiversity and native species,
- Signage and interpretation.
- Ashes, Whenua and Pito.

4. Statutory Requirements

- 4.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act, which references the Reserve Act in the First Schedule, contains an obligation to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti).
- 4.2 In performing functions and duties under the Reserves Act, Council must also interpret the Act to give effect to the principles to Te Tiriti.
- 4.3 Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 sets out requirements for consultation on proposed Reserve Management Plans. These include:
 - Giving public notice of intention to prepare a management plan for reserves under the Council's control;
 - Inviting persons and organisations interested to provide suggestions on the proposed plan to the Council;
 - Give full consideration to any suggestions provided through the above process in preparing the proposed management plan;
 - Give public notice that the draft management plan's availability for inspection and seek submissions on the draft plan;
 - Give notice in writing to all those that made suggestions through the preliminary notification process of the availability of the draft management plan for inspection and submissions;
 - Provide an opportunity for all those that provided feedback on the draft management plan to present their feedback in person to the Council.

5. Engagement with Domain Boards

5.1 Domain Board representatives met with the Facilities Manager in July 2023 to discuss the Reserves Management Plan.

- 5.2 A survey was then sent to the Domain Boards to inform the drafting of the management plan, which 13 Domain Boards completed. Feedback largely consisted of operational matters. Key themes of the feedback included:
 - Value of reserves/domains,
 - Plant pest management,
 - Vandalism,
 - Desire for improved maintenance,
 - Desire for more promotion of their reserves.

6. Public Consultation – Intention to prepare Draft RMP

- 6.1 Notification of public consultation on the intention to prepare the reserve management plan was undertaken between September and October 2023.
- 6.2 Information about the consultation went live on the Tararua District Council's (the Council) website on 31 August 2023, with a public notice also appearing in The Bush Telegraph on 4th, 11th and 25th of September 2023.
- 6.3 The consultation was also advertised via Facebook and the news section on the Council's website and sent to key stakeholders such as clubs and sports groups directly. The closing date for feedback was 8 October 2023.
- 6.4 Feedback was received from 19 individuals. Reserve specific feedback was largely operational in nature, namely and related to the following five Domain reserves:
 - Umutaoroa Reserve,
 - Mangatoro Reserve,
 - Ferry Reserve,
 - Hamua Hall,
 - Pahiatua Scenic Reserve.
- 6.5 Overall, the main themes from public feedback were:
 - Improved recreational opportunities
 - Biodiversity, ecology and conservation
 - Significance of culture and heritage
 - Responsible Freedom Camping
 - Cultural and community connection
 - Financial transparency and maintenance accountability
 - Protection of access points
 - Environmental and safety issue
 - Maintenance improvements
 - Infrastructure and safety concerns
 - Protection and enhancement of natural spaces.

7. Notifying the Draft Plan

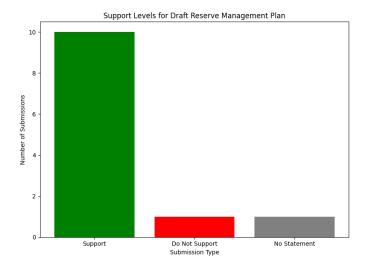
- 7.1 Section 41 of the RA outlines the obligations of an administering body to prepare, publicly notify a draft reserve management plan and call for comments and objections. Tararua District Council is the administering body for the reserves included in the draft plan.
- 7.2 As per the requirements of section 41(6) of the RA, the draft plan was opened for public consultation for a period of two-months from 14 April to 20 June 2025.
- 7.3 In addition to the RA's minimum notification requirement of advertising in the newspaper, Council Officers directly notified 116 Stakeholder on 17 April 2025. Notification was posted on Council's 'Have Your Say' digital consultation and social media platforms to make it easy for members of the public to provide feedback.

8. Public Consultation on Draft RMP

- 8.1 The formal consultation period on the draft Tararua District Reserves Management Plan closed on 20 June 2025.
- 8.2 A total of 12 submissions were received.
- 8.3 Of these 12 submissions, five submitters asked to present their views to Council in person.

9. Officer responses to Submissions

- 9.1 Officers have provided a response to each submission for consideration. A copy of Tararua District Reserve Management Plan Officers response to Submissions is appended to this report.
- 9.2 Summary of the 12 submissions received



10. Discussion and consideration

- 10.1 At its meeting held on 26 March 2025, Tararua District Council determined that the proposals included in the Draft RMP are acceptable.
- 10.2 Consulting with the public on the Draft RMP provides opportunities for the council to understand if the proposals in the plan are acceptable to the public.
- 10.3 New suggestions, ideas, item not included in the Draft RMP and that have not been consulted on are out of scope
- 10.4 The Draft RMP enables activities to occur at a reserve. It does not require the activities to occur.
- 10.5 Council acknowledges its statutory obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Reserves Act, and section 4 of the Conservation Act. These obligations are reflected in the RMP, particularly in provisions that ensure mana whenua have meaningful input into decision-making regarding reserves.
- The draft RMP includes policies that encourage and enable input from volunteers, stakeholders, and the wider community. These are reflected in sections such as those relating to Play, Authorisations and Approvals, Public and Private Utilities, and General Reserve Development.
- 10.7 The RMP acts as a shared understanding between Council and the community on how reserves will be managed into the future.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 The Draft Tararua District Omnibus Reserve Management Plan has been prepared and consulted on in accordance to Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 11.2 The majority of submissions were in support of the draft RMP.
- Public responses emphasise the importance of investing in the maintenance and management of reserves and or enabling community groups to maintain and develop these spaces for public enjoyment.
- Domain boards value income to enable them to maintain the Domain Reserve infrastructure and development of reserves.
- Once adopted the Tararua District Omnibus Reserve Management Plan will provide the framework to help Council make good decisions about how parks and reserves are used and protected.

Atta	chments
1 <u>↓</u> .	Tararua District Omnibus Reserve Management Plan Hearing - Officer Response to Submissions July 2025

Tararua District Reserve Management Plan – Officer Responses to Submissions

				4				ω														_		No.
				D25/23341				D25/22694														D25/15807	No.	Sub. doc
Reserves	3.4.8 Naming of		RMP	Overall opinion of		comments	feedback/additional	Other													Firework displays	3.3.7 Events and	Policy/Topic	Relates to
should still be required.	 Naming - policies (7) consultation 	generally logical and detailed	RMP is comprehensive and	 Positively Woodville - overall the 	maintenance program put in place.	 Would like to see some sort of 	and needs attention	 The Mangatoro Reserve is unsafe 												should be allowed anywhere in NZ	 Does not believe that fireworks 	 Does not support policy 		Submission point(s)
consultation where renaming a reserve is proposed except where a Te Reo name is gifted. Rationale	o Policy 3.4.8(7) requires			Noted				 Operational matters noted 	use of reserves.	events and activate and promote	to support community-significant	harm while maintaining the ability	manage and minimise potential	 This approach allows Council to 	from compliance regulators.	processes, including permission	policy requires strict approval	impacts. For this reason, the	they also carry risks and potential	valued part of community events,	fireworks displays can be a	 The policy recognises that while 		Staff comment
	3. No change to policy.			None	maintenance programme.	consider need for ongoing	maintenance issues and	2. Staff to assess safety and											displays in reserves.	(RMP) for pyrotechnic	reserve management plan	1. Retain provision in the		Staff Recommendation

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D25/23531 3.3.7 'Events and Clarify the difference between firework Displays' firework Displays' under health and safety regulations. Public displays typically involve pyrotechnics, which require					e.g. ongoing litter problems	lems
D25/23531 3.3.7 'Events and Clarify the difference between fireworks and pyrotechnic displays under health and safety regulations. Public displays typically involve pyrotechnics, which require					generated by reserve users.	lsers.
fireworks and pyrotechnic displays under health and safety regulations. Public displays typically involve pyrotechnics, which require	5	D25/23531	3.3.7 'Events and		o The term fireworks in the policy is	ne policy is
under health and safety regulations. Public displays typically involve pyrotechnics, which require			Firework Displays'	fireworks and pyrotechnic displays	intended to relate only to public	to public
Public displays typically involve pyrotechnics, which require				under health and safety regulations.	'pyrotechnic displays' as defined	as defined
					in the submission and not	ot
by private citizen:				pyrotechnics, which require	fireworks that are generally used	rally used
					by private citizens.	

No. Sub																6 D25												
Sub. doc																D25/23756												
Relates to Policy/Topic																Overall opinion of	RMP			3.3.1 General	Recreational Use	and Enjoyment						
duS		_	0			_		0			_	0				0				0		0			0			
Submission point(s)	certified handlers and WorkSafe	oversight.	Policy 7 should be updated to	reference the correct approval	process and regulatory authority	(WorkSafe, not Fire and	Emergency).	Fire and Emergency's role is to	restrict activities during fire bans,	not to approve pyrotechnic	displays.	Recommend including a note in the	policy about Fire and Emergency's	powers under section 52 of the	FENZ Act.	The Dannevirke Community Board	generally supports the plan,	acknowledging the complexity of	the District's reserves.	Many public reserves are unsafe	due to poor maintenance.	Mangatoro-Ngapaeruru Scenic	fallen trees: issues remain	unresolved.	Umutaoroa Board requests	upgrades due to safety concerns	with buildings and trees.	
Staff comment	Staff appreciate and	acknowledge the information	provided in the submission and	note the error in Policy 3.3.7	relating to the requirement for	approval by FENZ.	 Staff acknowledge the suggestion 	to add a note about FENZ's ability	to restrict activities or access due	to fire risk.	 Staff suggest the details around 	FENZ authority and suggest it	would be more appropriate and	useful to include this information	in event application forms rather than this policy.	Noted					and safety raised in this	submission are operational in	nature and Witt be further	 The Long-Term Plan (LTP) and 	Annual Plan processes are	Council's mechanism for funding	upgrades and development of	-
Sta	6.				7.											Noted				。 2	0 C	: 3	<u> </u>	ב מ				
Staff Recommendation	Replace all references to	Firework(s) in policy 3.3.7	with the word	'Pyrotechnic(s)'	Update the context section,	policy 3.3.7 and sub policy	(7) to reflect the correct	approval authority by	replacing Fire and	Emergency New Zealand	with WorkSafe.	Include information in event	application forms about	FENZ's ability to restrict	activities or access due to fire risk	ed				No change to the RMP.	Operational matters relating to	maintenance, safety and	support for caretakers and	assessed by staff.				

Z 0.	Sub. doc No.
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No. Sub. doc	Relates to Policy/Topic	Submission point(s)	Staff comment	Stall Recommendation
			Annual Plan processes provide its funding.	
	3.2.3 Water 3.2.5 Specimen Trees	 Regional councils and catchment groups already effectively manage waterways with proven expertise. Iwi and the public can participate in these existing programmes without needing additional incentives. Policy is sensible, but feels caretakers are unfairly treated like criminals despite their efforts. Improved communication and cooperation between reserve caretakers, regional, and district councils is needed. Current adversarial approach is 	its funding. While regional councils and catchment groups play a key role in waterway management, this policy recognises that reserves also have important water-related values that require Council involvement under the Reserves Act which this management plan is prepared under. The policy aims to complement, not duplicate, existing efforts by focusing on water management within reserves, aligning with statutory obligations and community expectations. Council acknowledges the concerns raised about communication and engagement. Quality tree management is vital to maintaining the character, biodiversity, and long-term health of reserves. While Council	11. No change to policy None
	3.2.5 Specimen Trees			None

			No.
			Sub. doc No.
3.3.10 Occupation Agreements	3.2.6 Climate change		Relates to Policy/Topic
0	0 0 0		Sub
Some buildings on council reserve land were community-built before amalgamation.	Monitoring and planting are mostly managed by catchment groups and the regional council. Council should collaborate with existing groups rather than create separate policies. Sharing data openly between groups would improve overall understanding and reduce siloed efforts.		Submission point(s)
 Council acknowledges the submitter's concern regarding historical buildings established by community groups on reserve 	 Staff acknowledge the submitter's points and agrees that regional councils and catchment groups play a key leadership role in climate monitoring and large-scale environmental management improved collaboration and data sharing across agencies to strengthen coordinated responses to climate impacts is important. The intent of this policy is not to duplicate those efforts but to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation are considered specifically within the context of Council administered reserves, as required under the Reserves Act and to meet Council's broader responsibilities. 	significant maintenance of trees or vegetation on reserves held under the Act.	Staff comment
12. No Change to Policy	None		Staff Recommendation

		No.
		Sub. doc No.
3.3.11 Grazing Licenses		Relates to Policy/Topic
 Current management and understanding are unclear. Hope for improved oversight and clarity between parties going forward. 	 Clarification needed on how the policy affects tenure and if these are considered leases. Questions about ownership and compensation if council reclaims the land. 	Submission point(s)
o Noted	land, particularly those predating local government amalgamation. Under current policy and the Reserves Act 1977, any ongoing occupation of reserve land—including long-standing community buildings—need to be formalised through a lease, licence, or easement. Where no formal agreement exists, Council will assess each case in line with policy 3.3.10 and the requirements of the Reserves Act. The policy makes clear that Council is not obligated under the RMP to provide compensation for improvements to land, buildings or equipment at the termination of a lease/licence. However, this does not prevent the Council supporting displaced occupants financially or through other means.	Staff comment
None		Staff Recommendation

Z o.	Sub. doc No.	Relates to Policy/Topic	Submission point(s)	Staff comment	Staff Recommendation
		3.4.1 General	 Appreciate council's commitment to 	 Noted. Staff agree that the views 	None
		reserve	community consultation for major	of local communities and groups	
		development	reserve developments.	with a direct connection to the	
			 Emphasise prioritising input from 	reserve are particularly	
			local community and nearby groups,	important. The policy framework	
			as they have the most knowledge and	supports early and meaningful	
			engagement.	engagement, with a focus on	
				those most affected or involved.	
		Other feedback	 There are a large number of small 	 This RMP is a management 	None
			reserves can we afford them.	guidance tool. Reserve provision	
				and affordability are matters for	
				other strategic documents such	
				as the LTP, spatial plans or open	
				space provision policy/	
				strategies.	
∞	D25/24064	3.2.1 Mana Whenua	 Domain board already has at least 2 	o Noted	None
		Partnerships	Māori members, one being the		
			chairman, our example could be		
			copied elsewhere!		
		3.3.11 Grazing	 Concerned policy may impact how 	 The Reserves Act requires grazing 	None
		licences	community-built buildings are	licences where it occurs on land	
			operated.	held under the Act.	
			 Currently run stock on grounds to 	 The policy focuses on the 	
			help cover costs; seek clarity on	circumstances and	
			whether charges will apply.	considerations for approving	
				grazing licences.	
				 The policy is not intended to 	
				restrict or penalise community	
				groups using grazing to support	
				their operations and any charges,	

by-case basis. Council's policie and charges are t through the LTP a processes and as intentionally not the policy. Noted Refer to staff rest submission 7 submission 7 submission 7 submission 7 Support noted. Unsure what 'tre criminals' relates	No.	Sub. doc No.	Relates to Policy/Topic	Submission point(s)	Staff comment would be considered on a case-	Staff Recommendation
3.4.8 Naming of Reserves Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve management like weeding or maintenance. Concern that iwi have shown little interest submission 7						
D25/24066 3.2.1 Mana Whenua Coungstanding community groups who maintain reserves without council support feel insulted by this proposal. Concern that iwi have shown little interest in hands-on reserve maintenance. 3.2.2 Cultural and Historic Heritage is no less important and suggests European settler heritage is no less important and suggests need to give equal weight to preserving our European settler heritage. 3.2.3 Water regional council and catchment groups 3.2.5 Specimen 3.2.5 Specimen Suggests this is a timely and criminals' relates someone empowered to maintain criminals' relates			3.4.8 Naming of Reserves			None
Cultural and O Suggests European settler heritage O Refer to staff respondent and suggests ric Heritage is no less important and suggests submission 7 need to give equal weight to preserving our European settler heritage as with Māori heritage. O Suggests already been done by regional council and catchment groups O Refer to staff respondent submission 7 Specimen O Suggests this is a timely and sensible policy but questions why someone empowered to maintain criminals' relates O Unsure what 'treates	9	D25/24066	3.2.1 Mana Whenua Partnerships		Refer to staff res submission 7	13. No Change to policy
Water o Suggests already been done by regional council and catchment groups o Specimen o Suggests this is a timely and sensible policy but questions why someone empowered to maintain o			3.2.2 Cultural and Historic Heritage		Refer to staff res submission 7	14. No change to policy
Specimen Suggests this is a timely and sensible policy but questions why someone empowered to maintain			3.2.3 Water			15. No Change to policy
			3.2.5 Specimen Trees			None.

No. Sub. doc No.	Relates to Policy/Topic	Submission point(s)	Staff comment	Staff Recommendation
		an open space are treated as criminals by the very organisation they represent.		
	3.2.6 Climate	 How many more groups do we need 	Refer to staff response in	
	Change and Natural	doing this?	submission 7	
	Hazards			
	3.4.8 Naming of	 Existing names have cultural value, 	 It is acknowledged in Policy 3.4.8 	16. No change to policy
	Reserves	are well recognised, and known to	'Naming of reserves' that existing	
		emergency services;	names can hold significant	
		 Renaming should always involve 	cultural and practical value for	
		local community consultation.	communities especially where	
			names are well-established.	
			 Refer response to submitter 4 	
			above regarding consultation and	
			Gifted Te Reo names.	
10 D25/24068	Overall opinion of	 Supports the plan in general with 	o Noted	None
	the plan	some reservations and suggestions		
	3.2.1 Mana Whenua	 Disappointed policy focuses on 	 Refer to staff response to 	17. No change
	Partnerships	partnering with Iwi without	submission 7	
		acknowledging longstanding		
		community groups.		
		 Our organisation and Pongaroa 		
		Domain board have had Māori		
		members actively involved for		
		years.		
		 These members participate out of 		
		genuine interest, without incentives		
		or special treatment.		

	and reserve caretakers focused on public safety. The issue remains unresolved.	 Worth noting that Regional and District Councils have different regulatory and statutory functions 	
	 Hopeful that steps will be taken to rebuild the damaged relationship. 	with regard to specimen trees on reserves which may have	
		contributed to ta perceived disconnect.	
3.2.6 Climate Change and Natural	 Supports managing climate change and natural hazards but does not 	 Noted. The approach in the RMP is not about stonning climate 	None
Change and Naturat Hazards	think anything the council does will	change but responsibly managing	
	stop it.	its effects on local reserves. The	
		policy focuses on practical	
		adaptation and mitigation	
		impacts—and aims to protect	
		community access to reserves,	
		reduce long-term costs, and	
		improve the resilience of natural	
		systems.	
3.4.8 Naming of	 Existing reserve names have cultural 	 Policy 3.4.8 Naming of reserves 	19. No change to policy
Reserves	value, are well recognised, and	acknowledges that existing	
	crucial for emergency services.	names can hold significant	
	 Adding a second name (English or 	cultural and practical value for	
	Māori) is acceptable if the	communities especially where	
	commonly used name remains	names are well-established.	
	primary.	 This policy has been carefully and 	
	 Renaming must always involve 	intentionally worded.	
	consultation with the local	 Refer response to submitter 4 	
	community, domain board, or	above regarding consultation and	
	committee.	Gifted Te Reo names.	

	12 D2	No. Suk
	D25/24370	Sub. doc
Other feedback	Overall opinion of the plan	Relates to Policy/Topic
 Each reserve is unique, and historical spaces must be valued. Decisions affecting recreational use should involve direct community consultation, not be hidden in lengthy documents. TDC should treat each Domain Board and Community Group individually and retain ultimate 	 Support - Enjoyment of the public & preservation of access. Greater involvement in Reserves admin & decision making. Picnicking, walking, sports in recreation reserves 	Submission point(s)
 Noted 	o Noted	Staff comment
None	sense of ownership and engagement in local settings. Groups and individuals help deliver services and assets that improve the reserve environment or support community recreation opportunities enjoyed by many people. These include running community halls, supporting early childhood education environmental management, park maintenance and much more None	Staff Recommendation

		No.
	No.	No. Sub. doc Relates to
	Policy/Topic	Relates to
 Responsibilities should not be delegated to unelected bodies like PCPBOM (EPI), despite their good work. 		Submission point(s)
		Staff comment
		Staff Recommendation



Report

Date : 24 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Fontayne Chase

Facilities Manager

Subject : Reserve Management Plan - Land Status and Classification

Item No : **9.3**

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the report from the Facilities Manager dated 24 July 2025 concerning the Reserve Management Plan Land Status and Classification be received.
- 1.2 **That the Council:**
- 1.2.1 Confirm 25 parcels of land that will continue to be held under the Local Government Act 2002 as described in Attachment B of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report
- 1.2.2 Approve public notification of the proposal to declare and classify 3 parcels of land according to their primary purpose, pursuant to section 14(2) of the Reserve Act 1977 as described in Attachment C of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report.
- 1.2.3 Approve the classification of 152 parcels of reserve land pursuant to section 16(1) and 16(2A) of the Reserve Act 1977, as described in Attachment D of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report
- 1.3 Approve public notification of the proposal to reclassify 3 parcels of reserve land pursuant to section 24(2)(b) of the Reserve Act 1977, as described in Attachment E of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report.

Executive Summary

As part of the development of the Tararua Reserve Management Plan under the Reserves Act 1977, classification decisions are needed for some parks and reserves in the Tararua District to address:

- acquisitions of new reserve land,
- technical advice that some parks require reclassification to better reflect park values and current and future use,
- reserves identified as unclassified.

Classification of reserves is a statutory requirement for all land held under the Reserves Act 1977, and an essential task in developing a reserves management plan for the Tararua District that complies with the Reserves Act.

Our classification investigation included the review of 197 parcels of land owned by Tararua District Council (the Council) held under the Reserves Act 1977 and 21 parcels of land held under the Local Government Act 2002.

Staff have considered the advantages and disadvantages of the Reserves Act 1977 or Local Government Act 2002 in managing and enabling the use, protection and development of each park or reserve and developed a set of criteria to guide the assessment of each land parcel.

Public notification is required for some parcels of land as part of the classification process. Staff recommend that the Council approve classifying land parcels that don't require public notification and notifying the reclassification of other land parcels as outlined in this report.

Completing the reserve classification and reclassification processes will enable staff to complete preparation of the draft Tararua Reserve Management Plan for public notification.

A summary of the classification actions proposed in this report is provided Table 1 below.

Table 1: Proposed actions for 184 land parcels requiring a decision

	·	parcels	Relevant section of the Reserves Act 1977	
Options for land held under the LGA	Retain under the LGA	25	Not applicable	Attachment B
	Declare and classify (with public notification) ¹	3	s.14(2)	Attachment C
	Total	28		

Options for land held under the Reserves Act	Classify (without public notification)	152	s.16(1), s. 16(2A)	Attachment D
	Reclassify (public notification required)	3	s.24(2)(b)	Attachment E
	Total	155		
	Total land parcels requiring a decision	183		

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 The Tararua District Council has delegated decision-making responsibility for 110 reserves comprised of 330 land parcels across the district.
- 2.2 The Reserve Management Plan will be a statutory document prepared in accordance with section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 (RA). It will cover all reserve land held under the RA, parkland held under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and replace existing Reserve Management Plans.

3. Background

- 3.1 In January 2024, staff completed a comprehensive land status investigation for all park and reserve land in the Tararua District. This is a statutory requirement under the RA and an essential preliminary task in developing the draft reserves management plan. Section 16 of the RA requires all land held as reserve under the RA be classified appropriately.
- 3.2 As part of this investigation, staff identified a number of land parcels that required action, to ensure compliance with the RA.
- 3.3 The Council has delegated decision-making responsibility to make decisions that required actions.

4. Description

4.1 As part of the development of the Tararua District Ominbus Reserve Management Plan, Xyst have prepared the Tararua District Reserve Classification report for Council's consideration. A copy of Tararua District Reserve Classification report is appended to this report.

5. Conclusion

5.1 If the recommended classification actions are approved, the next steps are to:

- 5.1.1 publish a notice in the local newspaper for the parcels requiring public notification (for at least one calendar month)
- 5.1.2 report back to the Council to outline any submissions and advise further on the classification proposals and seek further approval/confirmation if necessary
- 5.1.3 arrange gazette notices for approved classifications. Approval of gazette notices has been delegated from the Minister of Conservation to the General Manager Community Facilities
- 5.1.4 reflect updates to the classifications in the Draft Tararua Reserves Management Plan
- 5.1.5 ensure all classifications are correctly recorded on Council's databases.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 24 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : James Single

Regulatory Services Manager

Subject : 2024/2025 Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

Item No : 9.4

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 27 June 2025 concerning the 2024/2025 Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices be received.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 This report informs Council about its Dog Control service delivery and practices for the financial year 2024/2025.
- 2.2 It seeks Council adopt this annual report on the administration of dog control and to comply with reporting requirements under the Act.

3. Background

- The Tararua District Council is required to manage and enforce provisions under the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) and subsequent amendments in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2010.
- 3.2 Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to produce an annual report on its dog control policy and operations. This section requires Council to report on several statistical aspects of its dog control policy responsibilities and make the report publicly available.

- This report fulfils the statutory requirement for the dog registration year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Additionally, this report allows the community to see how Council is managing its dog control responsibilities.
- 3.4 Additional information is provided in relation to reports of uncontrolled dogs, dog bites and dog impound data.

4. Bylaw and Policy on Dogs

4.1 The Council reviewed and adopted its Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw in 2022. Both took effect from 1 July 2022.

5. Significance Assessment

5.1 This item does not trigger Council's significance and engagement policy, and it has no financial impacts on the approved Long Term Plan.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 Council is responsible for the enforcement of regulations relating to the keeping, welfare and control of dogs within Tararua district. Council is required under the Dog Control Act to make provision for the control of dogs and the damage they can cause.
- 6.2 Impounding of dogs is an activity required by the provisions of the Dog Control Act and associated Tararua District Council Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.
- 6.3 The Council has a responsibility to respond to complaints relating to dogs. Council's long-term focus for dog control activities is to ensure a safe living environment maintained through the monitoring and enforcement of legislation, regulations and bylaws.
- 6.4 Council reviewed and adopted a new Dog Control Policy in 2022. The policy provides a practical framework for the care and control of dogs throughout the district while minimising any danger, distress and nuisance to the community.
- 6.5 The policy outlines expected standards and behaviours from dog owners and provides information about how Council will administer dog control. Dog practices and specific dog control functions include:
 - Dog registration
 - Impounding
 - Cleaning the pound
 - Feeding and providing care for impounded dogs
 - Returning, rehoming or euthanising impounded dogs
 - 24-hour service
 - Targeted education
 - Investigation of complaints
 - Enforcement of the Act and Council Dog Control Bylaw

- Issuing of infringements and prosecutions
- Other duties also include roaming stock
- 6.6 Council has 3 full-time Animal Control Officers, a Team Leader and an Animal Control Support Officer to cover administration. The Officers are responsible for dog control responsibilities throughout the district and are on duty from 8am to 5pm weekdays. After hours is covered 24/7 by a contractor, including weekends and public holidays.
- 6.7 Properties are checked for unregistered dogs and dog/owner changes by spot check compliance at both urban and rural properties.
- 6.8 All properties within the district with more than two dogs require a multiple dog licence (working dogs exempt). Additionally, a licence is required for the keeping of breeding or boarding kennels. Licences are issued on meeting the dog control policy criteria. Extra care is taken to ensure dogs' welfare needs are met and there are no noise problems for neighbours. Generally, neighbouring property owner consent is required.
- Animal Control Officers visited and checked 23 properties of 'Preferred Owner' registration category applicants. Applications to become a Preferred Owner must be completed prior to 1 May each year, allowing time to adjust fees for invoicing. Preferred Owners are entitled to a special discounted registration fee. There are 6,604 registered dogs in the district of which 662 are registered under the Preferred Owner scheme. All dog registration information is automatically transferred to the National Dog Database on a nightly basis.

7. Community Engagement

- 7.1 Our Animal Control team often helps SPCA officers with reported welfare incidents, on their request. We work with SPCA operating our dog rehoming programme, finding suitable homes for unclaimed dogs of good temperament.
- 7.2 We have a close working relationship with veterinarians concerning microchipping records, neutering of menacing and dangerous dogs and sharing information regarding dog health problems.
- 7.3 We keep an active presence across the district by way of monitoring in each area and by responding quickly to reports and complaints.
- 7.4 Every year, Council reviews dog registration fees. The Council continues to offer significant discounts for those owners meeting strict criteria as part of our Preferred Owner incentive.

8. Education

8.1 Animal Control Officers are available on request for speaking engagements and presentations. Educational presentations have been made to several schools in the district.

- 8.2 Educational brochures are available from the Animal Control office and the public counter. Multiple articles were published in the Bush Telegraph, providing dog owner education. Articles covered dog registration, dog safety, nuisance barking, microchips and preferred ownership.
- 8.3 A copy of the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw is available to every dog owner through the Council website and includes information regarding dog exercise areas. These publications are also available on request in hard copy. New dog owners are given an information brochure when registering their dog.
- 8.4 An 'Information for Dog Owners' brochure was included with recent registration invoices.
- 8.5 Currently the Council operates one dog exercise area at Mangatera in Dannevirke which is well used by dog owners. Council has helped to develop a new dog park in Pahiatua. We will work with communities to explore options for further exercise areas.

9. Dog Registration

- 9.1 3,222 people are known to own dogs in the district. The number of owners has decreased compared to the previous year (3,287).
- 9.2 6,604 dogs are registered in the district. The number of dogs has decreased by 294 compared to the previous year (6,898).
- 9.3 Almost all known dogs in our district were registered (99.85%) this year. Enforcement action has been taken with those owners who have not registered their dogs.

10. Fees

- 10.1 Council's Revenue and Financing Policy requires the activity be funded by dog registration and pound fees with the balance funded from general rates.
- All dogs are required to be registered by 1 August. A 50% penalty fee is applied for late registration after this date. After three months, the owners of any unregistered dogs are issued an infringement notice, which are referred to the district court for collection if unpaid. If a dog owner continues to refuse to register their dog, it may be seized and impounded.
- 10.3 Fees and charges under the Impounding Act 1955 and Dog Control Act 1996 are reviewed annually.
- 10.4 The table below compares the dog registration fee categories.

Category	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Urban	\$130 (entire)	\$135 (entire)	\$150 (entire)
	\$110 (desexed)	\$114 (desexed)	\$120 (desexed)
Over 65's Canine Companion	\$85 (new category) \$88		\$90
Preferred Owner	\$75 (entire)	\$78 (entire)	\$80 (entire)
	\$65 (desexed)	\$67 (desexed)	\$70 (desexed)
Rural Domestic	\$75	\$78	\$78
Working Dog	\$50 (first 5 dogs only, extra dogs at tag fee)	\$57 (first 5 dogs only, extra dogs at tag fee of \$6)	\$60 (first 5 dogs only, extra dogs at tag fee of \$6)
Disability Assist	Free	Free	Free

11. Preferred Owners

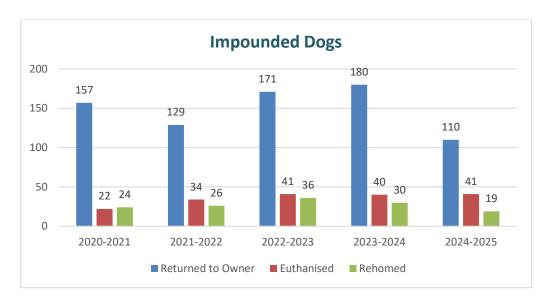
- 11.1 There is a financial incentive with reduced fees by being classified as a 'Preferred Owner'. A Preferred Owner must have an adequately fenced property to confine their dogs, adequate accommodation for their dogs, and demonstrate good dog management practices.
- 11.2 662 dogs were classified in the preferred owner category. These dogs are considered a lower risk to public safety. The number of these dogs has increased compared to the previous year (638) as owners comply with strict conditions to get a reduction in their registration fees.

12. Complaints

- 12.1 We received 1226 complaints and requests for service about dogs.
- 12.2 51 complaints were received about dogs attacking/biting or rushing people or other animals. These complaints have increased slightly compared to the previous year (50).
- 12.3 Most of the complaints (409) were in relation to barking and roaming. The number of these complaints have decreased from the previous year (562).

13. Impounded Dogs

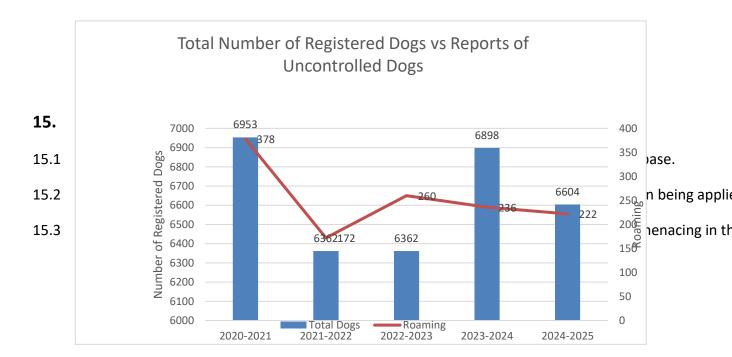
13.1 170 dogs were impounded during the year in comparison to 192 dogs impounded last year.



13.2 Of the 170 impounded dogs that were resolved during the year, 110 were collected by their owner, 19 were rehomed, and 41 were euthanised.

14. Uncontrolled Dogs

- 14.1 An uncontrolled dog is generally defined as either a dog reported as being roaming or has been found and is held by a member of the public for collection.
- 14.2 We recorded 222 uncontrolled dog requests which is a decrease compared to last year at 236.



16. Infringements

During the year 124 infringement notices were issued. This is a decrease from the previous year of 138 and reflects an overall decline in reported offences.

17. Prosecutions

17.1 Currently 3 prosecutions in progress. 2 for attacks on people and 1 for attack on stock.

18. Probationary and Disqualified Owners

18.1 There is currently one probationary owner and 7 disqualified dog owners in the district.

19. Conclusion

19.1 Council consider and adopt this annual report on the administration of dog control policies and practices and statistical information.

Attachments

1. Statistical Information on Dog Control Practices 2024/2025

Statistical Information on Dog Control Practices 2024/2025

This information shows Tararua District Council's implementation of dog control functions during the 2024/25 financial year. Statistics from two previous financial years are included for comparison.

		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
(a)	Total registered dogs*	6922	6898	6604
	No. of Owners	3298	3287	3222
(b)	Probationary owners	0	1	1
(0)	Disqualified owners	4	7	7
(c)	No. of Dogs Classified Dangerous (s31)	1	5	4
(d)	Menacing dogs classified because of their observed or reported behaviour or characteristics (s33A)	13	50	52
	Menacing dogs classified because they are listed in schedule 4 of the Act (s33C)	8	58	45
(e)	Infringement notices issued	179	138	124
(f)	Service requests, the nature of which were:	732	597	522
	Barking	316	222	167
	Roaming / Secured	260	236	242
	Rushing	26	20	8
	Attack or Bite	53	50	43
	Aggressive Behaviour	41	34	29
	Dog Welfare	36	35	33
(g)	Prosecutions	2	1	3

^{*}Cumulative total across the financial year



Report

Date : 23 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : James Single

Regulatory Services Manager

Subject : Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Item No : **9.5**

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 30 June 2025 concerning the Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 be received.

Executive Summary

This Regulatory Services Update report includes statistical information for the year, 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

2. Reason for the Report

2.1 This report is a regular update of the statistical information provided by Regulatory Services, for Council information purposes only.

3. Staffing

3.1 The Building, Planning and Monitoring and Compliance teams are at full strength. We are currently in the process of appointing a compliance officer to a vacancy in the Monitoring and Compliance team.

4. **Building Services**

4.1 Accreditation

In November 2024, IANZ conducted the biennial audit of our building control authority (BCA).

We received official certification to continue our accreditation as a building control authority (BCA) for a further two years and are assessed as low risk.

4.2 **Building Consents**

Table – Applications for Dwellings by Location

Location (Valuation Area)	Total 2020/21	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Dannevirke	43	19	16	9	8
Rural	25	14	12	6	6
Urban	18	5	4	3	2
Woodville	12	7	4	5	3
Rural	6	4	2	3	-
Urban	6	3	2	2	3
Pahiatua	31	14	10	4	3
Rural	16	4	8	3	1
Urban	15	10	2	1	2
Eketahuna	13	1	3	0	1
Rural	7	0	2	0	1
Urban	6	1	1	0	-
TOTAL	99	41	33	18	15

Table – Building Consent and Inspection Statistics

Category	Total 2020/21	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
No. of Applications Received	479	386	351	287	260
No. of Applications Processed	465	357	350	281	247
% Processed within Time	73.5%	76%	93%	95.7%	96%
Total Value	\$38.7M	\$42.7M	\$46.5M	\$31.8M	\$17.05M

Category		Total 2020/21	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
No. of Requested	Inspections	1,608	1,517	1670	983	1147
No. of Performed	Inspections	2,104	1,784	2,018	1561	1240

4.3 Table – Applications for Relocated Dwellings by Location

Location (Valuation Area)	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Dannevirke	10	17
Rural	9	10
Urban	1	7
Woodville	8	2
Rural	6	2
Urban	2	-
Pahiatua	6	3
Rural	5	3
Urban	1	-
Eketahuna	0	3
Rural	0	-
Urban	0	3
TOTAL	24	25

4.4 Table - Building Packet and Lim Requests

	Total 2020/21	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Building Packets	295	353	138	141	129
LIMs	158	163	157	194	229

4.5 Earthquake Prone Buildings (EPB)

104 properties which are still considered earthquake prone, have been sent a new EPB notice which includes the new remediation deadline to include the 4-year extension.

In total, 138 Properties have been sent EPB letters and of those, 28 of those properties are confirmed as not EPBs.

All properties identified as potentially earthquake prone, have had letters outlining the timeline for obtaining or providing an existing engineering report, proving the strength integrity of the building meets minimum standards or better.

Priority building owners needed to provide Council an engineer's report by 1 February 2023 and non-priority building owners had until 1 July 2023, unless an extension was sought from council. Extensions can be provided for up to 12 months allowing time to obtain engineer reports. To date, 73 owners have been issued an extension.

Those owners who have not contacted council or sought an extension to obtain an engineering report, have had their buildings officially deemed earthquake prone and are required to display a notice issued by Council, in the window.

Under new legislation (Building (Earthquake-prone Building Deadlines and Other Matters) Amendment Act), a 4-year extension has been introduced to remedial deadlines for earthquake-prone buildings.

Territorial Authorities are required to re-issue earthquake prone building notices with the new time extensions, to buildings whose deadlines have not lapsed before 2 April 2024. We have completed this work.

	Priority Building	Non-Priority	Total
Potentially EPB Letters Sent	103	35	138
Confirmed Not EPB	17	9	28
EPB Notices Issued	73	16	107
Extensions Granted	42	31	73

5. Animal Control

5.1 Annual Dog Registration

Out of a total of **6,385** (known) dogs in the Tararua District, **6,376** (99.85%) have been registered to date. Owners of all remaining unregistered dogs have been

issued infringements as appropriate. The new registration year has now begun and to date, **1,641** dogs have been registered.

5.2 **Dog Attacks**

We are currently prosecuting two dog owners for serious attacks on people and one dog owner for a serious attack on multiple sheep.

Dog Control Officers are also involved with a Police prosecution involving dog offences, assault on staff and burglary (dog theft from the pound).

Table – Reported Dog Attacks by Type and Location: Totals 2024/25

Location/Attacks on	Dogs	Poultry	Stock	Cat	People
Rural	1	2	3	0	6
Road or No Property Address	3	0	0	0	5
Urban	7	0	1	4	13
TOTAL	11	2	4	4	24

6. Environmental Health and Licensing Totals 2024/25

Food	Task
New Registration	22
Food Verifications	60
Registration Amendment	3
Site Inspection/Educational visits.	30
Health Licences	Task
Hairdresser	14
Health Complaints, Investigations/Advice	14
Funeral Homes	3
Camping Grounds	6
Offensive Trade	6
Nuisance Order Letter	0

Cleansing Order	2
Site Inspection for Health Licences	14

7. Alcohol Licensing

To date, no licensing applications have required a public hearing. All licensed premises have been inspected during the year.

The following alcohol licensing applications have been received:

Table – Alcohol Licensing Total 2024/25

Category	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
New Manager Cert	28	57	50	16
Renewal of Manager Cert	30	41	76	35
Special Licences	32	75	74	48
Temporary Authority	1	18	15	7
On/Off/Club New applications	2	12	15	7
On/Off/Club Renewal applications	16	23	27	27
Total Applications	109	226	257	140

8. Illicit Dumping

8.1 We have purchased two further remote cameras for monitoring areas regularly used for illegal dumping.

Table – Reported Illicit Dumping by Location

Location	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Ind/Com Nth Ward	30	8	19	9
Ind/Com Sth Ward	5	13	17	5
Non Rateable	7	20	12	12
Rural North Ward	10	6	7	23
Rural South Ward	10	22	31	37
Road or No Property Address	9	15	6	5

Location	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Urban North Ward	5	18	5	21
Urban South Ward	7	33	17	14
TOTAL	83	135	114	126

8.2 **Infringements**

To date, officers have issued 5 x \$400 litter infringements. Infringements can only be issued when there is an evidential basis to do so.

8.3 Other Complaints

	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Noise	635	474	
Abandoned Vehicles	71	97	

9. District Planning

9.1 Resource Consents

The planning team has exceeded their KPI's and processed 100% of all non-notified land use and subdivision consents in 20 working days or less. This means all consents received were processed within the statutory timeframes and these results are a credit to the commitment and dedication of the team.

The planning team continues to prepare and adapt for changes in RMA. The Government announced in March that it plans to replace the RMA with a Planning Act and Natural Environment Act. It aims to introduce Bills in Parliament in late 2025 and pass these into law in mid-2026.

The planning landscape continues to evolve, and our team continues to process a wide range of applications across our District including designations, land use, subdivision and right of way consents under the Local Government Act. We are also regularly involved in pre-application meetings and submitting on Fast Track Applications.

The bulk of our applications processed are for rural subdivisions, this has been enabled through a window of opportunity provided under the Operative District Plan whilst being contrary to the policies and objectives of the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS HPL). This window will close once we

have a decision on the proposed district plan review. We also look forward to the government dropping land use class three soils from the versatile soils definition as this will provide flexibility for our District.

9.2 Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Tararua Highway

The state highway has finally opened, and we continue to work with New Zealand Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi to tidy and close off some minor alterations to the designation.

9.3 Te Rere Hau Repowering Consents Suites

Resource consents were granted by an Expert Consenting Panel, under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (the Fast-track Act) for the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm Repowering Project (the Repowering Project).

Subsequently, a suite of applications have been made to allow for new turbine locations and amendments to the development. The consents are being processed by Kahu Environmental on behalf of Tararua District Council and Palmerston North City Council.

9.4 Mount Munro Wind Farm

The Environment Court released a decision on the Meridian Energy — Mount Munro Wind Farm application. Consents were granted for the combined decision with Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Masterton District Council and Tararua District Council. This decision was granted, subject to conditions as agreed between the Councils and Meridian, with a 7-year lapse date.

9.5 **Pahiatua Wind Farm Fast Track**

Council submitted on the Pahiatua Fast Track Application under Natural and Built Environment Act 2023. TDC engaged an acoustic, landscape and traffic and transport engineering experts to inform our submission.

A minute was issued by the Expert Panel on 30th June 2025 stating that the Applicant has requested a 40-working day timeframe extension to responds to the further information request. The suspension will lapse at 11.59pm on 8 August 2025.

9.6 **District Plan Review**

Central Government has notified that it is suspending requirements for councils to complete 10-year plan reviews. It has stated there is little point in progressing plan changes which will be incompatible with the new planning system or plans which probably won't be complete by the time the new system comes into effect.

This means we have had to stop further work on our draft District Plan until further notice. It should be noted that much of our already completed work will likely be useful for the new system changes in the future.

9.7 **Table – Applications for Subdivision by Location**

Location (Valuation Area)	Total 2021/22	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
Dannevirke	55	70	70	67	51
Rural	42	51	47	45	39
Urban	13	19	23	22	12
Woodville	36	30	21	25	17
Rural	26	22	13	13	11
Urban	10	8	8	12	7
Pahiatua	27	33	23	22	30
Rural	17	28	18	19	27
Urban	10	5	5	3	3
Eketahuna	13	13	22	10	20
Rural	11	10	18	5	17
Urban	2	3	4	5	3
TOTAL	131	146	136	124	118

9.8 Table – Resource Consent Statistics

Category	Total 2020/21	Total 2021/22	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24	Total 2024/25
No. of Applications Received	135	184	191	162	135
Subdivision	121	146	126	124	83
Land Use	14	14	26	18	24
Other	17	24	39	20	27
No. of Applications Processed	154	192	178	134	111
Subdivision	123	158	124	103	71
Land Use	15	7	21	13	19
Other	16	27	33	18	21
% Processed within Time	98.7%	97.5%	100%	100%	100%

Attac	hm	ents
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Nil.



Report

Date : 24 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Mitchell Guile

Procurement Specialist

Subject : Cyclone Gabrielle Final Report and Transition Document

Item No : 9.6

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Procurement Specialist dated 12 June 2025 concerning the Cyclone Gabrielle Final Report and Transition Document be received.

Executive Summary

This report marks the conclusion of Tararua District Council's formal recovery programme following Cyclone Gabrielle. The cyclone, which struck in February 2023, caused widespread disruption across the district's communities, farms and infrastructure, particularly in coastal and rural areas.

Over two years, the Council coordinated an unprecedented recovery effort alongside Rural Support Trust, Horizons Regional Council, iwi, government agencies, local organisations and community groups. Recovery initiatives spanned immediate welfare support, roading repairs, farm resilience, social wellbeing and civil defence upgrades. Notable achievements include the restoration of 2,300 roading faults, establishment of 13 rural and urban community hubs, delivery of critical economic relief to local businesses and farms, and mental health outreach through events and wellbeing initiatives. The approach was holistic—combining practical repairs with social and economic recovery tailored to community needs.

While this report signifies a formal end to the recovery phase, it acknowledges that recovery is ongoing for many, especially in the rural and farming sectors. Several legacy actions, such as land stability work and resilience-building in isolated communities, are now integrated into business-as-usual operations.

The report also outlines the transition document, ensuring continued support where needed and capturing lessons learned to improve future emergency responses. Tararua's recovery has been underpinned by collaboration, adaptability, and local leadership—demonstrating the district's resilience and commitment to building back stronger in the face of future adversity.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To present the final report concluding the Tararua District Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Programme.
- 2.2 To highlight the key achievements of the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery team, broken down into key activity areas; Social, Rural, Economic, Natural, Built and resilience activities.

3. Background

- 3.1 Cyclone Gabrielle struck the North Island in February 2023, causing significant and sustained impacts across Tararua District. The event led to widespread roading failures, damage to farms and rural properties, community unrest and disruption of key services.
- 3.2 In response, Council activated its Civil Defence and Recovery arrangements, forming a dedicated Recovery Team supported by cross-sector partners. Over the following 27 months, targeted recovery initiatives were delivered under a structured programme aligned with government guidance and local community priorities.
- 3.3 The programme focused on five recovery pillars: Rural, Economic, Social, Natural Environment, and Built Environment. It prioritised both short-term welfare and long-term resilience, incorporating local feedback and lived experience into its design and delivery.
- 3.4 The Cyclone Gabrielle recovery team consisted of the following organisations:
 - Tararua District Council;
 - Tararua Alliance;
 - Rural Support Trust (RST); and
 - Horizons Regional Council.
- 3.5 While the above organisations made up the core recovery team, support, guidance and funding were also received from various government agencies, funding providers, local organisations and individuals who were instrumental to the Tararua District recovery efforts.

- 3.6 A total of over \$52 million was granted from various funders, with the majority—\$48 million from NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) with its intended purpose to reinstate critical roading infrastructure.
- 3.7 The remaining \$4+ million was spread across various activities ranging across the Social, Economic, Natural and Rural landscapes.

4. Key Recovery Activities Summary

- 4.1 The final report of the recovery programme reflects the successful delivery of the funded recovery initiatives and any remaining workstreams transitioning into core Council and partner operations.
- 4.2 The key outcomes of the recovery programme, broken into workstreams, are set out below:

4.2.1 Social Activities:

- 4.2.1.. Supporting affected individuals, whānau, and rural communities through mental health, wellbeing and social support initiatives. This included events such as Te Radar, MSFTS Pongaroa Concert, Tararua Farming in Excellence and six individual community events.
- 4.2.1.. Details for the urban and rural community hub projects are outlined focusing on the upskilling and resilience building within those communities.
- 4.2.1.. Communication activities are outlined with reference to the wellbeing surveys, Cyclone Gabrielle photobook and Bush Telegraph fortnightly publications.

4.2.2 Rural Activities:

- 4.2.2.. Note: This section is structured slightly differently, as it allows space for RST to discuss their role as the rural lead. Designed to be both a part of this report and also an individual report for RST.
- 4.2.2.. Supported rural communities through practical assistance, welfare outreach and community connection initiatives. Over 500 rural homes were visited in door-to-door welfare checks during the first week post-cyclone, led by joint teams including RST, iwi and Council. Immediate on-farm clean-up support assisted 66 landowners, with over 1,200 volunteer hours and 5,300 metres of fencing materials distributed. Enhanced Taskforce Green provided paid labour to 42 landowners, and a co-funded fencing initiative supported an additional 33 landowners with over 7,700 metres of fencing repaired.
- 4.2.2.. Community connection was prioritised through events such as Blokes Day Out, Ladies' Lunches, Kids Sports Days and comedy nights in isolated areas. This supported mental health, provided access to services, and reconnected isolated communities.

- 4.2.2.. Ongoing one-on-one support was provided through a growing RST facilitator team, including navigation of funding, business planning, and referrals to rural professionals. A local counsellor was funded to provide accessible mental health support.
- 4.2.2.. Final rural feedback surveys returned strong satisfaction scores across all areas of support, with practical help such as fencing, social events, and direct contact with RST facilitators all scoring over 4.3/5 for helpfulness. This reinforced the importance of rurally-led, locally designed recovery activities.

4.2.3 Economic:

- 4.2.3.. Economic recovery packages tailored to rural businesses and farming enterprises.
- 4.2.3.. Targeted economic analysis was undertaken in partnership with MCI & Associates and Infometrics to understand the financial impact on farming businesses. Findings showed a nearly 50% drop in earnings and highlighted limited insurance cover and barriers to accessing government financial schemes.

4.2.4 Built:

- 4.2.4.. Supported the reinstatement and repair of critical roading infrastructure through over \$45 million in NZTA co-investment. Focused on reconnecting isolated communities and restoring access to farms and homes.
- 4.2.4.. Delivered temporary infrastructure solutions such as Bailey bridges and river crossings to enable movement while long-term solutions were planned and implemented.
- 4.2.4.. Coordinated local contractors and crews for culvert clearance, slip remediation and other urgent repair work in the immediate aftermath and ongoing phases.

4.2.5 Natural:

- 4.2.5.. Delivered environmental recovery initiatives including the Akitio Beach community-led cleanup, which removed 30 tonnes of debris and was supported by CoastCare and Horizons Regional Council.
- 4.2.5.. Integrated land stability assessments into long-term resilience planning, including engagement with farmers and landowners in affected hill country and erosion-prone areas.
- 4.2.5.. Coordinated with Horizons Regional Council and Ministry for the Environment on wider catchment-scale responses, sediment management, and riverbank stabilisation efforts.

4.2.6 Resilience:

- 4.2.6.. Formation or enhancement of community hubs in both urban and rural areas to support local leadership, communications, and improve civil defence preparedness.
- 4.2.6.. Launched a land stability initiative to strengthen land use practices and reduce risk in future events.
- 4.2.6.. Delivered targeted funding through the "Tararua on Track" programme and Mayoral Relief Fund to address locally identified resilience priorities.

5. Exit Strategy

5.1 Due to the structure of the Tararua District Recovery Team, we are in a unique position where the limited ongoing responsibilities are easily incorporated into the business-as-usual operations of the individual organisations.

6. Significance Assessment

6.1 This matter is not considered significant when assessed against the criteria in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and does not trigger the need for the special consultative procedure. Consultation is not required at any level as the report sets out the prescribed reporting and transition process, attaches the final report and is for information only.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Programme represents one of the most significant recovery efforts in the Tararua district's history. The Council's coordinated response, in partnership with iwi, agencies, and community groups, enabled both immediate relief and long-term community rebuilding.
- 7.2 The work done in this recovery programme will support Council's future emergency response planning and resilience workstreams. A transition document is included to ensure continuity of support and embedding of recovery work into the relevant organisation's operations.
- 7.3 The recovery team thanks all involved for their mahi, commitment, and care in supporting the district through this extraordinary event. This report is presented for Council to receive and acknowledge the final outcomes and ongoing legacy of the recovery.

Attachments

1. Tararua District Council - Final Report - Cyclone Gabrielle - July 2025



He Waka Eke Noa

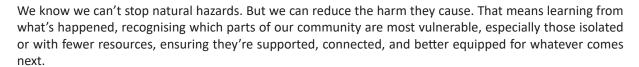
We are all in this together

This report reflects the journey of the Tararua District over the past two years as we've worked together with community members, iwi and marae, local businesses, farmers, non-government organisations, and government agencies to recover from the widespread impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle.

While this marks the final report for the district's recovery programme, we know that recovery isn't complete for everyone. Our rural sector, including farmers and small businesses, continues to face challenges. And vital infrastructure, especially our roads will continue being looked at building their resilience for years to come.

Recovery in Tararua has never been just about returning to how things were. This journey has been about strengthening our people, places, and systems for the future. From flood protection projects to





This report is a snapshot of the mahi, the progress, and the people behind Tararua's recover, a district-wide effort rooted in resilience, care, and forward thinking.

Tracey Collis Mayor Tararua District Council



Thank you for your support































Please note: this is not a fully exhaustive list of organisations who provided funding, support or even time however they are major contributors.



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Cyclone Gabrielle

Cyclone Gabrielle was a significant weather event impacting northern and central New Zealand resulting in a National State of Emergency on 14 February 2023. Tararua's coastal communities felt the full force of the cyclone with significant structural and environmental damage sustained.

- Ākitio at Toi Flat Rainfall intensities exceed a 1 in 50-year event over a 24-hour period, recording 223mm of rain
- Ākitio at Cadmus Bridge Rainfall intensity exceeded a 1 in 20-year event over a 72-hour period, recording
 328mm of rain
- Tamaki Reserve Rainfall intensities exceed a 1 in 20-year event over a 24-hour period, recording 154.5mm of rain.
- 2 of our river catchments recorded higher levels than the major 2004 flood event
- Major damage to our roading network (4th largest roading network in NZ)
- 49 roads were closed with a further 14 that were open with restrictions.
- No road access to Ākitio, Herbertville and other surrounding rural areas for several days.
- Power loss to approximately 420 customers during the cyclone
- 40-50 people stayed overnight at the Dannevirke Civil Defence Centre
- · Approximately over 200 farms impacted
- 3 properties red stickered, 16 properties yellow stickered.



Our farmers were hit hard. Over 200 farms in Tararua sustained damage, some major, and many are still working to recover from the physical, economic and psychological impacts of the disaster.



Our roading network sustained major impacts, and while good progress has been made, there is still ongoing work ahead as we know that our roading network remains vulnerable to slips, dropouts and falling trees.



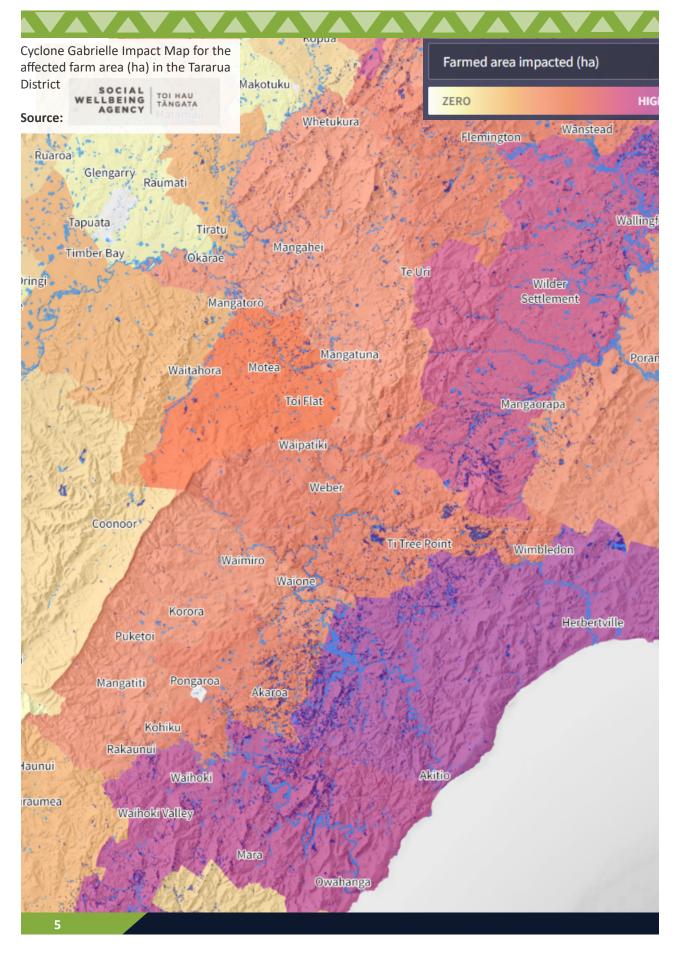
Our natural environment has also sustained significant damage. Work is ongoing to build resilience where we can.



The health and wellbeing of our people has been tested and continues to be, as multiple other compounding issues, such as two years of COVID-19 lockdowns, beef and lamb commodity prices, the global recession, a drought and tight financial times are ongoing, taking it's toll on our valued and important farming community.

In addition, we know that the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle along with the compounding issues have made it tough for our local businesses. We know that there is still work to do to help our people and communities recover and to build resilience for future events that the Tararua District may face even after the recovery office closes.

4



Recovery Team Structure

We have never seen a recovery of this scale in the Tararua District before, it will shape our district for many years to come.

Under the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002 "recovery" means the coordinated efforts and processes used to bring about the immediate, medium and long-term holistic regeneration and enhancement of a community following an emergency.

Tararua District Council, the Government, Iwi, and other partners and stakeholders have worked together to develop solutions and have made significant investments to support impacted residents and communities, and to get the region back on track.

Tararua District Council has led the coordination of the recovery work programme with Rural Support Trust, the Tararua Alliance, Horizons Regional Council, Iwi, community groups and organisations, and Central Government agencies.

By working collaboratively we've been able to co-ordinate our efforts and work together cooperatively to leverage resources, skills and knowledge.

The Tararua Recovery Programme was implemented through five interconnected work streams, which guided our work from February 2023 until 30 June 2025:



Rural Recovery



Built Recovery



Community and Social Recovery/Resilient Strong Communities



Natural Recovery



Economic Recovery

The projects and initiatives under these work streams were designed to work together to drive recovery across the Tararua District. While each work stream has a specific focus, they all collectively contribute to making progress to help our district recover from the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle.



6

We would like to specifically acknowledge the following people who have had an active role in the Tararua District Recovery Programme.

Current Recovery Office



Tararua District Recovery Office

Local Recovery Manager - Bryan Nicholson

Feam Leader/Emergency Managament Advisor Peter Sinclair

RECOVERING AND BUILDING RESILIENCE ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY



Built Recovery

LEAD

Andrew Desmond

FOCUS AREAS

Repair roads & bridges

Housing

Power and telecommunications resilience

Repair water, wastewater and stormwater

Support recovery of sites of cultural significance



Community Recovery

LEAD

Sarah Fountaine

FOCUS AREAS

Provide wellbeing information and support

Support communities with access to financial support and advice

Ensure schools, maraes and communities are equipt for future events

Co-ordinate on-going training in relation to resilience



Economic Recovery

LEAD

Mitchell Guile FOCUS AREAS

Gather economic data for use in future planning

Workers and employers wellbeing

Monitoring impacts on importing and exporting routes

Provide business advice



Rural Recovery

LEAD

Jane Tylee

FOCUS AREAS

Provide wellbeing

support to farmers

Cross agency coordination to help

farmers with key issues
Raise awareness of
significance of road

access for farmers
Environment - assisting

Assist farmers to navigate financial support/business advice



Natural Recovery

LEAD

Grant Cooper

FOCUS AREAS

Repair river management infrastructure

Clean up debris in rivers

Enhancing flood warning systems

Provide regulatory advice

Build resilience

Previous Officers

Sandra James

Recovery Facilitator

Don Cameron

Recovery Manager

Anna Howell

Intelligence Lead

Toni Chapman

Social Lead

Jocial Leau

Trudy HalesCommunications Advisor

Tina Love

Recovery Manager

Mark Cunnigham

Built Lead

Mike Dunn

Built Lead

Colin Yonge

Economic Lead

Simon Hales

Rural Liason

Lee Ransom

MPI Support

Lorraine Stephenson

Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua

James Kendrick

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nuia-Rua

Paul Te Huki

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nuia-Rua

Lee Harris

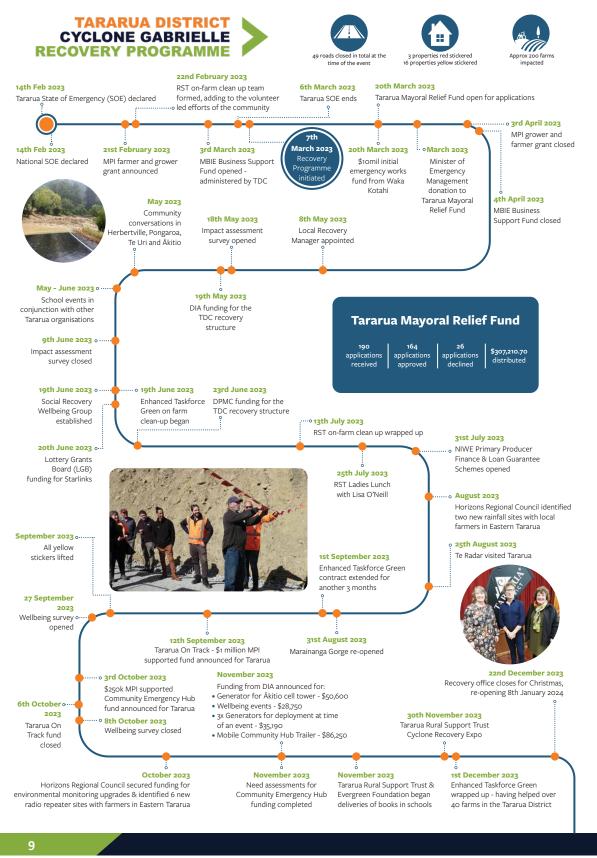
Communications Advisor

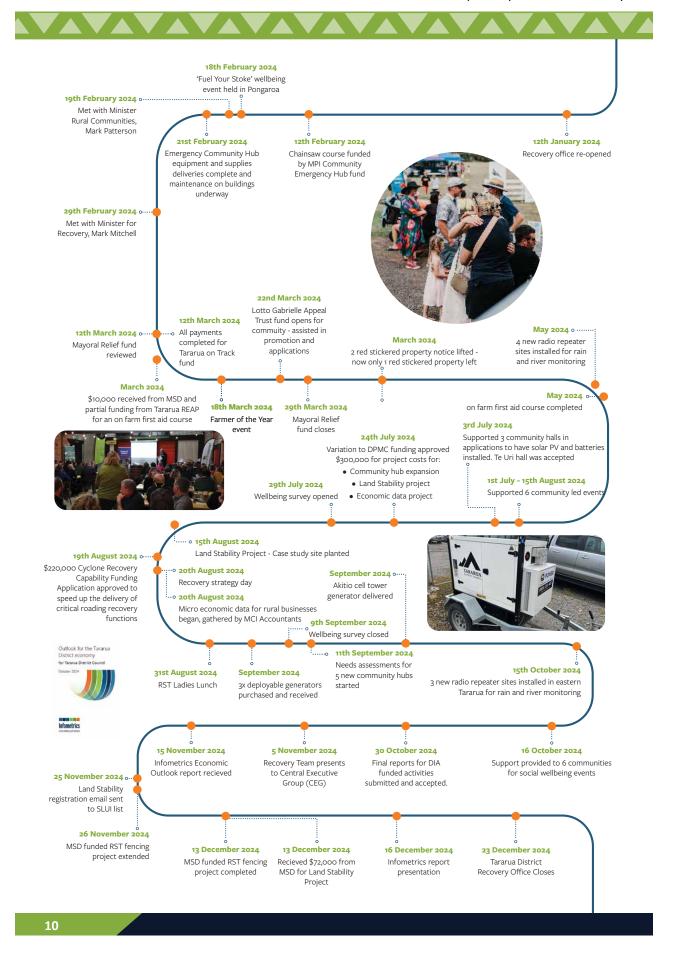
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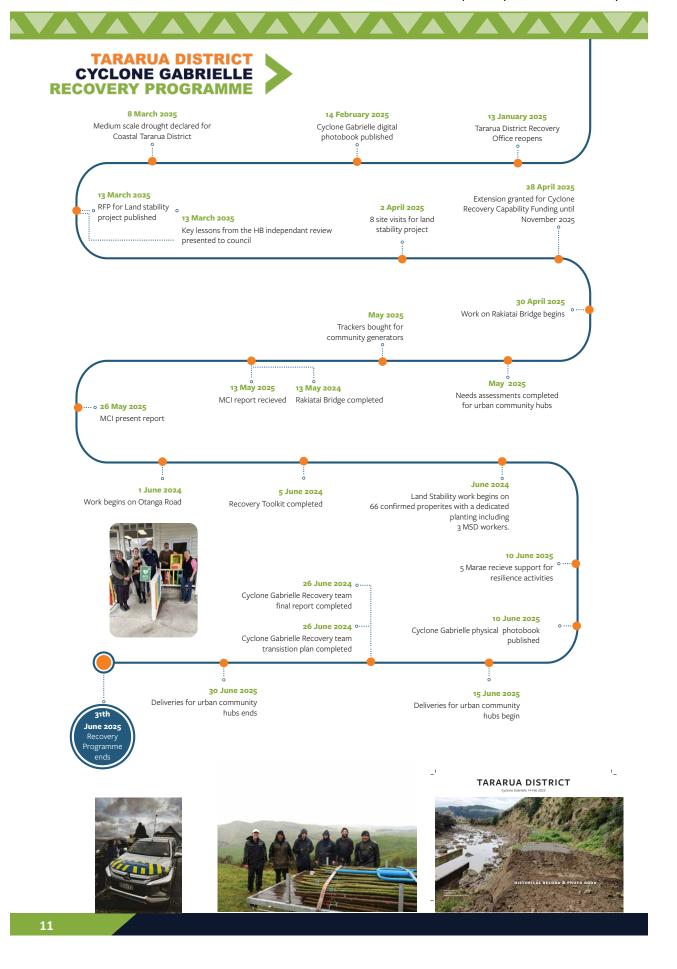
Total Funding Breakdown

Fund/funder	Purpose	Amount
DPMC	Recovery Office & Projects	\$900,000
DIA Recovery Structure funding	Recovery Office	\$500,000
Mayoral Relief Fund	Discretionary fund for affected residents	\$316,212.49
MSD	Land Stability Project - Labor	\$68,000
ECCT	Disability Ramp Hertbertville	\$16,707
MPI	Community Hubs	\$250,000
MPI	Critical Infrastructure fund for affected residents	\$1,000,000
DIA Lotteries Fund	Social Events	\$25,000
NZTA Emergency Fund	Roading repairs and Reinstatement	\$48,366,002
DPMC - Recovery Resilience Fund	Technical Expertise for built infrastructure recovery activities	\$220,000
DIA Lotteries Fund	Co-funding for Community Hub Trailer	\$75,000
DIA Lotteries Fund	Portable generators	\$30,600
MBIE	Business Grants	\$375,000
MSD	Whanau resilience/support	\$106,000
DIA	Akitio Cell Tower Generator	\$44,000
MSD	First Aid Training for Community	\$10,000
MSD	Trades day out - converted to Comedy night	\$5,000
DIA Lotteries Fund	Starlink Systems	\$8,196
MBIE Community Renewable Energy Grant	Solar batteries and systems for community facilities	\$150,000
Total		\$52,475,717.49

Recovery Timeline







Cyclone Gabrielle Activities

Below we have elaborated on some of the key activities completed within each focus area. While these activities are located under focus areas, this work has been funded, organised, run by and attended by multiple individuals and organisations. The mahi put in by the recovery network is to be commended and the recovery team would have been unable to complete what we have without them all.

Social Activities

Te Radar

In a pivot of plans, \$5,000 initially earmarked for an MSD funded Economic Mates in Trades event was redirected to support a unique community engagement initiative — Back on Track Bingo with Te Radar.

Beloved Kiwi comedian and television personality Te Radar kicked off his visit with a stop at the Tararua Alliance depot, where he personally thanked crews for their tireless work in repairing and maintaining the district's roads — a critical part of the recovery effort following the Cyclone.

From there, Te Radar travelled east to Herbertville, where he met with local residents and farmers, taking the time to witness firsthand the enduring impacts of the Cyclone on the land and the livelihoods of those who call the coast home.

The visit culminated in a full house at the Pongaroa Hall on Friday evening, where Te Radar hosted a sold-out bingo night. The event blended entertainment and empathy, as locals were treated to hilarious stories and heartfelt reflections. More than just laughs, the night offered a sense of solidarity and shared strength — a much-needed boost for a community that continues to face the long tail of disaster recovery.

Back on Track Bingo proved not only a successful use of repurposed funding but also a powerful reminder of the healing role that laughter, storytelling, and community connection can play in times of hardship.





DIA Funded Wellbeing Events

MSFTS





To support remote Tararua communities still feeling the ongoing impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Tararua District Recovery Team and the Tararua Rural Support Trust (RST) collaborated to deliver a special community event in Pongaroa. Held almost exactly one year after the cyclone, the event offered six hours of live music, family entertainment, food, refreshments, and a space for people to reconnect. It served as both a celebration of progress and a reminder that everyone's struggles whether big or small are valid in the wake of a disaster.

The event featured performances by local talent including Makuri farmer John Beech, with entertainment coordinated by Jack Jensen and the MSFT Productions team. Catering was generously provided by Mike and Simon from Silence of the Lambs, and the Napier Salvation Army supported the event with a strong community presence. The key message throughout the day encouraged people to keep talking, to stay connected, and to remember that it is okay to ask for help.

Attendees included farmers and families from across the rural and remote areas of the Tararua District many of which had been significantly affected by the cyclone and were continuing to face long-term recovery challenges. For some, it was the first time in months they had been able to step away from their property and connect socially.

The event created a strong sense of togetherness and gave the RST team an invaluable opportunity to engage with residents in a relaxed setting, enabling informal wellbeing check-ins and gauging current needs. Many attendees shared that the event provided a much-needed break and helped them realise they were not alone in their experiences.

Beyond the social benefits, the day strengthened community bonds and highlighted the importance of ongoing connection and support. Informational resources were made available, and casual conversations often turned to discussions about mental wellbeing and recovery progress. Families were also well catered for, with children enjoying bouncy castles, play trailers, and face painting—offering a moment of normalcy and joy for both kids and parents.

Importantly, the event revealed an ongoing, and perhaps underestimated, need for mental health and wellbeing support within the cyclone-affected community. For many, it was a first chance to express how they were truly coping, and the presence of support networks in a non-formal environment proved crucial in re-establishing those touchpoints.



Tararua Farming in Excellence

The Tararua Excellence in Farming Awards 2023 was held at the Tui Brewery in Mangatainoka and provided an important opportunity for the rural community to come together following the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. The event recognised the efforts and achievements of local farmers, growers, rural professionals, and long-serving contributors to the agricultural sector.

Thanks to support from the Tararua District Council and Cyclone Gabrielle recovery funding, the evening was made free to attend—removing a potential financial barrier and enabling greater participation from those most affected by the cyclone. Approximately 150 attendees were able to enjoy a relaxed evening off-farm, reconnecting with neighbours, colleagues, and others facing similar challenges.

The event centred on the theme of wellbeing, with speakers acknowledging the ongoing stress and disruption still being experienced in the rural sector. Attendees were encouraged to seek help through services such as the Rural Support Trust and their trusted professional networks, including banks, accountants, and rural advisors.

Beyond the awards, the evening played a valuable role in bringing people from across the district together, fostering connections, encouraging conversations, and reminding attendees they are not alone in their recovery journey. Celebrating positive stories of resilience and success helped reinforce a sense of pride and optimism within the Tararua farming community.













6 Community events

Otope:

The Otope community organised a mid-winter Christmas event aimed at bringing residents together for a festive celebration. The event provided a much-needed break from the daily farming routine, encouraging community members to enjoy a light-hearted gathering. The funds were used to hire a bus that transported community members to Palmerston North for dinner and tenpin bowling. The event was filled with laughter and joy, as attendees embraced the holiday spirit and connected with one another while enjoying a friendly game and dinner.

Alfredton:

The Alfredton Community Group organised a series of activities designed to enhance the wellbeing of local families. One of the key events was a trip to the Eketahuna Library followed by morning tea at the Eketahuna Café. This outing allowed parents and their preschoolers to spend quality time together away from the farm, with parents enjoying a coffee and engaging in meaningful conversations, fostering a sense of community and support. Another event organised by the group was a screening of the All-Blacks game on the big screen at the local hall. This offered families the chance to enjoy a night out together. Funds were used to provide morning tea for parents and pizza and non-alcoholic drinks for the rugby night, ensuring a fun and inclusive atmosphere for all attendees.

Makuri:

The Makuri Social Committee successfully organised a community ball with the theme 'Woodstock '69.' The event attracted attendees from both within and outside the local area. The anticipation surrounding the event, including costume planning and the excitement of the evening, offered a much-needed mental break from the daily rigours of farming. The ball provided an excellent opportunity for community members to reconnect with friends, family, neighbours, and others from the area. The atmosphere was filled with joy and camaraderie as everyone dressed up and enjoyed a night of entertainment and relaxation. The funds helped cover part of the band for the evening.

Herbertville:

The Herbertville Hall and Community Committee organised a community BBQ to bring people off the farm and down to the beach. This fantastic event was well-received by all in the community. Herbertville's residents are spread out across a vast area of farmland, making it challenging for them to connect. However, the committee does an outstanding job of organising events to keep the community together. The funding provided food and non-alcoholic drinks, ensuring the event was a success and a welcome break for local farmers.

Waitahora:

The Waitahora community hosted a BBQ at the local clubrooms to bring the community together. This was especially important, as Waitahora had been somewhat forgotten in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. Despite being only 15 minutes from Dannevirke, over 90% of the farmers in the area had suffered damage to their properties from the cyclone. The event provided an opportunity for community members to enjoy a much needed break off the farm, surrounded by like-minded individuals. The funds helped provide food and non-alcoholic drinks for the evening. Community member and organiser of the event, Elle Joblin, noted that the community spirit was alive during the BBQ, with everyone enjoying a bite to eat, chatting with friends and neighbours, and reconnecting with the wider community.

Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua:

The Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Matariki Quiz Night aimed to bring the community together to celebrate Matariki, enhancing community wellbeing while building relationships in a fun and engaging way. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about Matariki while enjoying each other's company. It was a night filled with laughter, learning, and the formation of new friendships, which helped strengthen the community. The funds were used to purchase spot prizes, which were distributed throughout the event.

Community Hubs

Rural Isolated Hubs

Tararua District Council secured \$250,000 in funding to strengthen resilience across eight of the district's most isolated communities: Weber, Herbertville, Akitio, Te Uri, Pongaroa, Kumeroa, Alfredton, and Makuri. The initiative focused on enhancing self-sufficiency by upgrading local halls and equipping them with essential resources to function as community hubs during emergencies or adverse weather events.

Each hub received tailored support in the form of Civil Defence equipment, generators, and critical hall repairs or upgrades to ensure the venues could serve as safe, functional gathering points in times of crisis. Deliveries of key items—including resilience boxes, chainsaws, and communication tools such as detailed local maps—were made to each community Civil Defence group, strengthening their ability to act quickly and independently if external support is delayed.

The project placed a strong emphasis on community involvement and local economic benefit. Where possible, materials and services were sourced locally, supporting district businesses and ensuring local familiarity with the equipment stationed in each community.

Recognising that equipment alone isn't enough, training and capability-building were integral to the project's success. In February, formal training sessions were delivered to each Civil Defence group. One representative from each of the eight communities completed a fully funded one-day chainsaw safety and usage course—a key priority identified during earlier needs assessments. The course covered both theory and practical application, with each participant receiving a new STIHL chainsaw and a full set of personal protective equipment (PPE) for use in their community. On-farm first aid courses were also provided to strengthen practical response capability.

These upgrades and training initiatives ensure isolated communities in the Tararua District are better positioned to manage future emergencies, maintain access routes, and support one another in times of need. By investing in both infrastructure and people, the project has made a meaningful and lasting contribution to local resilience and preparedness.

Urban Hubs

As part of its ongoing commitment to building community resilience, Tararua District Council has established five urban community hubs across Eketāhuna, Pahiatua, Woodville, Ormondville, and Norsewood. Supported by a \$150,000 funding variation from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), the project equipped each site to operate as a Civil Defence welfare centre in the event of an emergency.

Each hub has been outfitted with critical infrastructure and supplies to support their community during a crisis. Generators have been installed at all five sites to ensure power continuity during outages. Complementary preparedness items—including cooking and heating equipment, fuel containers, AEDs, battery clamps, and portable aerials for Civil Defence radio communications—were also provided. To support effective coordination and welfare operations, administrative supplies and stationery were delivered to each hub, ensuring local responders and volunteers can operate efficiently when normal systems are disrupted.

This investment strengthens the district's ability to respond quickly and effectively in emergencies, reducing reliance on external assistance and empowering communities to care for themselves and each other. By embedding capability within each township, Council is ensuring people have access to power, communication, medical response tools, and coordinated support—right within their own communities. These hubs will play a critical role in future emergency responses.emergency responses, helping to keep people safe, informed, and connected when it matters most.

Communications

Photobook

On 14 February 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle brought record-breaking rainfall to the Tararua District, with some areas experiencing a 1-in-100-year event in just 72 hours.

TARARUA DISTRICT

The devastation that followed was immense, roads washed out, homes and farms damaged, and entire communities left reeling.

The impacts were far-reaching, but so too was the response. In the face of unprecedented challenges, the people of Tararua showed extraordinary resilience, unity, and strength. Neighbours supported one another, volunteers mobilised, and the community came together in ways that will be remembered for years to come.

This photo book captures that story. It reflects both the damage caused by the cyclone and the unbreakable spirit of those who endured it.



Wellbeing Surveys

Tararua District Council conducted two wellbeing surveys as part of a broader effort to understand and support the social needs of residents in isolated communities following the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle. The first survey was undertaken early in the recovery phase to gather data on community wellbeing, identify key areas of need, and inform the delivery of targeted support initiatives.

The initial survey results helped shape several community-led and Council-supported initiatives, including social events, mental health support outreach, and the distribution of resources aimed at strengthening social connectedness and resilience.

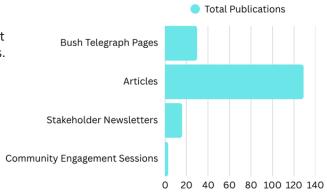
A follow-up survey was carried out post-implementation to evaluate the effectiveness of these initiatives and to better understand how community wellbeing had evolved over time. Insights gained from this second round of feedback were compiled into a comprehensive report, highlighting areas of success as well as ongoing challenges that require continued attention.

This two-step approach provided a clear before-and-after picture of wellbeing across the district, enabling the Council and its partners to refine support mechanisms and ensure that future resilience-building efforts are evidence-based and responsive to real community needs.

Bush Telegraph – Fortnightly publications

The publications featured a range of recoveryfocused content, including community updates, event promotions, repair statistics, and wellbeing messages. These communications played a key role in keeping residents informed, supported, and connected throughout the recovery period.

These publications were sent out via multiple channels physical, digital and in person and their totality can be seen to the right.



Rural Activities



Cyclone Gabrielle left a devastating mark on Aotearoa, but in Tararua, the impacts were particularly rural. While the cyclone spared the district's larger towns, the eastern hill country bore the full force of the storm. This area—already vulnerable after 18 months of significant weather events—is largely remote, with isolated communities and challenging terrain.

More than 200 farms were affected, with impacts including widespread destruction to fencing, pasture, river crossings, farm tracks, water supply, culverts and bridges, and roading infrastructure. Communities were cut off for days, with prolonged power outages and limited connectivity compounding the stress and uncertainty.

Tararua's recovery wasn't just about restoring services—it was about reconnecting people, animals, businesses and livelihoods. This report outlines the rural response and recovery efforts led by Tararua Rural Support Trust (RST), the outcomes achieved, and the key lessons that continue to shape our support for rural communities.

A Rural Event

The Cyclone's impacts on Tararua were not highly visible in urban areas, but many of our rural areas, particularly the eastern part of the district, sustained widespread damage. The high intensity of the storm fundamentally compromised the landscape, with slips, isolation, and road closures severely disrupting rural lifelines—creating both immediate and longer-term challenges for communities.

- Over 200 farms sustained damage, often extensive.
- Six rural schools were affected: Weber, Pongaroa, Norsewood, Makuri, Alfredton, and Kumeroa.
- Road access was heavily impacted the sheer number of road faults made access difficult—at times, helicopters were the only way in.
- Widespread power outages
- Communication blackouts left many people without telephone and internet access for a prolonged period.

With damage scattered across such a vast and remote area, understanding the scale of the impact was incredibly difficult therefore it was essential to get boots on the ground early.

Early Response: Recovery Begins Day One

Rural recovery began from day one. As a Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) - trained personnel, RST was integrated into the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on the morning of the event, ensuring a crucial rural voice was present at the decision-making table.

It was immediately clear that gathering accurate, on-the-ground data would be key to understanding where efforts were most needed. But with communication outages, widespread road closures and isolated communities, this meant going door to door.

The involvement of Tararua RST was vital—not just for welfare checks, but because we could speak the language of rural people. Farmers didn't need to explain the gravity of their access issues, major slips, compromised tracks or missing stock. We quickly mobilised a wider team of RST Facilitators, bringing together trusted rural people with the experience and empathy needed in such a crisis.

Door-to-Door Welfare Checks (Feb 15–21)

In just six days following the cyclone:

- Over 500 rural homes were visited.
- Teams of six vehicles were deployed daily through a collaboration between Tararua District Council, Iwi and Tararua RST.
- Each team included at least one RST member to ensure rural needs were correctly interpreted and prioritised.

These early visits laid the foundation for everything that followed—connecting us with severely impacted people and businesses, guiding the allocation of resources, and establishing a trusted, consistent rural presence in the days and weeks ahead.

Transition to Recovery: Establishing the Recovery Team

As part of the recovery structure, Jane Tylee transitioned into the role of Rural Recovery Lead, while continuing her vital work as RST Coordinator for the Tararua District. Her dual role helped ensure continuity of care and deep local rural knowledge remained embedded within the official recovery programme.

The programme aimed to ensure a coordinated approach to rebuilding rural resilience and well-being, with a clear plan focused on:

- 1. Farmers being assisted with remedial on-farm clean-up work.
- 2. Understanding the economic impacts on farming businesses from Cyclone Gabrielle.
- 3. Building resilience in the Rural Environment.
- 4. Information and support provided for farmer well-being.
- 5. Farmers assisted to navigate financial support and business advice.

1. Farmers being assisted with remedial on-farm clean-up work.

Immediate On-Farm Clean-Up: February-June 2023

Following initial welfare and needs assessment checks, it quickly became clear that farmers urgently needed help to re-establish basic on-farm management. This was critical for stock welfare, and equally important for providing farmers with a sense of support as they began to grasp the full extent of the damage.

At the time, many volunteers had already been deployed to Hawke's Bay, so we stepped in to coordinate two key outcomes:

- Clean-up crews deployed to farms where owners were isolated or overwhelmed
- Farmers were provided with connections to materials, equipment, and volunteer labour

The On-Farm Clean-Up became a crucial emergency initiative, bridging the gap between the initial response and the later rollout of the Enhanced Taskforce Green programme. While the focus was practical — clearing debris, replacing floodgates, and distributing donated materials for temporary stock-proofing, the benefits went far beyond this. The work brought structure, momentum, and a sense of connection to farmers during a time of huge uncertainty.

Topline Stats: Tararua On-Farm Clean-Up (Feb-June 2023)

- 66 properties received materials
- 1,293 volunteer hours completed
- 2,369 posts distributed
- 49 working bees
- 110 floodgates built and distributed
- 5,300 metres of netting provided

Enhanced Taskforce Green: June – 30 November 2023

Research shows that one of the most effective ways to support farmer wellbeing during an adverse event is through timely practical assistance.

Enhanced Taskforce Green is a government-funded initiative through the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) that provides paid labour to support communities following natural disasters. In the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, Tararua RST, in partnership with MSD, delivered the programme to help farmers clear debris, repair fencing, and restore essential on-farm infrastructure.

Initially, it was a challenge to get the Enhanced Taskforce Green programme off the ground in Tararua, in part due to difficulty securing a training coordinator. However, once underway, its impact was far-reaching and hugely positive for the region's rural recovery.

Key Outcomes:

- 5 month project.
- 42 landowners assisted across the following areas:

Te Uri, Ākitio, Waione, Owhanga, Pongaroa, Herbertville, Weber, Wimbledon, Motea, Ngapaeruru, Tiraumea, and Mangahei

• 6 job seekers gained employment and training through the programme

Enhanced Taskforce Green was a powerful example of how collaboration between government and local networks delivered meaningful, on-the-ground support during the early rural recovery.

A Key Event: Tararua Rural Support Fencing Expo



Held on 30 November 2023 at the Dannevirke A&P Showgrounds, the Tararua RST Cyclone Recovery Expo was a flagship recovery event designed specifically for cyclone-affected landowners in our district.

In other regions fencing materials were being distributed at large one-off events however no such opportunity was available in Tararua District. Therefore with funds that had been donated to East Coast RST, we created our own locally-led solution—a hands-on, practical event that brought together farmers, fencing support, and wellbeing services in one place.

The Expo offered:

- Free fencing bundles including posts, wire, staples, and permanent strainers.
- Connection to local support from rural professionals, contractors, and the Cyclone Recovery Office.
- Free food, coffee and a relaxed, supportive space to connect.

and a wellbeing goodie bag with:

- \$200 accommodation voucher (time away offfarm
- New World grocery voucher
- Dannevirke Pharmacy voucher
- Extras like sunscreen, socks, books and thoughtful seasonal gifts

Key Outcomes

- 168 cyclone-affected landowners supported on the day
- \$185,000 worth of fencing materials distributed including:
- 16,770 posts
- 160 x 20kg buckets of staples
- 173 coils of wire
- 160 boxes of permanent strainers
- \$71,000 worth of wellbeing support provided
- 12 rural support services represented onsite





2. Understand the economic impacts on farming businesses from Cyclone Gabrielle

Cyclone Gabrielle did not occur in isolation. When it hit, farmers in Tararua were already facing a tough operating environment — with soaring interest rates, low commodity prices, and, not long after, a prolonged dry period. To fully understand the cyclone's economic impact on farming businesses, we needed to see the Cyclone's effect in the context of these compounding pressures.

An initial Infometrics report offered a useful overview, but it couldn't reflect the specific realities for farmers in our district. That's why the recovery team partnered with MCI & Associates — a local accountancy firm with strong connections to the rural sector — to undertake a detailed economic survey using four years of actual farm data from across Tararua District.

Farm businesses experienced a significant financial hit, with gross farm revenue falling by \$147/ha, and earnings before interest and tax dropping nearly 50%. Limited insurance and lower stock revenue left farmers to cover their core debt and the costs of cyclone damage by diverting core operational funds such as fertiliser as well as nearly half of their maintenance budgets.

This survey has given us a clear, evidence-based picture of how local farms were tracking before the cyclone, and what changed in the months and year that followed. It reinforced what we were already hearing and seeing on the ground: that the financial pressure on farming businesses came not just from the cyclone, but from the convergence of factors. This work will continue, with further analysis of 2024/2025 results to understand longer-term impacts.

Having this kind of localised economic data is crucial for future rural adverse event planning.

Another critical factor influencing the financial recovery of farmers was the accessibility of government support. While a limited amount of Treasury support was provided for cyclone-affected businesses (through MPI and MBIE), the

economic analysis indicates that many farmers were either unable to or did not access the MBIE support. This was particularly the case for the North Island Weather Events Loan Guarantee Scheme and Primary Producer Finance Scheme, which were intended to provide reduced lending rates and concessionary loans to help cyclone affected farming businesses get through.

Anecdotal feedback suggests a lack of clear information flow from Treasury policy through to on-the-ground banking decisions, and confusion and inconsistencies across different banks and regions on how to apply the schemes. Access to more favourable lending terms often depended on individual relationships with bank managers, rather than consistent application of government support measures.

Normal business decisions that would typically help manage a farming downturn were constrained by the need to prioritise urgent repairs and maintenance, alongside high interest rates, having significant multi-year impacts on farming businesses.

For an overview of the findings of the Infometrics & MCI & Associates Economic Data projects see page 27,

3. Build resilience in the Rural Environment

See Resilience Activities for the collaborative work done with Rural Support. See Page 31.



The Tararua Rural Support Cyclone Gabrielle Fencing Project Story - Rebuilding Rural Tararua: A Collaborative Effort

By early 2024, one year after Cyclone Gabrielle devastated rural Tararua and much of the Eastern North Island, the region was still grappling with the aftermath. Farmers continued to face enormous challenges as they worked to rebuild their businesses and livelihoods. Much of their vital infrastructure—particularly fencing—remained damaged, making it difficult to manage livestock and restore productivity.

Following the cyclone, RST launched the 'On-Farm Clean-Up' programme to clear debris, provide temporary fencing materials, and replace floodgates—helping farmers begin recovery. With Ministry of Social Development support, the Enhanced Taskforce Green programme followed from June to November 2023, delivering fencing and remedial work to over 40 farms. In November, our Dannevirke Expo—made possible by public donations—provided free fencing supplies to more than 150 farmers, giving a vital boost to ongoing recovery efforts.

However, despite all these efforts, the sheer scale of the damage meant fencing remained a critical issue. What farmers desperately needed was labour. Without enough hands on the ground to carry out repairs, secure boundaries remained out of reach. Compounding this were ongoing financial pressures—low commodity prices, high farm expenses, high interest rates, and a regional

'Extreme Dry' declaration—which left many unable to afford the extra help they needed.

"Fencing is fundamental to farm operations," says Jane Tylee, Coordinator of the Tararua Rural Support Trust (we). "Without it, managing stock or maintaining anything close to business as usual becomes nearly impossible. We knew we had to find a way to keep this kind of support available to farmers—because time and again, we've seen that practical help like this leads to better wellbeing outcomes after an adverse event."

Determined to tackle the ongoing challenges members of the the Tararua Rural Support Team once again met with Tony Seanoa and MSD representatives to discuss solutions that would address immediate needs while, like Enhanced Taskforce Green, also create job opportunities for local people. The result was a new initiative designed to provide hands-on, on-the-job training for job seekers while tackling the critical fencing needs of cyclone-affected farmers.

"This program was about more than just rebuilding fences," says Seanoa, Regional Manager Labour Market MSD. "It was about creating pathways for employment and equipping people with skills, habits, and confidence that would benefit their future careers."

To bring the program to life, RST and MSD





partnered with Taiao Ora Contracting, a familyrun Dannevirke-based company committed to supporting rural communities and empowering people through meaningful work. Led by Arapera Paewai, Taiao Ora had already played a key role in the cyclone's early recovery, helping farmers clear debris.

"With a strong community focus and a commitment to helping people into meaningful work, Taiao Ora was the perfect partner for this initiative," says Tylee.

Together, Tararua RST, MSD, and Taiao Ora launched a co-funded programme offering fencing labour to farmers, along with practical experience for job seekers. The programme's impact has been profound—providing much-needed help to farmers and valuable training for local job seekers in fencing, land management, and teamwork.

The mental health impact of this programme cannot

be overstated. From tearful 'thank-yous' to heartfelt written feedback, shared refreshments at the end of the day, and offers of 'meat for the freezer', the work provided relief to farmers who were feeling the weight of cyclone recovery.

Near the end of the programme, MSD granted an extension, allowing more farms to be included—a testament to its success. The extension shows how much confidence MSD had in the program and its outcomes.

Key outcomes:

- 33 landowners assisted
- 105-day project
- 13,000km travelled
- 5 staff employed and trained
- 7,702 metres of fencing repaired
- 5,015 metres of fencing replaced



Information and support provided for farmer well-being.

vents that rebuild communities

n a district marked by isolation and widespread disruption, community connection became critical to rural ecovery. RST created a range of tailored events that were curated specifically for Tararua District, reaching cross the region and targeting diverse groups—from school communities to men's mental health, fitness pportunities, to off-farm days for women and men.

hese events created safe, supportive spaces for people to reconnect, share experiences, and link into

urther support. For some, it was the conversation sparked at a BBQ or omedy night that led to much-needed follow-up assistance — help that hay not have otherwise been sought.

Vell-attended, these events helped lift spirits, rebuild relationships, and trengthen the connection of Tararua's rural communities:

2023 Ladies' Lunch with Lisa O'Neill

2024 Ladies' Lunch with Gemma McCaw, Bex Lintott & Shazz Dagg

Kids Sports Days with Sport Manawatū at 6 rural schools

Blokes Day Out – 4WD & Clays

Community Catch-ups in Te Uri, Pongaroa & Weber

Books in Schools initiative

Rural Professionals Breakfast

Local Comedy Nights in Kumeroa, Weber & Alfredton

Lunch at Norsewood

Farmer Fitness Sessions in Weber, Te Uri & Makuri

Tararua on Track Bingo Night with Te Radar

Bitches Box Comedy Night in Weber

MSFT's Concert at Pongaroa



Image above:
Jane Tylee accepting rural
professional of the year

urther Rural Recovery Initiatives

longside practical recovery assistance and wellbeing events, RST hosted and supported a range of ommunity-driven learning and support opportunities tailored to local needs. These initiatives combined ands-on knowledge with a focus on rural wellbeing, helping farmers build resilience in the aftermath of the cyclone:

Good Yarn Workshops – raising awareness and fostering conversations around rural mental health.

FeedSmart Workshops – delivered by Beef + Lamb NZ - practical training on feed budgeting to improve farm resilience and sustainability, with more in the future.

Drench Resistance Project – Funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries, this vet-led initiative identified parasite challenges faced by farmers post-cyclone. RST then supported those farmers with additional help and management strategies.



One-on-One Support

Requests for individual support spiked after the cyclone—and continued for many months as the long-tail impacts became more apparent.

- 1. Common issues included:
- 2. Burnout and exhaustion
- 3. Increased alcohol use
- 4. Relationship breakdowns
- 5. Financial stress

Throughout the recovery, The Tararua Rural Support Team grew from 2 to 6 grew from 2 to 6 and RST facilitators provided critical one-on-one support. This included not only emotional encouragement, but also practical help such as:

- Navigating funding processes (e.g. funding applications)
- Offering business advice and planning
- Providing tailored emotional and logistical support
- Critical farming decisions around stock movement and management, feed planning, animal health advice and more.
- Linking in with rural professionals the likes of rural vets, bankers, accountants and industry bodies as required.

A key enabler of this sustained connection was the RST recovery database, built during the initial days of the cyclone response through welfare checks and needs assessments alongside solid local knowledge, and trusted relationships. This ensured we remained connected to the most impacted individuals and

could continue providing timely, targeted support.

The need for one-on-one support has remained strong two and a half years after the cyclone — a trend reflected in the Economic Impact Survey, where 32% of respondents said they expect full recovery to take three to ten years or more. We anticipate this personalised support will remain essential as farmers continue their recovery journey.

5

Dedicated Local Counsellor Support

Thanks to funding from MSD, RST was able to offer a dedicated local counsellor for a period of time to support cyclone-affected farmers. This service, accessed through referrals from RST, proved hugely valuable. It provided timely, professional mental health support at a moment when speed and accessibility mattered most. In a space where help is not always readily available, having a trusted, local counsellor on hand made it easier for facilitators to connect people with the support they needed—quickly and with care.

5. Farmers are assisted to navigate financial support and business advice.

Targeted Communications to support recovery

RST created targeted newsletters to keep cyclone-affected communities informed and connected. These included key information on available funding—such as the Mayoral Relief Fund and the Kānoa Fund—alongside details on where to access advice, support services, and upcoming events.

Keeping information flow between rural professionals and affected communities was critical and this clear, timely communication helped ensure people knew what help was available and how to access it when they needed it most.



What other support is available?

The Rural Support Trust continues to coordinate recovery and clean-up support across the region including fishanced TaskForce Green. You can get in touch with us if you need help. This could include practical assistance in helping clear fences/yards, erecting temporary fencing and removal of sitt. Whether you wish to help out or to find out what clean-up support is available, set in touch with the fast Coast.

available, get in touch with the East Coast (Tararua) Rural Support team: 0800 787 254. Be safe. When checking stock, crops, driving or assessing damage, where possible avoid flooded areas and do not do anything that will put your

Keeping livestock fed MPI and Federated Farm

with grazing or supplementary feed for sale to those who need it. For further information phone **0800 FARMING** (0800 327 646) or visit www.fedfarm.org.nz

Wellbeing & business support

Our Rural Support team are available? days a week. I you are not sure where to turn, or want to have a chat i confidence, give us a call (0800 RuralHelp). Support can be over the phone, or at a place and time that suits

We can provide 1-to-1 support to help you map challenges and develop plans, link you with rural professionals and other support and services availab



ts Farm Business Adv

oport is available for by the North Island e package includes: at enables at

Farm Debt Mediation Scheme

If you're under financial stress, the Farm Deet Medi. Scheme helps: level the playing field in debt discuss with your creditor. Farmers can request mediation : time. MPI can also assist with the costs of mediatio preparing for mediation through a hardship fund. Fe more information see: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/ funding-rural-support/farming-funds-andprogrammes/the-farm-debt-mediation-scheme-;

Mayoral Relief Funds

Mayoral Retire Turnus
Mayoral Retire fruid applications are open to Tarar.
residents, ratepayers or small business owners (inc.
self-employed people and sole-traders) who have
suffered financial hardship because of damages cat
by Cyclone Gabrielle. For more details please go to
council's website at https://www.tararusde.gov
services/emergency-management/cyclone-gabri
support/support-for-all/mayoral-relief-fund



Getting the Feedback - Rural Support Survey

To better understand the real impact of our rural recovery efforts, RST conducted a final survey in May 2025. It was sent directly to those who had:

- Attended a rural recovery event
- Received on-farm clean-up or fencing support
- Participated in the Tararua RST Cyclone Recovery Expo

The survey asked respondents to rate how helpful the various support initiatives had been

Key areas of focus included:

- Financial assistance
- · Rural event attendance
- Fencing initiatives
- One-on-one support from RST

Participants rated each category on a scale from 0 to 5, and were also invited to share comments, stories, or messages about their recovery experiences. These reflections helped capture key lessons and will guide improvements to future response efforts.

A total of 61 cyclone-affected individuals responded—an impressive 20%+ response rate—offering both meaningful data and powerful stories from across Tararua's recovery journey. Every "helpfulness" question averaged 4.3 / 5 or higher — which indicates excellence.

Funding Opportunities: 4.64 / 5

Fencing Initiatives: 4.44 / 5

Events: 4.53 / 5

One-on-One Support: 4.29 / 5

Learnings from the Rural Support Survey.

Survey responses highlighted that ALL 4 aspects - Financial, Events, Fencing and 1:1 support scored equally, proving that all aspects were perceived to have a real value in aiding the farmers recovery.

Fencing assistance was seen as essential—not just for the materials provided, but for the time and labour saved, which eased both financial strain as well as improving physical and mental wellbeing.

Rural events were described as uplifting and practical, offering valuable information alongside emotional support.

One-on-one contact with RST facilitators was deeply appreciated, with many valuing the empathy and understanding shown.

Across the board, there was a strong sense of gratitude, with people describing the support as unforgettable. Above all, the work of Tararua RST in connecting people, reducing isolation, and strengthening community resilience stood out as a critical part of the region's recovery.

"We are truly grateful for the support... What was the biggest support was the initial help and then the fencers about a year later. When it takes so long to get through the workload this added support at this time was beneficial mentally as well as physically. We couldn't be more grateful for your support. Thank you thank you."

Key Learnings & Outcomes from the Rural Recovery Lead

1. Collaboration is Everything

Our work was made possible by strong partnerships—with Tararua District Council, Tararua Alliance, Iwi, Civil Defence, MPI, MSD, Sport Manawatū, NGOs, and local businesses. Trusted relationships built through past adverse events proved critical in enabling a coordinated response.

A special acknowledgement to Tararua District Council for their outstanding collaboration. Their leadership in bringing agencies together for the good of the community was a gold-standard example. By supporting our work within the Civil Defence Emergency Management recovery framework, they helped ensure the best possible outcomes for our rural communities.

2. Funding Matters

Without the support of donations to the RST, some of the most impactful initiatives—like the Fencing Expo—would not have been possible. These contributions enabled practical, on-the-ground support that directly benefited rural communities.

External funding through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) was crucial in enabling the broader recovery programme, including the staffing and coordination framework behind it. This, alongside collaborative funding from agencies like MPI and MSD, made it possible to deliver a connected and effective response across the district.

Key Learnings & Outcomes from the Rural Recovery Lead cont...

3. Rural Recovery Must Be Rurally-Led

Tararua's model worked because we were empowered to lead. RST was trusted to act, with local decision-making and community-led priorities from day one.

4. Ask, Don't Assume

We held multiple community meetings during response and recovery asking "What do you need now?" Every major initiative—Blokes Day Out, Fencing Expo, practical one-on-one support—was built out of the feedback people gave us at these meetings.

5. The Economic Story Matters

Any adverse event comes at a cost, but it doesn't happen in a vacuum—it sits within the context of wider economic pressures and external forces. In partnership with MCI & Associates and working with Infometrics, we set out to understand the true local economic impact of Cyclone Gabrielle—something national data alone couldn't fully reflect. This localised insight helped identify what people actually need moving forward, and underscored just how severely the cyclone struck—hitting Tararua at one of the worst possible times.

6. Surveying for Impact

To assess the effectiveness of our support, we surveyed farmers directly—starting from day one with welfare needs assessments during the Response phase. These early insights helped shape priorities and guide decision-making throughout the District's recovery plan, ensuring support aligned with what was truly needed on the ground.

As recovery progressed, the final impact survey reinforced these learnings. It confirmed the value of practical assistance, emotional support, community connection and help with navigating financial challenges. The reflections shared by respondents offer valuable lessons and will help ensure future adverse event funding reaches those most affected—supporting stronger, more targeted responses in the future.

7. Practical Help Goes a Long Way

Practical, hands-on support consistently proved to be one of the most effective tools during our rural recovery. From the early On-Farm Clean-Up crews to the Enhanced Taskforce Green programme and the final fencing project with Taiao Ora, each initiative delivered more than just physical labour. It gave farmers momentum, reduced stress, and offered a visible sign that help was at hand. These efforts eased both operational burdens and emotional strain—demonstrating that when it comes to rural resilience, practical help isn't just appreciated, it's essential.

8. Connection Keeps us Going

In an isolated, rural region like Tararua District, connection is everything. Recovery events—whether a school sports day, comedy night, or Expo—brought people together, lifted spirits, and created space for conversations that led to meaningful support. These moments built trust, reduced isolation, and reminded people they weren't alone—a reminder that social connection is as vital to recovery as any material support.

Conclusion

Tararua's rural recovery efforts demonstrated that local leadership, strong collaboration, and targeted support make a measurable difference. By listening first, acting locally, and working within a trusted framework, we were able to respond effectively to one of the most challenging events our region has faced.

The lessons we've learned—from the value of partnerships and funding to the importance of economic insight and direct community feedback—will not only guide future recovery efforts, but have also strengthened the foundation of rural resilience in Tararua for years to come.

- Jane Tylee - Rural Support Coordinator/Rural Lead



Economic Activities

MBIE Business Support Fund

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) provided \$50 million in recovery support to businesses across eight regions impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and the January 2023 floods. As part of this initiative, the Tararua District was allocated \$355,000 to administer direct financial support to local businesses affected by the event. The funding aimed to help eligible businesses maintain cashflow and position themselves for a successful recovery.

Tararua District Council administered the fund locally and received a total of 55 applications. Of these, 28 were approved and funded, while 27 were declined. Declined applications included those that did not meet the funding criteria, duplicate submissions, or were flagged for attempted fraud. In total, \$351,500 in grants was distributed to support affected businesses, with only \$3,500 remaining by the end of the allocation period. Grants of up to \$40,000 were made available to individual applicants.

The initiative played a vital role in providing immediate financial relief to cyclone-affected enterprises and supported the district's broader economic recovery.

Image below:

Mobile community Hub set up at Feild Days



Mobile Community Hub

Tararua District Council launched the Tararua DigitalSpaces Trailer – a fully equipped, purposebuilt mobile hub designed to strengthen community connection, enhance civil defence capacity, and improve access to Council services across the district.

The trailer serves a dual purpose: first, as a mobile civil defence base that can be deployed to support isolated communities during emergency events and recovery efforts; and second, as a versatile community engagement unit that enables Council to deliver services and connect with residents at local events, markets, and gatherings — particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

The project was made possible through the generous support of the Department of Internal Affairs Lotteries Minister's Discretionary Fund and through an expanded DigitalSpaces contract with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Importantly, the initiative was delivered without using ratepayer funding, demonstrating the Council's commitment to innovative, community-focused solutions supported through external partnerships.

The trailer was fitted out with a wide range of features to ensure it is functional and flexible for multiple uses. It is solar-powered and capable of operating off-grid, allowing deployment in areas without reliable infrastructure. It includes rural Wi-Fi capability, multiple screens, and a sound system to support information sharing and connectivity. The interior contains a small meeting room and cooking facilities, ensuring that it can operate independently during prolonged deployments or events.

This mobile hub not only supports community resilience during emergencies but also brings Council services closer to the people, particularly in areas that may otherwise be underserved. The Tararua DigitalSpaces Trailer reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to accessibility, preparedness, and community engagement throughout the district.

Economic Data Project

Macro Economic Report - Infometrics

Tararua is an agricultural-based economy populated by small towns that act as service centres to local farmers, other businesses, and residents. The year-to-year profitability of the farming sector has a broader effect through the whole local economy. To greater understand the effect Cyclone Gabrielle had on our economy the Recovery Team engaged Brad Olsen at Infometrics to undertake a Macro Data report focusing on the state of the Tararua Economy as of October 2024.

The report gave valuable insight into the Tararua District Economy and the compounding impacts of not only a cyclone but also high input costs, lower commodity prices, and intense debt servicing pressures. It provided context to what we were hearing out in the community.

Key Findings:

- 40% drop in farm sales from 2022
- 3.8%pa fall in annual sheep meat graded
- Farm costs have stabilised however still 25% more expensive then 2020
- Fuel, Interest rates and fertilsier largest increase in costs for primary sector
- A 7% increase in non-performing and potentially stressed loans across agriculture (exc dairy).

Micro Economic Data - MCI+A

During the Recovery period, Tararua's farming community faced an extraordinary convergence of pressures; not only Cyclone Gabrielle, but also prolonged drought during late 2023/2024, soaring interest rates, and record-low commodity prices. To effectively advocate for support, it was essential to capture local, farm-level economic data.

While national analysis (such as work by Brad Olsen_provided some insights, it lacked the local specificity required. The Tararua Recovery Team therefore partnered with MCI & Associates, a large rural accountancy firm with strong connections across the district. Together, a targeted survey was developed and used during end-of-financial-year meetings with cyclone-affected clients - gathering real-time, reliable insights directly from Tararua farmers.

Key Learnings from the Economic Impact Survey

This localised study analysed data from 58 farms, covering around 46,536 effective hectares. It painted a clear picture of the financial toll Cyclone Gabrielle had on our farming sector in the Tararua District.

Key Findings:

- Gross farm revenue declined from \$949/ha (2022) to \$802/ha (2024)
- EBIT (Earnings Before Interest & Tax) dropped from \$293/ha to \$157/ha
- Insurance and grant income was minimal: \$114K and \$62K across all farms
- 48% of maintenance budgets, 23% of fertiliser, and 13% of debt repayment funds were redirected to cyclone repairs
- 6 farms refinanced a total of \$1.48M in working capital to term debt
- Farmers applied 800–1,000 fewer tonnes of fertiliser in 2024
- 68% expect recovery within 1–2 years; 32% expect it will take 3–10+ years

This locally led analysis provides credible, evidence-based insights into the economic strain faced by Tararua's farmers and underscored the need for targeted ongoing recovery support.

Built Activities

Cyclone Gabrielle Roading Faults

As we conclude phase of the cyclone recovery programme, the roading fault data highlights the remarkable progress made in restoring critical infrastructure across the district. The combined efforts of the Tararua Alliance, council teams, and our wider supplier panel have resulted in significant momentum, with the vast majority of faults now resolved and essential connectivity restored to our communities.

Since initial damage assessments began, over 2,300 faults have been successfully completed. Most of these were low-complexity faults, allowing rapid mobilisation and efficient use of resources. This includes:

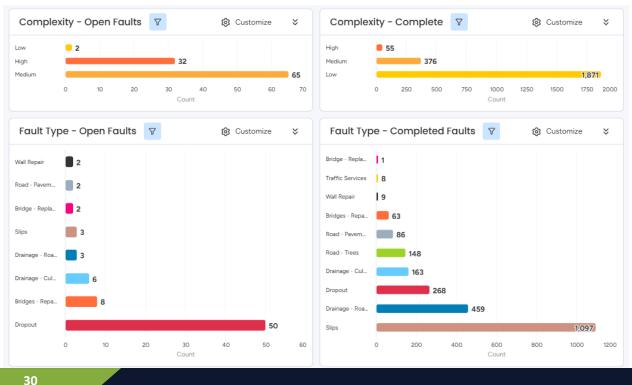
- 1,871 low-complexity faults, such as blocked culverts, slips, and pavement repairs.
- 376 medium-complexity faults.
- 55 high-complexity faults, reflecting good progress on more technical challenges requiring engineering oversight or full design solutions.

The minimal number of unresolved faults (99 open in total) is a clear indicator of the speed and scale of our collective response, especially given the scale of damage following Cyclone Gabrielle.

- Slips have been the single largest category addressed, with 1,097 cleared—a vital achievement in ensuring safety and access throughout the roading network.
- Drainage resilience has been significantly improved, with 459 roadside drainage issues and 163 culvert blockages resolved.
- Dropout repairs while complex and resourceintensive have seen 268 completions, and work continues on the remaining 50 open sites.
- Tree removal, pavement repairs, and wall reinstatements have all contributed to restoring safe passage and minimising disruption for rural residents.

This recovery programme has not only addressed damage but has also improved the resilience of our infrastructure. Many areas now have better drainage capacity and slope protection than pre-Gabrielle conditions, helping reduce future risk.

Importantly, the progress made has had a direct impact on the wellbeing of our communities, reconnecting isolated properties, reopening key transport routes, and supporting the return of economic activity, particularly in primary production zones.



River Road

The primary access road to the Akitio Beach community suffered severe damage during the weather event, with over 300 metres of road completely washed out. This critical transport link was closed for approximately two months, significantly impacting residents, emergency access, and essential service delivery to the coastal settlement.

In response, the restoration of access became an immediate priority. A temporary route was established by reopening the old/original road alignment that passed through private property located above the failed section. This required close collaboration with landowners and contractors to ensure the route was made safe and functional for public use. The interim solution allowed for the re-establishment of connectivity while long-term repair and resilience options for the damaged road section were explored.

Reinstating access to Akitio was considered the highest priority at the time, ensuring the wellbeing of the community and supporting recovery efforts. Once a stable and reliable route was secured, attention and resources were redirected to address further damage in the surrounding area, including the Marainanga Gorge.



Image on left: Damage to River Road after Cyclone Gabrielle

Image on right: Post work condition of river road.

Marainanga Gorge

The reopening of Marainanga Gorge Road marked a significant milestone in the district's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle and stood as a powerful example of resilience, collaboration, and community determination.

During the cyclone, approximately 300 metres of the road were completely washed away into the Owahanga River, forcing its immediate closure. The scale of the damage made it clear that a full rebuild would be required. In a proactive step to reduce future vulnerability, the replacement road was constructed around 10 metres higher than the original alignment—an investment in long-term resilience.

Despite being delivered under challenging winter conditions and within a complex, sensitive river environment, the project progressed steadily. This was made possible through strong coordination between Tararua District Council, Horizons Regional Council, iwi partners, and experienced local contractors. Their collaborative approach enabled steady progress while maintaining environmental care and safety.

Early works focused on re-establishing access for residents, farmers, and rural businesses who had endured months of disruption, extended travel times, and difficulty accessing services. The reopening of the road brought not only practical relief but also a meaningful morale boost for the communities of Coast Road, Marainanga Road, Owahanga Road, and the surrounding area.

While traffic access was restored, further works continued to strengthen the formation and improve long-term resilience. Some lower sections of the road remained narrow, particularly where riverbank scour had impacted the stability beneath the surface, and motorists were advised to travel with care as these improvements were completed.

The successful completion of this project represented far more than just the reopening of a road. It was a clear demonstration of what can be achieved through local collaboration, strong leadership, and shared purpose. The Marainanga Gorge Road rebuild became a symbol of recovery in action, restoring lifeline infrastructure, reconnecting isolated communities, and building back stronger for the future.



Rakaitai Bridge

Following the devastating impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Rakiatai Bridge on the Manawatū River, located at the end of Rakiatai Road was completely washed away, severing the only all-weather connection for residents. In the immediate aftermath, community members were relied upon to use dinghies for essential crossings, underscoring the urgent need for a temporary solution.

Tararua District Council quickly mobilised to restore safe passage by repurposing recycled beams salvaged from the original bridge. This cost-effective interim structure re-established pedestrian access within weeks, allowing residents to attend schools, medical appointments, and farm duties without risking river crossings.

Simultaneously, the procurement process for a permanent replacement was completed, and a design-and-build contractor was appointed. Detailed design work commenced in mid-2024, construction began in October 2024. The new bridge design incorporated raised abutments and reinforced foundations to withstand high-flow river events, improving resilience against future flooding.

In the lead-up to full construction, additional earthworks were carried out to enable 4x4 and

earthworks were carried out to enable 4×4 and tractor access to the river crossing point. These interim access routes ensured that farming operations and emergency services could continue with minimal disruption.

Throughout the recovery process, collaboration between Council engineers, ZPR contractors, and local farmers proved instrumental. Regular onsite meetings allowed technical teams to adapt plans based on ground conditions and community feedback, reinforcing a shared commitment to restoring this vital piece of infrastructure



The Tararua Alliance established an Emergency Work Supplier Panel to accelerate recovery ensuring our critical infrastructure was assessed and repaired. The panel brought together qualified local contractors to support vital roading and reticulation repairs, including capital improvements and general maintenance. Over three years, this collaborative approach enabled the completion of repairs to 20 damaged bridges, 551 dropouts, and 1,807 other faults across the network.

The panel model offered several benefits. It streamlined engagement with council, eliminating the need for new contracts for each job and allowing suppliers to mobilise quickly—particularly important as further weather events compounded existing damage. Panel membership also provided contractors with visibility of upcoming work, supporting better planning and investment in their operations. Most importantly, the initiative strengthened local capacity and made a direct contribution to the district's infrastructure recovery, reinforcing resilience in the face of future events.

Images below:

Damage to Tararua Roading network







Natural Activities

New River and Rainfall Monitoring Sites

As part of the wider strategy to enhance resilience and emergency response capabilities across the district, Horizons Regional Council has successfully completed the installation of remote telemetry units at key rural sites. These installations deliver real-time environmental data, significantly improving situational awareness and response during adverse weather events.

The Owahanga site was completed on 19 May, with live data streaming immediately into monitoring systems. Pongaroa at Town followed on 22 May, while the remaining sites at Weber, Wimbledon, and Cadmus Bridge were on schedule in June 2024. All locations are now fully operational and actively transmitting live data.

This work represents a significant investment in preparedness, particularly for isolated communities that are often first and most heavily impacted by weather events. The data collected supports more responsive and informed decision-making during emergencies, helping reduce risk to infrastructure and enhance public safety.

Ākitio Beach Clean Up

Following Cyclone Gabrielle, significant debris impacted the Ākitio Beach area, prompting the need for a targeted clean-up effort. Horizons Regional Council played a key role by providing expert advice on identifying and prioritising the most affected sites along the coastline. Their local knowledge and environmental expertise ensured that attention was directed where it was most needed, balancing community needs with ecological considerations.

The Tararua District Council office then took the lead in coordinating the response—securing funding for the clean-up and managing its delivery. This included engaging contractors, liaising with local stakeholders, and ensuring that the work was carried out efficiently and safely.

The clean-up helped restore access and amenity at key beach locations, removed storm-related debris, and reduced environmental risk to the coastal ecosystem. The project was well received by the local community, who had been significantly affected by the storm's impact on their coastline. It also demonstrated the value of cross-agency collaboration in delivering timely, practical outcomes as part of the broader recovery effort.

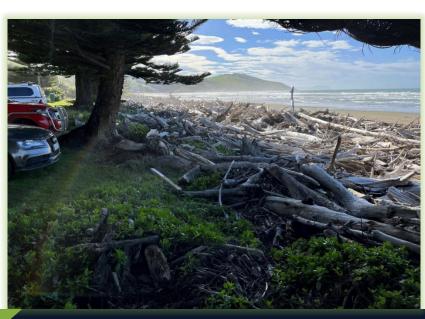


Image right: Akitio Beach covered in slash

River Management

In response to Cyclone Gabrielle, Horizons Regional Council swiftly mobilised emergency reserves to repair flood protection infrastructure throughout the Tararua District—targeting stopbanks, spillways, and drainage systems to restore community resilience.

Following technical assessments, Horizons approved an extensive River Management Repair Programme, prioritising the 173 highest-risk sites across eight schemes—which included the Ākitio catchment.

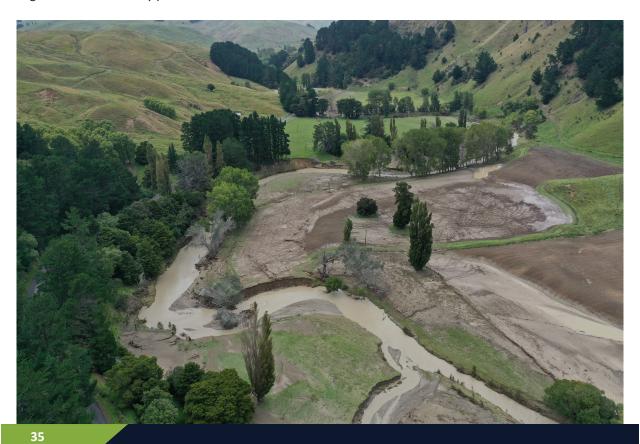


Importantly, the programme incorporated ongoing engagement with affected landowners, iwi, and rural communities through field visits, scheme meetings, and individual consultations, ensuring repair priorities reflected on-the-ground concerns and were shaped by local knowledge.

This feedback mechanism helped refine technical strategy by identifying debris hotspots, optimal river channel locations, and the need to "build back better" for instance, widening corridors and using enhanced erosion materials to boost long-term flood resilience.

Horizons also deployed land-management advisors to assist rural landowners with landslip recovery, oversowing, and pole planting across eroded hillsides, supporting over 30,000 poles planted to stabilise catchments .

Through a coordinated, community-driven approach, this recovery effort balanced engineering robustness with local insight—ensuring repair works not only addressed immediate post-Gabrielle damage, but also aligned with community priorities and enhanced future flood resilience.



Resilience Activities

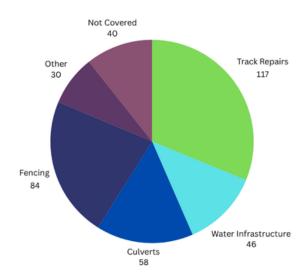
Tararua On Track Fund

As part of the Ministry for Primary Industries' \$35.4 million recovery package to support rural communities impacted by North Island weather event Cyclone Gabrielle, the Tararua District was allocated \$1 million to directly assist our local primary industry producers. This funding focused on urgent maintenance and resilience work to help farms recover, stabilise operations, and prepare for future events.

Applications for the support fund were open from 12 September to 12 October 2023. In just one month, 127 applications were received, with farmers and growers across the district requesting approximately \$5.3 million in financial support—more than five times the available funding. This overwhelming demand reinforced what many already knew: the need on the ground was significant, and the scale of damage and disruption left by Cyclone Gabrielle was beyond what individual farms could absorb alone.

Funding was distributed to successful applicants from all corners of the district—from the hill country of Te Uri to the coastal lands of Aohanga, and many communities in between. The projects funded were varied but vital: repairing culverts and fences, stabilising slip-prone areas, restoring accessways, and reinstating critical infrastructure.

Applications for the Tararua on track fund covered track repairs, water infrastructure, culverts, and boundary fencing. With majority of applications applying for multiple workstreams.



While the support was warmly received and appreciated by those who benefited, it was clear from the volume and value of applications that \$1 million was just a start. The positive feedback from affected ratepayers was matched with a consistent message—this was a drop in the bucket compared to the long-term work required to build resilience across the rural sector.



Marae Preparedness

As part of our district-wide commitment to community resilience and emergency readiness, targeted work has been undertaken to support marae across the Tararua District in strengthening their preparedness for natural disasters and emergency events. Recognised as vital cultural and spiritual hubs, marae also play a critical role as places of refuge and support during crises. Ensuring they are equipped to respond effectively is a key priority within our civil defence planning framework.

This initiative involved close engagement with local marae committees to identify specific readiness needs, assess infrastructure capabilities, and provide tailored guidance on emergency planning. Support provided has included basic emergency supplies and resources, alongside advice on essential areas such as generator access, water and food storage, and communications capabilities.

Funding of \$15,000 was allocated to six marae to carry out activities identified through needs assessments, enhancing their capacity to serve their communities when it matters most.

Land Stability

Tararua District Council, Tararua Alliance and Rural Support initiated a collaborative project focused on addressing land stability risks adjacent to local roads, with the goal of strengthening the resilience of the roading network. In partnership with Horizons Regional Council, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) the initiative targeted privately owned land that posed a risk of dropouts or slips during future weather events.

Following the significant impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle—during which approximately 790 slips and 435 dropouts were recorded across the district—the need for a proactive solution became clear. Tararua's road network, particularly vulnerable to high-intensity rainfall, prompted the Alliance to explore options that could reduce future damage and minimise disruptions for local communities. This focus was primarily on identifying the high prone slip areas within the roading network and understanding what civil work may need to be done to improve its resilience (upgraded culverts, drainage on private land etc). In March 2025, Alliance was successful in recieving funding from NZTA for the Civil construction portion of the land stability project.

This project aligned with Horizons Regional Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative, specifically through identifying high risk sites and applying appropriate erosion control measures. In this project most sites could be treated through planting of poplar and willow poles to control soil slip and gully erosion. Approximately 155 at risk sites were identified, with more in depth assessements now underway to determine the specific stabilisation measures required at each location.

Beyond the resilience outcomes, the project also delivers social and economic benefits. Through a grant from MSD, this initiative provided employment and skills development opportunities for 3 local people not currently engaged in employment. These individuals are being trained in planting and erosion mitigation work, contributing directly to both environmental and community resilience.

In August 2024, the recovery team contracted a local supplier to undertake a case study testing the framework and funding model for this project. After a successful case study, 80 high priority sites were identified and set to be addressed in Phase one of the project.

Phase one began in June 2025 after going through an open procurement process in which local supplier Tai Ora Cantracting was successful. As of this report, only year one of the land stability is funded however Tararua Alliance is looking at funding opportunities for year 2 and beyond.

MBIE Community Renewable Energy Fund

The Community Renewable Energy Fund (CREF), administered by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), is a New Zealand government initiative aimed at enhancing energy resilience in communities, particularly those affected by severe weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle. The fund supports the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery systems in community buildings such as halls, marae, and schools, which serve as critical hubs during emergencies.

In the Tararua District, community halls in Te Uri, Kumeroa, and Herbertville were selected to receive funding for solar PV and battery installations. These upgrades provide reliable, renewable energy sources, ensuring that these facilities can function effectively during power outages and contribute to the community's overall energy independence.

The Recovery Team played a pivotal role in supporting this initiative by identifying suitable sites, assisting community organisations with the preparation of necessary documentation, and guiding the shortlisted communities through the application process.

Overall, the CREF's investment in these community halls not only bolsters emergency preparedness but also promotes sustainable energy practices, leading to long-term benefits such as reduced energy costs.

Mayoral Relief Fund

In the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Tararua Mayoral Relief Fund provided vital, targeted support to individuals and families facing immediate and often complex challenges. With over \$316,000 distributed, the fund played a crucial role in meeting urgent needs that sat outside traditional funding channels—such as essential household items, temporary accommodation, farm repairs, or wellbeing-related costs.

Administered by the Tararua District Council, the fund was designed to be flexible, compassionate, and fast-moving, helping ensure that no one fell through the cracks during the early stages of recovery. Applications were assessed case-by-case, with a focus on fairness, need, and the ability to make a tangible difference in someone's recovery journey.

While not intended to replace insurance or government assistance, the Mayoral Relief Fund complemented broader recovery efforts and demonstrated the power of community-led support in times of crisis. It remains a valued example of how local leadership can respond swiftly and meaningfully when residents need it most.



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Exit Strategy

Outlined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act) exiting the recovery phase of an emergency is governed specifically through section 94B and related provisions. This relates to when a Recovery Manager or authority determines that the recovery phase has concluded.

As per this process the recovery team has developed an exit strategy that outlines the status of all recovery actions, and the responsible agency of those still open once recovery closes. You can find this in Appendix B.

Evaluation

Our team intends to undertake a full debrief of the activities undertaken during the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery period in FY 25/26.

Conclusion

The Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Programme stands as a testament to the strength, collaboration, and resilience of the Tararua District. Over the past two and a half years, communities, iwi, council teams, government agencies, NGOs, and local leaders have come together to not only respond to an unprecedented natural disaster but to lay the groundwork for a more connected and resilient future.

This final report highlights the immense effort undertaken across all sectors, from rural recovery and infrastructure repair to wellbeing support and economic revitalisation. While the formal recovery phase may be drawing to a close, the legacy of this mahi will continue. The relationships built, lessons learned, and community-led initiatives developed through this journey will strengthen our district's readiness for whatever challenges may come.

As we transition beyond the recovery phase, our commitment remains unchanged: to support our people, protect our places, and keep building a stronger, more resilient Tararua—together.

Appendices

Appendix A: Status of Tararua District Council recovery actions.

This section outlines the actions prepared in the October 2024 Recovery Plan and the progress made on them.

RURAL RECOVERY

RECOVERY OUTCOME: (END RESULT/FOCUS AREA)

what support and assistance is available to help them recover and be more resilient for future adverse events. That Cyclone Gabrielle affected farmers and their families in the Tararua District are supported to continue to work in their businesses, and they know

Priority and progress key: 1 – 1-3 months (Oct-Dec 2024). 2 – 3-6 months (Jan-March 2024). 3 – +6 months (April & beyond). 4 – Ongoing

	1.1 Farmers are assisted with remedial on farm clean-up work	Objective/goal	Traffic light key: Gr
Record # of km of fencing replaced and evaluate if there is an ongoing need past December. Continue fencing initiative if needed	Deliver Fencing initiative in partnership with MSD farm and Rural Support Trust	Recovery actions	Traffic light key: Green – On track. Orange – Delayed. Red – Issues.
g • Rural Support d Trust	ve • Rural SD Support Trust	Lead	. Red – Issues.
MSDTaio oraContracting	• MSD	Stakeholders	
MSD	MSD RST donations	Funding	
# of km of fencing replaced Additional business case put forward and approved	20 farms assisted # of km of fencing replaced # Farmer feedback forms received	How we will measure if we are successful	
Complete	Complete	Priority & Progress	
		Comments	

1.4	1.3	1.2
Build resilience in the Rural environment	Explore resilience in the rural community	Understand the economic impacts on farming businesses from Cyclone Gabrielle
Work in partnership on the Land Stability Project	Work alongside the Tararua District recovery team and rural communities to build more emergency preparedness and resilience for future events via Community Hubs	Collaborate with Tararua District Council and other recovery workstreams and MCI to analyse the data to allow decision making around support needed which will specifically target the rural community with a recovery focus
Rural Support Trust	Community Resilience Lead	• Tararua District Recovery Team
Tararua Alliance Horizons Regional Council Tararua District Council MSD	Rural Support Trust Tararua District Council – Emergency Management	 Rural Support Trust Rural Professionals Banks and Financial Services
N/A	N/A	Z/ P
# of land stability projects undertaken to build resilience	# opportunities to support rural resilience initiatives e.g. facilitate Good Yarn Workshops	Feedback provided on draft report Supporting/promoting the presentation to Rural Communities Support and/or deliver potential initiatives/funding
Complete	Complete	Complete
	Community hubs provided the opportunity, conversations will continue post recovery.	

1.7	1.6	1.5
Farmers are assisted to navigate financial support and business advice		Information and support will be provided for farmer wellbeing
Develop a Rural Support Trust newsletter to promote available financial support and advice	Refer farmers to other service providers or agencies for support and funding	Collaborate with rural and government agencies, and community service providers to provide mental health and wellbeing support as funding and resourcing allows Work with MSD to continue to provide professional Counselling Support for the Rural community
Rural Support Trust	Rural Support Trust	Rural Support Trust
Rural Professionals Banks and Financial Services	Rural Professionals Banks and Financial Services	Rural Professionals Wellbeing Agencies MSD
N/A	Z	DPMC
# of newsletter and information distributed through rural networks	# of referrals	Farmers and rural communities are provided with information about support and services available An efficient referral process is in place to direct farmers to mental wellbeing and support Wellbeing events are held for rural communities in collaboration with other rural professionals
4 (ongoing)	4 (ongoing)	4 (ongoing)

						1.8
			Groups	Catchment	studies through	Support river
	Tararua	waterway issues in	Regional Council about	advocate/inform Horizons	river clean up needed to	Support the evaluation of
				Lead	Social Recovery	Community and
Council	Horizons Regional	Recovery Office	Tararua District	Catchment Groups		Rural Support Trust
			required	advocate if	need to	Mayor may
Regional Council if need identified	Advocate to Horizons				clean up need	Understanding of river
						Complete

BUILT RECOVERY

RECOVERY OUTCOME: (END RESULT/FOCUS AREA)

To repair and build resilience into the Tararua roading network

Priority and progress key: 1 – 1-3 months (Oct-Dec 2024). 2 – 3-6 months (Jan-March 2024). 3 – +6 months (April & beyond). 4 – Ongoing

Traffic light key: Green – On track. Orange – Delayed. Red – Issues

2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	
Provide education to residents of the Tararua District	Build resilience in the Rural environment	Resilience improvements across the rural network	Identify and agree appropriate levels of service for the roading network across the District	Affected roading network returned back to appropriate level of service	all stickered properties
Comms Plan regarding this messaging (specifically bridges, drainage and	Land Stability Project Business case for road resilience improvement developed	Develop a business case for a work programme which will future proof the roading network to be presented to Council for consideration	Investigate road usage to identify scenarios for levels of service	Balance of 206 faults completed	Council Building and Facilities Teams
•	•	•	•	•	
Tararua Alliance	Tararua Alliance	Tararua Alliance	Tararua Alliance	Tararua Alliance	
•	• •		• • •		
Tararua District Council	Rural Support Trust Tararua Recovery Office		Tararua District Council Rural communities Affected community		
ваи	MSD Horizons NZTA	NZTA Tararua District Council	N/A	NZTA Tararua District Council	
Comms Plan created, # of comms put out	Forward works programme for Land Stability project created and implemented Business case submitted to NZTA for further funding	Business Case endorsed by Councillors and presented to NZTA	Proposing levels of service to Council for discussion, gauging the appetite, and starting discussion	206 faults returned to appropriate level of service	
On hold	Complete	Complete	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Brought into BAU	Both the planting and civil work funding approved		Remaining activities brought into BAU	Remaining activities brought into BAU	

drainage	e.g bridges,	infrastructure	key	responsibility of	and	maintenance	טוו נוופ ואטעפא,
						developed	ווומווונבוומוונבן
						Team)	(collillo

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL RECOVERY

RECOVERY OUTCOME: (END RESULT/FOCUS AREA)

Affected communities are connected and resilient and have high levels of wellbeing

Priority and progress key: 1 – 1-3 months (Oct-Dec 2024). 2 – 3-6 months (Jan-March 2024). 3 – +6 months (April & beyond). 4 – Ongoing

Traffic light key: Green – On track. Orange – Delayed. Red – Issues.

						difference we're making		
3.1 Communities are empowered to shape the future of their communities - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua - Waitahora - Wakuri - Alfredton - Ākitio - Alfredton		led events (8 in \$750 grant) for target geographic npacted ki Tāmaki nui-a- aki Nui-ā-Rua	• Commu nity and Social Recove ry lead	 Tararua District Recovery team 	DРMC	8 community- led events held and reported	Complete	
3.2 Understand the wellbeing/mental health of the impacted communities 12 Understand the Wellbeing wellbeing/mental health of the impacted communities 12 Design and distribute a Wellbeing on ity District and Recovery Social team ry lead	<u>a</u>	a Wellbeing ararua District networks		 Tararua District Recovery team 	N/A	Analysis of results Final Report produced and shared with Tararua	Complete	

3. ₄	ω	
	Affected communities are reconnected and resilient	months on from the last survey (September 2023)
Continue building relationships with the 13 Civil Defence community hub groups to ensure strong communication line are established Pongaroa Alfredton Kumeroa Te Uri Herbertville Äkitio	Support a further 5 existing Civil Defence groups with upgrading their community hub. Pahiatua Woodville Eketahuna Norsewood	
•	•	
Commu nity and Social Recove ry lead	Commu nity and Social Recove ry lead	
 Tararua District Council – Emergency Management 	 Tararua District Council – Emergency Management 	
N/A	DPMC	
Key contacts are maintained in a spreadsheet and engaged with	hubs needs assessments completed 5 community hubs that have resilience/local recovery plans in place 5 community hubs have physical assets in place to build resilience for a future weather event	District Recovery team to decide any action/initiatives Shared with Tararua District Council and other stakeholders
4 (ongoing)	Complete	
Will continue through the emergency management and community development roles		

	3.6	ω in
been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle will have knowledge of and access to support and funding	Maraes, Communities and schools who have	Connect with community networks to share recovery information and needs
for lwi, community groups/schools	Understand and promote funding channels available from different government and local organisations	Attend appropriate community meetings to share lead information about recovery programmes and needs
Social Recove ry lead	Commu nity and	al Recovery
 Groups Tararua REAP Tararua Schools MSD Tararua District Council 	lwi Community	● Tararua REAP Welfare Networking Group
	N/A	Z Þ
provide support and information about funding	# connections with marae, community groups, schools to	10 networking events attended
	4 (ongoing)	Complete
Development Role	This will be continued through the Community	

	3.8
Resilience	Support Marae
committees in Tararua to understand resilience needs and provide support for resilience building initiatives Pāpāuma Marae – Owahanga Te Ahu a Tūranga Marae – Woodville Whiti te Ra Marae – Dannevirke Mākirikiri Marae – Dannevirke Kaitoki Marae – Dannevirke Pahiatua Marae - Pahiatua	Work with the 6 Marae
unity and Social Recove ry lead	• Comm
 Tararua District Council – Emergency Management 	• Iwi
support the 6 Marae in Tararua. Further build Civil Defence relationship with the Marae committees.	Engage and
	Complete

NATURAL RECOVERY

RECOVERY OUTCOME: (END RESULT/FOCUS AREA)

To have the community more prepared for adverse events through better data collection and warning systems in our rivers. To have the land and waterway in the eastern area in a more resilient state, better able to withstand damaging adverse events into the future

Priority and progress key: 1 – 1-3 months (Oct-Dec 2024). 2 – 3-6 months (Jan-March 2024). 3 – +6 months (April & beyond). 4 – Ongoing

Traffic light key: Green – On track. Orange – Delayed. Red – Issues.

Objective/goal Recovery actions	Lead	Stakeholders	Funding	How we will measure the difference we're making	Priority & Progress
Waterways with Implement Tararua Debris potential for environmental respond to any requests for support, assistance and advice infrastructure degradation repaired Any further channel clearance found will be BAU. This includes areas within Tiraumea River Ongoing as funding permits past June 25. Horizons Regional Council operational budgets allocated to this work Public education campaign about water channel clearance in Tararua	d Regional Council ce ce des data		Horizons Regional Council BAU	Tararua Debris Management Action Plan completed June 2024 with all top priority sites actioned Less river blockages after flood events. Timely response to ratepayer request for assistance	Complete

4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2
Erosion leading to continued sediment into watercourses and ongoing damage to on and off farm infrastructure is identified and treated			Expand the Environmental monitoring network in the Eastern Coastal catchments
Provide long term advice to landowners around erosion mitigation and reducing sediment into waterways primarily through SLUI funding	Work with other partners to add flood warning sites	Stage 2 Update rainfall and river level sites at ~Owahanga, Pongaroa, Wimbledon, Weber and Cadmus Bridge	Stage 1 Update Horizons Regional Council Regional Council Regional Council radio network
Horizons Regional Council	Horizons Regional Council	Horizons Regional Council	Horizons Regional Council
	Tararua Emergency Management Group		
Horizons Regional Council BAU		Horizons Regional Council BAU	Horizons Regional Council BAU
# people Horizons Regional Council have worked with in Tararua through this work programme # new people that Horizons Regional Council have worked with	Local residents aware of how river level and flood warning system operates in the Eastern Coastal catchments	Completed system online August 2024.	New radio repeater network up and running by end of August 2024. Further work to upgrade to solar power supply in remote locations. To be completed June 2025.
Ongoing	Ongoing	Complete	Complete
Brought in as part of BAU	Brought in as part of BAU		

4.7	4.6
	Land Stability Project
Work with land owners and Tararua Alliance to identify sites on private land where work is required outside the roading corridor	Provide funding for long-term stabilisation projects
Horizons Regional Council Tararua Alliance	Horizons Regional Council
 Tararua Alliance Tararua District Recovery team Tararua District Council Rural Support Trust MSD 	 Tararua Alliance Tararua District Recovery team Tararua District Council Rural Support Trust MSD
Horizons Regional Council BAU funding available until 30 th June 2027	Horizons Regional Council BAU
Identify priority sites by December 2024 # of sites where a joint programme is completed	Horizons Regional Council report km's of fencing, hectares of work, # of trees planted
Complete	Complete
	Land Stability plants are coming from SLUI fund

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

RECOVERY OUTCOME: (END RESULT/FOCUS AREA)

Ensure the lingering economic impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle on the Tararua District are accurately recorded, reported, and shared with key stakeholders. This will provide decision-makers with a clear understanding of the current state of the district's rural economy.

Priority and progress key: 1 – 1-3 months (Oct-Dec 2024). 2 – 3-6 months (Jan-March 2024). 3 – +6 months (April & beyond). 4 – Ongoing

5.2 'Outlook for Tararua District economy' report	5.1 'Outlook for Tararua District economy' report	Objective/goal	Traffic light key: Green –
Feedback report results to community	Lead analysis and develop an action plan that outlines delegation of actions from the report Create a Comms Plan	Recovery actions	I raffic light key: Green – On track. Orange – Delayed. Red – Issues.
 Recovery Project Co- ordinator 	 Infometrics 	Lead	Issues.
 Recovery Team Infometrics Dannevirke Chamber of Commerce Pahiatua Chamber of Commerce CEDA 	 Recovery Team 	Stakeholders	
DPMC	DPMC	Funding	
Report completed Meeting held	Report received Analysis complete Action plan developed	How we will measure the difference we're making	
Complete	Complete	Priority & Progress	
		Reporting	

? V	5.4	5.3
Understand the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, as well as other adverse events e.g. COVID, Drought, on farm businesses over the last 5 years	"Outlook for Tararua District economy" report	"Outlook for Tararua District economy" report
Work with MCI & Associates to gain a grassroots understanding of rural business cash flow and budget trends post-cyclone, covering the past five years and projecting into the 2025/26 financial year. Review and analysis (which includes comparing to the 'Outlook for Tararua District economy' report) Comms plan developed Action plan developed, if deemed appropriate	Lead any recovery related actions (in conjunction with other Recovery leads if relevant)	Report to Council
 Recovery Project Co- ordinator 	 Tararua District Recovery team 	 Tararua District Recovery team
 Tararua District Recovery team Economic Development Team MCI & Associates Tararua District Council Communications Team 	•	•
Co- funded by MCI & Associate s/ DPMC	DPMC	DPMC
Report received from MCI & Associates Analysis report produced Comms Plan developed Action plan developed, if deemed appropriate	Tararua District Recovery team meeting to discuss Action Plan developed	Report to Council
Complete	Complete	Complete
	No recovery actions identified	

	4 (ongoing)	# Events supported	N/A		Tararua District Recovery team	Support Tararua District Council and business events as required	Tararua District events are supported where recovery is benefited	5.7
No capacity	3 (not started)		Tararua District Council	Tararua Recovery Team	 Tararua District Council 	Compare and analyse the two reports in conjunction with each other Final report produced	5.6 Understand the current economic state of the Tararua District	5.6

TARARUA DISTRICT COUNCIL RECOVERY OFFICE

RECOVERY OUTCOME: (END RESULT/FOCUS AREA)

Ensure the recovery team operates efficiently and effectively throughout the remaining duration of this plan, with a well-prepared exit strategy in place on completion. The exit plan will cover all remaining actions, assigning clear responsibilities to ensure a smooth transition and continued support for recovery activity into the future, if needed

Priority and progress key: 1 – 1-3 months (Oct-Dec 2024). 2 – 3-6 months (Jan-March 2024). 3 – +6 months (April & beyond). 4 – Ongoing

Traffic light key: Green – On track. Orange – Delayed. Red – Issues.

6.1	Obje
Facilitate a collaborative Land Stability Project with partner agencies and the community	Objective/goal
Confirm funding arrangements with partners for the project Establish a sustainable project team to manage the project Create a project management template to support the process for the land stability project	Recovery actions
Tararua District Recovery team	Lead
 Tararua Alliance Horizons Regional Council Rural Support Trust MSD MPI Tararua District Recovery team Farmers/ Landowners 	Stakeholders
Partner Agencies using BAU funds to cover their respective areas. Horizons Regional Council: Plants – SLUI Fund Tararua Alliance: Civil Works – NZTA MISD:	Funding
10+ worksites confirmed by project team for next planting season (August 2025) Collaborative framework approved and implemented	How we will measure the difference we're making
Complete (Ongoing)	Priority & Progress
Contract signed for planting Labor FY 25/26. Work to begin on approx. 80 sites over July – September 2025	Comments

6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	
Ensure Recovery filing and projects are complete	Recovery Readiness planning	Advocate for Rural Support Trust's continued support for those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, if needed	Record the Tararua District Recovery Programme visually	
Complete and file Recovery projects	Recovery toolkit and EOC Recovery box developed Recovery training and exercising plan in place	Development of briefing paper for the Mayor to advocate for Rural Support Trust assistance to continue in Tararua	Recovery photo book developed Create a Comms Plan	
 Recovery Project Co- ordinator 	 Recovery Project Co- ordinator 	 Recovery 	 Recovery Project Co- ordinator 	
•	• •	• •	•	
Tararua District Recovery team	Emergency Management Officer Tararua District Recovery team	Rural Support Trust Mayor	Tararua District Recovery Team	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Planting Labour
Recovery projects, initiatives and information filed correctly on the Tararua District Council system	Recovery Readiness toolkit developed EOC Recovery box developed Recovery training and exercising plan in place	Briefing paper developed for Mayor if required	Recovery photo book distributed to Tararua District Council, partners and stakeholders	
Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete	
		Communication between Council and RST will continue	Cyclone Gabrielle Photobook published in February 2025	

∞	57	.6	
Final Report	Transition Plan	Recovery Lessons Management incl Debrief	
Produce a Tararua District Recovery Final Report	Work with Tararua District Recovery team and Tararua District Council to produce a Recovery Transition Plan that highlights how ongoing recovery issues will be managed going forward	Lead the Lessons Management process Develop a Lessons Identified report Develop an action plan to progress recommendations for lessons to be learned.	
•	•	•	
Recovery Project Co- ordinator	Recovery Project Co- ordinator	District Recovery Manager	
• • •	• • •		
Tararua District Recovery team CDEM Group Office NEMA	Tararua District Recovery team Tararua District Council CDEM Group Office NEMA	Tararua District Recovery team Iwi Partners Stakeholders NEMA CRU/DPMC Group Recovery Office	
N/A	N A	N/A	
Recovery Final Report produced and distributed to Tararua District Council and recovery partners/stakeholders	Transition plan complete and reported to Council	Lessons identified report finalised and circulated to partners/stakeholders Presentation to Council Action plan developed	and discoverable for future events, if
Complete	Complete	Complete	
Completed June 2025	Completed June 2025	Booked in FY 25/26	

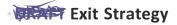
6.11	6.10	6.9
Tararua District Recovery Website is permanently updated to record the impacts from Cyclone Gabrielle on the District	Continue to share information with the community and partners/stakeh olders through the next phase of recovery	Recovery Team co-ordination
Create an evergreen static historic page about Cyclone Gabrielle and the Recovery	Develop a Comms Plan appropriate for this phase of Recovery	Organisation of Recovery Team meetings (2 x month) Development of a reporting template to monitor plan Monitoring of Recovery Plan
•	•	•
Recovery Project Co- ordinator	Recovery Project Co- ordinator	Recovery Project Co- ordinator
• •	• •	•
Tararua District Recovery team Tararua District Council Comms Team	Tararua District Recovery team Tararua District Council Comms Team	Tararua District Recovery team
N/A	N/A	N/A
Website updated	Comms Plan developed # of Comms shared	2 Tararua District Recovery team meetings held monthly Recovery plan progress monitored/roadbl ocks identified and escalated as needed
In progress	Complete	Complete
Working with communications team on evergreen content		

13 5.	1.2
Advocate for support for lingering environmental impacts in the Tararua District	Reporting – CEG/JC/Council / DPMC
Work with the Catchment Groups to collect data that will inform local river management priorities (Horizons). i.e. Herbertville Bridge	Complete the following reports monthly Council DPMC Mayor's Taskforce for Recovery Complete reports as requested for CEG/JC
Recovery Project Co- ordinator	Recovery Project Co- ordinator
Tararua District Recovery team Catchment Groups Horizons Regional Council Herbertville community	Tararua District Recovery team
N/A	N/A
Collated information sent to Horizons Regional Council	# reports completed Feedback from Council/DPMC/ Mayors Taskforce for Recovery
Complete	Complete
	Completed as required

Appendix B: Exit Strategy



Tararua District Council



Event:	Cyclone Gabrielle	
Districts and Regions affected:	Tararua District	
Prepared by:	Mitchell Guile	
Handover from:	Tararua Recovery Team	Signature:
Handover to:	Tararua District Council	
	Bryan Nicholson	Signature
Date of handover from Recovery Manager to CE:	1 July 2025	
Status:	Draft Final	

The Event, the Response and the Recovery

The Event

Cyclone Gabrielle was a significant weather event impacting northern, central and eastern north island of New Zealand resulting in a National State of Emergency declared on 14 February 2023. Tararua's rural coastal communities felt the full force of the cyclone with significant structural and environmental damage sustained.

Over 2 years on from Cyclone Gabrielle, people and communities are still feeling the impacts.

Our farmers were hit hard. Over 200 farms in Tararua District sustained damage, some major, and many are still working to recover from the physical, economic and psychological impacts of the disaster.

Our roading network sustained major impacts, and while good progress has been made, there is still ongoing work ahead as we know that our roading network remains vulnerable to slips, dropouts and falling trees.

Our natural environment has also sustained significant damage. Work is ongoing to build resilience where we can.

The health and wellbeing of our people has been tested and continues to be, as multiple other compounding issues, such as two years of COVID-19 lockdowns, beef and lamb commodity prices, the global recession, a drought and tight financial times are ongoing, taking it's toll on our valued and important farming community.

In addition, we know that the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle along with the compounding issues have made it tough for our local businesses. We know that there is still work to do to help our people and communities recover and to build resilience for future events that the Tararua District may face.

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Recovery

The Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Team was initiated by Sandra James – Consultant from Connecting People. She led the transition from response to recovery and helped establish the needs of the team. This was then handed over in May 2023 to Don Cameron who managed an internal recovery office. The TDC team was made up of 2 seconded staff, 3 new employees as well as key leads from Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua, Horizons Regional Council, Tararua Alliance and Rural Support Trust.

Assistance required in the long-term

No long-term assistance is needed.

Transition to business as usual to manage long-term recovery

Minimal requirements are needed to transition to outstanding activities into their relative organisations. This is due to the remaining actions lying firmly within responsible agencies BAU functions and having those agencies as leads during recovery.

Planning and reporting in the long-term

Reporting for remaining activities will be incorporated into the relevant Tararua District committee.

- Land Stability project will be reported on through the TDC Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee. Additionally, any remaining emergency works will also be reported through this forum.
- Ongoing rural issues will be reported through the Emergency Management Welfare Group

Management of public information and communications

Communications and Public information will be taken over by Tararua District Council. A webpage is already available on the TDC website which houses information on the event.

Opportunities for communities to discuss unresolved issues and to continue to participate in their recovery

Communities can raise ongoing issues in the following ways:

- 1. Through their local Civil Defence Group.
- 2. Through the quarterly CDEM Group meetings (operational and welfare).
- 3. Through the TDC CRM system.
 - a. Call 06 374 4080 (North), 06 376 0110 (South)

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b. Website: Report It (CRM) | Tararua District Council

c. Email: Info@tararuadc.govt.nz

d. Antenno App: Report it function.

4. Through the Horizons CRM system

a. Contact Us - Horizons Regional Council

Changes to organisational arrangements

Due to the structure of our recovery team there is no need for changes to organisational arrangements. However, it is important that the key stakeholders keep in touch with each other post transition, raising any issues through to the team for discussion.

Debrief and review

Debrief

A debrief is planned for FY 25/26 focusing on the success, failures and learnings from Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery. This will include lwi, Council Staff, RST, Horizons, Tararua Alliance, key community members.

Review

While we responded well to Cyclone Gabrielle, we are not prepared for an event including our urban towns. We have been fortunate to have funding for a recovery team event however this will most likely not be the norm. We need to start resourcing a recovery team whether it be via assessing roles with the ability to downscale and include the skills to undertake lead roles or/also by creating a financial strategy to ensure we can resource recovery. We additionally need to ensure we maintain our relationships with our communities, enabling them to support themselves.

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Appendix – ongoing and future issues

Social environment

Lead Agency: Tararua District Council

Recovery Office outcomes achieved:

- Support for three hubs applying and receiving MBIE Renewable Energy Fund Solar PV panels and Batteries.
- Collaborated with Rural Lead to organize and support wellbeing events: MSFTs Fuel your Stoke Family Concert, Te Radar etc
- Established a Social Recovery Wellbeing Group
- Created a Psychosocial Welfare group
- Received \$25,000 from DIA Lotteries Grant to support 9 wellbeing events across the district, providing quality time off farm.
- 8 isolated communities received improvements to their community hubs inc preparedness equipment, upgrades to their facilities and training for their CD groups totalling \$250,000
- 5 urban communities received improvements to their community hubs inc preparedness equipment, upgrades to their facilities and training for their CD groups totalling \$150,000
- 6 Marae supported with resilience initiatives totalling \$90,000
- 164 residents received a total of \$307,210.70 from the mayoral relief fund.
- Conducted 2x Wellbeing surveys to understand the social impact of recovery initiatives.

Ongoing and future issues for people and communities

Issue	Long term needs	Now to be managed by
Any outstanding actions in Recovery Action plan	Ongoing communication and support for Community civil Defence groups and community hubs.	TDC Emergency Management
People still displaced	No	-
Ongoing impact on children	No	-

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Ongoing impact on older people	No	-
Ongoing impact on iwi and marae	No	-
Other current and future needs	No	-

Built environment

Lead Agency: Tararua Alliance

Recovery office outcomes achieved:

- 47 roads and 6 bridges repaired. Over \$43M of emergency repairs funding from NZTA
- Creation of a roading priority matric to efficiently address the extensive number of roading faults.
- Marainanga Gorge Road reopened 5 months after Cyclone Gabrielle
- 3 deployable generators,
- 1 backup generator for Akitio Cell tower
- 8 Starlink systems purchased
- Support for 18 red and yellow stickered properties 1 red sticker remaining (Council Owned)
- Land Stability Project case study completed with over 130 priority sites identified to
 participate in this project designed to increase resilience of the roading network. The
 purpose of the case study was to identify private land prone to slipping under or
 above the roadside causing roadside dropouts and slips. Tararua Alliance and
 Horizons Regional Council Yr 1 of this programme of work will begin in July 2025,
 funded by NZTA Resilience funding and Horizons Regional Council SLUI fund.

Ongoing and future issues

Issues with	Long-term needs	Now to be managed by
Any outstanding actions in Recovery Action plan	Yes	Tararua Alliance
Residential buildings	One Council owned hall still red stickered	TDC

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Commercial buildings	N/A	-
Community assets	N/A	-
Local roads	Emergency work is being incorporated into BAU roading work	Tararua Alliance
Private land stability	Continued program of work incorporated into Tararua Alliance and Horizons Regional Council's BAU programmes of work	Tararua Alliance and Horizons Regional Council
Roading Data	Collection of rural roading data	Tararua Alliance

Natural environment

Lead Agency: Horizons Regional Council

Recovery office outcomes achieved:

- New rainfall monitoring sites installed across the Tararua District for better environmental data collection Farmers worked with Horizons Regional Council by providing their individual records which helped identify these sites.
- Secured funding for environmental monitoring upgrades.
- Identified 6 new radio repeater sites with farmers in the Tararua District to provide enhanced coverage east of the Puketoi Range.
- Horizons Regional Council provided advice on priority sites for Akitio beach clean-up and the office coordinated the funding of the clean-up and the clean-up itself.
- Provided clean-up support across the Tararua District.
- Supported the built lead by providing a dedicated resource for processing resource consents in the Tararua District.

Ongoing and future issues

Issues with	Long-term needs	Now to be managed by
Any outstanding actions in Recovery Action plan	n/a	_
Rivers, coasts and national parks	Monitor rivers	Horizons Regional Council
Rural landscapes	Restoration still underway or needed	Horizons Regional Council

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Economic environment

Lead Agency: Tararua District Council

Recovery outcomes achieved:

- 24 businesses received a total of \$333,500 through MBIE business support fund
- Community Hub Trailer built to provide training and emergency support during an event and in BAU
- Economic Data Project launched getting an understanding of impact of Cyclone
 Gabrielle on the Tararua District through report from Infometrics (Macroeconomic
 level). Phase 2 underway with MCI+A accountants providing insight into rural
 professional businesses in the affected areas (Microeconomic level).

Issues with	Long-term needs	Now to be managed by
Any outstanding actions in Recovery Action plan		
Economic Data	Need to monitor long term financial effects on our rural professionals, Tararua District and related businesses	TDC Economic Development

Rural environment (primary production)

Lead Agency: East Coast Rural Support Trust - Tararua

Rural Recovery Outcomes Achieved:

- The Rural Support Trust Tararua area coordinator coordinated the on farm clean-up group as they had many requests for help with clean up. They were also able to distribute fencing materials to those in need.
- The East Coast Rural Support Trust Tararua area coordinator coordinated and completed on-farm needs assessments to understand individual requirements of farmers and guide recovery efforts.
- The East Coast Rural Support Trust Tararua area coordinator organised Psychosocial Welfare group alongside Social Lead.
- The East Coast Rural Support Trust Tararua area coordinator organised rural

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events in conjunction with other Tararua organisations for the purpose of improving rural wellbeing. Ladies Lunches, three comedy nights, three farmers fitness programmes, Mud Sweat and Cheers – Pongaroa, the Bogged in the swamp shout, blokes' day out and more.

- The East Coast Rural Support Trust Tararua area coordinator worked closely with the Recovery Office's Social Lead on organisation and funding of social wellbeing events (See social lead).
- The MSD funded Enhanced Taskforce Green Programme visited a total of 42 rural properties between 19 June to 1 December doing remedial work and fencing repairs.
- Kids sports day with Sport Manawatu at 6 cyclone affected schools and then delivered rain anxiety picture books.
- Rural Support Trust Tararua Cyclone Recovery Expo.
 - This event, created and run by The East Coast Rural Support Trust -Tararua Rural Support Trust, saw farmers receive a trailer load of free fencing gear which included a bundle of posts, wire, staples, and permanent strainers. Additionally, the 150 farmers in attendance received a \$200 accommodation voucher, \$50 New World voucher, \$30 pharmacy voucher and more in a wellbeing package.
 - This was attended by the East Coast Rural Support Trust Taraua, Tararua District Council Recovery Team, Health Centres, Rural Professionals and more.
- MSD funded continuation of Fencing Initiative to support ongoing issues in affected areas.
- Vet collaboration project, headed by The East Coast Rural Support Trust -Tararua to support and provide technical information with drench resistance in the rural community affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.
- The East Coast Rural Support Trust –Tararua's continuous one on one wellbeing support for the affected rural community Support with referrals, guidance etc.
- The East Coast Rural Support Trust -Tararua continuous one on one financial support for the affected rural community Rural Assistance payments, Advocating etc.

Ongoing and future issues

Issues with		Long-term needs	Now to be managed by	
Damage to Land resilience	farmland/	Land retiring, planting advice	Horizons Regional Council (SLUI Programme)	

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Wellbeing needs	Continued need for advisory services (Support with referrals, guidance),	The East Coast Rural Support Trust -Tararua
Financial Support	Continued need for advisory services (Referring and advocating for clients to banks, MSD and other rural professionals)	The East Coast Rural Support Trust -Tararua

Finance

All outstanding funds from DPMC have been returned as outlined in the DPMC funding agreement.

All other funding agreements from MSD, DIA, ECCT have been either spent in full or remaining funds returned as per their agreements as well.

There are no outstanding purchase orders, reimbursements, claims or ongoing costs expected in the future.

Future costs associated with remaining activities have been incorporated into BAU work programs of the identified responsible agency.

Opportunities identified to reduce risk and strengthen resilience

1. Marae Support:

As part of our district-wide commitment to community resilience and emergency readiness, targeted work has been undertaken to support marae across the Tararua District in strengthening their preparedness for natural disasters and emergency events. Recognised as vital cultural and spiritual hubs, marae also play a critical role as places of refuge and support during crises. Ensuring they are equipped to respond effectively is a key priority within our civil defence planning framework.

This initiative involved close engagement with local marae committees to identify specific readiness needs, assess infrastructure capabilities, and provide tailored guidance on emergency planning. Support provided has included basic emergency supplies and resources, alongside advice on essential areas such as generator access, water and food storage, and communications capabilities.

Funding of \$15,000 was allocated to six marae to carry out activities identified through needs assessments, enhancing their capacity to serve their communities when it matters most.

2. Community Hubs/Civil Defence Groups:

Post-cyclone Gabrielle it was identified that our isolated communities lacked Civil Defence preparedness/maturity. A project was initiated to establish a Civil Defence group consisting of key community members keen on better preparedness for the next Civil Defence event.

8 isolated communities were identified and Civil Defence groups were created in Pongoroa, Wimbledon, Alfredton, Weber, Te Uri, Makuri, Akitio and Kumeroa.

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These groups were then provided with funding to create or enhance their local Community Hubs.

This included but wasn't limited too:

- Generators,

- First Aid Kits.

First Aid Training,

- Chainsaws and Training,

- Outdoor lighting,

- Upgrades to Halls,

- Sanitary products,

- Califonts.

1. Land Stability Project:

Cyclone Gabrielle had a significant impact on our roading extensive rural roading network. It was identified that to prevent this level of damage happening again in the future we needed to collaborate with Horizons Regional Council, NZTA, RST, MSD and our ratepayers to build back better.

Through this we identified upslope and downslope slips on private land and road reserve that could benefit from remedial planting, drainage and civil work. A case study was carried out in August 2024 on one site to great success.

Over 130 sites were identified for year one of this work and work is underway to plant the upslope and downslope of priority 1 sites.

2. Addition of river monitoring and radio repeaters;

Accurate and abundant data was a clear problem for monitoring and predicting flooding events across our isolated rural areas.

The Natural Lead (Horizons Regional Council) spearheaded a project to establish 6 new sites across our district along with gathering data from private land holders. This data is still in the process of building up until it has enough historical data to pull into regular reports.

3. Back Up generator for Akitio:

Connectivity has been an issue across the district for years, and during Cyclone Gabrille issues were identified with the Akitio Cell tower.

The recovery team secured \$44,000 for a backup generator for this cell tower ensuring that this vital communication link is secure.

4. Starlinks:

Similarly to the Akitio cell tower there are various other isolated areas across our district. As not all of these have cell towers we can support, the recovery team instead bought 10 Starlinks which can be deployed to remote areas providing crucial access in times of crisis.

5. Solar Energy:

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The recovery team supported applications for 3 communities to receive solar panels and batteries for their community hubs. Specifically, Te Uri, Herbertville and Kumeroa received this support. This MBIE grant enabled these communities to have access to power in their community hubs regardless of the event.

6. Deployable Generators:

While community hubs were provided generators, and some solar energy there is still other groups, communities and situations that may benefit from ready access to a reliable back up power source. Therefore, we decided we will manage and hold three generators for deploying in the community in times of emergency.

Information management

All information gathered during the recovery period has been stored in the TDC Content Management System as per the public records act 2005.

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Report

Date : 24 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Sarah Fountaine

Community Engagement Officer

Subject : **Notification of Urgent Contestable fund recipients**

Item No : **9.7**

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Community Engagement Officer dated 08 July 2025 concerning the Notification of Urgent Contestable fund recipients be received.

That allocation of Urgent contestable fund amount be taken from the total allocated for round 1 2025/26

Applicant	Amount	Amount
	Requested	Allocated
2001 - Mr Brodie Bennett	\$1,000	\$1,500
2002 - Dannevirke Bowling Club Woman's 4s Team	\$2,955.45	\$1,000
2004 - Mr Jamie Monaghan	\$2,250	\$1,500
2003 - Tararua Community Youth Services Charitable Trust	\$50,000	-
2005 - Jodie Kent	\$12,000	-
TOTAL	\$68,205.45	\$4,000
Amount remaining for round 1 2025/2026		\$46,000

Executive Summary

This report outlines the outcome of the urgent contestable fund recipients finalised at the panel meeting on 25 June 2025. The fund aims to support initiatives that benefit the community, with applications assessed based on the urgent fund assessment criteria to ensure alignment with community needs and funding priorities.

2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the assessment and decisions of urgent contestable fund applications.
- 2.2 A total of 5 urgent contestable applications were received, requesting a combined total of \$68,205.45. Applications were evaluated and scored against Community Benefit, Feasibility, Financial Viability, and Innovation, and Creativity criteria.
- 2.3 The assessment process was conducted by the panel comprising the Mayor, Southern Ward Councillor, and Northern Ward Councillor supported by the Group Manager Strategy and Information, and Community Engagement Officer.
- 2.4 The panels outcome of assessment of amounts and justification are presented in Table 1 below

Table 1. Initial review of applications and recommended allocations.

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated	Reason
2001 - Mr Brodie Bennett	\$1,000	\$1,500	To represent New Zealand in the 2025 World Junior Squash Championships in Cairo, Egypt.
2002 - Dannevirke Bowling Club Woman's 4s Team	\$2,955.45	\$1,000	To assist the Dannevirke women's 4s bowling team with cost getting to the National Competition held in Dunedin.
2004 - Mr Jamie Monaghan	\$2,250	\$1,500	To assist with costs representing NZ in Japan for NZ Volleyball.
2003 - Tararua Community Youth Services Charitable Trust	\$50,000	-	The request does not meet the urgent criteria. Recommendation was made to the applicant to apply for the open round.
2005 - Jodie Kent	\$12,000	-	The request does not meet the urgent criteria. Recommendation was made to the applicant to apply for the

			open round.
TOTAL	\$68,205.45	\$4,000	
Amount remaining for round 1 2025/2026		\$46,000	

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 24 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Sarah Fountaine

Community Engagement Officer

Subject : Energy Efficency and Conservation Authority Solar Renewable

Energy Funding

Item No : 9.8

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Community Engagement Officer dated 08 July 2025 concerning the Energy Efficency and Conservation Authority Solar Renewable Energy Funding be received.

Executive Summary

- 1.2 This report provides an update on Tararua District Council's involvement in the Community Renewable Energy Fund (CREF), administered by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). It outlines progress to date, including previously funded installations, and seeks to inform Council of the next phase of funding opportunities, the proposed site nominations, and implementation.
- 1.3 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) have provided Tararua District Council funding for five sites, each site will be eligible for a grant covering up to 75% of the installation for renewable energy solar panels and batteries, with the remaining 25% to be sourced by the selected sites from co-funding partners.
- 1.4 Tararua District Council Community Engagement Officer will be administering the funding, supporting selected sites in securing additional funding requirements, and preparing reports on milestone completion for both EECA and Council.

2. Reason for the Report

2.1 To inform Council of the funding opportunity available through EECA's CREF programme and to outline the next phase of implementation. This includes the objectives of the fund, outcomes for the district, the co-funding requirements, and the Council's role in supporting site selection, stakeholder engagement, and project delivery.

3. Background.

3.1 At the end of 2023, the Tararua District Recovery Team was approached by Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to nominate community buildings and marae within cyclone-affected areas for solar renewable energy funding. In consultation with the Recovery Team, six sites were nominated. Of those, three community halls were selected and have now successfully installed solar panels and battery storage systems, fully funded through MBIE's Community Energy initiative.

The Three selected sites were

- TeUri Community Hall,
- Herbertville Community Hall
- Kumeroa Community Hall

This year, Energy efficiency and conservation authority (EECA) has taken over the administration of the Community Renewable Energy Fund (CREF), committing a further \$9.2 million in grants to support up to 140 additional community resilience sites across New Zealand. These sites are focused on regions most exposed to natural hazards. Tararua District Council will nominate seven sites in which five sites will be selected. Each site will receive a grant of up to 75% to put towards the solar panels and battery quote, with an expectation of 25% co-funding to be sourced from funding partners.

4. Objectives of the Fund

4.1 The CREF aims to enhance community resilience by supporting solar PV and battery system installations on key community buildings—such as marae, places of worship, schools, and community halls—that serve as critical infrastructure during emergency events. The systems will also contribute to long-term cost savings through reduced energy bills.

5. Outcomes for Tararua District

5.1 Up to five additional emergency-ready community resilience sites across our most vulnerable areas, equipped with renewable energy solutions.

A total potential investment of \$355,000 (excl. GST) into the local economy.

Continued reduction in reliance on the national grid during outages, with added long-term sustainability benefits for day-to-day use.

6. Significance assessment

6.1 This report does not meet the requirements set out in Council's Significance and Engagement policy and therefore, it does not trigger the need for special consultative procedures.

7. Milestones and Monitoring

7.1 The project will be delivered in phases, with clear milestones for selected sites, procurement process, Quotation of work, and the installation. Progress will be monitored through regular reporting to EECA and to the Tararua District Council.

Tararua District Council community engagement officer has been engaging with nominated communities throughout the process to ensure transparency, ensure their site is suitable and willing to participate in this initiative.

Milestone Number	Indicative/ Milestone Date	Milestone
1.	30 July 2025	The Agreement has been signed by both parties and Council has provided EECA with a list of nominated Community Resilience (CR) Sites
2.	30 September 2025	The Council has contacted owners of selected CR Sites and EECA has approved installer quotes for at least 50% of the CR Sites
3.	30 November 2025	The Council has contacted owners of selected CR Sites and EECA has approved installer quotes for 100% of the CR Sites Submission of the Council's reporting as per this Agreement
4.	31 January 2026	Confirmation from the Council that at least [50%] of installations at selected CR Sites have confirmed scheduled installation dates and confirmed Council/selected CR Site owner funding agreement
5.	31 March 2026	Confirmation from the Council that 100% of installations at selected CR Sites have confirmed scheduled installation dates

8. Co- Funding Requirement

8.1 There is no financial cost to the Council for the delivery of this project. The Site Owner/Community Committee will seek the additional 25% funding required

through external sources. This process will be supported by the Community Engagement Officer.

9. Conclusion

9.1 The CREF initiative presents a valuable opportunity for Tararua District to strengthen community resilience/Civil Defence sites through renewable energy solutions. With no direct cost to Council, and support provided by the Community Engagement Officer, five additional sites will benefit from solar and battery installations. This project aligns with national resilience goals and reinforces the Council's commitment to sustainable, community-led development.

Attachments

11. PDF - Site Selection Criteria and Scoring spreadsheet - EECA - Community resilience - solar - July 2025

Communit
ty site
nomination
n evaluatio
on

	Community Resilience Site Evaluation	ilienc	e Site	Evalu	ation		
	Consideration		_	Rating			Key
Ь	Community Site	₽				5	5 = Community owned site (Marae, schools, local council building, sports facility, church hall, community hall)
							1 = Not a community owned site
2	Roof Suitable	₽	2	ω	4	ъ	S = Good roof that will last 25+ years, free of shading, north facing
							1 = Roof needs repair, site is shaded and not north facing
ω	Site is used as a	₽				б	5 = Has been used as a CLC or able to be used as a CLC 5 = Has been used a CEC or is able to be used as a CEC
	Centre						1 = Not used or able to used.
							1 = Low risk (multiple roads leading to larger urban areas, at least two of which are clear of potential hazards).
4	Isolation Risk	Н	2	ω	4	Л	5 = high risk (single road leading to area which is likely to be made unusable during an emergency eg near body of water likely to flood)
5	Population	1	2	3	4	5	1 = (1-20), 2 = (21-40), 3 = (41-100), 4 = (101-500), 5 = (500+)
							5 = Low risk (site is above sea level or 2km+ inland, has a high earthquake rating and is not near any hazards eg large hills at risk of landslides
6	Site Survivability	Ь	2	ω	4	О	$1=\mbox{High risk}$ (Site would be at significant risk if any of the identified natural emergencies occurred)
							*EECA DOES NOT RECOMMEND THE USE OF ANY SITES RATED 1 or 2 IF THERE IS ALTERNATIVES AVAILABL
7	Importance of site	۷	J	u	_	л	S = Highly important (site is used almost every day and adds large amounts of value to the community).
	emergencies	۰	^	Ú	1	U	1 = Limited importance (site is used sporadically/less than once per week with very limited value added to the local community
	Overall Point Total:						*EECA recommends prioritising possible sites with the highest total rating



Report

Date : 3 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Allie Dunn

Manager - Democracy Services

Subject : Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement

Policy

Item No : 9.9

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 30 June 2025 concerning the Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy be received.

2. Reason for the Report

2.1 To provide for discussion and information the Remuneration Authority's new Home Security System Allowance outlined in the recently released 2025-26 Local Government Elected Members Determination.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 24 June 2025 the Remuneration Authority released its determination on salaries and expenses payable to elected members for the period from 1 July 2025 until election day.
- 3.2 As part of its determination, the Remuneration Authority defines any allowances or expense reimbursements that elected members may be entitled to claim.
- 3.3 The Council is then required to adopt an Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy for the triennium, that sets out the specific allowances and expense reimbursements that the Council has agreed to pay to its

members. This is undertaken at the beginning of each triennium, once the newly elected Council have made their official declarations of office and can constitute a meeting.

3.4 The Council adopted its current Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy at its meeting held 16 November 2022.

4. Discussion and Options Considered

- 4.1 In its recently released Determination, the Remuneration Authority has included a new Clause 15 that provides the ability for a Council to reimburse the expenses of having a security system installed and monitored at an elected member's primary place of residence within the local authority's area.
- 4.2 This clause will come into effect from the day after the date on which the official result of the 2025 election is declared under section 86 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- 4.3 The Authority advise that they have introduced this new home security allowance as it had become increasingly evident that public officials, including local government elected members, were less safe and were experiencing threatening behaviour.
- 4.4 They advise that they based this reimbursement allowance on a similar provision for members of Parliament.
- 4.5 The payment of this reimbursement allowance, following the completion of an authorised threat and risk assessment, would be at the discretion of the council up to the maximum amounts shown in the determination. The local authority must have the Authority's approval before making any reimbursements above the specified maximum amounts.
- 4.6 The details of Clause 15 are as follows:

4.6.1 Home Security System Allowance

- (1) Based on a security threat and risk assessment authorised by the local authority, a local authority may reimburse the expenses of having a security system installed and monitored at a member's primary place of residence within the local authority area up to a maximum of:
- (a) \$4,500 for installing the system; and
- (b) \$1,000 in any year for monitoring call-outs, and repairs.
- (2) A member may also be reimbursed for additional expenses for the provision of supplementary security measures at their primary place of residence within the local authority area if:

- (a) The security threat and risk assessment recommends that those supplementary security measures be provided to the member; and
- (b) The Remuneration Authority, on application from the local authority, approves reimbursement of the additional expenses arising from the provision of those supplementary security measures.
- 4.7 At its first ordinary meeting following the election, the Council will be asked to consider and make decisions on the new Remuneration Authority Determination that will come into effect following the election, which includes consideration of how to allocate its governance remuneration pool to reflect the committee structure adopted and positions of additional responsibility agreed to.
- 4.8 At that meeting the Council will also be asked to review its Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy and consider which allowances within the Determination it wishes to include in its policy.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The recent Determination of the Remuneration Authority introduces a new home security system allowance that Council's may reimburse to members, based on a security threat and risk assessment authorised by the Council.
- 5.2 This report provides information about the new allowance to provide awareness to the current elected members and potential candidates.
- 5.3 The decision of whether or not to include the home security system allowance will be made by the new Council after it comes into office later this year.

Attachments

Nil.



Report

Date : 23 July 2025

To : Mayor and Councillors

Tararua District Council

From : Allie Dunn

Manager - Democracy Services

Subject : Requests for Information under the Local Government Official

Information and Meetings Act 1987

Item No : 9.10

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 10 July 2025 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 two months up to the date of completing the report. Under the Privacy Act 2020, details and information relating to individuals have been withheld.

Resolved Requests

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
3/05/2025	5/05/2025	0	Individual	Information on review of representation arrangements
12/05/2025	10/06/2025	20	Individual	Relocation of Council Chambers and Office Space
12/05/2025	30/05/2025	14	Tomlinson and Curruthers	Date that Herbert Street Eketāhuna was formed and any related agreement with Kiwirail
13/05/2025	16/05/2025	3	Individual	Cost of capital works for fluoridation of Dannevirke Water Supply, ongoing costs, and supplier of HFA
13/05/2025	15/05/2025	2	Individual	Cost of removing Beech tree in the square of Pahiatua, name of arborist and cost of arborist
18/05/2025	19/05/2025	0	Individual	Information on peer review of specialist reports re Pahiatua Windfarm
20/05/2025	12/06/2025	16	Mahea NZ Ltd	Reasons for declining resource consent applications
20/05/2025	12/06/2025	16	Couch Harlowe Kovacevich	All information regard LT 464926
20/05/2025	22/05/2025	2	Individual	Further request for information on peer review of specialist

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
				reports re Pahiatua Windfarm
26/05/2025	26/05/2025	0	Individual	Assets, income, liabilities and expenses for year ended 30 June 2025
26/05/2025	24/06/2025	19	Individual	Total cost for Group Representatives to attend the Asset Management Excellence Awards in May 2025
27/05/2025	3/06/2025	4	Wai Splash	Costings and estimates for 33 York Street Property
28/05/2025	30/05/2025	2	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
28/05/2025	30/05/2025	2	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
29/05/2025	30/05/2025	1	Individual	TDC \$1m loan to Pukaha National Wildlife Centre
30/05/2025	30/06/2025	19	Individual	Birch North Forest
2/06/2025	13/06/2025	8	Individual	A complete list of all roads within the jurisdiction of your agency, as a Road Controlling Authority (RCA)
3/06/2025	4/06/2025	1	Individual	Request to speak in public forum re establishing community boards in Pahiatua and Woodville
5/06/2025	5/06/2025	0	Business Connect Support	Council fees 2025 for Food Business Registration and Alcohol Licensing
4/06/2025	3/07/2025	20	Taxpayers Union	Ratepayers Report 2023/2024 for financial

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
				year
8/06/2025	2/07/2025	16	Individual	Water Testing
9/06/2025	16/06/2025	5	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
9/06/2025	16/06/2025	5	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
9/06/2025	16/06/2025	5	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
13/06/2025	8/07/2025	16	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
16/06/2025	16/06/2025	0	Stuff	TDC and Pūkaha Mount Bruce Trust/Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre information (Jan 2021- June 2024)
16/06/2025	2/07/2025	11	Individual	Process for holding public meetings in the Tararua District
17/06/2025	18/06/2025	1	Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility	Gene Technology Bill
18/06/2025	8/07/2025	13	Tararua Community Law	Privacy Request - Disputed Rates Debt (2017-2024)
19/06/2025	30/06/2025	6	Rapidqs	Construction related projects past five years with cost under \$500,000
20/06/2025	4/07/2025	9	Individual	List of Committees and Boards and Polling Results for Pahiatua and Woodville when

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
				Community Boards were disestablished
24/06/2025	24/06/2025	0	Individual	Information on drinking water, washing water, liquid waste water, solid waste water, waste composting systems
24/06/2025	4/07/2025	8	Individual	Information on public forum
25/06/2025	25/06/2025	0	Individual	Policies around the use of generative Al
25/06/2025	4/07/2025	7	Individual	Official minutes from public forum, committees and Boards
25/06/2025	4/07/2025	7	Individual	TDC meeting 25/06/2025 minutes, public forum recording and Pukaha agreement
26/06/2025	30/06/2025	2	Individual	Information on Council approved and unapproved systems and methods for self delivery and self capture of water and compsing systems and methods for liquid and solid waste
1/07/2025	8/07/2025	5	Individual	Information on water and wastewater management options that require a consent
1/07/2025	2/07/2025	1	ACT Caucus Support Centre	EV Bus Cost on Road
2/07/2025	8/07/2025	4	Individual	Powers Delegated to Community Committees
9/07/2025	23/07/2025	10	Individual	Legal obligations for minimum and maximum

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
				distance for Councils point of supply
11/07/2025	23/07/2025	8	Individual	Request for property tender documents for 10813 Route 32 Pongaroa 4991

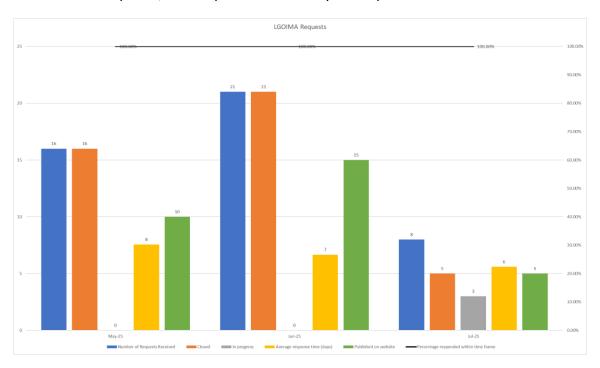
Requests pending response

There are currently three open requests pending response.

Received	Responded	# Days	Requester	Subject
12/07/2025			Individual	Rates by Zone Overview
14/07/2025			Individual	Construction Projects Data request
16/07/2025			Individual	Pukaha Loan Mt Bruce

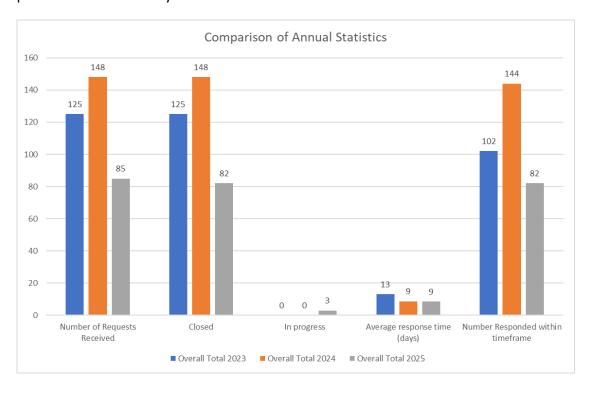
Status of Requests Received and Timelines for Response

The following graph provides a snapshot of the status of requests received and timelines for response, for the period covered by this report.



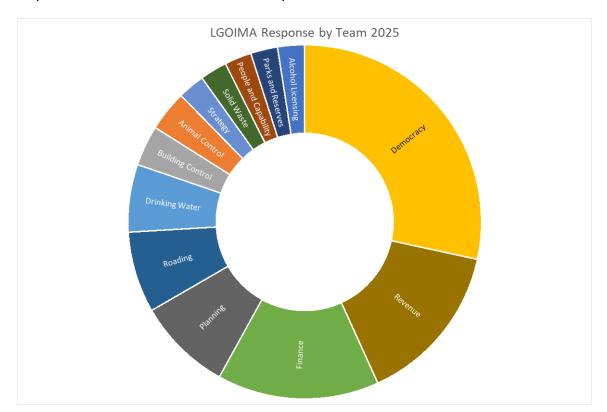
Statistics for Calendar Years 2023 and 2024 Comparative Data for 2025 to date

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 two calendar years.



Assignment of LGOIMA Requests by Team

- 4.3 Each request for information is reviewed on receipt, and then assigned to the relevant team in Council to provide the information requested.
- 4.4 The following chart shows the spread of LGOIMA requests by the Activity the request relates to for the 2025 calendar year to date:



Proactive Release and Publishing of Local Government Official Information

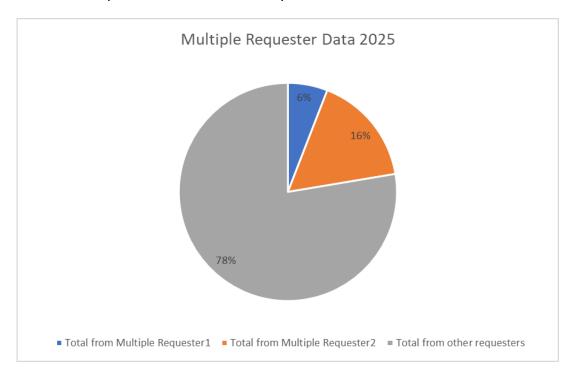
- 4.5 Proactive publishing of official information is an opportunity for Council to increase the transparency and accountability of its operations. The Office of the Ombudsman strongly encourages Councils to engage in effective proactive release of official information, and proactive release is in line 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 Processes for proactively releasing information include the redaction of any personally identifying information from the request prior to publication.

- 4.8 The template used for acknowledging receipt of LGOIMA requests includes 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.
- 4.9 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:

 $\underline{https://www.tararuadc.govt.nz/publications/information-requests-proactive-release}$

Multiple Requests from Individual

- 4.10 In 2024 we started receiving multiple requests from one individual, which saw a rise in the amount of officer time that needed to be diverted from their day-to-day responsibilities, to providing answers to the questions being asked.
- 4.11 Over 2024, one individual was responsible for 22.45% of the total number of requests for information processed in 2024 (33 out of 147 requests for 2024).
- 4.12 For 2025, we have another individual making multiple requests for information from the Council. To date this individual has been responsible for 16% of the total number of requests for information this year.



4.13 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.
- 4.14 Due to the number of requests being received from the new multiple requester, we will initiate this process should the requester continue making multiple requests.

5. Statutory Requirements

- 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.
- 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 data relating to requests for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 that have been received from 1 May 2025 to 23 July 2025.

Attachments

Nil.