



## Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Tararua District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on **Wednesday 24 June 2026** commencing at **9:30am**.

Corin Haines  
Chief Executive

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

5. **Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

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

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

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

**7. Confirmation of Minutes**

**5**

***Recommendation***

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 May 2026 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 10 June 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.*

**8. Presentation - New Zealand Transport Agency (10:30am)**

Linda Stewart, Director Regional Relationships - Central North Island of the New Zealand Transport Agency, will be in attendance to address the meeting regarding Land Transport Planning, Investment and Funding.

**9. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports**

**9.1 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee**

**18**

*That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 02 June 2026 be received.*

**9.2 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board**

**23**

***Recommendation***

*That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 15 June 2026 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.

**10. Minutes Action List**

**10.1 Decision Action Items**

**37**

*That the report providing an update on decision action items be noted.*

**11. Reports**

**11.1 Recommendation from Community Board re Carry Forward of Community Board Funding**

**43**

|              |   |            |
|--------------|---|------------|
| <b>11.2</b>  | <b>Council Briefing - Waitī Waters Statement of Expectations Pre-Adoption Briefing</b>  | <b>45</b>  |
|              | Recommendation  |            |
|              | <i>That the pre-adoption briefing on the Waitī Waters Statement of Expectations and the letter of response from the Waitī Waters Board be received.</i> |            |
| <b>11.3</b>  | <b>Waitī Waters Establishment - Transfer of Approved Funding to 2025/26</b>   | <b>55</b>  |
| <b>11.4</b>  | <b>Adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges</b>   | <b>61</b>  |
| <b>11.5</b>  | <b>Rates Resolution for 2026/2027 Financial Year</b>  | <b>75</b>  |
| <b>11.6</b>  | <b>Wastewater Remission Correction - Rates Remissions Policy</b>  | <b>85</b>  |
| <b>11.7</b>  | <b>Remits to Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2026</b>   | <b>101</b> |
| <b>11.8</b>  | <b>Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987</b>   | <b>145</b> |
| <b>12.</b>   | <b>Correspondence</b>   |            |
| <b>12.1</b>  | <b>Correspondence</b>   | <b>153</b> |
|              | Recommendation  |            |
|              | <i>That the correspondence as listed be received:</i>   |            |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Letter of response from Hon Simon Watts regarding Simplifying Local Government Reforms</i></li> </ul>       |            |
| <b>13.</b>   | <b>Portfolio Reports</b>  |            |
|              | Councillors assigned the responsibility to undertake the portfolio for a specific activity can report back on any of these matters.                     |            |
| <b>13.1.</b> | <b>Portfolio Report - Community Connections</b>   | <b>155</b> |
| <b>13.2.</b> | <b>Portfolio Report - Youth</b>   | <b>157</b> |
| <b>13.3.</b> | <b>Portfolio Report - Marae, Kōhanga Reo and Kura</b>   | <b>159</b> |
| <b>14.</b>   | <b>Mayoral Matters</b>  |            |
| <b>15.</b>   | <b>Items not on the Agenda Accepted in Accordance with the Procedure Outlined as per Agenda Item 4</b>  |            |

## 16. 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*

### *Decision Action Items*

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

| <i>General subject matter to be considered</i> | <i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i> | <i>Ground(s) under Section 48 (1) for the passing of this resolution</i> |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Confirmation of Minutes</i>                 | <i>To protect the commercial position of a third party</i>           | <i>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</i>   |
| <i>Decision Action Items</i>                   | <i>To protect the privacy of natural persons</i>                     | <i>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</i>   |

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

*s7(2)(b)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.*

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

## 17. Closure



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 27 May 2026 commencing at 9:30am.

## **1. Present**

Mayor – Mr S M Gilmore, Crs S M Wards (Deputy Mayor), A J Amboy, C L Corlett, P A Johns, E F Kennedy, P M Naylor, E L Peeti-Webber, K E R Te Waaka, and S A Wallace

### **In Attendance**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mrs N Phillips | - Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board                    |
| Mr T Hynes     | - Deputy Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board             |
| Ms K Meerman   | - Programme Director – Wairarapa Tararua Water               |
| Mr C Haines    | - Chief Executive  |
| Mrs K Tani     | - Group Manager – Strategy and Information                   |
| Ms S Lowe      | - Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Engagement |
| Mr H Featonby  | - Group Manager - Operations                                 |
| Ms T McDonald  | - Chief Financial Officer                                    |
| Ms J Smith     | - General Counsel  |
| Mr P Wimsett   | - Chief Strategic Advisor                                    |
| Mrs S Walshe   | - Finance and Revenue Manager                                |
| Mrs B Fowler   | - Senior Financial Business Partner                          |
| Mr E Mills     | - Senior Financial Accountant                                |
| Mr E Priest    | - Project Management Office Team Leader                      |
| Ms F Chase     | - Facilities Manager   |
| Mrs A Dunn     | - Manager – Democracy Services                               |

## **2. Council Prayer**

Councillor Keshaan Te Waaka commenced the meeting with a karakia timatanga (opening prayer)

### **3. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **4. Public Forum**

There were no requests for public forum.

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

Cr Te Waaka – Item 3.1 of Public Excluded Agenda “Dannevirke Campground Management Model Change Request”

### **6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting’s Items of Business**

Nil

### **7. Confirmation of Minutes**

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 April 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Crs Johns/Peeti-Webber*

*Carried*

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

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

In response to a question regarding the source of funding for the \$137,000 grant referenced in the minutes, it was clarified that the funding was sourced externally and did not come from Council funds.

A query was also raised about the relocation of the contents of the Civil Defence cabinet to the Bush Multisport Building, specifically whether the Council’s Emergency Management Officer has access to the facility. It was agreed that this information would be confirmed and reported back to Council.

*That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 07 May 2026 be received.*

*Crs Kennedy/Johns*

*Carried*

#### **8.2 Minutes - Eketāhuna Community Board**

*That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 04 May 2026*

*be received.*

*Crs Corlett/Amboy*

*Carried*

## **9. Minutes Action List**

### **9.1 Decision Action Items**

*That the report providing an update on decision action items be noted.*

*Crs Wards/Wallace*

*Carried*

## **10. Reports**

### **10.1 Local Water Done Well - Transition Programme Update**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 22 May 2026 that provided an information update for the Council on the Waiti Waters establishment and transition programme.

Katherine Meerman, Programme Director – Wairarapa Tararua Water, was in attendance and spoke to the progress achieved. It was noted that Stage 1 had been completed, including the legal establishment of the company and appointment of the Board. Since its establishment, the Board has progressed several key workstreams.

Recruitment for the Chief Executive closes tomorrow, and consultation with staff regarding pathways to employment with Waiti Waters had been completed. Work was also underway on developing the Statement of Expectations in collaboration with Councils and iwi partners.

*That the report from the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 22 May 2026 concerning the Local Water Done Well - Transition Programme Update be received.*

*Crs Wards/Naylor*

*Carried*

### **10.2 Recommendation from Committee re Adoption of Treasury Risk Management Policy**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services that presented a recommendation from the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held 21 April 2026 seeking adoption of the Treasury Risk Management Policy.

*That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 14 April 2026 concerning the Recommendation from Committee re Adoption of Treasury Risk Management Policy be received.*

*That the Tararua District Council adopt the Treasury Risk Management Policy*

*including Liability Management and investment Policies dated May 2026.*

*Crs Naylor/Johns*

*Carried*

### 10.3 **Third Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 31 March 2026**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Senior Finance Business Partner dated 11 May 2026 that presented the performance report for the nine months ended 31 March 2026 to the Council for consideration, and provided an indication of the year-end result.

Eden Mills was introduced as the new Senior Financial Accountant responsible for quarterly reporting, the Annual Report, and audit liaison.

With regard to capital expenditure, it was noted that some capital projects had experienced delays, with potential carry forwards expected. The 75–80% capital delivery target may require revision.

Clarifications were provided regarding the Dannevirke Impound Supply project, including design adjustments and use of liquidated damages provisions to manage contractor performance risk. Information was sought about what further approval was needed for the Urban Growth Strategy rezoning proposal which had been noted in the report as awaiting Government approval. It was advised that an answer would be provided.

In response to a question, it was advised that procurement processes were incorporating novation clauses to ensure smooth transition of liabilities to Waitī Waters if required.

An update was sought regarding progress on design clarification for the Pahiatua Pool and whether a confirmed timeline was in place. It was noted that significant effort was currently being made to engage with the vendor to clarify revised design details, and confirm updated costings associated with the redesign.

Work was ongoing to establish a firm deadline for the vendor to provide this information, to enable agreement to be finalised and progress the project into the construction phase. It was further confirmed that reporting on the Pahiatua Pool project would be provided to the Infrastructure and Projects Committee, where ongoing updates would be formally presented.

A report on the digitisation of Council building records was requested for a future Council or committee meeting.

Assurance was sought that progress on capital expenditure for water projects would be actively tracked and regularly reported to the Performance Management Committee.

Operating expenditure variances were discussed, with approximately two-thirds attributable to NZTA funding. Treasury variances reflected hedging and

prefunding strategies.

It was noted that the year-end result was expected to be slightly ahead of budget.

Debt levels remain within limits, with earlier reporting error corrected.

Debtors show a slight reduction in overdue balances; continued engagement with ratepayers experiencing difficulty was noted.

Rates rebate processing timeframes were confirmed as being reflected within the current financial year.

A write-off relating to forestry royalties was explained as cost neutral.

***That the report from the Senior Finance Business Partner dated 11 May 2026 concerning the Third Quarter Performance Report - Period Ending 31 March 2026 be received.***

***Crs Wards/Wallace***

***Carried***

#### 10.4 **Establishment of Chief Executive's Performance Committee**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026 that provided information about the Chief Executive's Performance Committee established by the Mayor under Section 41A Local Government Act, sought appointment of members to the committee and presented the committee's Terms of Reference for formal adoption.

A question was raised regarding whether iwi representatives could attend meetings of the Chief Executive's Performance Committee. It was clarified that this would not be appropriate, as the Committee was responsible for matters relating to the employment of the Chief Executive.

Clarification was sought on whether reports from the Committee would be made publicly available. It was noted that this would depend on considerations of confidentiality.

It was highlighted that part of the Committee's work included seeking feedback from iwi. This feedback would inform and support the information considered by the Committee.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026 concerning the Establishment of Chief Executive's Performance Committee be received.***

***That the Tararua District Council adopt the following membership for the Chief Executive's Performance Committee established by the Mayor under section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002:***

***Mayor Scott Gilmore (Chairperson), Councillor Sharon Wards (Deputy***

*Chairperson), Councillors Peter Johns and Steve Wallace.*

*That the Tararua District Council adopt the Terms of Reference for the Chief Executive's Performance Committee as appended to the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026.*

*Crs Amboy/Kennedy*

*Carried*

## 10.5 **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 12 May 2026 that provided information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

*That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 12 May 2026 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.*

*Crs Corlett/Amboy*

*Carried*

## 11. **Portfolio Reports**

### 11.1 **Portfolio Report - Rural**

The Tararua District Council considered the report from the Deputy Mayor dated 20 May 2026 that provided an update from the Rural Portfolio members.

*That the report from the Deputy Mayor dated 20 May 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report - Rural be received.*

*Crs Wards/Corlett*

*Carried*

## 12. **Mayoral Matters**

Mayor Scott Gilmore provided an update on local government reform and recent community engagement meetings.

He thanked councillors, staff, and attendees for their support and participation across eight community meetings. Key themes identified included strong dissatisfaction with the reform timeframe and limited information from central government.

Feedback across the district reflected a diversity of views, and further engagement with stakeholders, including iwi and sector groups such as Federated Farmers, is ongoing.

The Mayor noted that:

- Officers will prepare a timeline and process for next steps.
- Legal advice obtained through LGNZ highlights risks if the process is not followed correctly.
- An Extraordinary Council meeting may be required to enable public discussion and decision-making.

A question was raised as to whether information had been sought from the Government under the Official Information Act. It was noted that this may be pursued; however, there were challenges, as to date the written information that was available did not always align with public statements.

It was observed that some written materials present the process as less onerous than it had been portrayed in media commentary and statements from the relevant Minister.

It was acknowledged that the Council's response will, in part, depend on the direction provided by the community, including whether there is a desire to formally oppose the proposals and advocate for alternative options.

Members noted that there were strong views within the community, including expressed disappointment regarding the process being undertaken.

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

Nil

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

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

*Confirmation of Minutes*

*Dannevirke Campground Management Model Change Request*

*Decision Action Items*

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

| <i>General subject matter to be considered</i> | <i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i> | <i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i> |
|--|--|---|
|  |  |   |

|  |  |                              |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Decision Action Items</b>                                 | <b>To protect the privacy of natural persons</b>           | <b>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</b> |
| <b>Dannevirke Campground Management Model Change Request</b> | <b>To protect the commercial position of a third party</b> | <b>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</b> |
| <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>                               | <b>To protect the privacy of natural persons</b>           | <b>&lt;Section (1)(a)(i)</b> |

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

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

***s7(2)(b)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.***

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

***Crs Wallace/Naylor***

***Carried***

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10:51am and resumed open business at 11:28am.

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting closed with karakia whakamutunga at 11:29am.



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 10 June 2026 commencing at 1:00pm.

## 1. Present

Mayor – Mr S M Gilmore, Crs S M Wards (Deputy Mayor), A J Amboy, C L Corlett, P A Johns, P M Naylor, E L Peeti-Webber, K E R Te Waaka, and S A Wallace

### In Attendance

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Mr T Hynes    | - Deputy Chairperson, Dannevirke Community Board             |
| Mr R Wallace  | - Dannevirke Community Board                                 |
| Ms R Bell     | - RB Consulting  |
| Mr C Haines   | - Chief Executive  |
| Ms S Lowe     | - Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Engagement |
| Mr H Featonby | - Group Manager - Operations                                 |
| Ms J Smith    | - General Counsel  |
| Mr P Wimsett  | - Chief Strategic Advisor                                    |
| Mrs S Walshe  | - Finance and Revenue Manager                                |
| Mrs A Dunn    | - Manager – Democracy Services                               |

## 2. Apologies

*That the apologies from Cr E F Kennedy, be approved and leave of absence granted for the meeting.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Cr Wards*

*Carried*

## 3. Reports

### 3.1 Local Government Reform: Community Engagement Outcomes and Options for Tararua District

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Executive dated 29 May 2026 that provided an update to the Council on the Central Government announcement and emerging policy direction regarding local government reform and report back on the feedback received through recent community

engagement activities regarding local government reform.

The Mayor thanked attendees of nine community meetings, noting the Council's early and proactive engagement. Appreciation was also extended to councillors, staff, and Horizons Regional Councillor Sally Dryland for their strong participation.

The Chief Executive spoke to his report, noting that any proposals to enter into the Head Start process were due by 9 August 2026. The alternative to the Head Start was the Back Stop process. He noted that although there was not a lot of detail about what that could look like, it could look like the originally proposed combined territories boards that had originally been set out by the Government in their Simplifying Local Government Proposal. He spoke about the meetings held throughout the district to share information with the community, and the invitation to the community to share their thoughts with the Council either online or via forms provided. He noted that 409 responses were received.

Questions for clarification were addressed as follows:

**Funding and Costs:** The Chief Executive confirmed that upcoming work will incur currently unbudgeted costs. Existing budgets will need to be reviewed to identify funding sources, but it is too early to estimate total costs. No central government funding is available, and any proposed funding approach will be reported back to Council.

**Engagement and Significance:** Officers advised that the level of engagement undertaken aligns with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Councils nationwide face similar time constraints, and efforts have been made to gather meaningful community feedback.

**Head Start and Back Stop Processes:** If the Council submits a compliant proposal through the Head Start process, the Government may accept or decline it. If declined, or if alternative options are pursued, these would move into the Back Stop process. There is no clear option to exit the Head Start process once joined.

**Community Feedback and Representation:** No demographic data was collected from public engagement, and some community perspectives may be missing. Separate engagement occurred with iwi partners and Federated Farmers. Despite local engagement, there is a risk that external decisions could override Tararua's local voice.

**Future Engagement:** Future community engagement will be determined by Council. The Mayor indicated that further consultation would be required before final decisions, with a personal preference for a binding referendum.

**Workload and Resourcing:** The same staff are supporting multiple major workstreams (reform, long-term plan, water reform), and this is being actively monitored by the Chief Executive.

**Timeframes and Options:** There is limited ability to develop alternative options

before 9 August 2026. Non-unitary authority proposals would need to proceed via the Back Stop process.

Collaboration and Models: Early discussions are underway with other councils. Possible models include federations or expanded shared services. Collaboration could improve efficiency, share workloads, and support equitable delivery.

In addition, the following was noted:

- No further information is held beyond what has already been shared.
- “Fight for a better option” remains a viable pathway, especially outside the Head Start process.
- Transparency and acknowledgment of community feedback are important considerations.
- Horizons Regional Council is preparing information to clarify its functions for each council.

The Mayor read out the amended motions, which he then moved, with the motions being seconded by Cr Wards.

The Mayor noted that feedback from the meetings highlighted significant community concern about the short three-month timeframe for decisions on proposed local government reforms. There was strong and consistent support for maintaining localism, local voice, and local decision-making.

He spoke about the two key themes that emerged:

- A preference to explore alternatives to simple amalgamation, with concerns raised about whether amalgamation would improve costs or outcomes.
- If amalgamation is mandated, a preference to consider options within the Horizons region, reflecting existing communities of interest and relationships.

He noted that engagement with iwi and stakeholders indicated differing geographic preferences but a shared interest in exploring options. Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua indicated a preference to go south, and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua had a preference to stay coastal, either north or south. Federated Farmers supported investigating options within the Horizons region.

Discussions with the Minister of Local Government confirmed that non-amalgamation options would need to be pursued through the “Back Stop” process. The Minister indicated this would be collaborative, although he was clear that change was expected to occur. Confirmation of this position has been sought.

The Mayor emphasised the need to:

- Undertake detailed financial modelling of amalgamation options (Horizons and Wairarapa) to inform decision-making.
- Develop alternative proposals in preparation for the Back Stop process.
- Authorise the Chief Executive and Mayor to engage in substantive discussions with other councils.

Key principles for future discussions were outlined:

- Communities should have the final say.
- Local representation and decision-making must be protected and enhanced.
- Any proposal must deliver genuine efficiency and affordability.

In speaking in debate to the motions, members emphasised that any proposed changes should be supported by robust data and financial modelling. Concerns were raised that amalgamation into larger entities could weaken local democracy, particularly given New Zealand already has a relatively low council-to-population ratio.

The importance of maintaining strong local leadership was highlighted, along with potential negative impacts of amalgamation on Māori. Members stressed that decisions should be guided by what is best for the district's people, rather than settling for the "least worst" option.

There were also concerns about the rushed timeframe of the process and the need to carefully consider Tararua District's specific priorities in comparison to those of other districts.

In his right of reply, Mayor Gilmore stated that the motions provide an opportunity to advocate for a better option that reflects community wishes while retaining flexibility. He noted that while democracy can carry costs, amalgamation could result in even greater financial and social costs through loss of democratic representation.

He emphasised that the decision is significant and centred on the community, expressing pride in the strong engagement shown by residents. He highlighted the importance of having a clear benchmark, including investigating costs of alternative options, to properly evaluate choices.

Mayor Gilmore concluded by thanking councillors for their contributions and their passion for serving the community.

The motions were put separately as follows:

- 1.1** *That the report from the Chief Executive dated 29 May 2026 concerning the Local Government Reform: Community Engagement Outcomes and Options for Tararua District be received.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Cr Wards*

*Carried*

- 1.2** *That the Tararua District Council notes the support for option four (go West to Manawatu Whanganui) as either a primary or backup option, confirms this option for further investigation, including financial modelling.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Cr Wards*

*Carried*

- 1.3** *That the Tararua District Council notes iwi support and some community support for option two (go south to Wairarapa) and confirms this option for further investigation, including financial modelling.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Cr Wards*

*Carried*

- 1.4** *That the Tararua District Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to continue discussions on behalf of council with the relevant councils identified in recommendation 1.2 and 1.3 above.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Cr Wards*

*Carried*

- 1.5** *That the Tararua District Council notes and endorses the community's support for option six (fight for a better option), including a desire to challenge the proposed reform timeframe while looking at alternative structures to improve local government.*

*Mayor Gilmore/Cr Wards*

*Carried*

#### **4. Closure**

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting closed with karakia whakamutunga at 2:04pm



**PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CIRCULATED & NOTED AS A TRUE & CORRECT RECORD UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MEETING.**

**Minutes of the Explore Pahiataua Incorporated Society meeting held at the Tararua District Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiataua on 2 June 2026 at 7pm**

## **1. Present**

- 1.1. Committee Members: Raylene Treder (Chair), Georgina Morrison (Secretary), Ingrid de Graaf, Bex Brown, James Devoe (Treasurer), Anaissa Mandal, Jo Laing
- 1.2. Tararua District Council Representatives: Cr Elisabeth Kennedy, Cr Peter Naylor
- 1.3. Public attendees: Nil

## **2. Apologies**

- 2.1 Mayor Scott Gilmore

## **3. Conflicts of Interest**

**Action:** Jo Laing will add her Interests to the register tab and Ingrid to update hers re Pahiataua School.

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

- 4.1 Nil

## **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

- 5.1 No comments.

**That the minutes of the Explore Pahiataua meeting held on Wednesday, 6 May 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

**Carried**

## **6. Matters Arising**

- 6.1 Raylene met with Tim Sorenson who said the RSA Committee would be very happy to explore options to slow traffic prior to ANZAC 2027.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **Inwards**

- i. Andrew & Glenda: Thyme to Rise: Re invoice for April 1st Morning Tea giveaway: Notice they want to donate the catering.
- ii. Community Operations I Hāpai Hapori: structure of lottery distribution committees (From July all current Lottery committees will be disestablished. This includes Community Facilities, Environment and Heritage, Health Research, Individuals with Disabilities, Oranga Marae and Outdoor Safety,

the eleven regional and one national Lottery Community committees. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is currently under consideration). In their place, six new regional committees and one new national committee will be established.

- iii. Keryn Brass: Responding appreciation to Explore re ANZAC figurines
- iv. TDC
  1. Request to share information about public meetings regarding Reform of Local Government
- v. Grant Requests
  1. Nil

#### **Outwards**

- i. Raylene Treder to RSA: Keryn Brass re ANZAC figurines

**Action:** Raylene to write a letter thanking Thyme to Rise for their donation of the Civil Defence Morning Tea shout.

**That the inwards be received and outwards noted.**

**Carried**

#### **8. Council Report – Cr Kennedy**

- The Committee highly commended the Council on the effort to engage with the public around both the local government reform and the budget.

**Action:** Raylene to circulate thoughts to the Committee regarding a stance from Explore Pahiataua on the Local Government Reform with a view to Explore making a submission to the council.

#### **9. Financial Report**

Noting that the year is coming to an end and there is unspent money in the Grant accounts.

**Action:** James to contact the accountant to organise the end of year financial report.

**Action:** James to arrange for payment of the Explore meeting fees.

**Motion:** That Jo Laing is added to the BNZ Bank Account.

**Carried**

**That the financial report for the preceding month be received and that identified invoices are approved for payment.**

**Carried**

#### **10. Grant Application**

10.1 Nil received

#### **11. Portfolio Reports**

##### **Pahiataua Districts Business Group (PDBG)** (Ingrid de Graaf)

- "Discussing The Future with TDC" event held on 26.05.2026. Only 3 members of the business community attended but some great discussions were held. Excellent intro on the Budget Challenge by Kimberley Stevens. (Event was postponed once and possibly slightly drowned out by the amalgamation meetings).
- Lots of events being considered - AI robotics in the workplace, Bush Telegraph BA5, MTech BA5, Side Hustles workshop, Joy Selection BA5
- Look to promote businesses/employees celebrating milestones - possibly offer some sort of package for this?
- Business of the Month focus? How to select? Nominations? Facebook overview & morning tea shout?

- Still need to order the flag (got a bit busy too sort this last year) - best option James' contact?
- An idea from the TDC event - what about a website that focuses on everything we sell in the Tararua District (who sells what)? Like a local directory, type in a product and the website will find out who sells it. Could we put up a (really decent) prize and have a competition to build a site? An incentive for youth to participate? What would it cost to run and maintain?

#### **Explore Pahiatua Marketing** (Ingrid de Graaf & Anaissa)

- May Bush Telegraph - Pahiatua Museum focus (half page advert) plus negotiated a free half page editorial too
- June Bush Telegraph - open for ideas
- Facebook - focus on TDC amalgamation meetings, museum spotlight and PDBG event
- Website- updated pages and put on more documents concerning the civil defence page

#### **Cycleway project** (Ingrid de Graaf)

- Currently working through writing a business plan.

#### **Road Safety Committee** (Raylene Treder)

- Ingrid - I meet with Glenn Connelly (NZTA) and Penny Sneddon (Pahiatua School) on 27.05.2026 to discuss safe crossing options for kids heading from Pahiatua School (or the west side of SH2) to the new town pool (+ Bush Multisport, hockey/netball, dance etc). A number of options were discussed and Glenn said he would forward by email his recommendations approximately a week or so after our meeting. Standing by to hear from him. The Mangahao Road/SH2 intersection was very busy and made for interesting observations during the time of our meeting.

#### **Swimming Pool** (Raylene Treder)

- Awaiting a signed contract - should be signed before the 12th June.

#### **Youth** (Raylene Treder)

- Writing of a District Youth Strategy is to be looked into.
- Identified gaps - Transportation, Education for 13-16 if excluded from High School and more activities for youth.

#### **Harvard Playground Upgrade** (James Devoe)

- The lady im working with the new design for the playground has been on holiday and has only just come back and have chased her up re; the design and she reckons should see something by mid June.
- Below is from Council,

The horizontal wood swing requires a safety surface. I had this quoted, and the builder advised they should be able to do this install around Aug/Sept. The idea is to install a wood edge around the swing and fill with bark to match the rest of the playground. Have been around to do some minor repairs that we were able to do. We replaced the big swing chains and swings. Have replaced the steering wheels on the junior playground. Installed a fall rail on the junior playground and did some other minor repairs.

- Harvard Plane Slide, Fontayne has sent an email to Playsafe to introduce Mr Alistair and for them to have their opinions regarding the slide, below is their response. My question is funding this project if it goes ahead?

**Playsafe email:** Sounds great, and I can certainly provide guidance from a playground compliance and design perspective to help ensure alignment with NZS 5828 / EN 1176 requirements.

The best way to start the process would be to sketch up a concept with some key dimensions (heights) of what you are thinking, and then we can review it and provide feedback. Also, where you propose to purchase or who would make the slide?

The main considerations with an open slide arrangement are achieving adequate free space and clearance when egressing from the plane structure, along with ensuring the slide width, side heights, entry section, and runout geometry comply with the standard requirements.

A tube slide would make things significantly simpler and likely more cost-effective, as it resolves the slide entry and body clearance and falling space considerations associated with the slide entry from the plane structure. It also helps minimise surfacing requirements to primarily the runout impact area.

For either option, the access system via stairs, ladders, handrails, barriers, and platforms will also have compliance requirements, however all of this is very achievable if we break the project down into its individual components and address each requirement systematically.

Once you have a concept together, feel free to send it through and we can provide our scope and fee and help guide the next steps.

#### **Stage** (James Devoe)

- There is a booking for July for the Cultural Festival

#### **Civil Defence** (Georgina Morrison)

- Developing the vulnerable persons list with Michael from Pharmacy.
- Met with Jacob (Mitre 10) and Ingrid re generator plan for Pahiataua. Really helpful chat. Generators will all need to be fueled so investigating how to keep this supply. It's possible to get a generator powering a fuel station that that's something I'm wanting to follow up. Disappointing to hear that the generator at the Council Service centre also is the backup data centre for Inspire and funded by Inspire (thanks for finding this out Peter). Potential opportunity to chat to Inspire about resilience in Pahiataua? Especially, given assets may change under TDC or a future amalgamated council.
- Thanks Annaisa for adding the guide to local emergency preparedness for Seniors on to the Explore website. I need to change the wording to ensure it's clear what it's there for.
- There has been a [new resource for People with Disabilities](#) created (first of it's kind so pretty cool) so will be sharing that locally and have asked Anaissa to add that to the website also.
- Have talked to Radio Tararua about doing a segment to advertise preparedness.
- Attended a conference in Wellington with a segment on Emergency Waste (waste generated in an emergency - some of which can be contaminated) so that was interesting to think about! It can't go in the normal landfill.
- Bexx advised that we've received the funding for the generator plug.

#### **Explore Christmas** (Bexx)

- Ingrid and Bexx meet on 08.05.2026 for a handover
- Ingrid to talk to Debbie Alabaster about road closure options
- Ingrid checked who would be staying on this committee - only 2 staying on this year, 3 retiring
- Ingrid added Bexx to Messenger group, Dropbox and Google Spreadsheet
- Ingrid happy to attend meetings, look after road closure and provide general guidance whilst committee transitions to a largely new team
- Bexx to look into recruitment of new committee and arrange first meeting in June/July

#### **Dog Park**

- Raylene ordering plants for the dog park.

#### **Community Garden** (Emma Elliot)

- No report received

- **Action:** Georgina to discuss with Emma Community Garden reporting.

**Carnival Park** (Karolyn)

- No report received. However the Committee discussed reaching out to offer support around repotting the native seedlings if required.

**12. TDC & Explore Service Agreement**

The Council had noted Explore's request for a wider remit that took into account supporting voluntary organisations and working with mana whenua, and have incorporated this under point 2.1. The Committee agreed to the changes and for Raylene to sign on behalf.

**Action:** Georgina to look into better communication with both the marae and consider mapping our voluntary groups.

**13. Explore Midwinter gathering**

Agreed that the gathering would take place on June 30th at 7.30pm with the Explore meeting commencing earlier at 6.30pm.

**Action:** Georgina to ask Thyme to Rise to provide catering for Tuesday 30th June.

**Action:** Georgina and Raylene to work on the Invite list for the Explore Midwinter gathering

**Next meeting date:** 6.30pm 30th June (Tuesday) 2026 at Tararua District Council Service Centre, 136 Main Street, Pahiatua.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Raylene Treder (Chair): \_\_\_\_\_



## Dannevirke Community Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Monday 15 June 2026 commencing at 9:00 am.

### 1. Present

Board Members: N M Phillips (Chairperson), T J Hynes (Deputy Chairperson), E J Christison, R T Wallace and Cr A J Amboy

#### In Attendance

Mayor S Gilmore  
Cr S Wards (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr C Corlett

Mr C Haines – Chief Executive  
Mrs A Dunn – Manager – Democracy Services  
Mrs S Anthony – Democracy Support Officer

### 2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

### 3. Public Forum - Dannevirke Deer Park Group

Representatives of the Dannevirke Deer Park Community Group were in attendance to provide an update. Trevor Moore and Tracy Winther spoke on behalf of Our Place Dannevirke Inc. They advised that a committed, multi-skilled volunteer team—comprising deer farmers, fencers, tradespeople, and supporting organisations—is in place and ready to assume responsibility for the day-to-day care of the park.

A proposal was made for a 10-year stewardship arrangement, structured as two five-year terms, under which the group would take on operational responsibility. This would enable the park to be revitalised for community use while minimising costs to Council. The group would assume ownership and day-to-day

management of the deer, facilities, and the wider lower domain area.

The presenters noted this represents a significant opportunity, highlighting that without community involvement the park is likely to continue declining and require ongoing Council expenditure. Under a community stewardship model, the park could instead become a safe, active, and valued public asset.

It was acknowledged that there are limited precedents for this model and that costing is still being refined. Initial work will be required to bring the park up to a safe and usable standard. The group intends to reduce costs through volunteer labour, donated materials, and local expertise; however, Council support—particularly in the initial stages and for key infrastructure—will be important to the project’s success.

The proposal was framed not as creating new costs for Council, but as reducing long-term expenditure while protecting an existing asset and enabling community ownership. The group indicated they are ready to proceed from 1 July, subject to Council support.

It was clarified that ownership, animal health, and welfare responsibilities for the deer would transfer to the incorporated society, working alongside two or more deer farmers responsible for animal handling, movements, and associated compliance requirements. The introduction of a suitable stag was proposed to support fundraising through the sale of fawns, with a stag already offered for this purpose.

In response to a query regarding fencing upgrades, it was advised that a donor has offered to supply materials (including posts and netting), contingent on a confirmed 10-year plan to ensure long-term investment value.

The Chair thanked the presenters for their attendance and presentation.

#### **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 Dannevirke Community Board meeting held on 20 April 2026 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

***Christison/Hynes***

***Carried***

## **7. Tararua District Council Report**

### **7.1 Report from Tararua District Council**

A query was raised regarding whether Council had received any feedback from central government in relation to the audit costs of over \$300,000 and the proposal to request those costs be reduced. It was advised that given the recent announcement of significant reform changes, Council is currently focusing its efforts on those matters to avoid diluting the message.

***That the report from the Tararua District Council meetings held 29 April 2026 and 27 May 2026 be received.***

***Wallace/Amboy***

***Carried***

## **8. Reports**

### **8.1 Community Board Budget Report 2026-27**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 26 May 2026 that presented information on the Board's budget for the 2026-27 financial year, and a reconciliation of expenditure to date for the current 2025-26 financial year.

Clarification was sought regarding the costs associated with the Spring Festival. It was advised that the expenditure related to a mail-out flyer funded by the Board to promote the event. The report reflects the previous year's spend as an indicative guide only, and the Board retains discretion over how funding is allocated in the coming financial year.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 26 May 2026 concerning the Community Board Budget Report 2026-27 be received.***

***That the Dannevirke Community Board confirms that it will set aside one third of its budget to be used for General Assistance Grant funding in the 2026-27 financial year, with up to two formal advertised funding rounds to be held.***

***Christison/Wallace***

***Carried***

### **8.2 Wackrow Memorial Youth Award Trophy Upgrade**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 05 June 2026 that sought consideration to upgrade the Wackrow Memorial Youth Award trophy.

It was acknowledged that, while this represents an expense, maintaining the trophy in good condition is important. Reference was made to a recent event held in Eketāhuna for the Alf Rowden Humanitarian Award, where the trophy had

undergone the same re-silvering process, resulting in a significant improvement in appearance. This work, undertaken as an Eketāhuna Community Board decision, was considered worthwhile as the trophy now presents to a high standard. It was further noted that the Wackrow Memorial Youth Award has a long-standing history, and that the cost of maintenance is minimal over time.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 05 June 2026 concerning the Wackrow Memorial Youth Award Trophy Upgrade be received.***

***That the Dannevirke Community Board approves the payment of \$870.00 from its discretionary funds to re-plate in silver the Wackrow Memorial Youth Award Trophy.***

***Christison/Hynes***

***Carried***

### 8.3 **Proposed Carry Over of Funding for Dannevirke Easton Fountain Works**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services dated 05 June 2026 that sought confirmation from the Board to seek approval from the Council for a carry forward of unspent funds from the Board's 2025-26 discretionary funding budget to the 2026-27 year towards the Dannevirke Easton Fountain Project costs.

The Chair and Deputy Chair met with Council officers to discuss the potential carry-over of remaining funds from the current financial year. It was proposed that these funds be set aside for the Easton Fountain Project until further costs are confirmed.

It was noted that project work is ongoing, with significant progress being led by John Phillips. The project is complex, involving reconfiguration to enable water recycling, as the previous system resulted in substantial water loss. Work is underway to develop a more efficient and sustainable recirculation system. The intention is to secure funding to assist with refurbishment costs as the project progresses.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 05 June 2026 concerning the Proposed Carry Over of Funding for Dannevirke Easton Fountain Works be received.***

***That the Dannevirke Community Board recommends:***

***That the Tararua District Council approves the carry forward of remaining funds from the Dannevirke Community Board's Discretionary Funds 2025-26 for addition into the 2026-27 year's budget towards the Dannevirke Easton Fountain Project Costs.***

***Christison/Wallace***

***Carried***

#### 8.4 System of Voting for Local Elections

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Manager - Democracy Services that advised of the opportunity to change the voting system to be used at the next two triennial elections and any by-elections that take place after the 2028 triennial election.

A query was raised regarding the voting system and how local representation would be maintained in the event of a proposed amalgamation. Members were reminded that this report relates only to the current governance structure and should not be conflated with potential future changes arising from amalgamation.

The report seeks the Board's view on the voting process for Tararua District Council under the existing arrangements, noting that any changes arising from government-approved reorganisation would apply from the 2028 elections and would supersede this work. It was noted that government policy has been announced and that councils may submit proposals through a voluntary process; if approved, changes would take effect for the 2028 elections, otherwise a backstop process would apply.

It was further noted that, under current assumptions, a 2028 election will proceed on existing boundaries, with elected members required to undertake regional council responsibilities. While this report assumes a Tararua District Council election in 2028, it may become irrelevant if structural changes occur. Members were advised that Council is legally required to make a decision on the voting system, with public notice to be issued by 19 September 2026, and that there is provision for a public poll if requested.

It was queried what percentage of votes were received in the previous election, and it was advised that this information would be provided to the Board. The Board considered that further discussion was required and agreed to defer the matter to the next informal meeting, with a decision to be made at a subsequent formal meeting.

Members were cautioned that, in undertaking further consideration, they should be mindful of potential confusion around voting systems during a period of significant change. They were encouraged to assess the types of councils that use each system and consider their comparability, noting that each option has advantages and disadvantages. It was acknowledged that this is a complex issue, and the Board was commended for taking the time to carefully evaluate the options, as previous discussions at Council level have typically been brief.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 29 May 2026 concerning the System of Voting for Local Elections be received.***

***That the Dannevirke Community Board note that the Tararua District Council is required to advertise the System of Voting to be used in the next local elections***

***no later than 19 September 2026.***

***That the Dannevirke Community Board feedback on the System of Voting for Local Elections be left lying on the table for consideration at the 17 August 2026 meeting of the Dannevirke Community Board .***

***Christison/Wallace***

***Carried***

## 8.5 **Management Report**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 04 June 2026 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest as reported to the Community Connections Committee on 20 May 2026 and to the Infrastructure and Projects Committee on 10 June 2026.

A query was raised regarding the disposal of sludge from settling ponds, including the associated costs, potential for local disposal options, and whether any research had been undertaken. The Chief Executive advised that cost information would need to be confirmed, noting from prior experience that discharge to land would require appropriate consents and drying of the sludge. It was agreed that further information, including costs, would be obtained and reported back to the Board.

An update was sought on the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), particularly regarding its direction and the reduction in second tranche funding due to unmet milestones. It was advised that targets were not achieved due to low referral numbers over an extended period, and that the reduction in funding was not of concern as expenditure had also been lower. It was noted that changes to MTFJ contracting arrangements and participant criteria have created challenges, highlighting the need to ensure effective use of Council and coordinator resources. It was agreed to extend the programme for a further 12 months, with ongoing monitoring to ensure value is being achieved. The Mayor will continue to review the programme regularly. Members acknowledged the positive impact of the initiative on young people and the local business community. It was noted that while the programme is not Council-funded, funding constraints and central government priorities do influence its delivery, and it remains important to ensure funding is used effectively.

Members noted their support for a review of contestable funding and sought an update on its progress, including whether Community Board funding was included. It was advised that a report is close to being presented to Council, with a focus on outlining options. Progress had been impacted by the resignation of the staff member previously responsible, and the work is being completed to ensure it is robust. It was clarified that Community Board funding is considered separately, with no changes proposed for the current Annual Plan year. Any potential changes will be considered as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP)

development and consultation process.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 04 June 2026 concerning the Management Report be received.***

***Amboy/Hynes***

***Carried***

#### 8.6 **Portfolio Programme Project Report**

The Dannevirke Community Board considered the report of the Democracy Support Officer dated 04 June 2026 that provided an update on the key portfolios, programmes and project statuses reported to the Infrastructure and Projects Committee on 10 June 2026.

In relation to the review of the Carnegie Building, a query was raised regarding the expected timing of the earthquake-prone buildings report. It was advised that current indications from central government are that the report is due in September, at which time it will be presented to Council.

***That the report from the Democracy Support Officer dated 04 June 2026 concerning the Portfolio Programme Project Report be received.***

***Amboy/Phillips***

***Carried***

#### 8.7 **Decision Action Items for Dannevirke Community Board**

It was noted that six nominations have been received for the 2026 Wackrow Memorial Youth Awards. A guest speaker and judging panel are yet to be confirmed.

It was noted that, in relation to Market Day and the proposed closure of Ward Street, pricing for traffic management is yet to be confirmed and will be discussed further at the next Dannevirke Community Board informal meeting.

A request was made for updates and action plans to be provided at the next formal Board meeting in relation to the Anderson and Waterloo Street footpaths, Tamaki River Road concerns, and Cyclone Gabrielle damage on Top Grass Road. It was noted that while an update on the CRM process had been included in the management report, there has been no progress on the physical works. The Chief Executive will request that the Group Manager – Operations provide an update to the Board at the next formal meeting. It was further noted that no dedicated funding for footpaths was secured for the district. This will need to be considered as part of the Long Term Plan, including decisions on strategic priorities and financial contributions, acknowledging the potential impact on rates. Members were encouraged to keep these matters front of mind during LTP discussions and to communicate to the community that increased investment in this area will have cost and trade-off implications. It was also noted that funding remains

constrained, with priority given to more urgent work programmes.

***That the report providing an update on decision action items be noted.***

***Amboy/Hynes***

***Carried***

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

**Dannevirke Multisport Trust** - Work is ongoing to secure additional funding, including obtaining quotes and completing funding applications. The basketball court project is awaiting an engineer's report, after which it is expected to proceed. It was also noted that the final skate park plans have been completed and are ready for implementation.

**Road Safety meeting** - the next meeting will be in July 2026.

**Emergency Management meeting** - further discussion on the impacts of recent weather events and opportunities for improvement. It was noted that one outcome was the lowering of Wainui River levels. Staff training was also discussed, and it was advised that a dedicated Emergency Operations Centre space has now been established within the Council Service Centre.

**Dannevirke Community Vehicle Trust** - the AGM for the Trust is coming up in August 2026.

**Iwi liaison** - It was noted that two meetings had been held in recent months with kaumātua from Ngāti Kahungunu. The meetings were described as constructive and rewarding, with discussions covering proposed council amalgamation and other district matters. The engagement was considered valuable.

**Phil Lamason Memorial Trust** - It was reported that the project is progressing well, with Corten steel materials sourced from Australia expected to arrive within the next one to two weeks. Excavation is anticipated to commence within six to seven weeks, with completion targeted for mid-October, subject to weather conditions. A positive response to funding efforts was also noted.

**Dannevirke and Districts A&P Association** - power upgrades have been installed at the bandstand to improve resilience for show events and food stalls. It was also noted that the Association's AGM is upcoming, and additional committee members are being sought. The grounds were described as being in excellent condition and a valuable community asset.

**Chamber of Commerce** - the year is progressing well. The recent Service Spotlight featured Dart Panel and Paint, with the next scheduled to be Eileen Mary Care Home. An After 5's event was held at the Ministry of Social Development and was well attended, with the next event planned for 30 June 2026 at Westlow Workshop. It was also noted that a Christmas subcommittee has been established to coordinate the Dannevirke Christmas Parade.

**Tararua Community Youth Services** - it was noted that Cr Amboy and Cr Te Waaka attended a recent meeting, which was described as insightful, and

expressed a commitment to continuing to build the relationship.

**Wai Splash (Taranua Aquatic Community Trust)** - An update was provided on Wai Splash, noting that an event will be held on the morning of 28 June 2026 to mark the opening of the new Splash Pad. The project was commended as a significant improvement to an already valuable community asset.

## 10. Correspondence

### 10.1 Correspondence

*That the correspondence as listed be received:*

- ☐ *Letter of thanks from Taranua Aquatic Community Trust*
- ☐ *Letter of thanks from Dannevirke JAB Rugby*
- ☐ *Letter of thanks from Friends of Dannevirke Domain*
- ☐ *Letter of thanks from MenzShed Dannevirke*
- ☐ *Letter of thanks from Dannevirke CACTUS*

*Christison/Wallace*

*Carried*

## 11. Discussion Items

**Code of Compliance - length of time to obtain:** A concern was raised regarding the length of time taken to obtain Certificates of Compliance (COC), with feedback from owners of completed building projects indicating delays of up to four to five years. It was noted that this can impact and limit owners' ability to obtain insurance. Clarification was sought regarding responsibility for issuing COCs. The Chief Executive advised that further information is required to fully understand the issue, noting that seeking a COC retrospectively can complicate the process. It was indicated that matters would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Board agreed to provide specific examples to assist, and it was noted that recruitment is underway for an additional Building Control Officer.

**High Street - Lights not working:** It was noted that the High Street area around Ward Street is poorly lit, with several streetlights not functioning. Members were encouraged to submit a CRM to accurately identify the affected locations, noting that responsibility may involve both Council and the lines company, and potentially NZTA.

The Chief Executive advised that logging a CRM is important to ensure the issue is addressed through the appropriate channels and undertook to notify the relevant team, and will also investigate whether any CRMs have already been lodged

regarding this issue.

**Ormondville Viaduct Project:** An update was provided on the Ormondville Viaduct Project, which has been in progress for over a year and is being led by the Ormondville Domain Board and Ormondville Hall Committee. The project proposes the development of a lookout/viewing platform, including a metalled area, picnic table, and display boards, to view the historic rail viaduct. The proposed location is near the former Ormondville School.

Concerns were raised regarding Council's requirement for the Hall Committee and Domain Board to obtain \$2 million in public liability insurance prior to development of the site. It was noted that the viewing platform is located approximately 1km from the rail corridor, and that there had been a misunderstanding regarding the site's proximity to the corridor. Clarification was provided that the issue related to vegetation control, with KiwiRail responsible for clearing two trees partially obstructing the view. Following discussion with the Group Manager – Operations, it was acknowledged that there had been a miscommunication regarding work within the rail corridor.

It was further noted that the land has been vested in the Domain Board and Hall Committee, and that it would need to be taken over and managed by Council. The Committee intends to undertake ongoing maintenance of the site, with the expectation that visitors will stop at the railway station and proceed to the viewing platform.

The Committee requested that Council review the requirement for \$2 million public liability insurance, noting the ongoing cost of approximately \$500–600 per annum.

The Chief Executive advised that further investigation is required to fully understand the matter and will report back, as this was the first time he has been made aware of the issue.

**CRM's - Ongoing:** It was noted that CRM responsiveness remains an ongoing issue. The Chair advised that three CRMs lodged following the April formal meeting had not received a response, and that similar feedback is often received from the public, particularly in relation to roading, leading to frustration and reduced confidence in the process.

The Chief Executive advised that this is an active area of focus. The Mayor and Chief Executive have met with Tararua Alliance to address the issue, with an expectation that all CRMs should receive a response within defined timeframes. This includes acknowledgement of receipt and an indication of the likely response timeframe, whether short or long term. It was noted that in some cases, where issues are resolved immediately (e.g. an illegally parked vehicle that is moved), a response may not currently be provided.

It was acknowledged that providing some form of response is important to ensure the community feels heard and continues to use the service. The Chief Executive

indicated a desire to improve communication, including through the Antenna app, to reinforce the value of the system and encourage continued use.

Cr Corlett noted that he has recently submitted CRMs and has received responses, indicating some improvement.

**Adelaide Road Walkway - who is responsible for maintaining?:** A query was raised regarding responsibility for maintenance of the Adelaide Road Walkway, noting that sections are overgrown and areas have been washed out. It was understood that, at the time the walkway was established, Council had assumed responsibility for ongoing maintenance, although no formal agreement appears to be on record. The walkway was originally community-funded, however the surface is now deteriorating, with holes forming and weed control required.

It was also noted that a Board member had previously received verbal assurance from a senior Council staff member that the Victoria Avenue section would be maintained by Council, although this has not been documented. Concern was expressed given the walkway is well used, and there is currently no clear mechanism to ensure it is maintained to an acceptable standard.

The Chief Executive will investigate and report back. It was noted that the absence of formal agreements presents a challenge, and that future arrangements regarding maintenance responsibilities and stewardship should be clearly documented to support budgeting and provide clarity for the community.

**Pot holes in sealed and unsealed roads - Smith, Top Grass, Pinfold, Rule Road and Knights Road, level of metal on unsealed roads/water tables:** Concerns were raised regarding potholes on both sealed and unsealed roads, including Smith, Top Grass, Pinfold, Rule, and Knights Roads, as well as the condition of metal levels and water tables on unsealed roads. It was noted that issues have persisted for several months, with a perceived decline in the condition of rural roads. Board members advised they are receiving frequent feedback from users and the community, indicating concern that the current level of service is decreasing. Clarification was sought regarding the expected level of service for these roads. It was requested that a future management report provide clear guidance on agreed service levels for different road types.

It was noted that the 4% rates cap will necessitate discussion on levels of service, including the potential need to reduce service standards. The Chair will provide the Chief Executive with examples of relevant CRMs and user feedback, including from regular road users such as couriers and mail drivers, to inform this work.

**Roadside trees - Top Grass Road and Stanley Street:** Concerns were raised regarding roadside vegetation on Top Grass Road and Stanley Street. It was noted that overgrown vegetation is obstructing road signage, making it difficult to read, and that on Top Grass Road some corners have become hazardous, with vehicles crossing the centreline due to limited visibility. A large tree on Stanley Street was also identified, with uncertainty as to whether responsibility lies with NZTA - an

action was requested to seek clarification on the responsibility for maintenance.

**Easton Street - clutter and illegal vehicles:** Concerns were raised regarding clutter and illegal vehicles on Easton Street, including unregistered and burnt-out cars, and clarification was sought as to responsibility for their removal.

The Mayor advised that this matter had been addressed at the previous Dannevirke Community Board meeting and reiterated that it is being managed through a regulatory process. As individuals involved are part of ongoing discussions, it was noted that it is not appropriate to discuss specific details in a public forum. It was further emphasised that a lack of visible change does not indicate that action is not being taken.

It was noted that where vehicles are abandoned or burnt out, Council is responsible for removal, at a direct cost to ratepayers, which can be significant as such vehicles are treated as waste. A report on this matter is regularly presented to Council.

**High Street - Tree Replacement:** The Board expressed concern about the current appearance of the High Street trees, noting they are unattractive and costly to prune and maintain. Members suggested consulting the public on the potential replacement of these trees with more attractive evergreen species.

It was noted that this matter was not included in the Dannevirke Community Board's previous submission to the Long-Term Plan (LTP). Members were encouraged to include such proposals in future submissions, as the Council's budget process allows for changes to be considered through formal LTP submissions.

The Board requested information on the current maintenance costs of the High Street trees to be provided, having this information will support informed discussion on possible alternatives. The Board will prepare a submission to the LTP proposing a change in tree species for improved appearance and to reduce maintenance costs.

It was also noted that many of the existing trees were donated by ratepayers or individuals, and there is an obligation to consult with the public before making any changes. Some trees also have plaques recognising these contributions.

**Public Toilets:** The Board noted that, when travelling through the district, the Norsewood public toilets were of a high standard, whereas the Dannevirke facilities were reported to be in poor condition, with one toilet often not operational. It was acknowledged that the higher volume of users in Dannevirke may contribute to the condition of the facilities. It was further noted that this issue is regularly raised in surveys; however, Council does not have the capacity for constant cleaning. Even with increased cleaning, it only takes one or two individuals to significantly affect the state of the facilities.

Members were advised that any increase in cleaning services would have financial

implications, and decisions around service levels involve trade-offs. A district-wide approach would require consideration of whether the current level of service remains appropriate. It was also noted that larger contracted providers may not demonstrate the same level of care as smaller, community-based providers.

The Board was encouraged to consider making a submission if they wish to support increased funding for this service, noting that all service level decisions carry associated costs.

**Millers Street - 3 month disruption:** The Board noted concerns regarding the three-month disruption on Millers Street, which has impacted local trades and businesses. Concerns were raised about the length of the project, the effect on businesses, and a lack of responses to customer requests (CRMs), with an expectation that communication should be improved.

It was requested that an update be provided on the project, including information on timelines and the causes of delays, and seeking assurance that steps are being taken to minimise disruption where possible.

**Waterloo Street Corner - Dangerous Footpaths:** this item is already included in decision action items.

**Sweeper Truck - Effective Use:** It was noted that the sweeper truck regularly services High Street but culverts not being cleared manually, and there are ongoing flooding issues at the corner of Neptune Street, it was queried whether this is due to a drainage problem or a build-up of leaves. An update was requested to identify the cause of the blockage.

**LGOIMA requests:** The Board discussed LGOIMA requests, including the handling of commercially sensitive information and whether the use of AI could improve efficiency. It was noted that Council is exploring AI to help streamline processes; however, implementation is complex and must consider system integration and data security.

It was advised that charging for LGOIMA requests is appropriate where large volumes of information are requested, as this can divert staff from business-as-usual activities. The purpose of any charges is not to generate revenue, but to ensure that the cost of staff time is met, rather than being borne by ratepayers.

Council follows established guidelines, with the first hour of work provided free of charge. Minor overages are generally not charged; however, where requests involve significant volumes of information, requestors may be asked to refine their request. Where appropriate, LGOIMA responses are published, and requests are processed within required timeframes.

## **12. Chairperson's Remarks**

On behalf of the Community Board, thanks were extended to the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive, and staff for their significant efforts in delivering recent community meetings on proposed amalgamations. The Council was acknowledged for its proactive approach to community engagement.

The importance of ongoing and increased community involvement was emphasised, with residents encouraged to share their views through appropriate channels to help inform decision-making during this significant period for the district.

The Chair reiterated the Board's role in advocating for the community and encouraged residents to stay informed, including by following Council communications and social media updates.

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

Nil

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 10:41am.

## Decision Action Items from Minutes

| Meeting Date | Topic   | Decision / Action   | Due Date                | Assigned to             | Status      | Progress Notes   |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| 25-06-2025   | Disposal Plans for Rationalisation of Land and Buildings        | <i>That the Council pursue the disposal of the following assets:</i><br><b>39 Gregg Street, Dannevirke</b><br><b>39 Ransom Street Reserve, Dannevirke</b><br><b>DVK Rural Bus Depot, Dannevirke</b><br><b>Land at 16 Bengston Street, Eketihuna</b><br><i>That, prior to disposal, the Council inform occupiers of each property under consideration for disposal.</i><br><i>That the Council initiate engagement with iwi regarding the disposal of identified assets.</i><br><i>That the Council engage with the public regarding the disposal of identified assets.</i><br>Refer public excluded action list | June 2027               | GM - Operations         | In progress | Progress to be reported in future public excluded action list.<br>Engagement initiated with Iwi Partners 3 March 2026.<br>Community consultation will occur during July 2026, outcome of that will form application to revoke reserve status for Ransom St, 3W work to occur during next FY then they both can be marketed for sale. Other two discussions will happen during the next few months. |
| 30-07-2025   | Pukaha Loan Interest  | <i>That the Chief Executive be directed to provide a report to Council on the options available to recover the interest of the loan through the contestable fund</i>  | June 2027               | Chief Strategic Adviser | In progress | Contradicts contestable fund criteria. Can be considered within LTP process.   |
| 17-12-2025   | Earthquake Buildings Legislation<br>Prone Buildings Legislation | It was asked that an information session be held for the community once the Government's changes to the earthquake-prone buildings legislation is finalised.  | Refer to progress notes | GM - Operations         | Not started | Awaiting finalisation of legislation and enactment of Bill.  |

| Meeting Date | Topic   | Decision / Action  | Due Date                | Assigned to                                  | Status      | Progress Notes  |
|--------------|---|--|-------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| 17-12-2025   | MWLAASS services                                  | Request to invite representatives of the Manawatu-Whanganui Local Authorities Shared Services Ltd (MWLAASS) visit Council in the future to explain the services undertaken through the MWLAASS   | Refer to progress notes | Chief Advisor                                | In progress | Arranged for 15 July 2026 – representatives will attend the Council Workshop and provide an update in that forum. |
| 11-02-2026   | Carnegie Building Dannevirke                      | Request from Infrastructure Projects Committee for an update report on the Carnegie Building in Dannevirke   | Refer to progress notes | GM – Operations                              | In progress | Awaiting finalisation of Earthquake Prone Building legislation to finalise report for Council.                    |
| 04-03-2026   | Impact of Emergency Management Bill               | Request from Performance and Monitoring Committee to review the impact on Council procedures following the enactment of the Emergency Management Bill.   | Refer to progress notes | GM – People, Capability and Customer Service | Not started | Awaiting enactment by Parliament of the Emergency Management Bill   |
| 25-03-2026   | 2026/2027 Annual Plan and Proposed Fees & Charges | Provide final Annual Budget and Fees and Charges to the <del>27-May-2026</del> June 2026 Council meeting for formal adoption.  | June 2026               | Chief Financial Officer                      | In Progress | Report on agenda  |
| 25-03-2026   | Significance and Engagement Policy                | Further review of the Significance and Engagement Policy to be completed in 2027 following the introduction of pending legislative reform.   | 2027                    | General Counsel                              | Not started | Awaiting enactment of pending legislative reform  |
| 25-03-2026   | Triennial Agreement                               | A review by the Mayoral Forum has been set for May 2026 with final approval in June 2026. The agreement contains review provisions, which require that any changes proposed through the review would be brought back to the signatory Councils for adoption. | July 2026               | Manager – Democracy Services                 | Not started | Awaiting review by Mayoral Forum  |

| Meeting Date | Topic  | Decision / Action   | Due Date    | Assigned to                                     | Status  | Progress Notes  |
|--------------|--|---|-------------|---|---|---|
| 15-04-2026   | Lindauer Walkway   | Request from Infrastructure and Projects Committee to provide committee members with a copy of the estimated cost of the bridge for the Lindauer walkway.   | June 2026   | GM Operations                                   | <b>Complete</b><br><b>In progress</b><br><b>On hold</b><br><b>Overdue</b><br><b>Not started</b> | An update will be provided at the next Infrastructure and Projects Committee. |
| 21-04-2026   | Financial Delegations  | Request from Risk and Assurance Committee for financial delegations to be reviewed by Chief Executive in conjunction with Chair of Risk and Assurance Committee and brought to May Council meeting for adoption   | July 2026   | Chief Executive                                 | In progress   | Rescheduled to July Council meeting.  |
| 21-04-2026   | Recommendation from Committee re 2026 Audit Fee Proposal - Audit New Zealand | <b><i>That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 22 April 2026 concerning the Recommendation from Committee re 2026 Audit Fee Proposal - Audit New Zealand be received.</i></b><br><br><b><i>That the Tararua District Council authorise the Mayor to sign the 2026 Audit Fee Proposal from Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Tararua District Council.</i></b><br><br><b><i>That the Mayor write to the Minister of Local Government expressing concern with the cost burden imposed on ratepayers through the audit requirements.</i></b> | May 2026    | Mayor   | In progress   | The wording for the letter is under consideration due to Amalgamation issue.  |
| 20-05-2026   | Management Report  | Community Connections Committee: next report to include data in the Information Centre enquiry statistics on enquiries at Dannevirke that related to services previously performed by the Dannevirke Information Centre. Clarification to also be provided on the level of use by locals of the Pahiatua Information Centre. Results of the community survey on library hours also to be provided to next meeting.  | August 2026 | GM – People, Capability and Customer Engagement | In progress   | Report to next meeting of the Community Connections Committee                 |

| Meeting Date | Topic  | Decision / Action  | Due Date    | Assigned to                  | Status      | Progress Notes   |
|--------------|--|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 20-05-2026   | Management Report  | Community Connections Committee: update to be provided to next meeting on berm subsidence at Mangatera Cemetery  | August 2026 | GM – Operations              | In progress | Report to next meeting of the Community Connections Committee.   |
| 27-05-2026   | Explore Pahiatua Community Committee minutes re relocation of Civil Defence Cabinet contents from Pahiatua Service Centre to Bush Multisport | Clarification sought as to whether Emergency Management Advisor had access to the cabinet in the new location at Bush Multisport.  | June 2026   | Emergency Management Advisor | Complete    | Emergency Management Advisor does not require access to the cabinet during emergency events, as their role is to be in the EOC. Access is available to the local Civil Defence Group in the event that there is a need to open the building as a local Civil Defence Centre for the local community. |
| 27-05-2026   | Third Quarter Performance Report   | Clarification sought as to what further approval was needed for the Urban Growth Strategy/rezoning proposal which had been noted in the report as awaiting Government approval | June 2026   | GM – Operations              |             |  |
| 27-05-2026   | Third Quarter Performance Report   | Report on digitisation of Council building records requested for future Council or committee meeting   |             | GM – Operations              |             |  |
| 03-06-2026   | Service Performance Report to 31 March 2026  | Consideration of undertaking quarterly surveys - Performance and Monitoring Committee to give thought to this.   |             | Cr Wards                     |             |  |
| 03-06-2026   | Transition and Establishment of Waiti Waters   | Report to Council on drawdown against loan facility  | June 2026   | Chief Strategic Advisor      | Complete    | Report on agenda   |
| 10-06-2026   | Akito Water Supply – Number of Connections   | Request from Infrastructure and Projects Committee for an update on the number of connections to the Akito Water supply to be provided.  | August 2026 | GM – Operations              | Not started | Include in report to next committee meeting  |

| Meeting Date | Topic                         | Decision / Action  | Due Date    | Assigned to     | Status   | Progress Notes                              |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|--|---|
| 10-06-2026   | Flooding impacts in Woodville | Infrastructure and Projects Committee requested further information was requested for the next report regarding flooding impacts on properties in Bowen and Grey Streets and flood level data for Woodville. | August 2026 | GM Operations – | Complete<br>In progress<br>On hold<br>Overdue<br>Not started | Include in report to next committee meeting |
| 10-06-2026   | ERP Project                   | Infrastructure and Projects Committee requested formal reporting on the ERP project, as well as other large-scale projects, as part of regular Committee updates.  | August 2026 | GM Operations – | Not started  | Include in report to next committee meeting |
| 10-06-2026   | Portfolio Reports             | The Infrastructure and Projects Committee asked that indicative completion dates be included in the minor project reporting.   | August 2026 | GM Operations – | Not started  | Include in report to next committee meeting |
| 10-06-2026   | Cliff Walk Project            | The Infrastructure and Projects Committee asked that further information be provided about the Cliff Walk project.   | August 2026 | GM Operations – | Not started  | Include in report to next committee meeting |





## Report

Date : 16 June 2026

To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council

From : Allie Dunn  
Manager - Democracy Services

Subject : **Recommendation from Community Board re Carry Forward of  
Community Board Funding**

Item No : **11.1**

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### **1. Recommendation**

- 1.1 *That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 15 June 2026 concerning the Recommendation from Community Board re Carry Forward of Community Board Funding be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Tararua District Council approves the carry forward of remaining funds from the Dannevirke Community Board's Discretionary Funds 2025-26 for addition into the 2026-27 year's budget towards the Dannevirke Easton Fountain Project costs.*

### **2. Reason for the Report**

- 2.1 To present a recommendation from the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 15 June 2026 seeking approval from the Council for a carry forward of unspent funds from the Board's 2025-26 discretionary funding budget to the 2026-27 year towards the costs of the Dannevirke Easton Fountain Project costs.

### **Attachments**

Nil.





16 June 2026

## **Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations**

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the Stakeholders' Forum on 5 June to discuss the draft Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations. We found the discussion valuable both to understand your priorities and to begin to develop the close and constructive partnership we are all seeking, and which we know is essential for Waiti Waters' success.

We acknowledge the journey the Councils and iwi partners have been on over several years to progress water reform and the strong basis that your groundwork provides to move forward. We also acknowledge and support your focus on establishing a truly regional water organisation with a long-term focus on current and future customers and communities, and on the specific benefits identified in your Water Services Delivery Plans that you are seeking to achieve from this change.

We note under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 (s229), the Stakeholders' Forum is required to provide a draft of the Statement to Waiti Waters, with sufficient time available to provide feedback. This letter confirms that we been provided with the draft, that the process the Forum has followed has provided us with sufficient time to consider the document and, based on our discussion, that we are comfortable that the draft provides a clear articulation of your expectations of us and our organisation.

In confirming our comfort with the Statement and our firm commitment to work towards its delivery, we do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the challenges ahead, including:

- complying with new, comprehensive regulatory regimes and performing well under increasing, and justified, regulatory scrutiny,
- balancing regulatory requirements for financial sustainability and the need for significant investment in the network with the Stakeholders' Forum and community expectations of affordable water services,
- meeting customer expectations of service delivery and responsiveness, which will rightly grow in response to necessary price increases, and supporting customers through coming change (e.g., the introduction of volumetric charging),
- building new ways of working between ourselves and Councils to co-deliver areas of shared interest and responsibility (e.g., stormwater, infrastructure planning and regional growth), and
- bringing together parts of four organisations into one new regional entity and building new systems, processes, capabilities and culture to enable success.

We valued the chance to discuss these challenges with you and appreciate that you share our view on the size of the job, and the sustained effort and careful balancing act that will be required. To succeed, we will need to prioritise – we will communicate clearly with you on our choices and focus, including how these priorities change over time as our organisation matures. Maintaining a view of the Statement of Expectations as a living document that we continue to discuss between our organisations will support this.



The Board will now move forward over the coming months to develop the draft Water Services Strategy, in line with the strategic priorities and the specific expectations you have identified for the next 10 years. We note the additional expectation included to formally respond to you with our plan to deliver on the Statement. We will provide this to you alongside the draft Water Services Strategy, once we are further through our transition work and have had the opportunity to develop our organisational strategy and priorities with our incoming Chief Executive.

Following the Councils' adoption of the Statement, which we understand to be planned for meetings in late July/early August, we will publish the finalised Statement and this letter on the Waiti Waters website.

Nā mātou noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adrienne Young-Cooper".

Adrienne Young-Cooper  
**On behalf of Waiti Waters Board**

## Waiti Waters Statement of Expectations

### Background to Waiti Waters

South Wairarapa, Tararua, Masterton and Carterton District Councils, together with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu, are establishing a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation named Waiti Waters under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 to deliver water services to the region.

This three-waters company will manage approximately 25,000 connections and be responsible for drinking, waste and stormwater services. Responsibilities for water services will transfer from the Councils to Waiti Waters on or before 1 July 2027.

Waiti Waters is being established to serve the Wairarapa and Tararua regions. Throughout this document we reference 'the region' – this refers to the service area covered by Waiti Waters at establishment and refers to the combined area of Wairarapa and Tararua.

It is noted that there may be changes in local government form in the next few years. This Statement applies to any successor local government organisation(s) of the four council signatories.

### *A regional entity with an intergenerational focus*

The decision by Councils and iwi to establish a regional water services company came after engagement with the community and careful consideration of the costs and benefits of other approaches. The Councils have similar sized communities, geography and climate and face similar infrastructure challenges and opportunities. Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu are mana whenua iwi across Wairarapa and Tararua, and both iwi also have general and specific rights and interests in fresh-water bodies across our region arising from their respective Treaty Settlements. These circumstances make a grouping of these four Councils and two iwi a logical and impactful choice when it came to considering the future of water services delivery.

Councils and iwi partners are seeking to establish a truly regional organisation (not simply an aggregation of four current districts) that operates with an intergenerational perspective. We want to see this regional focus prioritised and driving Waiti Waters from day one, and building over time, to ensure that Waiti Waters delivers for customers the full range of benefits anticipated by the Local Water Done Well reforms.

In particular, the Water Services Delivery Plans identified the following expected benefits from change:

- more affordable (relative to other options) and resilient water services for communities,
- increased access to finance to enable delivery of necessary investment programmes,
- operational efficiency and cost savings resulting from a single entity planning, contracting and delivering works across the region,
- regional employment opportunities from a larger, locally based infrastructure provider, and
- enabling a professional infrastructure entity solely focused on water services delivery.

### Overview of this Statement of Expectations

This document sets out the Stakeholders' Forum's expectations of Waiti Waters as required by s224 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. Under the Waiti Waters Shareholders' Agreement, the statement is developed by the Stakeholders' Forum and issued to Waiti Waters by Shareholding Councils.

This Statement of Expectations relates to the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2036. As the first Statement of Expectations, it has a dual focus on success in two time periods. Note the foundation phase includes the 2026/27 year of transition and first two years of operation.

The Stakeholders' Forum anticipates reviewing this statement at the conclusion of the foundation phase to determine if any changes should be made following the experience from early years of operation. The Forum also notes the extent of current change in the wider local government sector, which may require change to the statement outside of this anticipated review period.

**YEARS 1-3  
FOUNDATION  
PHASE**

*This phase focuses on establishing the new organisation's core foundations - governance, systems, workforce, data, and delivery capability - while maintaining reliable service to communities.*

**YEARS 4-10  
TRANSFORMATION  
PHASE**

*This phase focuses on shifting from establishment to long-term transformation - scaling capital delivery, improving network performance, strengthening resilience, and maturing into a stable, financially sustainable regional water provider.*

The Stakeholders' Forum notes that Waiti Waters' first Water Services Strategy is required under Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 to give effect to this Statement of Expectations, and the Forum looks forward to receiving the draft Strategy for review and comment. In addition to the obligation on Waiti Waters to prepare the Strategy, this Statement asks Waiti Waters to respond to the Forum with its intended plan to deliver on this Statement.

The Stakeholders' Forum acknowledges that during the foundation phase, as Waiti Waters seeks to establish itself and transition into full operational business-as-usual, it may require assistance from Councils in relation to some of the expectations set out in this statement. Councils will provide all reasonable (non-financial) assistance as is identified to be required. Where any support extends beyond July 2027 in the form of an agreed service provision arrangement (e.g., transitional billing support), the costs of this support will be recovered by Councils from Waiti Waters.

Beyond the foundation phase, the Councils commit to partnering and providing support to Waiti Waters on an ongoing basis, consistent with each organisation's roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective water services delivery for the region.

*Document structure*

This Statement includes:

- **Strategic direction and outcomes for Waiti Waters** – which the Stakeholders' Forum expects to be reflected in the Water Services Strategy and guiding the organisation's decision making
- **Relationship between Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters** – the way in which the Stakeholders' Forum wishes to work with Waiti Waters
- **Expectations of the Stakeholders' Forum for Waiti Waters** – transition and enduring expectations structured according to the legislative objectives of Water Services Providers.

## Strategic direction and outcomes

Waiti Waters' purpose is to deliver drinking water, wastewater and storm water services within the region. It is to do this in accordance with the objectives of water services providers in section 17 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.

Waiti Waters is to deliver high-quality water services in a manner that is efficient, safe and reliable, financially and environmentally sustainable and affordable for the region's current and future customers. It must plan for and manage infrastructure assets with a long-term focus, befitting an organisation that is a critical part of the community and region, and here to make an intergenerational difference.

The strategic priorities for the period of this Statement of Expectations that the Stakeholders' Forum expects to see reflected in the Water Services Strategy are:

- Effective establishment of a "one-organisation" regional entity, and seamless transition of the delivery of water services from the four Councils to this entity
- Effective operation, maintenance, renewal and development of the three water networks to ensure statutory compliance, and meet public health, environmental and economic regulatory standards
- Building and maturing towards best-practice infrastructure asset management practices and the development of a regional capital programme that balances necessary infrastructure investment with affordability for customers
- Building a customer-focused organisation with a strong community presence across the region
- While meeting financial sustainability requirements, a strong focus on efficiency improvement and affordability and value-for-money for communities.

## Working relationship between the Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters

The Stakeholders' Forum is seeking to create a strong and constructive working partnership with Waiti Waters, with both parties focused on the successful transition from current Council water services arrangements and on the long-term delivery of high-quality water services for the region.

It is important to the Stakeholders' Forum that this relationship is based on:

- Openness, honesty, integrity and professionalism
- Respect for each other's role in the delivery and oversight of water services for the region
- Transparency, accountability, good faith and no surprises
- Early identification of disagreements or differences of view, and a commitment to rapid resolution, always seeking to maintain a long-term collaborative relationship.

The expectations that follow in this statement set out the anticipated meeting and reporting arrangements between the Stakeholders' Forum and Waiti Waters and include a combination of informal and formal arrangements.

## Expectations for Waiti Waters

The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 sets out the core purpose and five key objectives for water services providers. We have structured our expectations according to these five objectives –

1. reliable water services,
2. meeting customer expectations,
3. financial sustainability,

4. transparent and responsible,
5. accountable to and reflective of people and place

describing in each case what success looks like to us during the early foundation phase and over the full ten-year period. Unless otherwise identified under the transition/foundation phase heading, all expectations relate to the full ten-year period covered by the Statement.

These expectations do not explicitly address Waiti Waters' legislative and regulatory obligations or the foundations for Waiti Waters set out in governing documentation; these obligations are taken as given and this statement focuses on areas of priority or emphasis expected by the Stakeholders' Forum.

### *Reliable water services – what does this mean to us?*

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

#### **Transition/foundation phase**

- Waiti Waters must deliver safe, compliant, uninterrupted water services over the transition and early years of operation, with no degradation of performance. Waiti Waters must “hit the ground running” with respect to service continuity for customers.

#### **Service delivery and continuity**

- Waiti Waters' top priority must always be the delivery of safe, reliable water services, reflecting their value as an essential community service and public good.
- Waiti Waters must at least maintain levels of service and consistently seek to optimise service levels across our region over time. Waiti Waters will develop clear and consistent performance measures of service quality, by July 2027, that apply across the region (with reference to external reporting requirements e.g., Taumata Arowai, Commerce Commission, and others as required). These will be developed following an audit/baseline of current performance for 2025/26.
- Waiti Waters and Councils will be strong and active partners in areas of shared service delivery or responsibility, with those areas of shared responsibility to be reflected in the Transfer Agreements (e.g., stormwater management).

#### **Resilience and risk management**

- Waiti Waters will plan and deliver water services that are resilient to future challenges, including the impacts of climate change, natural hazards and other localised risks.
- Waiti Waters will be an essential infrastructure provider under the new Emergency Management Act and is expected to lead water community resilience before, during and after any emergency event. Waiti Waters must have clear operational plans in place to fulfil this role.
- Waiti Waters will build best practice asset management capability and maturity to ensure high-quality asset data supports well-planned and timely infrastructure investment over asset life.

### *Meet customer expectations – what does this mean to us?*

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

#### **Transition/foundation period**

- Waiti Waters will operate as a fully customer facing organisation from Day 1, as long as it does not introduce unnecessary risk to achieving a successful establishment and transition. Any

interim support that may be required from Councils if this expectation cannot be achieved should be:

- For an agreed, finite period
- Be appropriately scoped and documented in a service level agreement (or similar)
- Have a clear and agreed plan to migrate off Council support
- With costs recovered by Councils from Waiti Waters
- Waiti Waters will develop a customer communications strategy, to be agreed with Councils, to support the lead up and cutover of service delivery responsibility, with a particular focus on the change of billing responsibility.

#### **Customer focus**

- Waiti Waters will operate as a customer-focused service organisation, with a focus on transparency, accountability and responsiveness to customer expectations through a strong and consistent presence across our region
- Waiti Waters must work towards the adoption of consistent service levels, standards and targets across the region to provide a common customer experience (refer service delivery expectations)
- Waiti Waters will maintain a focus on service efficiency and value-for-money for communities
- Waiti Waters will have appropriate policies, processes or mechanisms (which are proactively communicated) for customers to:
  - understand their services and charges
  - raise and manage disputes
  - manage financial hardship and payment
  - engage directly with Waiti Waters on critical priorities/issues
- Waiti Waters will develop a Customer Charter that is the basis for its relationships with its customers and is the customer-facing version of this Statement of Expectations. This Charter will be developed prior to July 2027 (or at the earliest opportunity following July 2027), with a draft to be discussed with the Stakeholders' Forum as part of the regular quarterly meetings.
- Waiti Waters will build and maintain its presence in the community and its social licence to operate through proactive customer communication and demonstration of early results.
- Waiti Waters will develop appropriate regular and proactive reporting on service performance (e.g., service level targets, project delivery etc) and customer satisfaction direct to its customers as part of delivering a high-quality service. This will include the publication of a plain-English annual report for customers.

#### *Financial sustainability – what does this mean to us?*

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

#### **Pricing and affordability**

- Waiti Waters' charges will follow the principles in the Shareholders' Agreement, and will reflect the cost to serve each Council district, at incorporation, for nine years (unless otherwise agreed by shareholders, following advice from Waiti Waters)
- While maintaining cost to serve pricing (as well as regulatory and other requirements), Waiti Waters should carefully consider current and future community affordability as it sets its capital programme and operating costs.

#### **Efficiency**

- Waiti Waters must deliver services as efficiently as practical for customers, and all parts of our region should share in efficiency gains achieved

- Waiti Waters' charges should move to a standard pricing structure by a date to be agreed between Waiti Waters and the Stakeholders' Forum during the transition and ensure:
  - Large price changes/spikes are avoided in the transition period
  - Charging structures consider the ability of different customers to pay for water services
  - Growth related costs are fully recovered
- Volumetric charging, along with supporting customer education, must be introduced to promote efficient water use, with Waiti Waters to confirm a feasible date and approach for this transition. This introduction should be supported by adequate levels of maintenance work to reduce water loss through leaks.

#### **Capital programme**

- Waiti Waters must develop a capital programme that has a whole region perspective and:
  - At all times ensures regulatory and compliance requirements are met
  - Phases investment across our region in a way that balances affordability and infrastructure investment need
  - Seeks maximum efficiency gains in programme delivery
  - Takes a long-term view consistent with best practice infrastructure asset management
- Waiti Waters must explore opportunities to determine if there are ways to use other investment funding and financing tools to deliver the region's capital programme most efficiently, including with iwi partners, National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Company, and others as appropriate.

#### *Transparent and responsible – what does this mean to us?*

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

#### **Adopting best practice**

- Waiti Waters will operate in accordance with governance best practice and sound business practices that promote community, customer and shareholder confidence.

#### **Regulatory compliance**

- Waiti Waters must ensure it maintains compliance with all environmental, economic and other regulatory requirements over time (noting these are minimum standards expected, not a benchmark to aim for). Any non-compliance should be well signalled to the Stakeholder Forum early, along with clear plans to address and return to full compliance.
- Waiti Waters should work towards more "real-time" regulatory and standards compliance, as opposed to historical performance reporting, to promote transparency for the community, customers, regulators and shareholders.

#### **Improvement focus**

- Waiti Waters actively explores opportunities for innovation/improvement in service delivery to improve customer, financial or regulatory outcomes.
- Waiti Waters will be an active participant in the wider/national water sector seeking to be part of sector performance improvement and influencing policy and/or sector debate in a way that benefits smaller, regionally based water services providers and their customers.

#### **Reporting and performance**

- Waiti Waters must formally report to the Stakeholders' Forum on its intended approach to demonstrating it is delivering against the expectations in this statement including:

- how performance against expectations will be monitored and reported to the Forum
- aligning reporting with regulatory reporting requirements to ensure the Forum maintains visibility of regulatory performance and to enable efficiency in reporting processes.
- The relationship between Waiti Waters and the Stakeholders Forum will be managed through:
  - Quarterly meetings focused on progress, delivery of major projects, operational performance, emerging risks, and relationship issues. The frequency of meetings could reduce over time, by agreement, once confidence in the new organisation has been built. If required by either party, these meetings will be more frequent during the transition.
  - Regular/informal meetings between the Chairs of Waiti Waters and the Forum.
- Waiti Waters will formally report to the Stakeholders forum six-monthly including on:
  - financial and operational (including health and safety) performance
  - delivery against the Water Services Strategy capital programme
  - regulatory compliance and other consenting issues (including plant capacity issues)
  - strategic and operational risks
  - progress and results delivered by way of efficiency improvement
  - benefits of Waiti Waters' operations to the region in terms of growth aspirations, economic, social, environmental (including climate change) and cultural impacts
  - if/where developed during transition, maturity/improvement plans for areas of organisational performance (to be reported on for an agreed period of time)
  - any other reasonable matters identified by the Stakeholders Forum and advised to Waiti Waters in the quarterly meeting prior to the presentation of the six-monthly report.

#### *Accountable to and reflective of people and place – what does this mean to us?*

The Stakeholders' Forum expects that:

##### **Transition/foundation period**

- Beginning in the transition period, Waiti Waters will seek to establish itself both internally and externally with a “one organisation” focus – not an organisation of four parts – and to build this focus into its culture, strategy, operations, management and governance.
- Waiti Waters will work with Councils and the Stakeholders' Forum to manage establishment and transition risk as a priority; considerations of future service and/or organisational transformation should not affect achievement of a successful transition.
- Waiti Waters will engage with, and support, affected Council staff through the transition, with a particular focus on providing continuity of employment for water services operational staff.

##### **Regional perspective and presence**

- Waiti Waters is a critical part of the regional community. It is expected to govern and manage water services in the interests of the region as a whole, not the current individual Council Districts, and in the interests of current and future consumers. It must have a strong and consistent presence (in terms of governance, leadership and operations) throughout the region.

##### **Partnerships**

- Waiti Waters will, to the extent consistent with its roles and responsibilities, uphold Treaty settlement obligations and principles, as outlined in the following pieces of legislation:
  - Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017
  - Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022
  - Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022

- Waiti Waters will have appropriate arrangements in place at governance and operational levels that reflect the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of water resources and meaningful partnership with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu and their associated hapū and organisations in the management of the region's water resources and services
- Waiti Waters Board and Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu will work together to develop a shared view of the most effective ways to give effect to this commitment to partnership.
- Waiti Waters will be an organisation with community presence across the region, building relationships to support organisational success.

#### **Working together for regional growth and environmental outcomes**

- Waiti Waters will actively enable housing growth across the region, with a particular early focus in areas where this is currently constrained due to water infrastructure capacity
- Waiti Waters will actively work with shareholders on relevant regulatory matters, including resource management and land use planning, development of Council growth strategies and Long-Term Plans (e.g., Tararua Growth Strategy, Tararua District Plan, Carterton Eastern Growth Strategy, Combined Wairarapa District Plan, MDC Development Plan, SWDC Spatial plan, the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Iwi Environmental Management Plan, Kahungunu Pae-Tata Kahungunu Pae-Tawhiti Taiao Management Plan, and [to confirm Kahungunu Wairarapa] or other subsequent revised/new strategies), and in any coordination with the development community
- Waiti Waters will seek opportunities to contribute to regional growth and the local economy through its contracting, supplier management, procurement practices wherever possible, as long as that is consistent with delivering quality services efficiently and affordably for customers
- Waiti Waters will act as steward of the environment, pursuing improvement in environmental outcomes and seeking to mitigate adverse effects to the extent reasonably practical.

#### **Workforce**

- Waiti Waters will develop and maintain a regionally-present skilled, safe and high performing workforce that enables Waiti Waters to meet its legislative and regulatory obligations, partnership commitments with iwi, and deliver high-quality services to customers.
- Waiti Waters will consider how it can develop employment pathways to support regional workforce sustainability over time.



## Report

Date : 17 June 2026

To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council

From : Peter Wimsett  
Chief Strategic Advisor

Subject : **Waitī Waters Establishment - Transfer of Approved Funding to 2025/26**

Item No : **11.3**

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### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Chief Strategic Advisor dated 10 June 2026 concerning the Waitī Waters Establishment - Transfer of Approved Funding to 2025/26 be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Tararua District Council acknowledge our legal obligation to South Wairarapa District Council to reimburse our agreed share of costs as established under the Shareholder Agreement.*
- 1.3 *That the Tararua District Council authorises the Chief Executive under delegation to draw against the \$1.25m loan facility approved in the Long-Term Plan for Tararua's share of jointly funded establishment costs, in advance of the 2026/27 financial year, to meet costs incurred to 30 June 2026 as they fall due under the Shareholder Agreement.*
- 1.4 *That the Tararua District Council notes that the variation is a timing difference only, is not material in amount, and that Tararua's total approved commitment of \$1.5m remains unchanged.*

### Executive Summary

Council's \$1.25m share of the jointly funded establishment costs for the water services transition was approved through the Long-Term Plan and is provided for in the 2026/27 Annual Plan, consistent with the Shareholder Agreement. The tempo of transition activity

has increased, and establishment costs are now being incurred ahead of the financial year in which the budget formally sits.

Council is obligated under the Shareholder Agreement to meet its share of these costs as they fall due, and the associated liability will be accounted for in the financial year in which it is incurred.

This report seeks Council authorisation to draw against the approved loan facility in advance of the 2026/27 financial year.

The variation is a timing difference only — it is not material in amount, no new or additional funding is sought, and the total approved commitment is unchanged. The full value of the loan is to be transferred to Waiti Waters in accordance with the legally required Transfer Agreement which is currently under development.

## **2. Reason for the Report**

2.1 To seek Council authorisation to draw against the \$1.25m loan facility, approved through the Long-Term Plan for Tararua's share of jointly funded water services establishment costs, in advance of the 2026/27 financial year in which the budget is provided.

## **3. Background**

3.1 Council note that the establishment and transition programme is progressing at speed to achieve the 1 July 2027 operational transfer date, and that this is incurring costs that are drawing on the Long-Term Plan and draft Annual Plan

3.2 Tararua's contribution to the establishment costs of the new water services organisation is structured across three funding sources:

3.2.1 A \$1.25m loan facility, approved in the Long-Term Plan and agreed in the Shareholder Agreement as Tararua's share of jointly funded establishment costs, with the full budget provided in the 2026/27 Annual Plan;

3.2.2 A \$0.25m Council capital budget — a separate loan-funded provision for Council's own internal transition costs;

3.2.3 Establishment and internal capital costs may be incurred in either year with \$0.25m being provided in the current (2025/26) year, bringing Tararua's total commitment to \$1.5m; and

3.3 A \$0.25m Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) contribution shared jointly across the four councils, paid directly to South Wairarapa District Council on the councils' behalf and additional to Tararua's own funding.

3.4 Establishment costs are incurred by South Wairarapa District Council as the administering council and reimbursed by each shareholding council in accordance with the agreed ¼ cost-share arrangements amongst the four councils. Council is

obligated under the Shareholder Agreement to meet its share of these costs as they fall due.

- 3.5 As of 31 March 2026, \$225,672 had been paid to South Wairarapa District Council as Tararua's share of establishment costs incurred to date, drawing against the 2025/26 budget of \$250,000 and the \$1.25m loan facility to fund the costs being incurred by South Wairarapa District Council on behalf of Tararua.
- 3.6 A further invoice for \$59,103 for April 2026 has been received and approved for payment, leaving two further months of invoices yet to be received for the 30 June 2026 financial year.
- 3.7 Council's internal transition costs to 30 April 2026 total \$32,296 primarily incurred for legal matters and district plan review input in preparation of effecting transfer.
- 3.8 Essentially, we are now moving beyond the \$250,000 budgeted amount for 2025/26, about a month out from the new financial year when the further \$1.25m budget becomes available. Both loan funded amounts are intended to be included in the Transfer.

#### **4. Description**

- 4.1 The tempo of transition and establishment activity has increased significantly, with detailed plans now in place for each workstream. Costs are accordingly being incurred ahead of 1 July 2026, the start of the financial year in which the \$1.25m budget formally sits.
- 4.2 This timing difference has arisen because, prior to the establishment function being stood up, there was uncertainty as to the speed at which costs would be incurred and how they would fall between the shareholding councils and the establishment team. With detailed workstream planning now complete, the incidence of cost is clearer, and a portion of expenditure originally anticipated in 2026/27 is being incurred in 2025/26. The variation is one of timing only and is not material in amount relative to the total approved commitment. It is pleasing that work is well underway early as this is preparing the way for a successful transfer.
- 4.3 The next invoice, covering costs to 31 May 2026, is expected to be received later this month for payment by 20 July 2026, after balance date. In accordance with accounting standards, the liability for costs incurred to 30 June 2026 will be recognised in the 2025/26 financial year regardless of when the invoice is paid, and expenditure will be accounted for accordingly. Likewise, the final invoice for June 2026 will be received later again and will be accrued to the year 30 June 2026.
- 4.4 Authorisation is sought to draw against the approved loan facility to meet Tararua's share of establishment costs incurred to 30 June 2026 as they fall due.

## **5. Significance Assessment**

- 5.1 This matter has been assessed against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and is considered not to be a matter of significance. The loan has already been consulted on and will be recovered, while interest cost is being incurred only a few months earlier than the planned timing.
- 5.2 The decision relates solely to the timing of expenditure already approved through the Long-Term Plan and committed under the Shareholder Agreement. It does not alter the level of service of any significant activity, create any new financial impact on Council or ratepayers, or change the total approved commitment of \$1.5m, and the amount involved is not material.

## **6. Options**

### **6.1 Option 1 – Authorise drawdown in advance (recommended).**

Authorise drawing against the \$1.25m loan facility ahead of the 2026/27 financial year to meet Tararua's share of establishment costs incurred to 30 June 2026.

### **6.2 Option 2 – Defer drawdown until 2026/27 (not recommended)**

Hold payment until the budget year commences on 1 July 2026.

## **7. Assessment of Options**

- 7.1 Option 1 enables Council to meet its obligations under the Shareholder Agreement as they fall due, supports the momentum of the transition programme, and aligns the funding source with the financial year in which the liability must be recognised. It has no impact on the total approved budget, and any earlier borrowing cost is minor and manageable within existing budgets.
- 7.2 Option 2 would not relieve Council of its legal obligations to make payment under the Shareholder Agreement, nor would it change the financial year in which the liability is recognised — costs incurred to 30 June 2026 must be accounted for in 2025/26 in any case. Deferral would be inconsistent with our Shareholder Agreement by delaying payment of amounts properly due, without financial benefit. It is of value to the project that the work proceeds at pace and there are no financial impediments to Council to make payment as the costs fall due.
- 7.3 Option 1 is therefore recommended.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 No consultation is required. The funding was approved through the Long-Term Plan, which was subject to consultation, and the commitment is established under the Shareholder Agreement.

8.2 This decision concerns only the timing of expenditure and does not trigger the consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 or Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **9. Conclusion**

9.1 The transition programme is gathering pace, and establishment costs are being incurred ahead of the 2026/27 financial year in which the approved budget sits. The timing difference reflects the uncertainty that existed before the establishment function was stood up as to the speed and incidence of costs and is not material in amount.

9.2 Council is obligated under the Shareholder Agreement to meet these costs, and the associated liability will be recognised in the 2025/26 financial year. Authorising drawdown against the approved loan facility enables Council to meet its commitments as they fall due. The decision is of low significance, involves no new funding, and is consistent with Council's Long-Term Plan and the Shareholder Agreement.

## **Attachments**

Nil.





## Report

Date : 17 June 2026

To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council

From : Sarah Walshe  
Finance and Revenue Manager

Subject : **Adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges**

Item No : **11.4**

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### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Finance and Revenue Manager dated 09 June 2026 concerning the Adoption of the 2026/2027 Annual Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges be received.*
- 1.2 *That in accordance with Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002, Tararua District Council adopts the Annual Budget 2026/2027 and the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2026/2027 financial year.*
- 1.3 *That the Chief Executive be authorised to approve any final editorial or minor amendments required to finalise the Annual Budget.*

### 2. Reason for the Report

- 2.1 To adopt the Annual Budget 2026/2027 (Annual Plan as defined under Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002), being year three of the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan, and the Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- 2.2 To confirm the final average rates increase for the 2026/2027 year of 4.83%.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Council is required to prepare an Annual Budget (Annual Plan as defined under Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002) for each financial year in accordance with Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Annual Budget is to set out Council's budget and funding requirements for the year and to explain any differences from what was signalled through the Long Term Plan.
- 3.3 The 2026/2027 Annual Budget represents year three of the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan and, as such, largely implements what Council has already consulted on with the community.
- 3.4 In developing this year's Annual Budget, Council has continued to place a strong emphasis on affordability and financial sustainability, recognising the ongoing cost of living pressures facing the community.
- 3.5 The Long Term Plan forecast a rates increase of 11.84% for 2026/2027. Through a combination of operational budget reviews and the application of financial levers, this has been reduced significantly to an average increase of 4.83%.
- 3.6 Key adjustments made through this process include changes to the timing of capital projects, partial funding of depreciation in selected activities, use of available reserves, and a revision to the debt repayment programme. These are all consistent with the approach signalled in the Financial Strategy.

### **4. Consultation with the Community**

- 4.1 Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires consultation where there are significant or material changes from the Long Term Plan.
- 4.2 Officers assessed the proposed Annual Budget against both the materiality thresholds in the Act and Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- 4.3 The changes in this Annual Budget are primarily timing and funding adjustments and do not result in any changes to levels of service or overall strategic direction.
- 4.4 On that basis, Council determined that the Annual Budget does not contain significant or material differences from the Long Term Plan and resolved that formal consultation was not required.
- 4.5 While a formal submission process has not been undertaken, the community continues to have opportunities to provide input through early engagement for the upcoming 2027/2037 Long Term Plan.

## **5. Significance Assessment**

- 5.1 The Annual Budget does not introduce significant or material changes in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- 5.2 The financial levers applied are consistent with the Financial Strategy adopted in the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan.

## **6. Key Financial Outcomes**

- 6.1 The final Annual Budget has been prepared with an average rates increase of 4.83%, significantly lower than forecast in the Long Term Plan.
- 6.2 Key decisions incorporated into the final Annual Budget include:
- Reduction in accelerated debt repayment from 2% to 1.5%
  - Use of \$750,000 from the General-Purpose Reserve to offset roading depreciation catch-up
  - Continued partial funding of depreciation in three waters
  - Deferral and reprioritisation of capital projects
  - Inclusion of three months operating costs for the Pahiatua Pool, reduced from the previously assumed six months to reflect updated project timing.

## **7. Other Changes incorporated into the final Annual Budget**

- 7.1 Following the endorsement of the proposed Annual Budget, officers continued to refine the budgets. As a result, the following changes have been incorporated into the final Annual Budget for adoption.

As noted in 6.2, updated information on the New Pahiatua Pool project has resulted in officers reducing the operational start date from 1 January 2027 to 1 April 2027 to better reflect project progress.

As a result of this revised timing, officers have also proposed to defer the depreciation associated with this asset. In doing so Council's \$2.5 million contribution will now fall within the 2026/2027 capital programme, having previously been budgeted in year two of the Long Term Plan.

The overall financial impact of these changes is a slight reduction in both interest costs and depreciation expense for the year. These savings in operational and depreciation costs have been used to fund the changes outlined in sections 7.1.3 and 7.1.4.

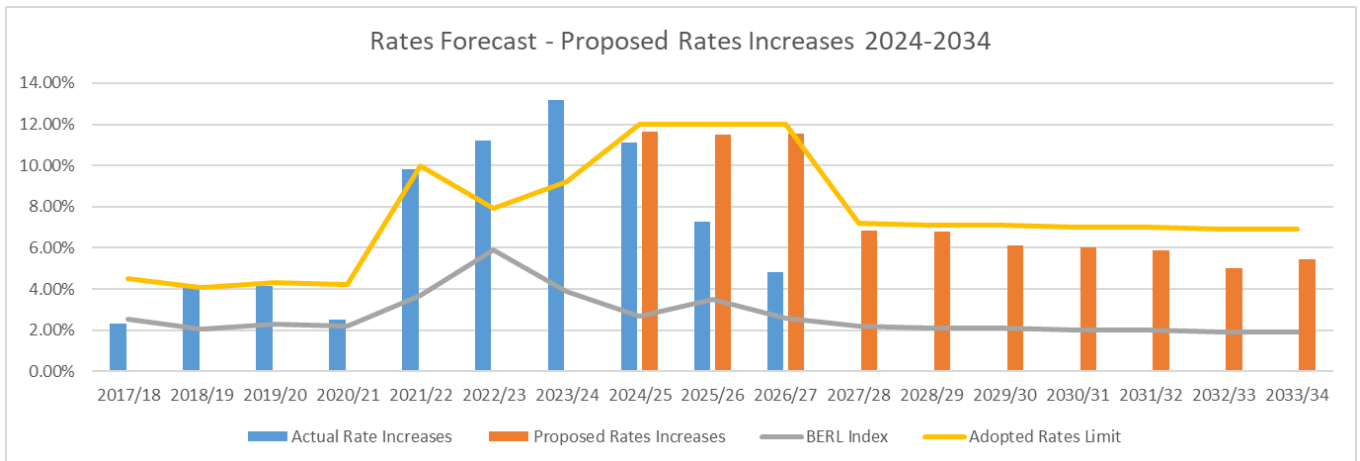
- 7.1.1 A correction has been made to the footpaths renewal budget, increasing it from \$140,000 to \$150,000 to reflect the correct funding requirement

- 7.1.2 An increase to Council’s fuel budget of \$92,000 to reflect cost escalation that have subsequently occurred.
- 7.1.3 Inclusion of \$100,000 to support internal costs associated with the transfer of three waters services.

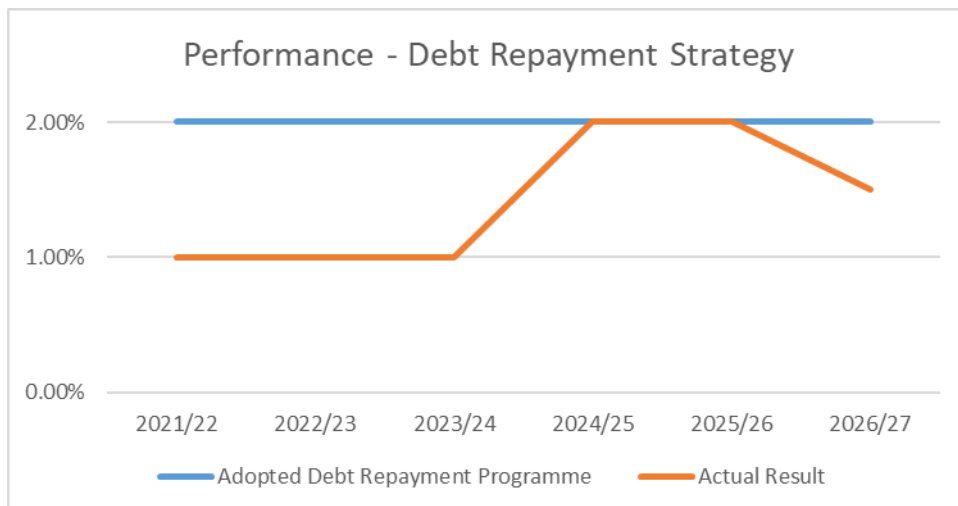
## 8. Financial Strategy Key Issues

8.1 The 2024-2034 Financial Strategy sets Council’s approach to financial management. The following outlines how these strategies are being applied in year three of the Long Term Plan:

8.1.1 **Rates Limit:** Council agreed to increase the rates limits to a level that would allow Council to service the increased debt levels, fund the operational cost increase resulting from investment in infrastructure and growth projects and increase cost to meet service levels. Rates limit for year 3 was set at <12%, with a proposed increase of 11.84%, the proposed rates increase for this annual plan is 4.83%.

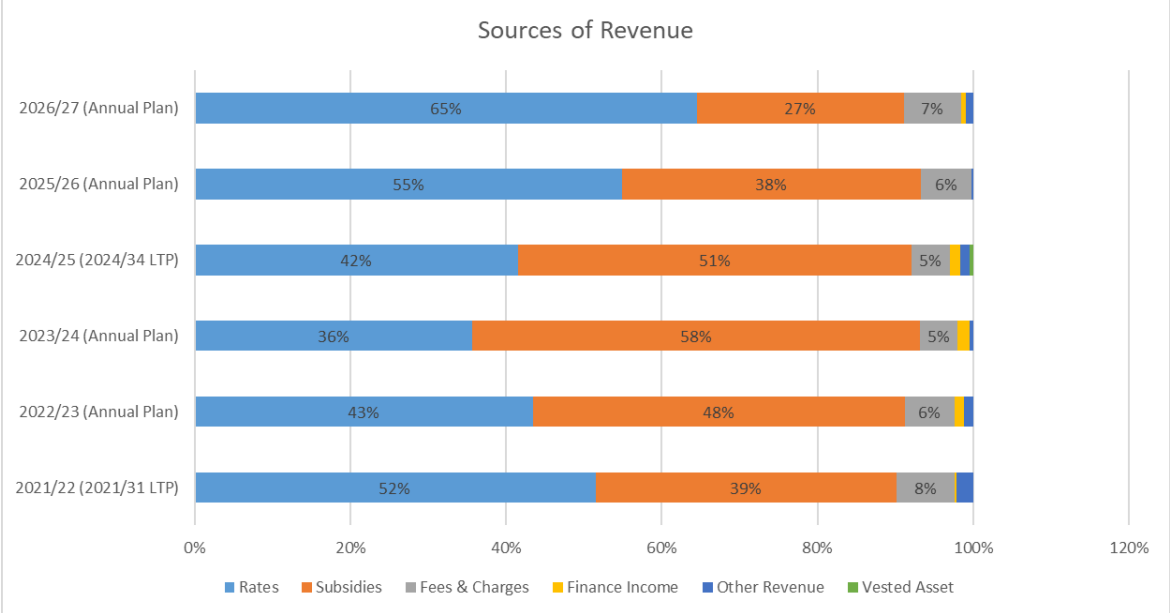


8.1.2 **Dedicated Debt Repayment:** Council agreed to continue with the dedicated debt repayment programme that was implemented in the 2021/2031 LTP, the proposed rates increase includes a slightly reduced accelerated debt repayment of 1.5% instead of the 2% planned for in the Long Term Plan.



8.1.3 **Borrowing Limits:** Council agreed to increase Council’s borrowing limits within the LTP, for the proposed Annual Plan Council is within these limits.

8.1.4 **Revenue Sources:** Council agreed to continue its strategy of finding alternative sources of revenue to maximise external funding where possible. The table below shows the mix of Council’s funding sources:



8.1.5 **Balanced Budget:** Council agreed that it would meet the s100 Local Government Act (LGA) balanced budget requirement. In this annual plan Council has meet this requirement of being >100% at 100.44%.

**9. Key changes between the Annual Budget and the Long Term Plan**

**9.1 Rates Distribution**

9.1.1 Officers have prepared a rates analysis to show the comparison between the impact of the rates increase on the different sectors between the current year and the final annual budget.

The table below shows an average percentage change of 4.4%, rather than the proposed average increase of 4.83%. This variance reflects the detailed rating model recalculating each property based on current attributes.

Changes such as property amalgamation, subdivisions, or newly connected services can affect individual assessments. The model recalculates the 2025/2026 rates using current property attributes and compares them with the rates payable in 2026/2027, which is reflected in the table.

|              | Annual Plan 2026/2027 |             | Current Year      | Annual Plan 2025/2026 |             |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Rural        | 24,173,395            | 5.8%        | 22,854,547        | 22,722,033            | 6.4%        |
| Urban        | 20,687,703            | 2.9%        | 20,098,010        | 20,010,104            | 3.4%        |
| Commercial   | 3,243,247             | 3.3%        | 3,139,667         | 3,120,606             | 3.9%        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>48,104,345</b>     | <b>4.4%</b> | <b>46,092,223</b> | <b>45,852,743</b>     | <b>4.9%</b> |

Note: The "Current Year" figures are the 2026 Actual Rates applied to the rating database as it is now (ie including subdivisions, amalgamations etc)

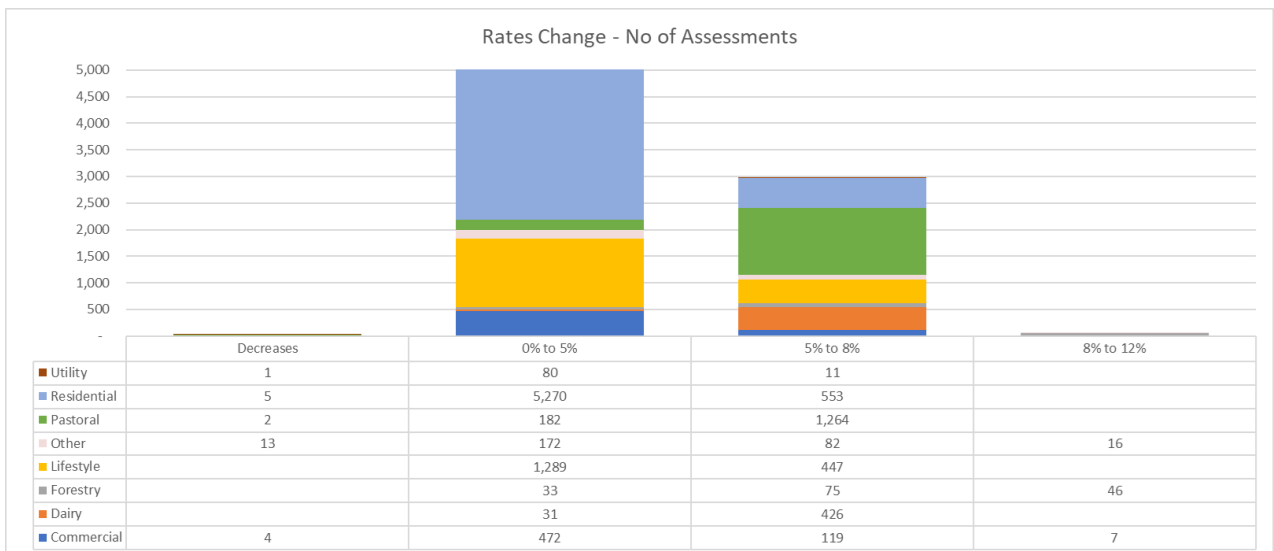
### 9.1.2 UAGC and Rates Cap

|   | 2027 Plan        | 2026 Actual      |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>UAGC</b>   | <b>\$ 690.10</b> | <b>\$ 676.36</b> |
| <b>Rates Cap</b>  | <b>24.8%</b>     | <b>25.3%</b>     |
| <i>(note - rates cap without 3 waters would be 31.5%)</i> |                  |                  |

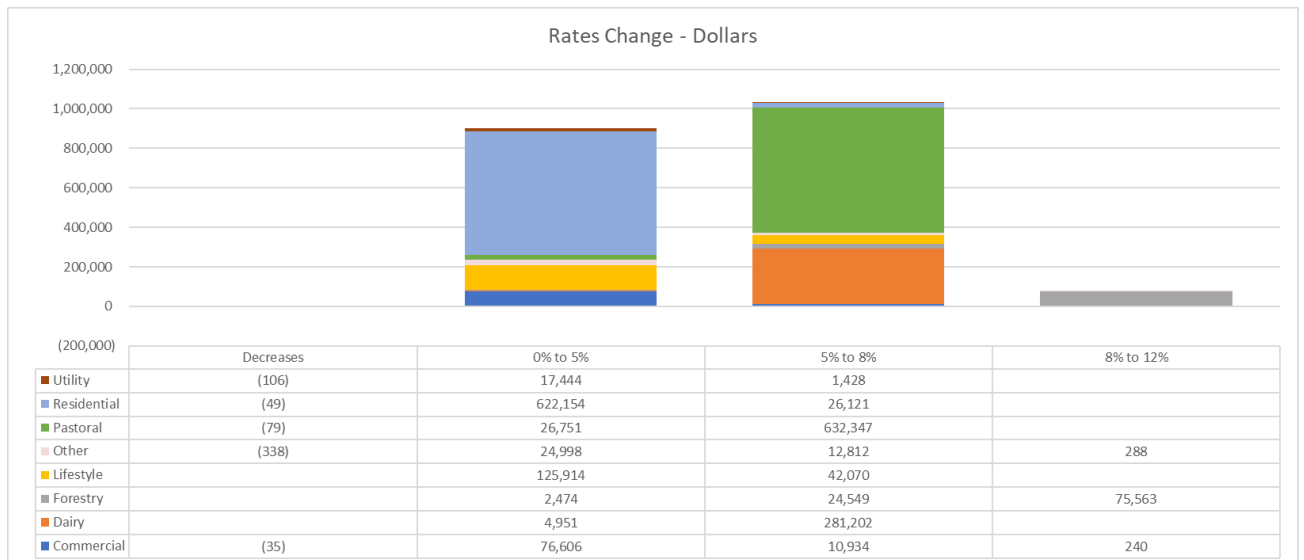
### 9.2 Sector Breakdown

| Band                 | No            | Proposed          | Current Year      | Change \$        | Ave \$ Change |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Commercial           | 654           | 2,689,403         | 2,601,658         | 87,745           | 134           |
| Dairy                | 813           | 4,600,508         | 4,314,355         | 286,153          | 352           |
| Forestry             | 336           | 1,399,622         | 1,297,036         | 102,585          | 305           |
| Lifestyle            | 1,878         | 4,033,767         | 3,865,784         | 167,984          | 89            |
| Other                | 819           | 1,255,768         | 1,214,124         | 41,644           | 82            |
| Pastoral             | 2,430         | 11,557,274        | 10,898,254        | 659,019          | 271           |
| Residential          | 6,026         | 21,994,096        | 21,345,870        | 648,226          | 108           |
| Utility              | 117           | 573,907           | 555,141           | 18,766           | 160           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   | <b>13,073</b> | <b>48,104,345</b> | <b>46,092,223</b> | <b>2,012,122</b> | <b>154</b>    |
| <b>GST Exclusive</b> |               | <b>41,829,865</b> |                   |                  |               |

### 9.3 Rates change distribution in %



## 9.4 Rates change distribution in dollars



## 9.5 Debt Repayment

9.5.1 As noted in paragraph 8.1.2 above.

## 9.6 Capital Programme

9.6.1 Total capital expenditure is \$40.7 million compared to \$43.7 million in year 3 of the LTP. Below is the summary of the capital projects by Group of Activities.

|   | LTP<br>Year 3<br>2026/2027<br>\$000's | Annual<br>Plan<br>2026/2027<br>\$000's | Variance<br>\$000's |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Summary of Capital Projects by Group of Activities</b> |                                       |  |                     |
| Community & Economic Development                          | -                                     | -                                      | -                   |
| Community Facilities & Services                           | 1,739                                 | 3,422                                  | 1,683               |
| District  | 2,042                                 | 1,997                                  | (46)                |
| Environmental Management                                  | 333                                   | 358                                    | 25                  |
| Governance & Community Engagement                         | -                                     | -                                      | -                   |
| Regulatory Compliance                                     | -                                     | -                                      | -                   |
| Stormwater  | 1,402                                 | 1,402                                  | -                   |
| Wastewater  | 7,840                                 | 6,772                                  | (1,068)             |
| Water   | 8,153                                 | 12,454                                 | 4,301               |
| Transportation  | 22,209                                | 14,302                                 | (7,908)             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>43,719</b>                         | <b>40,706</b>                          | <b>(3,013)</b>      |

9.6.2 As can be seen in the table above the main activities for the reduction in budgets proposed compared to year 3 are Community Facilities & Services, Wastewater, Water and Transportation. All changes are detailed in each activity section of the proposed annual plan under the variances to long term plan sections. The main items that have changed are as follows:

### 9.6.3 Community Facilities

- Carnegie Re-Design and Re-Development project budget has been deferred as the project is expected to be reassessed as part of the upcoming Long Term Plan.
- Pahiataua Swimming Pool – Council’s contribution to this project was originally budgeted in Year 2. Officers have amended the timing of this contribution to reflect the current estimated completion date, ensuring that depreciation costs are recognised in the appropriate rating year upon completion.

### 9.6.4 Wastewater

- Deferral of wastewater treatment plant upgrades as a result of change in wastewater standards.
- Bringing forward of the Dannevirke wastewater treatment plant works predominantly the sewer siphon works from future years of the Long Term Plan.

### 9.6.5 Water

- Bringing forward of works required to the Pahiataua water main as a result of network failings occurring, this project has been brought forward from future years as well as intended to support future growth identified in the growth strategy.

9.6.6 All wastewater and water changes remain in line with the delivery of the Water Service Delivery Plan.

### 9.6.7 Transportation

- Budget previously included for Cyclone Gabrielle is no longer required (\$10.3 million), inclusion of budgets requested to NZTA for minor safety projects (resilience works) and adjustment to reduce the NZTA subsidised projects, as a result of funding confirmation not being received in time for the adoption of the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan.

## 9.7 Grants and Subsidies

9.7.1 Grants and subsidies revenue has decreased from year 3 of the LTP by \$8.1 million in this annual plan. This predominately made up of a reduction in subsidy to be received from Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery project in the roading activity as a result in the decrease in this project’s requirements after the completion of works scheduled in 2025/2026.

## 9.8 Operational Costs

**9.8.1** This has decreased by \$606,000 from year 3 in the LTP and by \$666,000 from the current year (2025/2026). This decrease has been driven by savings in contract costs and reduced costs associated with lower-than-expected waste volumes.

**9.8.2 Funding of Depreciation Costs**

9.8.3 Depreciation costs have increased from year 3 budgets by \$436,000, and increased from current year budgets by \$2.2 million. This increase is made up of two items, an increase in depreciation costs – these are calculated as part of annual revaluations of Council’s infrastructure assets. This helps determine the correct level of depreciation required to rate to ensure reserve balances are maintained at an appropriate level to allow for assets to be renewed when they reach the end of their useful life. In the 2024/2025 financial year, a significant amount of capitalisation occurred in the roading activity which has been the prime driver for the increase in depreciation costs required in this 2026/2027 annual plan.

9.8.4 The second driver of the increase is the catch-up of depreciation unfunded in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan. Council has deferred some of this catch-up for Community Buildings, Stormwater, Wastewater, and Water activities. In light of the land rationalisation project, Council has funded depreciation at a level sufficient to deliver the planned renewal programme, avoiding the accumulation of reserves for assets that may not be retained.

**9.9 Personnel cost**

9.9.1 Personnel cost has increased by \$16,000 from year 3 budgets and from the previous year \$244,000. This is due to increase in anticipated market movements and a change in staff resources.










**9.10 Finance cost**

9.11 Finance costs have decreased by \$496,000 from year three of the Long Term Plan, reflecting actual debt levels at the time of preparing the Annual Budget. Compared to the current year, finance costs have increased by \$811,000 due to higher borrowing levels.

**10. Financial Strategy Limits and Revenue and Financing Compliance**

**10.1 Financial Prudence Benchmarks**

10.1.1 The table below displays Council’s planned limit as per the Annual Plan 2026/2027 against its Quantified Maximum limits set in the Financial Strategy.

|   | Quantified<br>Maximum Limit | Planned Limit | Met  |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Rates affordability benchmark</b>  |                             |               |  |
| Increases in accordance with financial strategy   | 12%                         | 3.56%         |   |
| Actual Increases  | 11.84%                      | 4.83%         |   |
| <b>Debt Affordability</b>   |                             |               |  |
| Net Debt as a percentage of total revenue   | 175%                        | 142.64%       |   |
| Net interest as a percentage of total revenue   | 10%                         | 5.66%         |   |
| Net interest as a percentage of annual rates income (debt secured under debenture)                                  | 15%                         | 8.77%         |   |
| Liquidity (External term debt + committed loan facilities + available liquid investments to existing external debt) | > 110%                      | 124.90%       |   |
| Balanced Budget Benchmark   | > 100%                      | 100.44%       |   |
| Essential Services Benchmark  | > 100%                      | 221.77%       |   |
| Debt Servicing Benchmark  | < 10%                       | 6.25%         |  |

10.1.2 Council complies with the rates limits set in the Financial Strategy.

10.1.3 Council complies with all the debt limits set in the Financial Strategy. The debt limit with the least headroom is liquidity. However, this was expected in the Financial Strategy. If an unplanned event occurred (such as a major earthquake) Council has options to increase its liquidity either through a larger standby loan facility, or re-prioritising planned projects if required.

10.2 Council has also set lower benchmark limits than LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency) covenants. The LGFA limit for net debt as a percentage of total revenue is <175% compared to Council's limit of <175%. This allows for future headroom and ensures the cost of debt is maintained at an affordable level to ratepayers.

10.3 See the discussion on the Balanced Budget benchmark in section 12.

## 11. Revenue and Financing Policy

11.1 Council has assessed compliance with its Revenue and Financing Policy, below is the table of the those that fall outside of the rates policy limits.

## Revenue & Financing Policy

|  | Policy<br>Maximum | Actual   |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Thriving District</b>                     |                   |          |
| <b>Community &amp; Economic Development</b>  |                   |          |
| Community Development                        | 100.0%            | 72.6% ✓  |
| Economic Development                         | 100.0%            | 99.5% ✓  |
| <b>Improving Our Environment</b>             |                   |          |
| <b>Environmental Management</b>              |                   |          |
| District Planning                            | 70.0%             | 69.6% ✓  |
| Emergency Management                         | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| Waste Management                             | 88.3%             | 60.4% ✓  |
| Recycling                                    | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| Refuse                                       | 0.0%              | 0.0%     |
| Transfer Station                             | 80.0%             | 32.2% ✓  |
| <b>Stormwater</b>                            | 100.0%            | 99.8% ✓  |
| <b>Wastewater</b>                            | 100.0%            | 96.3% ✓  |
| <b>Water Supplies</b>                        | 100.0%            | 81.3% ✓  |
| <b>Connected Communities</b>                 |                   |          |
| <b>Community Facilities &amp; Services</b>   |                   |          |
| Animal Management                            | 15.0%             | 17.5% ✗  |
| Cemeteries                                   | 75.0%             | 74.8% ✓  |
| Community Buildings                          | 95.0%             | 94.9% ✓  |
| Libraries                                    | 100.0%            | 99.1% ✓  |
| Parks & Reserves                             | 95.0%             | 78.7% ✓  |
| Pensioner Housing                            | 0.0%              | 0.0% ✓   |
| Public Conveniences                          | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| Swimming Pools                               | 100.0%            | 94.0% ✓  |
| <b>Regulatory Compliance</b> ✓               |                   |          |
| Building Compliance                          | 55.0%             | 56.2% !  |
| Compliance & Monitoring                      | 90.0%             | 84.0% ✓  |
| <b>Transportation</b> ✓                      |                   |          |
| Footpaths                                    | 72.9%             | 77.3% ✗  |
| Footpaths                                    | 25.0%             | 37.2% ✗  |
| Town Centre Refurbishments                   | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| Roading                                      | 35.0%             | 31.2% ✓  |
| <b>Interactive Council</b>                   |                   |          |
| <b>Governance &amp; Community Engagement</b> |                   |          |
| Communications                               | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| Customer Services                            | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| Democracy                                    | 100.0%            | 100.0% ✓ |
| <b>District &amp; Treasury</b> ✓             |                   |          |
| District & Treasury                          | 100.0%            | 83.7% ✓  |

**Note:** Total revenue includes capital subsidies

11.1.1 Minor non-compliance exists in three activities detailed below which are consistent with prior years and are being actively monitored.

- Animal Management – similar to the previous year, officers have worked hard to bring this activity to within an 80 / 20 split which is in line with other

Councils. To bring this activity into an 85 / 15 split would mean Council would need to increase its fees and charges by \$16,000. We are not recommending any change at this time. We will continue to monitor the activity's performance over the next twelve months.

- Building Compliance – Although this activity is currently bordering on non-compliance, the fee structure operates on a cost-recovery/user-pays basis. Given the unpredictable nature of this activity, and a history of over-budgeting revenue, officers have taken a prudent approach to the number of consents included in the revenue budget. There is potential for additional revenue to be generated throughout the financial year that will likely bring this activity into compliance. To be within policy limits, a further \$27,000 in fees and charges would need to be generated.
- Footpaths – as signalled in the Long Term Plan, short term depreciation funding is increased in anticipation of future growth and cost escalation. The reserves will increase by an additional \$2m by year 10 of this Long

## **12. Balanced Budget Requirement**

- 12.1 Section 100(2) of the LGA allows for Council to set projected operating revenue at a different level from operating expenses if the local authority resolves that it is financially prudent to do so.
- 12.2 Council is required to take into account achieving and maintaining level of service provision, maintenance of assets and facilities and the equitable allocation of funding the provision and maintenance of assets and facilities, when setting an unbalanced budget.
- 12.3 Council has met the balanced budget requirement.

## **13. Fees and Charges**

- 13.1 Fees and charges have generally been increased by inflation rate of 2.6% (Local Government Cost Index) where appropriate.
- 13.2 Some fees remain unchanged or have been adjusted to reflect cost recovery.
- 13.3 Subsequent to the Proposed Annual Plan and Fees and Charges report in March, minor amendments have been made to the Waste Management fees and charges to reflect updated budgeted revenue sources.
- 13.4 Proposed metered volumetric quarterly water charges have also been updated to ensure the fixed charge aligns with the final rates requirement for the connected water supply targeted rate.
- 13.5 Changes are not considered significant and do not require consultation.

## **14. Conclusion**

- 14.1 The Annual Budget (Annual Plan) 2026/2027 and Schedule of Fees and Charges have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.
- 14.2 The Plan gives effect to year three of the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan and does not introduce significant or material changes.
- 14.3 Council has maintained a strong focus on affordability, resulting in a materially lower rates increase than forecast while remaining financially prudent.
- 14.4 This Annual Budget reflects a continued focus on getting back to basics, prioritising essential services, and ensuring rates remain as affordable as possible for our community.
- 14.5 The Annual Budget (Annual Plan) is recommended for adoption.

## **Attachments**

Nil.





## Report

Date : 19 June 2026  
To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council  
From : Sarah Walshe  
Finance and Revenue Manager  
Subject : **Rates Resolution for 2026/2027 Financial Year**  
Item No : **11.5**

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## **1. Recommendation**

**1.1 *That the report from the Finance and Revenue Manager dated 10 June 2026 concerning the Rates Resolution for 2026/2027 Financial Year be received.***

**1.2 *That Setting the Rates for the 2026/27 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 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027 as follows:*

*Please note:*

- All references to sections are to sections of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.*
- All amounts stated are GST inclusive.*
- All rate definitions are found in the Rating systems section of the Annual Budget document.*

**1.3 *General Rate***

*Pursuant to Section 13(2)(a), a general rate of \$0.00208203 per dollar of land value per rating unit in the district.*

**1.4 *Uniform Annual General Charge***

*Pursuant to Section 15(1)(a), a uniform annual general charge as a fixed amount of \$690.10 per rating unit in the district.*

**1.5 *Libraries Targeted Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a fixed amount of \$228.45 per rating unit in the district.*

**1.6 *Swimming Pools Targeted Rate***

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a fixed amount of \$133.61 per rating unit in the district.*

**1.7 *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 \$0.00009456 per dollar of land value.*

1.8 **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 capital value for all rating units in the industrial/commercial rural category of \$0.00072110 per dollar of capital value.*

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

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate as a rate in the dollar of capital value for all rating units in the industrial/commercial urban category of \$0.00098148 per dollar of capital value.*

1.10 **Recycling Targeted Differential Rate**

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

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>Rural rating units</i>                 | <i>\$ 69.84</i> |
| <i>Urban rating units</i>                 | <i>\$229.05</i> |
| <i>Industrial/Commercial rating units</i> | <i>\$337.33</i> |

1.11 **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 \$71.75 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 \$71.75 per separately used or inhabitable part of a rating unit for Industrial/Commercial rating units where the kerbside collection service is available.*

1.12 **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 \$0.00099424 per dollar of land value per rating unit in the district.*

1.13 **Roading Rate – Fixed Rate Differential**

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

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Rural rating units</i> | <i>\$273.44</i> |
| <i>Urban rating units</i> | <i>\$ 41.50</i> |

**Industrial/Commercial rating units \$109.07**

**1.14 Rooding 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:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Dairy</b>               | <b>\$0.45696301 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Forestry</b>            | <b>\$1.57870274 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Farming (non-dairy)</b> | <b>\$0.16329841 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Industrial</b>          | <b>\$0.79400730 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Commercial</b>          | <b>\$0.36043753 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Residential</b>         | <b>\$0.02271188 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Lifestyle</b>           | <b>\$0.05337292 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Other</b>               | <b>\$0.70997335 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |
| <b>Mining</b>              | <b>\$1.68658422 per \$1,000 Land Value</b> |

**1.15 Dannevirke Town Centre Refurbishment Rate**

**Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate, set of a fixed amount of \$0.00 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.**

**1.16 District Town Centre Refurbishment Rate**

**Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a), a targeted rate, set of a fixed amount of \$53.51 per rating unit on every rating unit in the district.**

**1.17 Water Supply Targeted Rate**

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

- An amount of \$1,045.04 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 \$522.52 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.*

**1.18 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 \$261.26 per rating unit*
- *An administrative quarterly charge of \$26.00 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.*

**1.19 Pongaroa Water Rate**

*Pursuant to Section 19(2)(a), a targeted rate as an amount of \$140.71 per unit of water supplied from the Pongaroa Rural Water Supply.*

**1.20 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 \$1,088.49 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit connected to a Council operated wastewater system, and*
- *An amount of \$544.24 on every rating unit where wastewater is available but is not connected.*

**1.21 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 \$362.79 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.*

**1.22 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 \$1,088.49 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.*

**1.23 Urban Stormwater Targeted Rate**

*Pursuant to Sections 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a), a targeted uniform rate of \$263.49 per rating unit on every rating unit in the Tararua District stormwater drainage area.*

**1.24 Due Date for Payment of Rates**

*All rates (except metered water rates) for the year ending on 30 June 2027 will be assessed in four equal instalments, which will become due and payable on the following due dates:*

| <i>Instalment</i>   | <i>Due date</i>         | <i>Instalment period</i>                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Instalment 1</i> | <i>31 August 2026</i>   | <i>1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026</i>   |
| <i>Instalment 2</i> | <i>30 November 2026</i> | <i>1 October 2026 to 31 December 2026</i> |
| <i>Instalment 3</i> | <i>28 February 2027</i> | <i>1 January 2027 to 31 March 2027</i>    |
| <i>Instalment 4</i> | <i>31 May 2027</i>      | <i>1 April 2027 to 30 June 2027</i>       |

*Charges for metered water rates for the year ending on 30 June 2027 will be assessed in four instalments on meter readings, which will become due and payable on the following due dates:*

| <i>Instalment</i>   | <i>Meters Read</i>      | <i>Due date</i>        |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Instalment 1</i> | <i>1 September 2026</i> | <i>20 October 2026</i> |
| <i>Instalment 2</i> | <i>1 December 2026</i>  | <i>20 January 2027</i> |
| <i>Instalment 3</i> | <i>1 March 2027</i>     | <i>20 April 2027</i>   |
| <i>Instalment 4</i> | <i>1 June 2027</i>      | <i>20 July 2027</i>    |

**1.25 Penalties**

*That the Tararua District 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) A penalty under Section 58(1)(a) of 10 percent on so much of any instalment*

*that has been assessed after 1 July 2026 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:*

| <i>Instalment Due Date</i> | <i>Rates Penalty Date</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>31 August 2026</i>      | <i>2 September 2026</i>   |
| <i>30 November 2026</i>    | <i>2 December 2026</i>    |
| <i>28 February 2027</i>    | <i>2 March 2027</i>       |
| <i>31 May 2027</i>         | <i>2 June 2027</i>        |

- b) A penalty under Section 58(1)(b) of 10 percent on so much of any rates assessed before 1 July 2026 which remain unpaid on 10 July 2026 (Arrears penalty). The penalty will be added on 13 July 2026.*
- c) 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 10 January 2027 (Arrears penalty). The penalty will be added on 11 January 2027.*

*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:*

| <i>Instalment Due Date</i> | <i>Water Metered Penalty Date</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>20 October 2026</i>     | <i>22 October 2026</i>            |
| <i>20 January 2027</i>     | <i>22 January 2027</i>            |
| <i>20 April 2027</i>       | <i>22 April 2027</i>              |
| <i>20 July 2027</i>        | <i>22 July 2027</i>               |

## **2. Reason for the Report**

- 2.1 This report places before Council the necessary resolution to enable it to set the rates, due dates for payment and authorise the addition of penalties for the 2026-2027 financial year.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Following the adoption of the Annual Budget (Annual Plan) 2026/2027, Council is now required to adopt the rates resolution for the 2026/2027 financial year to fund Council activities for the year.

## **4. Discussion**

- 4.1 The setting of the 2026/2027 rates is consistent with the Revenue and Financing Policy adopted as part of the 2026/2027, and the Funding Impact Statement adopted in the Annual Budget (Annual Plan) 2026/2027.
- 4.2 The adoption of the rates resolution will enable Council to fund the activities as set out in the adopted Annual Budget (Annual Plan) 2026/2027.

## **5. Statutory Requirements**

- 5.1 Under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, Council must set rates and due dates for payment of rates for any particular year by passing a resolution of Council.
- 5.2 This paper sets out the resolutions necessary to enable Council 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 2026 and ending on 30 June 2027.

## **6. Significance Assessment**

- 6.1 The rates resolution is not significant in terms of Council's policy on significance and engagement policy and does not require the use of public consultation.

## **7. Conclusion**

The Tararua District Council is required to set rates and due dates for any particular year by passing a resolution once it has adopted the Annual Plan. Adopting the recommendations outlined in this report will fulfil these requirements and meet Council's statutory obligations.

## **Attachments**

Nil.





## Report

Date : 19 June 2026  
To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council  
From : Sarah Walshe  
Finance and Revenue Manager  
Subject : **Wastewater Remission Correction - Rates Remissions Policy**  
Item No : **11.6**

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### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Finance and Revenue Manager dated 03 June 2026 concerning the Wastewater Remission Correction - Rates Remissions Policy be received.*
- 1.2 *That the Tararua District Council confirms there is a misstatement in the Rates Remission Policy published in Part 3 of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, and its intention was to retain the remission included in Remissions – school wastewater charges rather than revoke it.*
- 1.3 *That the Tararua District Council notes that on page 181 of Part 3 of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034, the statement that the Remissions – school wastewater charges will be removed effective from 1 July 2025 was included in error.*
- 1.4 *That the Tararua District Council adopts option 2A – revocation and alteration of the remission policies to adopt without the statement.*

### Executive Summary

A misstatement has been identified in the Rates Remissions Policy adopted as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. The policy includes a statement that the school wastewater remission would cease from 1 July 2025 (i.e. for the 2025/2026 rating year), despite Council direction that it would not specifically consult on this and did not wish to remove the remission.

In practice, the remission has continued to be applied in line with direction provided by Council. This has created a misalignment between the published policy and operational practice, increasing the potential for legal, governance, and audit risk.

All reasonably practicable options to address this issue have been considered. Consultation would provide a stronger foundation for future decisions but cannot be completed in time to support the current rating year and would introduce additional cost and complexity. Informal correction or retaining the status quo would not adequately address the issue and could leave Council exposed to ongoing risk. Validation through a Local Act would provide a high level of certainty but is complex, time-consuming, and outside of Council's control.

Revocation and alteration of the resolution is considered the most practical and proportionate option. This approach enables Council to correct the error using existing legislative powers, reduces legal risk to an acceptable level, and can be implemented in a timely manner.

## **2. Reason for the Report**

- 2.1 To highlight a misstatement in the supporting documentation for the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 that went out for consultation, and subsequently in the published Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 in respect of the Remissions – School Wastewater Charges contained in the Rates Remissions Policy.
- 2.2 To provide Council with background into how this misstatement occurred and the practical implications of this, in terms of actions required in the 2025/2026 financial year.
- 2.3 To provide Council with options for resolving the error prior to the new financial year.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 As part of the development of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 ("the LTP"), Council considered a range of items for potential community consultation, including the possible removal of longstanding school wastewater remissions from the 2025/2026 financial year. The proposed delayed timing (i.e. taking effect in Year 2 of the LTP) was intended to provide affected schools with sufficient notice to plan and budget for the change should the remission be removed.
- 3.2 Following detailed options analysis undertaken by officers, and subsequent workshop discussions with elected members and iwi representatives, direction was provided that this matter should not proceed to consultation prior to finalisation of the LTP consultation material.
- 3.3 As a result of this direction, Council did not specifically consult the community on this matter and has not formally resolved to remove or amend the remission.
- 3.4 Despite this, the Rates Remissions Policy included as supporting documentation for consultation, and subsequently adopted as part of the LTP, included the

original wording indicating that the remission would cease from the 2025/2026 rating year.

- 3.5 This resulted in an inconsistency between the direction received from Council through LTP workshop discussions, and the published policy which formed part of the LTP.

#### **4. Description**

- 4.1 During a review of the Rates Remissions Policy (“the policy”) as part of the upcoming LTP (2027-2037), it was identified that a misstatement had been included in the current published LTP document regarding the remission provided to schools for their Wastewater Charges.

- 4.2 This specific remission is a longstanding wastewater remission provided to schools which has a stated objective of ensuring schools are more fairly charged for their wastewater usage by assessing the appropriate charge based on their student and staff number rather than number of connections. Over the years this has meant that schools have been charged less than what they could have had they been charged in line with Council’s present pan charge system.

- 4.3 As part of the LTP process for the previous LTP, staff were asked to consider the impact of removing this remission for schools. It was proposed that if the remission were to be removed, it would be removed during the 2025/2026 financial year (Year 2 of the LTP) to provide affected schools with sufficient notice to plan and budget for the change.

- 4.4 To remove this remission, Council would have needed to specifically consult on this as a consultation item in the Rates Remissions Policy as it did regarding the removal of non-contiguous land remission.

- 4.5 At an LTP workshop on 22 April 2024, Council considered the removal of the remission and was provided further information regarding the impact of removing this remission, specifically, that it would have minimal impact on the overall rates requirement and that further work would be required to consider broader charging approaches. Due to the timing of when this impact assessment was able to be prepared and presented to Council, there was limited opportunity to develop these alternative options.

- 4.6 As a result of this additional information, Council provided direction that the proposal to remove the remission should not be included as a consultation item, and consequently the community (including affected schools) were not given an opportunity to specifically provide feedback on this issue.

- 4.7 The direction provided by Council was reflected in the notes from the LTP workshop on 22 April 2024, which have been attached as Attachment 1.

- 4.8 Unfortunately, the Rates Remissions Policy was not updated to reflect this direction and continued to include a statement that the remission would be

removed from 2025/2026. This statement remained in the final version of the LTP presented to Council for adoption on 31 July 2024. A copy of the statement is included below.

## Ngā Nama Whakakore – ngā utu waipara

### 4. Remissions – school wastewater charges

**This remission will be removed effective from 1 July 2025**

#### **Objectives**

- 4.1 In recognition that schools may be disproportionately disadvantaged by Council's present "pan charge system" and to ensure schools are more fairly charged for wastewater services based on their staff and student numbers rather than number of connections.
  
- 4.9 As Council had provided direction not to remove the remission from the Policy, officers consider it is most likely that the Council assumed the statement removing the remission had been removed from the Rates Remission Policy, and adopted the LTP and policies within it on the 7 August 2024 on that basis.
  
- 4.10 The resolution from the Council meeting of 31 July 2024, reconvened on 7 August 2024 provided:

- 1.2** *That the Council adopts the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan as follows:*
- 1.3** *That in accordance with Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council confirm the Long Term Plan budgets have been prepared based on reasonable judgement and assumptions and it considers the projected financial results over the ten year period to be financially prudent given its financial position, the cumulative surplus projected over the ten year period and its financial management policies, and*
- 1.4** *That having undertaken the Special Consultative Procedure in accordance with Sections 82, 82A and 102 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council adopt the following policies (as included in the Long Term Plan 2024/2034):*
- a.** *Revenue and Financing Policy*
  - b.** *Rating Remission Policies*
  - c.** *Financial Contributions Policy*

4.11 In practice, officers have continued to apply the remission in the 2025/2026 rating year, consistent with the direction provided and in the absence of any formal Council decision to remove it.

4.12 This has created a misalignment between:

- the published Rates Remissions Policy; and
- Council’s intended position and operational practice.

4.13 Management have determined the available options for addressing the error under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (“the LG(R)A”).

4.14 Those options are now presented with risks and advantages, for Council’s consideration.

## **5. Significance Assessment**

5.1 This matter is not considered significant when assessed against the criteria in Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy. It:

5.1.1 does not have a substantial tangible impact on the whole district based on changes to service levels, or the manner in which revenue is to be obtained. It impacts a specific class of ratepayers. Removal of the remission would have a minor impact on other ratepayers;

5.1.2 does not involve a significant multi-year change in the levels of service at an activity level;

- 5.1.3 does not bind future Councils to the decision, as the Rates Remission Policy is reviewed every three years as part of the LTP, and can be amended if necessary;
- 5.1.4 does not have an impact on rates of more than the financial strategy limit (BERL plus or minus 2% in one year);
- 5.1.5 is not a new strategic direction for Council;
- 5.1.6 is not considered there will be a high level of district interest in the decision.
- 5.2 However, it is noted that consultation is required for changes to the Rates Remission Policy under the LG(R)A.

## 6. Options

- 6.1 Officers have considered the reasonably practicable options available having regard to section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002 (“the LGA”). Regard was also had to the views of people likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter under section 78 of the LGA. Finally, section 10 of the LGA was considered which sets out the purpose of Local Government.
- 6.2 The options considered fall into two categories – those that are available if Council wishes to maintain the remission, and those that are available if Council wishes to remove the specific wastewater remission for schools.
- 6.3 For each position, options available for the 2025/2026 rating year (the current year) and the 2026/2027 rating year (next rating year) are set out. There are some differences between options available for each rating year, due to the timing of this report.
- 6.4 The available options if Council wishes to maintain the remission scheme for the 2026/2027 year are:
  - 6.4.1 **Option 1A:** Consult on removing the statement.
  - 6.4.2 **Option 2A:** Revocation and alteration of the resolution adopting the remission policies to adopt without the statement.
  - 6.4.3 **Option 3A:** Remove the statement without prior consultation, or revocation and alteration resolution.
  - 6.4.4 **Option 4A:** Status quo (leave the statement and apply the remission as it did in 2025/2026).
- 6.5 The available options if Council wishes to maintain the revocation for the 2026/2027 rating year are:
  - 6.5.1 **Option 1B:** Consult on adding / maintaining the statement that the policy will not apply from 1 July 2026.

- 6.5.2 **Option 2B:** Do not apply the remission (with correspondence to schools to explain the impacts on the amount of rates they are assessed).
- 6.6 The available options if Council wishes to maintain the remission scheme for the 2025/2026 year are:
- 6.6.1 **Option 5A:** Validation of application of remission through Local Act.
- 6.6.2 **Option 6A:** Validation of application of remission through an Order in Council.
- 6.6.3 **Option 7A:** Revocation and alteration of the resolution adopting the remission policies to adopt without the statement.
- 6.6.4 **Option 8A:** Status quo (leave the statement and remissions applied).
- 6.7 The available options if Council wishes to maintain the revocation for the 2025/2026 year are:
- 6.7.1 **Option 5B:** Validation of adoption of policy with statement via Local Act.
- 6.7.2 **Option 6B:** Validation of adoption of policy with statement via Order in Council.
- 6.7.3 **Option 8B:** Reverse the remissions applied.
- 6.8 In the table below, a risk assessment has completed for each option and is reflected by green (low risk), yellow (medium risk), and red (high risk).

|                | Options if the Council wants to maintain the remission scheme  | Options if the Council wants to maintain the revocation   |
|----------------|--|---|
| 2026/2027 year | <b>Option 1A</b><br>Consult on removing the statement.   | <b>Option 1B</b><br>Consult on adding/maintaining the statement that the policy will not apply from 1 July 2026.  |
|                | <b>Option 2A</b><br>(Following consultation or independently of any consultation)<br>Revocation and alteration of the resolution adopting the remission policies to adopt without the statement. | <b>Option 2B</b><br>(Following consultation or independently of any consultation)<br>Do not apply the remission (with correspondence to schools to explain the impacts on the amount of rates they are assessed). |
|                | <b>Option 3A</b><br>Remove the statement without prior consultation, or revocation and alteration resolution.  |   |
|                | <b>Option 4A</b><br>Status quo (leave the statement and apply the remission as it did in   |   |

|                       | Options if the Council wants to maintain the remission scheme   | Options if the Council wants to maintain the revocation                            |
|-----------------------|---|--|
|                       | 2025/2026).   |  |
| 2025/2026 rating year | Option 5A<br>Validation of application of remission through Local Act   | Option 5B<br>Validation of adoption of policy with statement via Local Act.        |
|                       | Option 6A<br>Validation of application of remission through an Order in Council   | Option 6B<br>Validation of adoption of policy with statement via Order in Council. |
|                       | Option 7A<br><br>(Following consultation or independently of any consultation) Revocation and alteration of the resolution adopting the remission policies to adopt without the statement.<br><br>(This is best done in the 2025/2026 rating year for maximum effect for the 2025/2026 year). |  |
|                       | Option 8A   | Option 8B  |
|                       | Status quo (leave the statement and remissions applied).  | Reverse the remissions applied.  |

## 7. Assessment of Options

- 7.1 The option with least legal risk for the 2026/2027 rating year is to consult on the decision that the Council wants to make for the year. An option with moderate legal risk (and which may also be more appealing in terms of non-legal risk) is to revoke or alter the resolution adopting the remission policies to adopt the scheme without the statement. The risk would go from moderate to low if this occurred following consultation. Options with high legal risk, but which might be appealing in other respects, are removing the statement without formality, or the status quo.
- 7.2 While validation options for the 2025/2026 rating year would have the least legal risk there are other aspects to them which may mean they are a disproportionate and unappealing prospect. Revocation and alteration of the resolution would help ameliorate some of the risk, especially following consultation. The status quo option would have high legal risk as it potentially defers realisation of risk (depending on if or when a challenge was raised). But given the assessment above of the implications of a challenge, this might be a calculated risk that the Council is willing to take.
- 7.3 Officers recommend Council consider options with moderate or higher legal risk in this instance for several reasons. First, there is a legal presumption of the validity of administrative acts: that unless or until the act is successfully challenged in court, the validity of the act is presumed. Second, the analysis completed does not

indicate that the Council is likely vulnerable to a Court ordering significant relief in the context of a challenge, either because of the low likelihood of a challenge being brought or the potential findings a Court might make. Third, the issue is confined to two years, because of the transfer of water services from 1 July 2027. Last, the options with higher legal risk likely are appealing when other risks are factored into the overall risk assessment. Options with lower legal risk may be unappealing in respect of other risks. The decision about which option to choose should be informed by assessment of the criteria and measures set out on page 7 of the Council's significance and engagement policy.

#### 7.4 **Option 1A: Consultation**

7.4.1 Undertaking consultation would give Council a stronger and clearer foundation for its position, particularly for future rating years. However, it would not be possible to complete consultation in time to support the 2024/2025 rating year, and it also introduces additional cost, time pressure, and increased public visibility.

7.4.2 Advantages include:

- Reduces legal risk to decisions for 2026/2027 by firming up the procedural and substantive foundation for the decision.
- May reduce legal risk to decisions (e.g. revocation and alteration decision) for 2025/2026 by front-footing the issue with the community.
- In the context of a challenge to 2025/2026 actions and decisions brought in later years, may lessen extent of relief granted.

7.4.3 Risks include:

- Gives wide public visibility to the issue in the 2025/2026 rating year.
- Resource intensive, especially if 2026/2027 is the last year the Council needs the policy.
- Timing is tight to have process completed in order to provide maximum certainty for rate setting and assessment of rates for 2026/2027.

#### 7.5 **Option 2A and 7A: Revocation and alteration of the resolution**

7.5.1 This option provides a practical way for Council to address the issue using existing legislative powers. It reduces legal risk to some extent and can be implemented within Council's control.

7.5.2 Given the relevant resolution to adopt the Rates Remission Policy as part of the LTP 2024-2034 (set out at paragraph 4.10 above) did not make specific reference to the inclusion of the statement removing the remission, this would include noting that the statement revoking the Remissions – school wastewater charges was included in error in the final published Rates Remission Policy and that the

Council is adopting the remissions policies without the statement. Using section 46 Legislation Act 2019 “The power to do anything may be exercised to correct an error or omission in a previous exercise of the power”.

7.5.3 Advantages include:

- Could be used following a consultation process, or independently of one.
- Somewhat reduces legal risk.
- Available, because there is not a more specific formal procedure to correct errors in policies adopted.
- Process entirely within the Council’s control.

7.5.4 Risks include:

- May give rise to some legal ambiguity about remission granted for 2025/2026 before revocation and alteration carried out.

7.6 **Option 3A: Remove the statement about the remission scheme’s revocation without any formality (“informal removal”)**

7.6.1 While this approach aligns with Council’s original intent and minimises cost and visibility, it carries significant governance, audit, and legal risk and is not recommended.

7.6.2 Advantages include:

- Consistent with the Council’s intended policy position and direction.
- Minimises publicity and avoids drawing attention to the issue.
- Avoids cost associated with formal processes.

7.6.3 Risks include:

- Undermines integrity of Council, undermines compliance with statutory requirements.
- Presents audit risk and may not withstand external scrutiny.
- Leaves Council exposed to ongoing legal risk for both the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 rating years.
- May result in more complex and costly remedial action if addressed in future years.

7.7 **Option 4A and 8A: Status quo**

7.7.1 Retaining the current position avoids any immediate effort and cost but does not address the underlying issue, meaning the risk remains.

7.7.2 Advantages of this option include:

- No immediate resource or process requirements.

7.7.3 Disadvantages of this option include:

- Council continues to operate with unresolved legal and audit risk.
- Does not align with good governance or best practice.
- May increase the complexity and consequences of any future corrective action.

## 7.8 **Option 5A and 5B: Validation through Local Act**

7.8.1 This option would provide a high level of certainty by resolving the issue. However, the process is complex, not fully within Council's control, and timing is uncertain.

7.8.2 Advantages of this option include:

- Removes legal risk by validating the error and confirming the enforceability and recovery of rates.
- Can address multiple issues across different rating years.
- Particularly appropriate where errors cannot be regularised through other lawful mechanisms.

7.8.3 Disadvantages of this option include:

- Relies on a Parliamentary process that is outside Council's control.
- Timing is uncertain and may not align with Council's operational requirements.
- There has been some historical reluctance from Parliament to pass validation legislation, which creates some risk to success.

7.9 Recommended option

7.10 Officers recommend that Council proceed with revocation and alteration of the resolution (Option 2A and 7A, assessed above at paragraph 7.5).

7.11 These options provide a practical and timely way to address the identified issue using existing legislative powers. It reduces legal risk to an acceptable level while remaining within Council's control to implement. Importantly, it can be progressed

quickly, providing greater certainty for the upcoming rating processes, which would not be achievable through consultation.

- 7.12 While consultation (Option 1A) would provide a stronger procedural foundation, it cannot be completed in time to support the 2025/2026 rating year and would introduce additional cost and complexity.
- 7.13 The remaining options are less favourable, informal removal (Option 3A) and status quo (Option 4A and 8A) leave Council exposed to ongoing legal, governance, and audit risk. Whilst validation through a Local Act (Option 5A and 5B) provide a high level of certainty this process is complex, time-consuming, and outside of Council's control, making it disproportionate at this stage.
- 7.14 On balance, the process involved in Options 2A and 7A present the most proportionate response given the level of risk, timing constraints, and the need for certainty. It is recommended that this process is implemented in the current year (2025/2026), i.e. that Option 7A is adopted, so that both rating years benefit and the ongoing risk is minimised. This would also prevent any operational impacts of unwinding the remission which has already been applied.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 This matter is not considered significant when assessed against the criteria in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, so does not trigger consultation of this matter.
- 8.2 However, for changes to the Rates Remission Policy, consultation would be required under the LG(R)A.
- 8.3 Given the requirement for consultation for specific options, this is considered in officers' assessment of the options, at paragraph 7 above.

## **9. Conclusion**

- 9.1 The misstatement identified reflects a misalignment between Council's intended position and the wording included in the adopted Rates Remissions Policy. The remission has continued to be applied in practice. The inconsistency creates ongoing legal, governance, and audit risk if left unaddressed.
- 9.2 Having considered the available options, revocation and alteration of the resolution provides the most appropriate response. It allows Council to correct the error within existing legislative powers, reduces legal risk, and can be implemented within required timeframes and under Council's control.
- 9.3 Other options either do not adequately address the issue, introduce unnecessary complexity, or cannot be achieved within the necessary timeframes.

- 9.4 Addressing the issue now will provide greater clarity and certainty for both Council and affected ratepayers and ensure alignment between Council's policy framework and its intended and actual practice.

### **Attachments**

- 1 [↓](#). Tararua District Council Workshop Notes 22 April 2024



## Council Workshop Briefing Session

Notes of a workshop briefing session of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Monday 22 April 2024 commencing at 9:30 am.

### 1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace Cr S M Wards

Paul Te Huki,  
Lorraine Stephenson,

### In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive  
Mr R Suppiah - Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory  
Ms S Lowe - Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience  
Mr H Featonby - Group Manager - Infrastructure  
Ms G Nock - Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager  
Mrs S Te Huki - Cultural Competency Lead  
Mr K van der Oord - Communications Team Manager  
Mrs S Walshe - Finance Manager  
Mr C Yonge - Team Leader Economic and Community Development  
Ms K Stevens - Economic and Community Development Advisor  
Ms A Rule - Policy and Planning Advisor  
Mrs E Roberts - Revenue Manager

Apologies: - Cr E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor)

### 2. Consultation Document

Communications Manager ran through the Consultation Document page by page.

Some financial information missing at this point.

Mayor requested the three-stone statue be added to the picture on the strategic

framework page.

Suggested explanation about rates drivers, to accompany the page about how the rates are split over property types.

Rates Smoothing text to be changed. Noted incorrect option box about non-contiguous rating units.

Suggested comment about state of existing pool in Pahiatua. Wanting the public to have the full picture.

Suggested comment about the Bush Aquatic Trust continuing to source funding other than from Council.

Targeted rates for swimming pools needs to be discussed with the community at another time, eg Annual Plan.

FAR rate and Economic Development financials still to be provided.

Add in source of statistic in the bubble on consultation item 5.

In the Information section, Better Off Funding matters have been removed, and some more operational matters. Insurance to be removed.

Raj suggested some topic sequence changes.

New EM photos will be available on Wednesday to replace current ones.

“Northern” and “Southern” Ward.

Mayor – butts and bolts approach, keep it basic, has committed Councillors to attend events. Some videos to be produced. Adding in a Friday (4.30-6pm) at the RSA. EMS investigating clubs in other towns.

Comms actively reducing use of paper forms and will supply ipads to encourage public to make submissions.

Will also advertise on Central FM (not shown on plan).

### **3. Draft Long Term Plan**

Only new activity is Communications.

Previously “Building Control” and “Compliance and Monitoring” were previously called Health and Safety.

Finance team able to provide figures for Annual Plan 23/24 by activity.

New – showing capital expenditure into the groups of activities.

Changed how we demonstrated how we rate for activities, starting page 145, from a table format to infographic.

A final legal review of the three rating policies is taking place.

Changed “How Council Rates” section to be simpler to understand. More transparency.

EMs requested officers prepare information about rating multiple dwellings on one title.

“Land value differential rate” rather than heavy vehicle rate.

Remissions Policy – No. 13 re earthquake prone buildings to be removed.

Councillor Scott Gilmore is Deputy Chairperson of Community Dev and Wellbeing committee.

Note that these are committees of the whole.

Raj, what else was noted?

#### **4. Memo**

Remove from consultation the pan charges for schools.

#### **5. Updates**

Auditors still working through some documents. If any changes, will assess whether they must be in the draft LTP or can be in final.

Finance team have some feedback from auditors.

Some activity information still coming, ie transportation and 3 waters.

The workshop briefing session closed at 12.30pm



## Report

Date : 17 June 2026

To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council

From : Allie Dunn  
Manager Democracy Services

Subject : **Remits to Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2026**

Item No : **11.7**

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## **1. Recommendation**

- 1.1** *That the report from the Manager Democracy Services dated 12 June 2026 concerning the Remits to Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2026 be received.*
- 1.2** *That the Tararua District Council appoint Mayor Scott Gilmore and Councillors x and y as its delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting being held 31 July 2026.*
- 1.3** *That the Tararua District Council, being a member of Local Government New Zealand, appoint Mayor Scott Gilmore as the presiding delegate to vote on its behalf at the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand.*
- 1.4** *That Councillors x and y be appointed as the alternate delegates to vote on the Council's behalf in the absence of the presiding delegate.*
- 1.5** **That the Tararua District Council supports / does not support the proposed rule change to allow networks to submit remits to the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting.**
- 1.6** *That the Tararua District Council:*
  - 1.6.1** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Priorities for Dog Control Act reform*
  - 1.6.2** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Improved regulation of vape retailers*
  - 1.6.3** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Financial support for government reform implementation costs*
  - 1.6.4** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform*
  - 1.6.5** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities*
  - 1.6.6** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy*
  - 1.6.7** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Bulk funding of transport activities*
  - 1.6.8** *Supports / Does not support the remit on Improving LTP audit requirements*
  - 1.6.9** *Supports / Does not support the remit on A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding*

## **2. Reason for the Report**

- 2.1** To formally appoint the delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2026 and decide the presiding and alternate delegates

authorised to vote on behalf of the Council at the AGM. The paper also seeks to determine Council's position on a proposed rule change and the AGM remits to provide guidance to the Council's presiding delegate.

### **3. Background**

**3.1** Tararua District Council is a member of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), an organisation established in 1988 to represent the national interests of councils. LGNZ provides a connection between central and local government, ensuring the local voice is represented at a national level.

**3.2** As a member of LGNZ, Tararua District Council can attend the annual conference, and up to three delegates may attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The presiding delegate appointed by the Council may exercise the Council's vote at the AGM, which will be held online on 31 July 2026. This year, the AGM will be held separately from the conference, which is scheduled for October.

**3.3** At the AGM, attendees will consider a proposed rule change and nine remits. Tararua District Council is required to cast a vote either in support of, or opposition to, the proposed rule change and each remit. The Council's presiding delegate casts these votes, with voting entitlements for each council being broadly proportional to their size.

**3.4** This report seeks the appointment of a presiding delegate to vote on behalf of Tararua District Council, along with an alternate delegate should the presiding delegate be unavailable. It also seeks to confirm the Council's formal position on the proposed rule change and each remit, to guide the delegate in exercising the Council's vote at the AGM.

### **4. Discussion and Options Considered**

**4.1** For each Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand, the Council must notify the Chief Executive of Local Government New Zealand the name of the Council's delegates authorised to attend the AGM, as well as the name of the presiding delegate, and name or names of any alternate delegates appointed to exercise the Council's vote in the absence of the presiding delegate.

**4.2** For the Annual General Meeting to go ahead, a quorum of at least 50% of the member Councils must be in attendance.

**4.3** The constitution of New Zealand Local Government Association Inc (trading as Local Government New Zealand) sets out the rules for the number of representatives each Council may send to the Annual General Meeting. For member authorities having populations of 10,000 or over and less than 50,000, the authority may send not more than three delegates.

**4.4** This means the Tararua District Council may send up to three delegates to the Annual General Meeting, with one being appointed as the presiding delegate to

exercise the Council's vote, and up to two being appointed as alternate delegates should the presiding delegate be absent from the floor of the meeting.

**4.5** In terms of rules G13 to G16 of the constitution, the term "delegate" includes both an elected member and an officer of a member authority.

**4.6** The Council has the option of supporting or not supporting the proposed rule change and each remit. The presiding delegate will be appointed by Council to vote on behalf of the Tararua District Council, and the guidance provided by Council will assist them in exercising their vote at the AGM.

**4.7** In previous years the Tararua District Council has appointed the Mayor as the presiding delegate, with a Councillor or Councillors appointed as alternate delegate(s).

### **Proposed Rule Change**

**4.8** The proposed rule change seeks to allow both the Young Elected Members network and Te Maruata network members to submit remits to the AGM.

**4.9** The Young Elected Members (YEM) network is a group within Local Government New Zealand that supports and connects elected members aged 40 and under across the country. It provides a platform for younger councillors and board members to share experiences, develop leadership skills, and contribute their perspectives to local and national issues. The network advocates for youth representation in local government and helps ensure that the voices of younger communities are reflected in decision-making.

**4.10** Te Maruata is a network within Local Government New Zealand that represents and supports Māori elected members in local government. It provides a collective voice on issues affecting Māori and promotes partnership between councils and iwi, hapū, and Māori communities. Te Maruata also focuses on strengthening Māori participation and influence in local decision-making, sharing knowledge, and building capability among its members to better reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles in local governance.

**4.11** The change is sought to provide for clarity, consistency and sustainability of the networks and is supported by National Council.

**4.12** A copy of the paper providing detail on the proposed change is appended to this report.

### **Remits**

**4.13** A summary of the remits to be considered at the Annual General Meeting is presented in the following table, and full copy appended to this report:

| No. | Remit Summary |
|-----|---------------|
|-----|---------------|

| • No. | • Remit Summary  |
|-------|--|
| • 1   | <p><b>Priorities for Dog Control Act reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate to government for the reform of the Dog Control Act 1996 to provide councils with more effective powers and tools to undertake their dog control responsibilities including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>greater scope for earlier intervention</i></li> <li>• <i>stronger consequences for non-compliance</i></li> <li>• <i>better ability for councils to set minimum requirements for dog owners - including for desexing and containment.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Rotorua Lakes Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: Invercargill City Council, Gisborne District Council, Tauranga City Council, Hamilton City Council and Far North District Council</i></li> </ul> |
| • 2   | <p><b>Improved regulation of vape retailers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate to central government for legislative change to provide territorial authorities with greater regulatory and enforcement powers over vape retailers, including the ability to control the location, density, operation, advertising, product visibility and compliance standards of vape stores within their districts.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Wairoa District Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: Manawatū District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Gisborne District Council, Napier City Council, Hastings District Council and Central Hawke’s Bay District Council</i></li> </ul>   |
| • 3   | <p><b>Financial support for government reform implementation costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate to central government to provide specific targeted financial support to councils to implement the operational and governance changes that are proposed through the legislative reform programme, for example Simplifying Local Government and RMA reforms.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Whangārei District Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1</i></li> </ul>  |
| • 4   | <p><b>Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate to the Government, on behalf of its members, for compliance relief from the upcoming representation review requirements in light of the significant reforms proposed through the Simplifying Local Government programme and the recent</i></li> </ul>  |

| • No. | • Remit Summary  |
|-------|--|
|       | <p><i>Head Start pathway, which may render any review undertaken before the 2028 elections redundant.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Waikato District Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: LGNZ Zone 2</i></li> </ul>   |
| • 5   | <p><b>Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate for legislative changes to devolve authority for officiating geographic place names from the Minister for Land Information to local authorities.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Far North District Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: Northland Regional Council, Porirua City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Rangitīkei District Council and Whakatāne District Council</i></li> </ul>   |
| • 6   | <p><b>Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate to government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to formalise and increase its role in supporting subnational diplomacy including developing clear policy and capability to support and grow local government's contribution.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Palmerston North City Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: Metro Sector</i></li> </ul>  |
| • 7   | <p><b>Bulk funding of transport activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ calls on government, opposition parties and NZTA to support a move to bulk funding for basic and repeatable transport activities, thereby acknowledging the efficiency and financial gains, and reduction in funding risk, this change would provide to local government, and supports a trial of this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027-2030 funding round amongst a group of councils which have demonstrated strong performance in delivering public transport services and/or maintaining transport infrastructure.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Waikato Regional Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: Zone 2</i></li> </ul> |
| • 8   | <p><b>Improving LTP audit requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate to government for improvements to the efficiency, proportionality, and cost-effectiveness of audit requirements for Long Term Plans and Consultation Documents, including:</i></li> <li>• <i>1. Greater proportionality in audit requirements, ensuring that audit effort is aligned with council size, complexity, risk, and</i></li> </ul>   |

| • No.   | • Remit Summary   |
|---|---|
|   | <p><i>materiality; and</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>2. Reducing duplication across audit stages, particularly where similar information and assumptions are subject to repeated review; and</i></li> <li>• <i>3. Improving standardisation, transparency, and cost control in audit delivery, to reduce rework and improve consistency across the sector, and to constrain excessive or escalating audit fees through greater transparency of audit pricing and benchmarking of costs across the sector.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Gisborne District Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: Central Hawke’s Bay District Council, Hastings District Council, Stratford District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Wairoa District Council, Manawatū District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Tararua District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council</i></li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9</li> </ul> | <p><b>A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That LGNZ advocate for a fairer approach towards uneconomic transport infrastructure, where either NZTA commits to co-funding this infrastructure if councils remain legally obligated to own and maintain it, and/or the Government provides clearer guidance and support for councils downgrading or ceasing service to low traffic volume areas.</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed by: Stratford District Council</i></li> <li>• <i>Supported by: South Taranaki District Council, New Plymouth District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Manawatū District Council and Wairoa District Council</i></li> </ul>  |

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## 5. Community Engagement

5.1 There are no community engagement requirements associated with this report.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications related to this report.

## 7. Statutory Requirements

7.1 There are no statutory requirements related to this report.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1** Each year appointment of delegates to attend the Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand is required. A resolution is required to this effect, and the names and official positions of those appointed communicated to Local Government New Zealand.
- 8.2** Tararua District Council needs to decide if it supports, or does not support, the proposed rule change and each of the nine remits. This will provide direction to the presiding delegate as guidance for exercising the power to vote on behalf of the Council.

### **Attachments**

- 1 [↓](#). LGNZ Rule Change to Allow Networks to Submit Remits
- 2 [↓](#). LGNZ Remits 2026



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## Rule change to allow networks to submit remits

### Purpose of this paper

This paper outlines a rule change that would enable Young Elected Members (YEM) and Te Maruata members to submit remits to the AGM.

### Context

The YEM and Te Maruata networks have grown since they first began – both in size and ambition. Both committees have considered the scope of their network’s role and how this is supported by LGNZ.

At the moment, a network is unable to propose remits. Remits can only be proposed by LGNZ member councils, zones or sectors. The current reliance on councils to propose remits limits YEM and Te Maruata’s ability to transparently represent network-wide positions.

A change to LGNZ Rules is required to allow YEM or Te Maruata to submit remits to LGNZ’s AGM. The committees want to emphasise that they are seeking this for clarity, consistency and sustainability of the networks. National Council supports this change.

### Proposed change to the LGNZ Rules

#### Process to change the Rules

As per K1-K6, an alteration to the Rules can be initiated by either a resolution of National Council or by a Member Authority with at least one month’s notice before an AGM or SGM. Any motion to change the Rules must be passed by resolution of a **two-thirds majority** of valid votes cast.

#### Proposed rule change wording

Inserting “YEM or Te Maruata” in G2(c) and G3, as indicated by the highlighted text below, would allow YEM and Te Maruata to submit remits in the same way a zone or sector group can.

G2(c): Subject to Rule G3, remits or reports from Zones or Sector Groups or Member Authorities or **YEM or Te Maruata**.

G3: Where any Zone or Sector Group or Member Authority or **YEM or Te Maruata** wishes to bring any remit or report before the Annual General Meeting for discussion, the remit or report must be forwarded to the Chief Executive not less than two months before the



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date of the meeting; however the National Council has a discretion to accept late remits or reports if received less than two months before the date of the meeting.

### **Implications of the proposed rule change**

The change requires a two-thirds majority to pass at the AGM.

If passed at the 2026 AGM, this rule change would allow YEM and Te Maruata to propose remits to subsequent AGMs or SGMs.

As per current practice, any remit proposed by YEM or Te Maruata would need endorsement by either one sector or one zone or five member councils to proceed to the AGM. AGM voting rights and remit processes remain unchanged.

YEM and Te Maruata would remain accountable to National Council.

This amendment does not alter YEM or Te Maruata's constitutional status.

### **Motion:**

That the AGM agrees to amend LGNZ's Rules to provide clarity regarding YEM and Te Maruata's ability to submit remits to the AGM, by inserting "YEM or Te Maruata" in G2(c) and G3 as follows:

G2(c): Subject to Rule G3, remits or reports from Zones or Sector Groups or Member Authorities or **YEM or Te Maruata**.

G3: Where any Zone or Sector Group or Member Authority or **YEM or Te Maruata** wishes to bring any remit or report before the Annual General Meeting for discussion, the remit or report must be forwarded to the Chief Executive not less than two months before the date of the meeting; however the National Council has a discretion to accept late remits or reports if received less than two months before the date of the meeting.



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# Remits

// Remits to LGNZ's Annual General Meeting

// 2026





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## 1. Priorities for Dog Control Act reform

- Proposed by:** Rotorua Lakes Council
- Supported by:** Invercargill City Council, Gisborne District Council, Tauranga City Council, Hamilton City Council and Far North District Council
- Remit:** *That LGNZ advocate to government for the reform of the Dog Control Act 1996 to provide councils with more effective powers and tools to undertake their dog control responsibilities including:*
- *greater scope for earlier intervention*
  - *stronger consequences for non-compliance*
  - *better ability for councils to set minimum requirements for dog owners - including for desexing and containment*

### Why is this remit important?

Councils across New Zealand are experiencing increasing issues with dog aggression, uncontrolled breeding, roaming dogs, and low compliance with microchipping and desexing requirements. Current provisions in the Dog Control Act 1996 limit councils' ability to respond effectively to these challenges. Without stronger tools and clearer powers, these issues will continue to pose real and ongoing health and safety risks to the communities we serve. Legal advice indicates that many of the measures needed to deliver sustainable, long-term improvements can only be achieved through amendments to the Act itself, rather than through a Local Bill or council bylaw. For this reason, advocacy through LGNZ is important to help enable the legislative change needed to better protect communities and support responsible dog ownership and councils' regulatory role in this.

### Background and context

Councils across New Zealand are experiencing increasing challenges relating to dog aggression, uncontrolled breeding, roaming dogs, and low compliance with microchipping and desexing requirements. These issues are occurring within the framework of the Dog Control Act 1996, which was introduced to promote responsible dog ownership, ensure public safety, and minimise nuisance caused by dogs. However, many councils now find the Act limits their ability to respond effectively to modern dog control issues. Recent tragic dog attack incidents across the country have heightened public concern and renewed calls from communities and councils for stronger tools to manage high-risk dogs and irresponsible ownership. Local authorities report increasing numbers of roaming dogs, dog attacks, and ongoing pressure on council pounds due to the statutory seven-day minimum impoundment period. Enforcement can also be difficult where dogs are not microchipped or cannot be easily traced to an owner.

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Remits // 2



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Rotorua Lakes Council and many other councils have explored a range of options to address these issues locally. This includes reviewing dog control bylaws, strengthening local enforcement practices, and seeking legal advice on whether a Local Bill or bylaw amendments could introduce measures such as mandatory desexing of impounded dogs, mandatory vaccination for pound-released dogs, or extending microchipping requirements to working dogs. However, legal advice confirms that many of these measures cannot be implemented through local bylaws because they would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996. For example, working dogs are currently exempt from mandatory microchipping under the Act, meaning councils cannot require this through a bylaw. Similarly, councils are limited in their ability to require mandatory desexing except in very specific circumstances, and there is currently no legislative basis for requiring vaccinations such as parvovirus. Other challenges include outdated infringement penalties (currently capped at \$3,000 for many offences), delays in prosecution and destruction order processes, and limited powers to intervene early in escalating risk situations.

Because dog control is a national regulatory issue rather than a district-specific one, legal advice indicates that a Local Bill would have little prospect of success. As a result, meaningful and consistent improvements will require amendments to the Dog Control Act 1996 at a national level. Many councils have signalled support for changes such as mandatory microchipping for all dogs, stronger seizure powers, improved containment requirements for high-risk dogs, reduced impoundment periods, and updated penalties and enforcement tools. Collectively, these changes would strengthen councils' ability to manage risk and better protect communities.

### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

This remit directly relates to LGNZ's strategic purpose to serve members by championing, connecting and supporting local government and advocating for local government on critical issues.

### **How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

Rotorua Lakes Council has already shared proposed legislative improvements with LGNZ and the Minister of Local Government to support advocacy work already underway to strengthen the Dog Control Act. Rotorua Lakes Council is committed to continuing to support this work and is willing to provide further information, operational insights and data, and feedback to assist any review of the Act. Our first-hand experience with dog control and enforcement provides useful evidence about the challenges councils face and the legislative barriers that currently limit effective responses. We are also willing to work closely with LGNZ, other councils, and sector partners to help build support for these changes. This includes sharing data, contributing to working groups, assisting with policy development, and supporting advocacy to central



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government. Rotorua Lakes Council has proactively started work in this space and is ready to further contribute to the collaborative work needed to make meaningful improvements to the Act and ensure councils have the tools needed to better protect their communities.



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## 2. Improved regulation of vape retailers

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Proposed by:</b>  | <b>Wairoa District Council</b>   |
| <b>Supported by:</b> | Manawatū District Council, Stratford District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Gisborne District Council, Napier City Council, Hastings District Council and Central Hawke's Bay District Council   |
| <b>Remit:</b>        | <i>That LGNZ advocate to central government for legislative change to provide territorial authorities with greater regulatory and enforcement powers over vape retailers, including the ability to control the location, density, operation, advertising, product visibility and compliance standards of vape stores within their districts.</i> |

### Why is this remit important?

The rapid growth of vape retailers across New Zealand has raised increasing concerns regarding youth exposure, public health impacts, community wellbeing and the concentration of vape stores near schools, community facilities and town centres. Territorial authorities currently have limited ability to influence where vape retailers operate; how many may establish within a district or how vaping products are promoted and accessed locally.

Councils are increasingly responding to community concerns regarding the normalisation of vaping among rangatahi, and the long-term social and health impacts associated with nicotine dependence. However, unlike alcohol or gambling regulation, councils currently lack sufficient legislative tools to effectively manage vape retailers through local planning, licensing or policy mechanisms.

This remit seeks stronger local government powers to enable councils to respond appropriately to local circumstances, protect vulnerable communities and ensure communities have a greater role in shaping decisions that impact public health, youth wellbeing and the character of local town centres.

### Background and context

The number of vape retailers operating throughout New Zealand has increased significantly in recent years, including within smaller provincial and rural communities. Many councils are experiencing growing public concern regarding the concentration of vape stores near schools, playgrounds, community hubs and town centres, and the increasing visibility and normalisation of vaping among young people.

Vaping products are primarily regulated under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (SERPA) and associated regulations administered by central government.



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Current legislation includes restrictions on sales to persons under 18 years of age, advertising and promotion controls, product safety requirements and specialist vape retailer approvals through the Ministry of Health.

Despite these controls, territorial authorities currently have very limited ability to influence:

- where vape retailers establish within a district;
- the concentration or density of vape stores;
- proximity of retailers to schools or youth facilities;
- shopfront presentation, signage or visibility, or
- local licensing or consent requirements.

Unlike alcohol regulation under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 or gambling venue policies under the Gambling Act 2003, councils currently have no equivalent statutory mechanisms to manage the local impacts of vape retailers.

Communities have raised concerns regarding youth access and exposure, increasing nicotine dependence among rangatahi, retail saturation in vulnerable communities, and inconsistent compliance monitoring and enforcement. These concerns are particularly significant in rural and provincial communities already experiencing inequitable health outcomes.

While councils are increasingly expected to respond to these issues, existing legislative pathways through district plans or bylaws are limited and not specifically designed to regulate vape retail activities. This creates uncertainty and inconsistency nationally.

This remit seeks legislative reform to provide councils with fit-for-purpose powers to regulate the location, density and operation of vape retailers, better protect vulnerable communities and ensure local communities have greater input into decisions affecting public health, youth wellbeing and town centre environments.

### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

This remit aligns with LGNZ's broader advocacy focus on strengthening local decision making, improving community wellbeing outcomes, and ensuring councils have fit-for-purpose legislative tools to respond to emerging community issues.

The proposed remit supports LGNZ's advocacy regarding public health, community resilience and empowering local government to respond to place-based challenges. It also aligns with wider conversations around community safety, youth wellbeing and ensuring local authorities have appropriate regulatory mechanisms to manage activities that significantly impact local communities.

This remit does not duplicate existing legislative mechanisms currently available to councils and instead seeks to address a recognised regulatory gap within the current framework.



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**How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

Wairoa District Council would support LGNZ by sharing local experiences, community feedback and operational challenges associated with the growth of vape retailers within provincial and rural communities. Council would also assist in identifying the impacts that vape retailer concentration can have on youth wellbeing, public health outcomes and town centre environments.

The Council would be willing to participate in sector discussions, working groups and engagement processes relating to vaping regulation and local government powers. This may include contributing to the development of national policy positions, providing practical case studies and supporting evidence gathering to demonstrate the need for stronger local regulatory tools.

Wairoa District Council would also support collaboration with other councils and Zone networks to identify common concerns, share approaches and collectively advocate for legislative reform. In addition, Council would be prepared to engage with central government agencies and relevant stakeholders to help develop practical, enforceable and locally responsive regulatory solutions that better enable councils to respond to community expectations and local circumstances.

### **Vape Retail Regulation – Supporting Statistics Snapshot**

#### **National Vaping Trends**

- Daily vaping among NZ adults increased from 3.5% in 2019/2020 to 11.7% in 2024/2025.<sup>1</sup>
- Over 509,000 New Zealanders now vape daily.<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 23% of 18-24 year olds vape daily.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Youth & Māori Impacts**

- Daily vaping among 15-17 year olds increased from 2.6% to 13.6% since 2019/2020.<sup>4</sup>
- Māori youth continue to experience disproportionately high vaping rates.<sup>5</sup>
- School stand-downs for vaping/smoking increased by 73% between 2021-2023.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Vape Retailer Concerns**

- Approximately 71% of vape retailers nationally operate within 800m of schools.<sup>7</sup>
- Around 29% of vape retailers are within 400m (5 minute walk) of schools.
- Research shows vape retailers are disproportionately concentrated in higher deprivation communities.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Legislative Gap**

Under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990, councils currently have limited powers to:

- Restrict vape shop locations or density.
- Prevent vape stores near schools.
- Introduce local licensing frameworks; or
- Manage local retail visibility and concentration.

Unlike alcohol regulation under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 or gambling venue policies under the Gambling Act 2003, councils currently have no equivalent statutory tools to manage local vape retail impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> [Annual Update of Key Results 2024/25: New Zealand Health Survey | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Vaping prevalence and trends: Findings from the 2024-25 NZ Health Survey | PHCC](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Annual Update of Key Results 2024/25: New Zealand Health Survey | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Vaping prevalence and trends: Findings from the 2024-25 NZ Health Survey | PHCC](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Vapefree schools | Health Professionals](#)

<sup>6</sup> [‘Kids are doing this everywhere’: New Zealand wrestles with rise of primary school vaping | New Zealand | The Guardian](#)

<sup>7</sup> [New Zealand researchers find more vape stores in deprived areas and near schools](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Investigating the spatial and temporal variation of vape retailer provision in New Zealand: A cross-sectional and nationwide study - ScienceDirect](#)



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### 3. Financial support for government reform implementation costs

**Proposed by:** Whangārei District Council

**Supported by:** LGNZ Zone 1

**Remit:** *That LGNZ advocate to central government to provide specific targeted financial support to councils to implement the operational and governance changes that are proposed through the legislative reform programme, for example Simplifying Local Government and RMA reforms.*

#### Why is this remit important?

It is recognised that the Department of Internal Affairs is providing great support across the board for district and regional councils throughout the various reform programmes that are underway.

The toll of the changes and implementation is being felt at a local level, and it would be appropriate for central government to recognise this burden on the local government sector and provide some financial certainty to ratepayers by providing ring-fenced financial support for the reforms. Additional support could be included that ensures nationwide alignment on approach, or the provision of a suite of core document templates for use by all with a view to reducing workload at a local level.

#### Background and context

Since September 2025, central government has introduced significant legislative reforms affecting local government, including amendments to the Local Government Act and the replacement of the Resource Management Act.

These changes impose substantial new statutory, planning, system, and reporting obligations on councils, many of which involve one off and transitional implementation costs not provided for in existing funding arrangements.

We want to acknowledge that the Department of Internal Affairs is providing great support across the board for district and regional councils throughout the various reform programmes that are underway. This includes the support that has been provided over the last couple of years in relation to the water reforms.

It does need to be recognised that a council's ability to raise revenue is constrained. This is due to the current cost of living crisis and the proposed rates caps to be introduced in this



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triennium. Council is asking LGNZ to recognise that the toll for the legislative changes and their implementation is being felt at a local level and it would be appropriate for central government to recognise this burden on the local government sector and provide some financial certainty to ratepayers by providing ring-fenced financial support for the reforms.

Central government funding is required to enable timely and effective implementation of these mandated reforms, while avoiding significant increase in the cost to ratepayers or reduction in existing services.

### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

LGNZ has an influencing role with central government, and they understand that New Zealanders need to value their local council and trust that it is financially sustainable. LGNZ has a key priority in maintaining a constructive relationship with central government but also to ensure that the membership base has the support it needs to implement changes that come from updated legislation. We believe that this remit is directly aligned to LGNZ's current work programme.

### **How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

Whangarei District Council will support LGNZ in conversations in relation to this remit. We are willing to provide evidence of additional costs, some of which is already gathered in public meeting agendas, and additional resource requirements the Council is having to support without any budget to fund these activities.



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## 4. Removal of Representation Review requirements during Simplifying Local Government reform

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| <b>Proposed by:</b>  | <b>Waikato District Council</b>  |
| <b>Supported by:</b> | LGNZ Zone 2  |
| <b>Remit:</b>        | <i>That LGNZ advocate to the Government, on behalf of its members, for compliance relief from the upcoming representation review requirements in light of the significant reforms proposed through the Simplifying Local Government programme and the recent Head Start pathway, which may render any review undertaken before the 2028 elections redundant.</i> |

### Why is this remit important?

Councils are required under the Local Electoral Act 2001 to undertake a representation review in preparation for the 2028 local government elections.

The current local government reform environment creates significant uncertainty about the long-term relevance and durability of representation arrangements determined through this review process.

Key contributing factors include:

- the Government's Simplifying Local Government reform programme;
- the recently announced Head Start pathway;
- potential future structural and governance changes, and
- the removal of Māori wards from some districts from 2028 onwards.

Requiring councils to commence representation reviews at this time would impose unavoidable and unjustifiable costs when ratepayer affordability pressures are already significant.

It would also require communities to participate in a complex statutory process that is likely to be superseded and ultimately rendered redundant by current government reform proposals, potentially necessitating a second review shortly thereafter.



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## Background and context

Representation reviews are a statutory requirement under the Local Electoral Act 2001 and must be undertaken by all local authorities at least every six years.

The purpose of a representation review is to determine how communities are democratically represented through local government arrangements. This includes consideration of:

- electoral voting systems (FPP or STV);
- Māori representation arrangements;
- the number of elected members;
- ward structures and boundaries;
- community board structures;
- population equity requirements;
- governance effectiveness, and
- compliance with Local Government Commission requirements.

Waikato District Council's last representation review was completed in 2021 for implementation at the 2022 local elections. The programme ran from March 2020 to September 2021 and included elected member workshops, a governance working group, public consultation, and hearings. The review was extensive, resource-intensive, and required substantial operational support across the Council.

A further key consideration for the upcoming representation review is the binding 2025 poll on Māori wards, through which the Council did not retain its two Māori wards. This position will vary across the country depending on the outcomes of local referendums. As a result, Māori wards in Waikato District will cease from 2028 onwards. This creates an additional structural change that must be considered as part of any future representation arrangements.

In February, the Waikato Mayoral Forum wrote to the Minister of Local Government and the Minister for the Environment in response to the Simplifying Local Government proposal and reinforced the need for compliance relief in key areas affected by the reform, including representation reviews.

In March 2026, Mayor Bech wrote to the Minister of Local Government seeking relief or a formal transition arrangement from the upcoming representation review requirement. This followed earlier engagement with both the Department of Internal Affairs and the Electoral Commission, each of which advised that it had no legal authority to grant relief. The letter set out concerns that undertaking a full review during a period of significant national reform would create unnecessary duplication, cost, and uncertainty.

The Mayor's correspondence specifically referenced:

- the Government's Simplifying Local Government reform programme;
- potential future boundary and governance changes;
- the removal of Māori wards;
- the lack of legislative discretion available for councils to defer reviews; and



- the estimated \$80,000–\$100,000 cost of undertaking a full representation review process.

While the Minister’s office acknowledged receipt of the letter, no formal relief mechanism had been provided at the time this paper was submitted (22 May 2026).

### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ’s current work programme?**

This remit aligns closely with LGNZ’s current advocacy on the Simplifying Local Government reforms and practical transition pathways for councils navigating significant system change.

This remit supports that advocacy by seeking practical compliance relief for councils currently required to undertake representation reviews during a period of significant reform uncertainty.

It reinforces LGNZ’s broader focus on localism, reducing unnecessary duplication, supporting fiscally responsible decision making, and ensuring councils can direct resources towards delivering long-term community outcomes rather than potentially redundant statutory processes.

The remit complements rather than duplicates LGNZ’s existing reform advocacy by seeking a nationally coordinated response on behalf of affected councils.

### **How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

Waikato District Council would be willing to actively support LGNZ in progressing this remit through sector advocacy, evidence gathering, and engagement with central government agencies.

The Council has already undertaken significant work in this area, including:

- preparing a strategic governance paper outlining the implications of the Head Start pathway and wider reform programme for representation review obligations;
- engaging directly with the Minister of Local Government, the Department of Internal Affairs, and the Electoral Commission to seek transitional relief, and
- working collaboratively across Zone 2 councils to raise shared concerns regarding reform sequencing, affordability, and duplication risks.

The Council would be willing to:

- share analysis, correspondence, and supporting material to inform LGNZ advocacy;
- contribute to discussions with Ministers, DIA, and sector working groups;
- support the development of a nationally consistent position on representation review relief and transition arrangements, and
- provide practical insight into the operational, governance, and financial implications of undertaking representation reviews during a period of significant reform uncertainty.



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The intent of this remit is not to avoid statutory obligations, but to ensure that councils are not required to undertake potentially duplicative and resource-intensive processes while broader local government reform remains unresolved.



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## 5. Devolution of place-naming authority to Territorial Authorities

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>Proposed by:</b>  | <b>Far North District Council</b>  |
| <b>Supported by:</b> | Northland Regional Council, Porirua City Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Rangitikei District Council and Whakatāne District Council                                |
| <b>Remit:</b>        | <i>That LGNZ advocate for legislative changes to devolve authority for officiating geographic place names from the Minister for Land Information to local authorities.</i> |

### Why is this remit important?

Local communities are best placed to make decisions about names that reflect their identity, history, and sense of belonging. While councils already name roads and streets, authority over official geographic names - such as mountains, rivers, towns, and bays - sits with the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa and the Minister for Land Information under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008. This centralised system has produced outcomes that lack local knowledge, overlook iwi and hapū relationships, or fail to reflect a community's lived history. Councils have highlighted examples such as the decline of locally supported historical names (Russell, Kororāreka), or cases where official spellings have been approved that do not reflect how names are commonly used, spoken, or understood locally.

Devolving authority to local government, in partnership with mana whenua, would ensure place naming is grounded in authentic local voice while reducing unnecessary bureaucracy. At the LGNZ Rural and Provincial meeting in November 2025, Minister Penk indicated support for this remit and the localised outcomes it seeks to achieve.

### Background and context

Under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) holds sole authority to assign, approve, alter, or discontinue official geographic place names. While the Board includes representatives from local government and Māori development, its decision-making framework remains national, centralised, and governed by statutory processes that do not always reflect local identity or lived experience.

Local authorities already demonstrate strong capability in place-based naming through their delegated authority for naming roads and streets. These decisions routinely incorporate local history, community values, and the guidance of mana whenua. However, when it comes to naming mountains, rivers, settlements, bays, and other significant features, councils and iwi



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must defer to a national body, even in cases where local expertise, whakapapa, and historical evidence are well established.

This centralised model can create a disconnect between official names, and the communities that hold whakapapa and lived connection to those places. Consultation occurs but local knowledge is not determinative and decisions may not align with regional dialects, historical narratives, or cultural contexts. Councils have highlighted examples where locally supported names or spellings were not adopted or where national decisions did not fully recognise the depth of local iwi and hapū relationships with place. In the Far North, we refer to the name restoration process for Russell (Kororāreka) which while strongly supported at a local level, failed to receive centralised support.

Returning decision making to local authorities would strengthen the integrity and authenticity of geographic names. It would allow naming processes to better reflect regional narratives, uphold te reo Māori orthographic conventions, and ensure communities have a meaningful role in shaping the identity of the landscapes they inhabit. Devolving authority would also streamline the process by reducing a layer of central bureaucracy while retaining opportunities for national consistency through guidelines and shared standards.

### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ’s current work programme?**

This remit aligns strongly with LGNZ’s long term goal of “local decisions matter”, and aligns with LGNZ’s advocacy for:

- strengthened local decision making;
- improved Crown-local government-iwi partnerships, and
- recognition of local identity and community driven governance.

It also enhances LGNZ’s ongoing work to promote localism, reduce unnecessary centralisation, and strengthen community wellbeing through place-based decision making.

### **How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

The Far North District Council will support LGNZ’s advocacy on this remit by contributing sector leadership and local, practical insights. We have extensive experience working with LINZ on the correction and officiating of Māori place names, including active participation in the “Approving of Unofficial Place Names” workstream. With 1,682 unofficial Māori place names currently progressing through LINZ processes, we hold a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the present system.

FNDC is committed to supporting this remit’s progression alongside LGNZ.



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## 6. Enhanced role for government in supporting subnational diplomacy

**Proposed by:** Palmerston North City Council

**Supported by:** Metro Sector

**Remit:** *That LGNZ advocate to government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to formalise and increase its role in supporting subnational diplomacy including developing clear policy and capability to support and grow local government's contribution*

### Why is this remit important?

Subnational diplomacy (such as the work councils do through their sister cities) extends the reach of national diplomacy by connecting communities and exporters from local areas with overseas communities and export opportunities. This has been demonstrated by the complementary role sister city relationships with cities in China has played in maximising the benefits of the free trade agreement.

### Background and context

A number of other nations play a more explicit role in supporting and setting direction for subnational diplomacy.

Examples of countries which engage in this space include:

- United States of America – the US Department of State has a specific Subnational Diplomacy Unit headed by a Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy. This unit, and the ambassador, supports US national security priorities by integrating local ideas into foreign policy and fostering connections among cities, municipalities, and communities in the United States and abroad.
- Australia – the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has offices across each state capital which supports local and state government foreign and trade relationships.



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**How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

This remit aligns with LGNZ's long-term goal that New Zealanders value councils given the direct financial benefits this could provide. There is also potential alignment with the Advocacy Priority resilient communities, economies, and environments.



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## 7. Bulk funding of transport activities

**Proposed by:** Waikato Regional Council

**Supported by:** Zone 2

**Remit:** *That LGNZ calls on government, opposition parties and NZTA to support a move to bulk funding for basic and repeatable transport activities, thereby acknowledging the efficiency and financial gains, and reduction in funding risk, this change would provide to local government, and supports a trial of this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027-2030 funding round amongst a group of councils which have demonstrated strong performance in delivering public transport services and/or maintaining transport infrastructure.*

### Why is this remit important?

Central government via NZTA tightly controls the distribution of transport funding to achieve national outcomes even though around 50% of all costs are funded via rates.

Most transport funding is approved project by project, requiring achievement of defined business case and approval requirements, before funding is committed. Stringent compliance and reporting requirements are imposed on the local government sector, increasing costs for councils, and reducing efficiency and productivity.

Accelerating the move to bulk funding for basic transport activities, as is seen in many countries globally, would enable local government to operate more flexibly, optimising investment and improving efficiency. Councils have detailed knowledge of their networks, good awareness of resilience and lifeline requirements, and a good understanding of local need.

Maintenance and renewal programmes, public transport services, and the delivery of safety and minor works packages would all benefit from predictable, multi-year funding certainty.

### Background and context

In the OECD context, New Zealand is highly centralised. Central government via NZTA tightly controls the distribution of transport funding to achieve national outcomes.

Internationally, bulk funding models for transport are widely used to provide transport authorities with predictable, flexible, multi-year funding approvals. This enables the central government focus to shift from assessing and approving individual projects to supporting strategic policy outcomes. It also enables a reduction in compliance and reporting requirements. It supports local and regional stewardship of networks while improving



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procurement and delivery performance. A SWOT analysis and global examples of bulk funding for public transport services are provided in Attachment One.

Councils across the country are about to commence work on Long Term Plans and the Regional Land Transport Plan. These are delivered as required by the Local Government Act and the Land Transport Management Act (LMTA). The LMTA requires regions to demonstrate alignment to the priorities of central government even if around 50% of the funding comes from ratepayers rather than the Crown.

Due to this complex legislative structure, transport programmes (in all respects, from maintenance and renewals to public transport services, and from safety works to minor and major improvements) are required to follow multiple local, regional and national processes to secure funding.

The process of prioritising and funding transport activities could be simplified and de-risked significantly if central government and NZTA trusted local government to act in good faith on behalf of communities, and, with the reassurance of accountability and appropriate performance frameworks, provided bulk funding (perhaps at regional level and perhaps in 3 or 5 year blocks) for simple, repeatable, ongoing work programmes. This would enable regions and communities to prioritise and optimise their investment in transport through smarter procurement, resulting in lower administrative and regulatory burden.

Recently announced local government reform is focussed solely on amalgamation within regions and currently proposes no change to the delivery of transport activities.

Over recent funding rounds, NZTA is acknowledged for making limited progress in moving towards bulk funding, for example for some smaller councils. There may be further tweaks in the 2027-30 funding round.

This remit supports the progress made and seeks acceleration of this for all other basic, repeatable transport activities nationally. There are multiple benefits that could be achieved from this change.

At national level, removal and de-politicisation of basic transport activities (estimated at approximately 80% of the total spend) would enable the Minister of Transport, via the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, to fully focus on prioritising significant investment (the remaining 20%) on central government priorities such as resilience, safety, emissions reduction or roads of national significance.

There would be a large reduction in the requirements of the National Land Transport Programme prepared by NZTA. Bulk funding of basic transport activities would save NZTA significant time and cost.

Regional Land Transport Plans could be simplified and would be fully focussed on more significant inter-regional and system-change priorities. This presents a resource and cost-saving to regional councils.

Local and regional government would be able to undertake the transport portion of their Long Term Plans with less risk and more funding certainty.



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### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

The issue directly relates to several of LGNZ's 'key issues for councils'.

- **Transport:** New Zealand needs greater investment from central government and more joined-up central and local government planning that prioritises building and better asset management. The current approach to investment and planning is not working, nor is it fit for the future. How to make public transport more affordable and accessible.
- **Funding & Financing:** Advocacy for a 'toolbox' approach to funding and financing to provide councils with a range of options to align national goals with local needs.
- **Localism:** Harnessing the power, knowledge, skills and views of local people to drive better outcomes.

### **How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

Zone 2 councils are willing to trial this proposed bulk-funding approach for the 2027 to 2030 funding round, including development of appropriate accountabilities and performance frameworks.

## Attachment One: Further Information

### **SWOT Analysis – Bulk Funding compared with Project-based Funding**

#### **Definition and focus**

##### Bulk funding

- Funding is provided as a programme-level envelope (often multi-year).
- The funder agrees *what outcomes and activity types* the money is for, but not every individual project.
- The recipient has delegated authority to prioritise and deliver works within agreed rules.

##### Project-based funding

- Funding is approved project by project.
- Each project must meet defined appraisal, business-case, and approval requirements before funding is committed.
- Control is retained centrally by the funder at each decision point.

#### **Decision-making and flexibility**

| <b>Aspect</b>                   | <b>Bulk funding</b>                             | <b>Project-based funding</b>               |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Decision locus                  | Decentralised (recipient decides within limits) | Centralised (funder approves each project) |
| Ability to re-prioritise        | High – funding can shift within the programme   | Low – changes often require re-approval    |
| Response to changing conditions | Fast (e.g. weather damage, demand shift)        | Slower, constrained by approval cycles     |

Implication: Bulk funding suits environments where needs change frequently and trade-offs must be made continuously. Project funding suits situations where scope is fixed and certainty is required.

#### **Transaction and administrative cost**

##### Bulk funding

- Fewer funding applications and approvals.
- Lower appraisal cost per dollar spent.
- More emphasis on ex-post performance monitoring.

#### Project-based funding

- High upfront transaction costs (business cases, reviews, approvals).
- Repeated effort for similar or small projects.
- Strong ex-ante assurance but higher overhead.

Implication: Bulk funding is more efficient for many small or routine activities; project funding is defensible for large, discrete investments.

#### Risk allocation

| Risk type         | Bulk funding                      | Project-based funding            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Delivery risk     | Largely sits with recipient       | Shared or retained by funder     |
| Cost overrun risk | Managed within programme envelope | Often escalated back to funder   |
| Portfolio risk    | Actively managed by recipient     | Managed implicitly via approvals |

Implication: Bulk funding assumes the recipient is capable of portfolio and asset-management discipline. Project funding reduces funder exposure to poorly governed organisations but can shift risk management into bureaucratic processes.

#### Accountability and performance

##### Bulk funding

- Accountability is outcomes- and performance-based.
- Requires strong monitoring frameworks (KPIs, benchmarking, audits).
- Less visibility of individual project decisions, more focus on results.

##### Project-based funding

- Accountability is project- and compliance-based.
- Easier to trace decisions and costs to specific assets.
- Can encourage compliance behaviour rather than outcome optimisation.

Implication: Bulk funding works best where there is high trust and mature capability. Project funding suits lower-trust or high-scrutiny environments.

#### Suitability by activity type

| Activity type                  | Better suited model | Why?                                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Routine maintenance & renewals | Bulk funding        | Predictable, ongoing, portfolio-based |

|                              |                       |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Public transport operations  | Bulk funding          | Requires service optimisation over time           |
| Low-cost safety improvements | Bulk funding          | Many small, standardised interventions            |
| Major new infrastructure     | Project-based funding | High cost, unique, high political and fiscal risk |
| Complex, novel investments   | Project-based funding | Uncertainty requires detailed appraisal           |

### **Behavioural effects**

Bulk funding encourages

- Long-term planning and asset stewardship.
- Trade-offs across a network.
- Innovation and adaptive management.

Project-based funding encourages

- Project promotion and “salami slicing”.
- Optimisation of individual projects rather than systems.
- Risk-averse design to satisfy approval gates.

### **Strengths and weaknesses summary**

#### **Bulk funding**

##### *Strengths*

- Efficient delivery at scale
- High flexibility and responsiveness
- Strongly aligned with asset-management principles

##### *Weaknesses*

- Requires mature governance and capability
- Harder for outsiders to see “what was funded”
- Risk of under-investment in politically visible projects

#### **Project-based funding**

##### *Strengths*

- High transparency at project level
- Strong control of large or novel investments
- Clear political and fiscal accountability

#### *Weaknesses*

- High transaction costs
- Slow to respond to change
- Can undermine network-level optimisation

#### **Conclusion**

- Bulk funding is best for *ongoing, repeatable, network-wide activities* where flexibility and value-for-money over time matter most.
- Project-based funding is best for *large, discrete, high-risk investments* where certainty, scrutiny, and one-off decisions dominate.

In practice (including in New Zealand), effective transport systems use both models together, allocating each to the activity types they are best suited for rather than treating them as competing alternatives.

### **International examples – Delivery of Public Transport Services**

Internationally, bulk funding models for public transport are widely used to give transport authorities predictable, flexible, multi-year funding while shifting the focus from approving individual routes or projects to outcomes, performance, and network stewardship. Below is a structured overview of the main models in use globally, with concrete country examples.

#### **Block grants to sub-national governments or transport authorities**

##### *How the model works*

Central government provides a multi-year block grant for public transport. Money is not tied to specific projects or routes; instead, the recipient authority decides how to allocate funding across operations, service improvements, fleet renewal, or minor infrastructure within an agreed framework.

##### *Countries using this model*

- United Kingdom (England, outside London)
  - Local authorities receive consolidated Local Transport Grants, replacing older fragmented funding streams. These grants can be used for buses, public transport priority, accessibility, and service support, with local discretion over spending priorities.
- Germany
  - Federal “Regionalisation funds” are provided to Länder as block transfers to finance regional and local public transport services, especially rail, with states responsible for detailed allocation (documented by OECD trends).

- Canada
  - Cities and provinces receive long-term federal transfers (e.g. public transit streams under infrastructure programmes) that are broadly scoped rather than project-specific, supporting operational and capital needs.

Strengths: predictability, local optimisation, lower administrative burden.

Trade-off: relies on strong oversight and capable local institutions.

#### **Formula-based operating subsidies (network or service level)**

##### *How the model works*

Funding is allocated using objective formulas (population, service km, ridership, social need).

The operator or authority manages services within the resulting financial envelope.

##### *Countries using this model*

- Sweden & Nordic countries
  - Regional Public Transport Authorities receive predictable operating funding largely detached from individual line approvals, enabling network-wide planning.
- Japan (urban public transport)
  - Local and national governments provide formula-driven operating support combined with fare revenue, with strong emphasis on efficiency and service quality benchmarks.

Strengths: stability for operators, incentives for efficiency at network scale.

Trade-off: formulas must be kept current to reflect demand and cost changes.

#### **Earmarked payroll or local tax funding (hypothecated bulk revenue)**

##### *How the model works*

A dedicated tax or levy is assigned directly to public transport authorities. Revenues flow automatically and can be used flexibly for both operations and investment.

##### *Countries using this model*

- France – Versement mobilité
  - A mandatory payroll levy on employers ( $\geq 11$  employees) within transport authority areas. It is the single largest funding source for urban public transport and can be used as a bulk operating and capital funding pool.
- United States (selected metro areas)
  - Local sales taxes (e.g. Los Angeles, Seattle) fund transit agencies through dedicated, voter-approved taxes allocated as multi-year funding envelopes (OECD comparative analysis).

Strengths: stable, locally controlled, strongly aligned with beneficiaries.

Trade-off: revenue growth tied to economic cycles.

#### **Service contracts with global budgets (gross-cost or net-cost)**

*How the model works*

Public authorities enter multi-year contracts with operators. Instead of funding individual routes, a global operating budget is set, with performance incentives and penalties.

*Countries using this model*

- Europe (widely used): Germany, Netherlands, France
  - Authorities specify service outputs and quality standards while paying operators via bulk payments, often linked to punctuality, reliability, or customer satisfaction.
- Australia (bus networks)
  - State governments fund metropolitan bus networks through long-term contracts with operators, using bulk payments rather than route-by-route approval (OECD evidence).

Strengths: cost control, clear accountability, flexibility to redesign networks.

Trade-off: requires sophisticated contract management.

**City-region multi-year settlements (outcome-based bulk funding)**

*How the model works*

Large metropolitan regions receive bespoke, multi-year funding settlements covering all local transport, including public transport operations, sometimes linked to agreed performance outcomes.

*Countries using this model*

- United Kingdom (mayoral city-regions and London)
  - City-region transport authorities receive long-term settlements enabling integrated planning across buses, metro, rail, and active transport.
- France (Île-de-France Mobilités)
  - Combines national funding, payroll levy revenue, and regional contributions into a large, flexible funding pool for the Paris region’s transport system.

Strengths: supports system integration and long-term planning.

Trade-off: complex negotiation and governance arrangements.

**Summary**

| <b>Bulk funding model</b> | <b>Typical users</b> | <b>Key feature</b>                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Block grants              | UK, Germany, Canada  | Local discretion within national envelope |
| Formula-based subsidies   | Nordics, Japan       | Predictable, objective allocation         |
| Hypothecated taxes        | France, US metros    | Dedicated, stable revenue source          |

|                          |                  |                                     |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Global service contracts | EU, Australia    | Budget + performance incentives     |
| City-region settlements  | UK metros, Paris | Integrated, outcome-focused funding |

*Conclusion*

Across countries, bulk funding for public transport is used to stabilise finances, enable network-level optimisation, and reduce transaction costs. While design details vary, successful models share three features:

1. Multi-year certainty,
2. Local discretion paired with accountability, and
3. Performance or outcome-based oversight rather than project approval.



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## 8. Improving LTP audit requirements

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Proposed by:</b>  | <b>Gisborne District Council</b>  |
| <b>Supported by:</b> | Central Hawke’s Bay District Council, Hastings District Council, Stratford District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Wairoa District Council, Manawatū District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Tararua District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council   |
| <b>Remit:</b>        | <p><i>That LGNZ advocate to government for improvements to the efficiency, proportionality, and cost-effectiveness of audit requirements for Long Term Plans and Consultation Documents, including:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>1. Greater proportionality in audit requirements, ensuring that audit effort is aligned with council size, complexity, risk, and materiality; and</i></li><li><i>2. Reducing duplication across audit stages, particularly where similar information and assumptions are subject to repeated review; and</i></li><li><i>3. Improving standardisation, transparency, and cost control in audit delivery, to reduce rework and improve consistency across the sector, and to constrain excessive or escalating audit fees through greater transparency of audit pricing and benchmarking of costs across the sector.</i></li></ol> |

### Why is this remit important?

Local authorities are required to prepare Long Term Plans (LTP) that are subject to statutory audit by the Auditor-General. While audit plays a critical role in supporting transparency and accountability, the current approach imposes significant direct and indirect costs across the sector.

Audit requirements apply at multiple stages, including the consultation document and final LTP, and involve detailed supporting information, iterative review, and tight timeframes. This creates substantial organisational pressure and requires significant staff time, consultant input, and rework.

Audit effort is applied consistently across councils regardless of size, complexity, or risk, and can be disproportionate to risk or materiality.

As these requirements are set through legislative and assurance frameworks, individual councils have limited ability to influence them. Sector-level advocacy is required to ensure



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audit processes remain proportionate, efficient, and cost-effective while maintaining appropriate assurance.

### **Background and context**

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires local authorities to prepare and adopt an LTP using the special consultative procedure, supported by an Auditor-General's audit opinion. This includes audit of both the consultation document and the final LTP.

These requirements are intended to support transparency, accountability, and sound long-term decision making. However, in practice, the audit component of the LTP process has become a significant cost driver for councils.

Audit processes apply at multiple stages and require extensive supporting information, detailed modelling, and iterative engagement with auditors. Councils must respond to audit queries, revisit assumptions, and undertake rework within constrained statutory timeframes. This creates sustained organisational pressure across finance, strategy, infrastructure, and governance functions.

The cost of audit is not limited to external audit fees. It includes substantial internal staff time, consultant support, and opportunity costs associated with diverting resources from service delivery and implementation.

Audit requirements are applied consistently across the sector, regardless of council size, complexity, or risk profile. This can result in audit effort that is disproportionate to the scale or materiality of the underlying issues.

In addition, the requirement to audit both the consultation document and final LTP creates duplication, with similar information and assumptions subject to repeated review.

This issue is sector-wide and cannot be addressed by individual councils, as audit requirements are set through legislative and assurance frameworks. There is an opportunity to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of audit processes while maintaining appropriate levels of assurance.

### **How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

This remit aligns with LGNZ's role in advocating on matters of sector-wide significance and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of local government.

It supports LGNZ's focus on value for money, reducing unnecessary costs, and ensuring regulatory and assurance settings remain proportionate to risk and scale.

The remit is targeted and practical, focusing specifically on statutory audit requirements that apply across all councils and contribute to rising costs and organisational pressure.



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Based on publicly available information, this issue does not appear to be the subject of a specific LGNZ workstream. The remit would support LGNZ to advocate for improvements to audit processes that maintain transparency and accountability while improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

**How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

Gisborne District Council will:

- work with LGNZ and other councils to articulate the practical impacts of current LTP audit requirements;
- provide evidence of direct and indirect costs, including audit fees, staff time, and organisational impacts;
- contribute examples where audit effort is not proportionate to risk, scale, or materiality;
- support the development of practical improvements, including proportional audit approaches, reduced duplication, and improved pricing transparency, and
- participate in any sector engagement, working groups, or discussions with the Auditor-General and Government to progress improvements to audit processes.

The Council is committed to supporting sector-wide solutions that reduce unnecessary cost while maintaining robust public accountability.



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## 9. A fairer approach to uneconomic transport infrastructure funding

**Proposed by:** Stratford District Council

**Supported by:** South Taranaki District Council, New Plymouth District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Manawatū District Council and Wairoa District Council

**Remit:** *That LGNZ advocate for a fairer approach towards uneconomic transport infrastructure, where either NZTA commits to co-funding this infrastructure if councils remain legally obligated to own and maintain it, and/or the Government provides clearer guidance and support for councils downgrading or ceasing service to low traffic volume areas*

### Why is this remit important?

The development of the Roothing Activity Management Plan includes the replacement of our structural assets. Included in the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan (LTP), we have four uneconomic bridges that require replacement at an estimated cost of \$4.5m. If NZTA will not co-fund these replacements and we cannot opt out of ownership, the burden will fall on ratepayers. We are not alone in this scenario: this is a national issue that New Zealand has to resolve.

### Background and context

Within the Stratford District there are 18 bridges that will fall into the category of uneconomic transport infrastructure. The definition of this category being “bridges built and currently maintained by council that generally only provide access to individual properties, or bridges built by council that are for private use.”. It should be noted that NZTA is considering a position whereby it will not co-fund the replacement of any uneconomic bridge unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the Gross Domestic Product generated from the land served by the bridge exceeds the cost of replacing the structure over its lifecycle. Legal advice obtained in 2016 states that “if the Council previously maintained/erected the bridge, then the responsibility for maintaining the bridge continues.”. In layman’s terms, if a public body (County, Borough or District Council), has spent public funds either constructing or maintaining a bridge, irrespective of its location, whether it is located on a maintained road or an un-maintained road (paper road), the Council still has a responsibility to maintain this bridge.



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**How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?**

LGNZ is focussed on helping councils meet the costs of maintaining their transport networks as part of its infrastructure work programme, especially in the face of rapidly rising costs for labour and materials. The unwillingness of the NZTA to fund this sort of infrastructure while still requiring councils to maintain it could also be considered a form of unfunded mandate imposed by central government, which has long been a focus area for LGNZ.

**How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?**

We have requested clarification of NZTA's stance on this issue through our relationship with the Director, Regional Relationships.

We are happy to make our existing legal opinion on Road Controlling Authority responsibilities available.

We are open to any other contribution that would be helpful.





## Report

Date : 18 June 2026

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 : **11.8**

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### **1. Recommendation**

1.1 *That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 16 June 2026 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  |
|------------|------------|--------|----------------------|--|
| 7/04/2026  | 8/04/2026  | 1      | Individual           | Client decision making policies, criteria, guidance, and related records - January 2019 to present |
| 9/04/2026  | 9/04/2026  | 0      | Positively Woodville | Correspondence with Individual relating to Woodville Districts Vision and Positively Woodville     |
| 10/04/2026 | 13/04/2026 | 1      | Positively Woodville | Correspondence with Individual relating to Woodville Districts Vision and Positively Woodville     |
| 10/04/2026 | 10/04/2026 | 0      | Dorrington Poole     | Information re Roadside Structure erected by Scanpower   |
| 14/04/2026 | 30/04/2026 | 11     | Parliament           | Information on Availability of Graduate Roles in Council   |
| 14/04/2026 | 15/04/2026 | 1      | Individual           | Costs associated with Pukaha Mt Bruce paid by Council in last twelve months                        |
| 16/04/2026 | 16/04/2026 | 0      | Individual           | Copy of Noise Complaints Made for Specified Address since 2024                                     |
| 23/04/2026 | 24/04/2026 | 1      | Individual           | Hoardings Guidance for Political Parties   |
| 29/04/2026 | 1/05/2026  | 2      | Stuff                | Insurability of properties in the region   |

| Received   | Responded  | # Days | Requester              | Subject  |
|------------|------------|--------|------------------------|--|
| 30/04/2026 | 25/05/2026 | 17     | Helen Clark Foundation | Museum and Gallery Funding   |
| 30/04/2026 | 8/05/2026  | 6      | Dorrington Poole       | Information on Noise Complaints  |
| 1/05/2026  | 1/05/2026  | 0      | Individual             | Information on Transferable Development Rights                               |
| 3/05/2026  | 5/05/2026  | 1      | Individual             | Information on costs of Accreditation and Transfer of Power to FENZ          |
| 5/05/2026  | 25/05/2026 | 14     | No More Glyphosate NZ  | Information on Herbicide Use in Public Spaces                                |
| 7/05/2026  | 11/05/2026 | 2      | Individual             | Operational Costs of Dannevirke Deer Park                                    |
| 11/05/2026 | 26/05/2026 | 11     | Individual             | Information re Mobile Food Premises in Eketahuna                             |
| 11/05/2026 | 11/05/2026 | 0      | Individual             | 2025 Voter Turnout by Age Bracket and Roll Type                              |
| 13/05/2026 | 9/06/2026  | 18     | Individual             | Health and Safety Plan Information for Deer Park and Lower Domain Dannevirke |
| 13/05/2026 | 13/05/2026 | 0      | Positively Woodville   | Correspondence with Individual copied or addressed to Positively Woodville   |
| 18/05/2026 | 18/05/2026 | 0      | Individual             | Councillor Portfolio for Stormwater  |
| 21/05/2026 | 4/06/2026  | 9      | Stragentum             | TDC's procurement process  |
| 24/05/2026 | 27/05/2026 | 2      | Individual             | Information re Proposed Windfarm   |

| Received   | Responded  | # Days | Requester           | Subject  |
|------------|------------|--------|---------------------|--|
| 25/05/2026 | 28/05/2026 | 3      | Pioneer Green Power | Request for copies of resource consents for solar farms - Tamaki River Road and Top Grass Road |
| 16/06/2026 | 17/06/2026 | 1      | Hawkes Bay Today    | Dannevirke Deer Park Stag  |

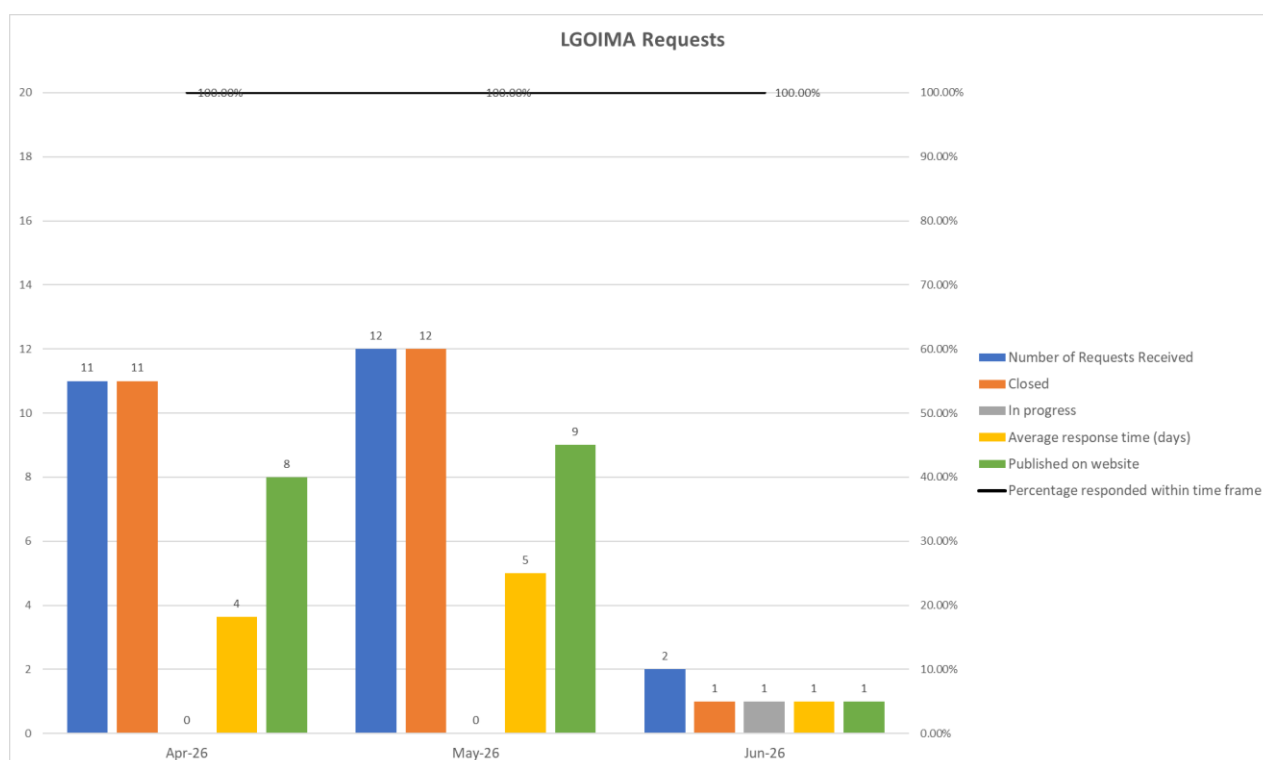
### Requests pending response

There is currently one open request pending response.

| Received   | Responded | # Days | Requester  | Subject   |
|------------|-----------|--------|------------|---|
| 12/06/2026 |           |        | Individual | Spending on Recovery and Resilience regarding Weather Related Natural Disasters |

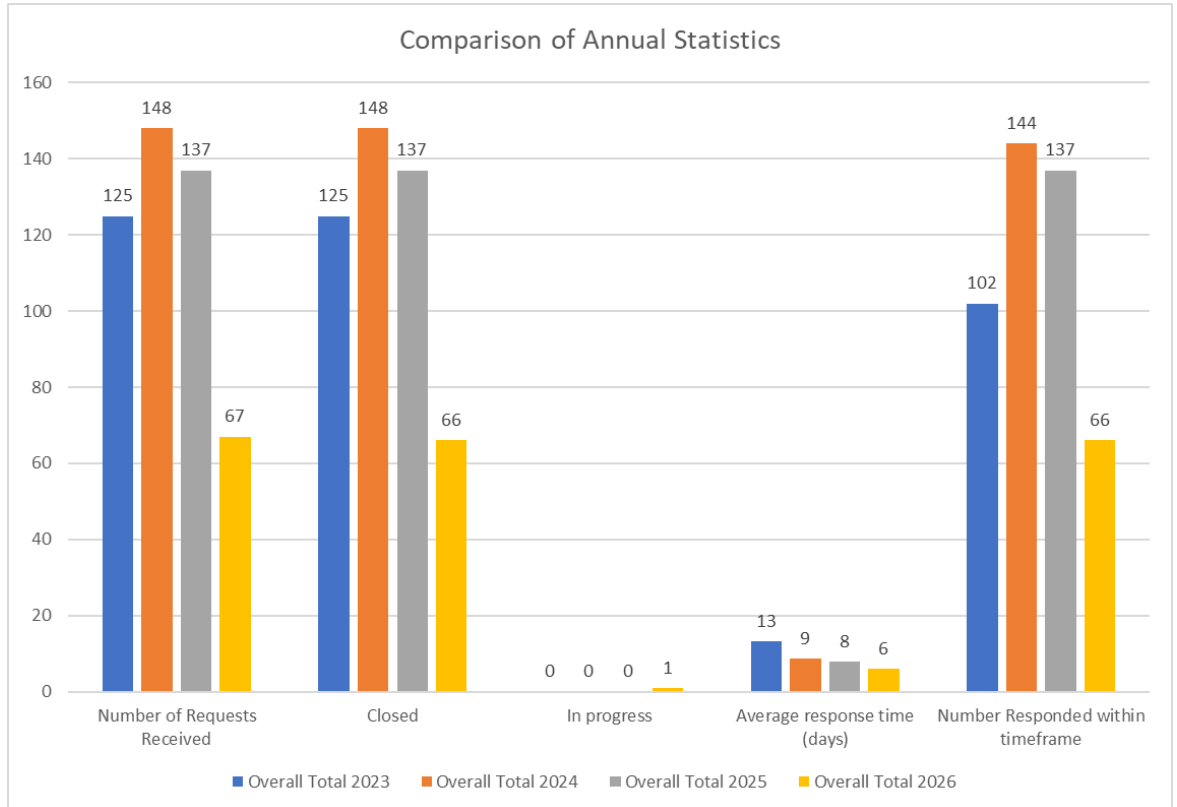
### Status of Requests Received and Timelines for Response

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 to 2025 and Comparative Data for 2026 to date

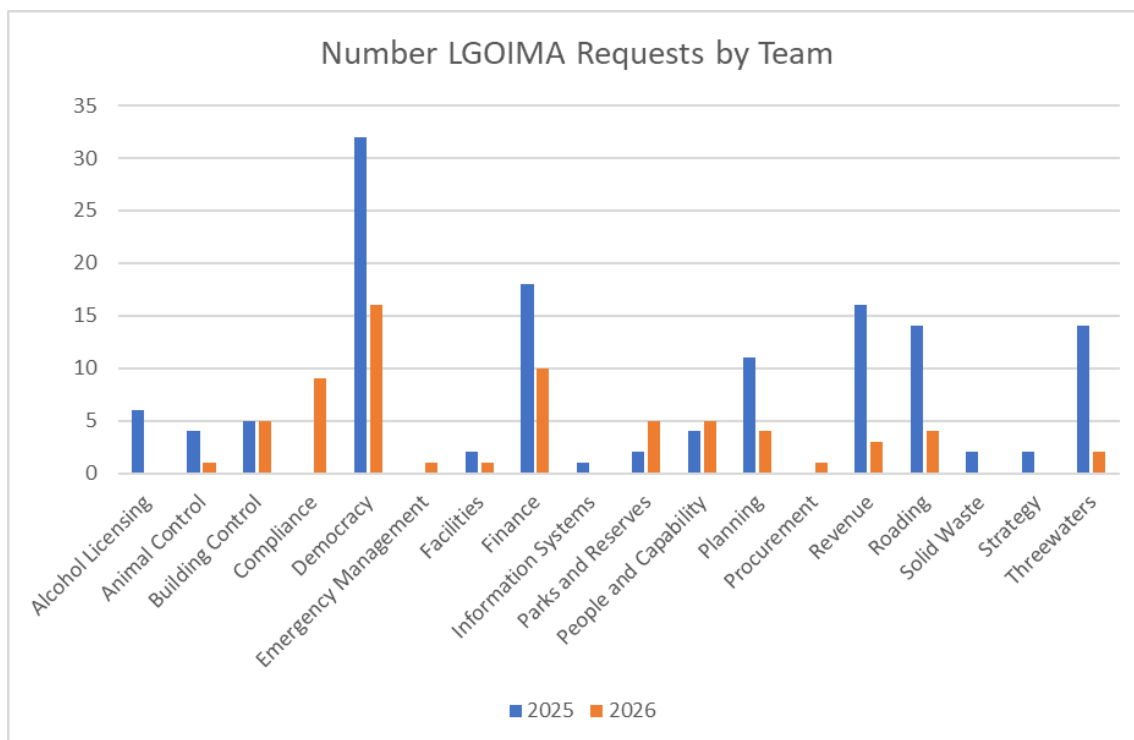
4.2 The following graph provides statistics relating to the requests for information processed during the year 1 January to date, compared against statistics for the previous three calendar years.



### 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:

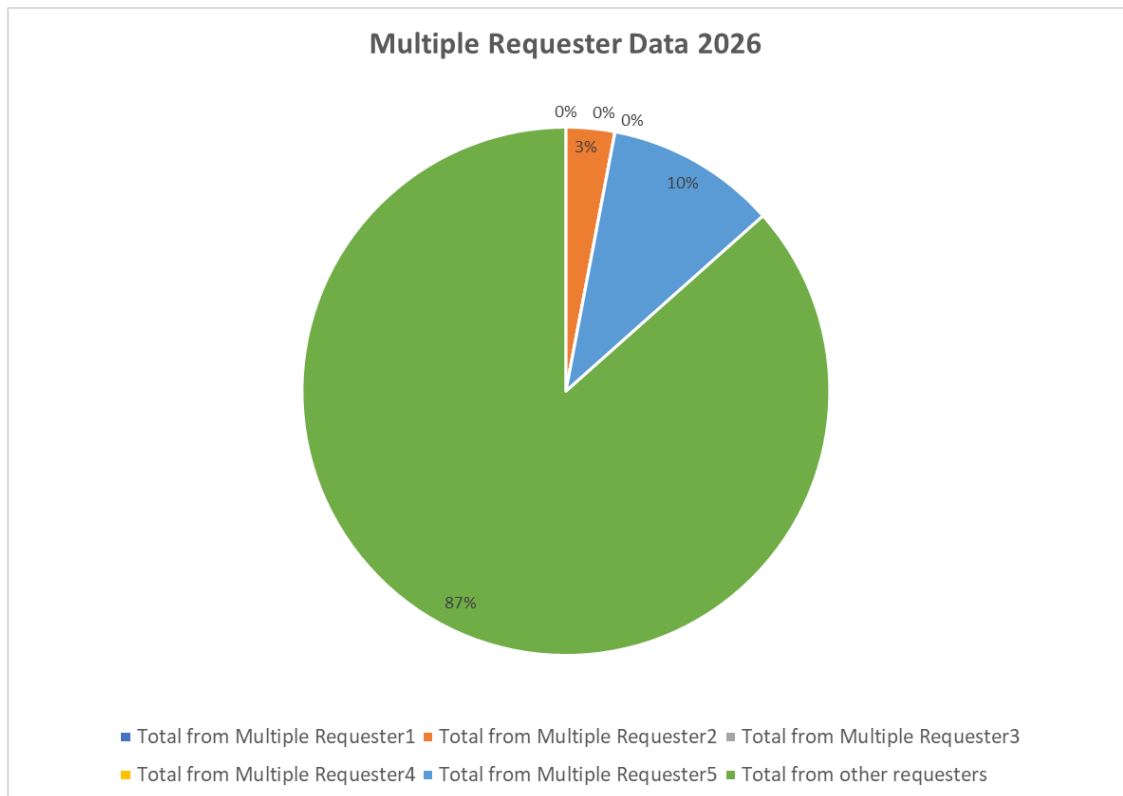


### Proactive Release and Publishing of Local Government Official Information

- 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:

### 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 had another individual making multiple requests for information from the Council. Requests received from that individual were 17% of the total number of requests for information that year.
- 4.13 This year, we started the year with a number of requests from the Taxpayers' Union. In speaking to one of their agents to clarify a request, they were asked to consider the impact on smaller local authorities of the volume of requests they were making. We will continue to monitor this.



- 4.14 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.

## **5. Statutory Requirements**

- 5.1 The statutory requirements associated with access to local authority information, and the procedures for dealing with requests received for information held by local authorities, is set out in Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
- 5.2 There are also requirements within the Privacy Act 2020 and the Information Privacy Principles within that Act to comply with.
- 5.3 As part of the requirements for providing access to local authority information, the Act sets out timeframes for:
- Making a decision on whether to grant a request and communicate that decision;
  - Making the requested information available, which can be at a later date, after the decision to grant has been made;
  - Transferring all or part of a request to another agency;
  - Extending timeframes for both transferring a request, and making a decision and communicating it.
- 5.4 The Office of the Ombudsman also publishes a Guide to assist local authorities in recognising and responding to requests for information. The processes outlined in this Guide are followed by officers in responding to requests.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report presents data relating to requests for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 that have been received from 1 April 2026 to 16 June 2026.

## **Attachments**

Nil.

**Hon Simon Watts**

Minister of Climate Change  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister of Revenue  
Minister for Auckland



15 June 2026

COR2427

Mayor Scott Gilmore  
*Scott.Gilmore@Taranuadc.govt.nz*

Dear Mayor Scott

I write to respond to your letter of 3 June 2026 regarding the Simplifying Local Government reforms.

I acknowledge the questions that you have raised. I am pleased to hear that there is interest in the Head Start process in the Tararua District and I note the engagement of residents and the concerns raised.

The Head Start pathway is voluntary for those councils that are ready to move quickly. The three-month timeframe is for outline proposals, with detailed design to follow after the Government decides which proposals should proceed. This approach is intended to provide greater certainty through early decisions on which proposals will proceed through Head Start and which councils will be in the backstop.

The backstop will be broadly based on the original Simplifying Local Government proposal and will be informed by lessons from the Head Start as well as feedback from consultation. The Government will make final decisions on the design of the backstop in 2027.

Regardless of the shape of the backstop, the Government expects that councils will work collaboratively and continue to engage with their communities on this important reform programme.

Maintaining local voice is one of the criteria for assessment of Head Start proposals. Outline proposals should set out how councils will maintain local voice as well as meeting the other criteria such as economies of scale and simplified local governance. We are open to innovative approaches from councils as well as current Local Government Act 2002 models. Local voice will continue to be important through design of the backstop.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Watts', written over a horizontal line.

**Hon Simon Watts**  
**Minister of Local Government**





## Report

Date : 17 June 2026  
To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council  
From : Erana Peeti-Webber  
Councillor  
Subject : **Portfolio Report - Community Connections**  
Item No : **19**

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### 1. Recommendation

1.1 *That the report from the Councillor dated 17 June 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report - Community Connections be received.*

June is volunteer month

The theme for the 2026 International Volunteer Year is "**Your Year to Volunteer – Tōu tau ki te tūao**", aligning with the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

I was lucky enough to attend the Whatunga Tūao volunteer central awards event on behalf of Tararua District council.

This event celebrates volunteers in the whole Central area.

We were lucky to have three Tararua volunteers receive awards this year.

The recipients were:

- Andrew Keall a volunteer from Pukaha. Reliable, hard-working and always happy to help, Andrew is someone the team can genuinely count on. His role supporting our trapping programme is hugely important, helping protect the native wildlife and ngahere that Pūkaha works so hard to restore and care for. Whatever the day requires, he's out on the tracks and tackling it head-on.

- Jill Mills a volunteer for the Dannevirke Gallery of History Museum for nearly 40 years. As a dedicated Volunteer, Jill has demonstrated exceptional commitment and passion. Her efforts have not only supported the smooth running of community initiatives but have also enhanced the lives of many through her service.
- Leonie Belmont has been a dedicated Community Ambassador for the Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust in Dannevirke for the past three years, contributing 61 hours of voluntary service so far to strengthen our presence in the local community. Her role is pivotal in ensuring families and individuals know that free 1:1 reading and writing support is available.

How can you contribute to volunteer month? You can do this by taking on both formal and micro-volunteering roles. You can join local planting days, support community services, or use National Volunteer Week toolkits to celebrate the hardworking volunteers in Tararua.



Cr Erana Peeti-Webber

## Attachments

Nil.



## Report

Date : 18 June 2026  
To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council  
From : Alison Amboy  
Councillor  
Subject : **Portfolio Report - Youth**  
Item No : **20**

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### 1. Recommendation

- 1.1 *That the report from the Councillor dated 18 June 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report - Youth be received.*

Since April, Cr Keshaan Te Waaka and I have continued our engagement with young people across the district by visiting a number of schools, including Dannevirke South School, Dannevirke High School, and St Anthony's School in Pahiatua, and Ballance School with more visits planned in the coming months.

These visits have provided valuable opportunities to hear directly from our rangatahi about what matters most to them and to encourage participation in local decision-making. At some of these engagements, we were fortunate to be joined by Kimberly from the Communications Team, who helped facilitate discussions around Council's Budget Challenge. This gave students an early opportunity to learn about the challenges Council faces and contribute their views as we begin preparing for the Long-Term Plan (LTP). It was encouraging to see young people actively engaging in discussions about the future of our district.

We have also met with Tararua Community Youth Services as part of our ongoing relationship-building efforts. During this visit, we had the opportunity to meet with Jeannie O'Brien and her team. The meeting was valuable in helping us better understand the historical context of youth development and support services within the district. We look forward to continuing these regular conversations and exploring ways Council and community organisations can work together to better support young people across Tararua.

Alison has also been involved in discussions regarding the Wackrow Youth Awards, which are hosted by the Dannevirke Community Board. These awards recognise and celebrate young people who have made outstanding contributions to our communities through service and leadership. We have received six nominations to date, and the awards ceremony is scheduled for 5 August, with formal invitations to be distributed shortly.

Keshaan recently attended Tararua College’s Sports Exchange with Kuranui College at the start of June. The sports exchange is an annual event that promotes healthy competition and sportsmanship among students. This was an opportunity to be a part of something that already exists that promotes and supports the wellbeing of our Rangatahi within the district.

Overall, it has been a productive few months for the Youth Portfolio. While there has been considerable discussion around local government reform and potential amalgamation, our focus remains unchanged. Regardless of what the future may bring, we are committed to encouraging young people to become active participants in their communities and local democracy, ensuring their voices continue to be heard and valued in the years ahead.



**Attachments**

Nil.



## Report

Date : 18 June 2026  
To : Mayor and Councillors  
Tararua District Council  
From : Keshaan Te Waaka  
Councillor  
Subject : **Portfolio Report - Marae, Kōhanga Reo and Kura**  
Item No : **21**

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### 1. Recommendation

#### 1.1 *That the report from the Councillor dated 18 June 2026 concerning the Portfolio Report - Marae, Kōhanga Reo and Kura be received.*

A significant kaupapa that Cr Erana and I have been undertaking is visiting all the marae across the district. There are eight marae in total, and over the past two months we have visited Te Ahu-a-Turanga Marae, Tama Tū Tama Ora Marae, Whiti Te Rā Marae, and Pahiatua Marae. To date, we have visited six of the eight marae.

These wānanga have been incredible. The experience has felt very grassroots, allowing us to make genuine and meaningful connections with our communities. We have been warmly welcomed at every marae we have visited. Over the coming months, we will be compiling a report that reflects on our visits and the valuable kōrero shared throughout these wānanga.

At the end of April, I attended the ANZAC commemoration at Kaitoki Marae. It was a beautiful event, and I learnt a great deal about the history of the marae while in attendance. A huge mihi to the Kaitoki Marae Committee and the wider whānau for hosting such a meaningful and memorable morning.

For the past few years, Rangitāne Iwi has hosted Kura Reo, a kaupapa dedicated to learning and strengthening Te Reo Māori. This three-day wānanga brings together people from across Aotearoa who are committed to developing their reo Māori skills. Held at Makirikiri Marae, it provides a supportive environment for learning, growth, and connection. I was fortunate to attend the final celebratory kai, where we acknowledged and celebrated

everyone who participated in Kura Reo. It was a warm and heartfelt occasion, and I look forward to seeing this kaupapa continue to flourish.

In May, we organised for council to present information on the amalgamation proposal at Pahiatua Marae. This was requested by many whānau from both Pahiatua Marae and Te Ahu-a-Turanga Marae. The feedback from the hui has been overwhelmingly positive, and attendees have gained a greater understanding of the proposal and its potential implications for our district.

### **Attachments**

Nil.