



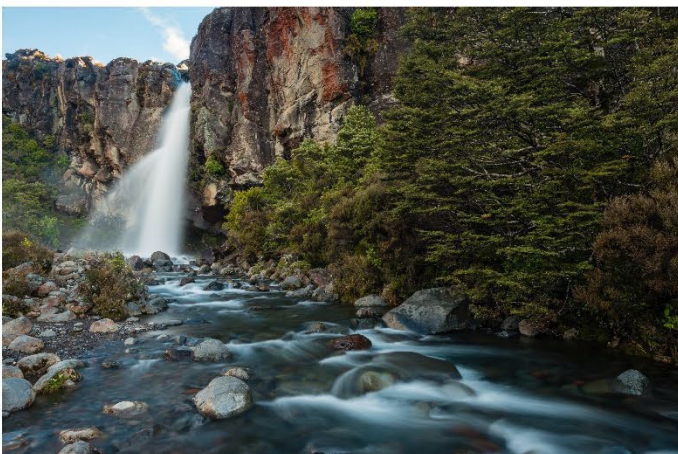
AGENDA RĀRANGI TAKE

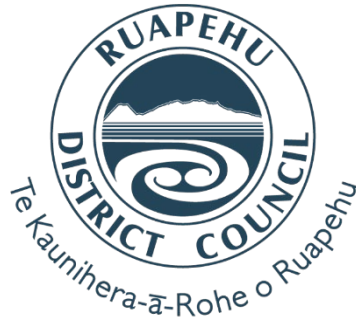
COUNCIL



10AM, Wednesday 22
March 2023

Council Chambers,
59-61 Huia Street,
Taumarunui





RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

NOTICE OF MEETING

A MEETING OF RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 59-61 HUIA STREET, TAUMARUNUI
ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2023, AT 10AM

Members

Mayor	Weston Kirton
Deputy Mayor	Vivienne Hoeta
Councillors	Robyn Gram
	Janelle Hinch
	Channey Iwikau
	Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase
	Lyn Neeson
	Rabbit Nottage
	Brenda Ralph
	Korty Wilson

Clive Manley
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Quorum (5)

**THE PUBLIC BUSINESS PART OF THE AGENDA IS LIVE STREAMED TO
COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

ORDER PAPER

A MEETING OF RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 59-61 HUIA STREET, TAUMARUNUI
ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2023, AT 10AM

PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

1 Opening Karakia | Karakia Timatanga

2 Apologies (includes leave of absence notification)

3 Declarations of Interest

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to review the matters on the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting or of the relevant item of business and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item.

4 Notification of Additional Items

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of Ruapehu District Council

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed. The item(s) may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Ruapehu District Council with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of Ruapehu District Council

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received and discussed, but no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the Ruapehu District Council for further discussion.

5 Confirmation of Order of Meeting

6 Public Forum

A period of up to 30 minutes is set aside for public participation at the commencement of any meeting of the Council. Public forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the Council. Council standing orders do not apply.

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Please Note: The contents of the Reports attached to this Order Paper have yet to be considered by Council, and officer recommendations may be altered or changed by the Council in the process of making the formal Council decisions. This Order Paper may be subject to amendment.

7	Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting(s)	6
	The minutes of the Council Meeting held 22 February 2023 will be put to the Council for confirmation.	

REPORTS

8	Adoption of the Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document and Supporting Materials	16
9	Community and Town Revitalisation Projects Status Report	58
10	Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill	64
11	Retrospective Adoption of the Water Services Legislation Bill Submission	72
12	Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill	82
13	Retrospective Adoption of the Future for Local Government Submission	87
14	Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 28 February 2023	100
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18	Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business (to consider and adopt confidential items)	125

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS | KAUPAPA Ā ROTO

Please Note: The contents of the Reports attached to this Order Paper have yet to be considered by Council, and officer recommendations may be altered or changed by the Council in the process of making the formal Council decisions. This Order Paper may be subject to amendment.

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders

Report for: Decision

Author(s): Tasha Paladin

GOVERNANCE MANAGER

Endorsed By: Clive Manley

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to temporarily suspend Standing Orders to allow Elected Members and the Public to address the Council.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders**; and
- 2 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, temporarily suspends the following Standing Orders to enable members of the Public to address Council, and members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner:
 - (a) 21.2 Time limits on speakers | Te tepenga wā mā ngā kaikōrero
 - (b) 21.5 Members may speak only once | Kotahi noa iho te wā e āhei ai te mema ki te korero; and
 - (c) 21.6 Limits on number of speakers | Ngā tepenga mō te maha o ngā kaikōrero.

The Council received addresses as follows:

RESOLVED

That the Council:

- 1 Pursuant to Section 27(4) Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, reinstates Standing Orders in their entirety for consideration of the Agenda.

Public Forum Guidelines

- 2.1 Council has adopted the following Public Forum Guidelines:
 - (a) A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, will be available for the public forum at each scheduled Council meeting;
 - (b) Speakers can speak for up to **five minutes**. Where the number of speakers presenting exceeds six in total, the chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters;
 - (c) The Public Forum is designed for members of the public to speak about matters of interest to them to Council. It is not intended as a forum to question Council members. Council members may ask questions of speakers to clarify their statement;
 - (d) Members of the public wishing to speak must advise the Chief Executive (or delegate) at least one clear working day prior to the meeting;
 - (e) The Chairperson may refuse applications which are repetitious or offensive and may terminate a speaker in progress where the subject matter is disrespectful or offensive;
 - (f) There are not to be criticisms of individual Council members or individual staff members.

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting

Report for: Decision

Author(s): Tasha Paladin **GOVERNANCE MANAGER**

Endorsed By: Clive Manley **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 February 2023 for confirmation as a true and correct record.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhonga

That the Council:

- 1 Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Wednesday, 22 February 2023 as attached, as a true and correct record

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 20230222 Ruapehu District Council Public Business Minutes

RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

MINUTES

THE MEETING OF RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 37 AYR STREET, OHAKUNE
ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2023, AT 10:00AM

PUBLIC BUSINESS | KAUPAPA O WAHO

Present Tuhinga

Mayor	Weston Kirton	
Deputy Mayor	Vivienne Hoeta	
Councillors	Robyn Gram	
	Janelle Hinch	
	Channey Iwikau	10:21AM Item 8
	Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase	
	Lyn Neeson	
	Rabbit Nottage	
	Brenda Ralph	
	Korty Wilson	

In Attendance I Tae Mai

Clive Manley	Chief Executive
Vini Dutra	Executive Manager Infrastructure
Pauline Welch	Executive Manager Community & Economic Development
Paul Wheatcroft	Executive Manager Communications
Warrick Zander	Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services
Melissa Jackson	Manager Policy & Strategy
Vivita Matanimeke	Strategy & Policy Advisor
Slade Rees	Policy Team Summer Intern
Tasha Paladin	Governance Manager
Jo Kennedy	General Manager, Visit Ruapehu
Robert Milne	Ruapehu Bulletin

By Zoom	Fiona Ferrar	Acting Manager, Finance, Strategy & Governance
	Jochen Schreiber	Manager Project Management Office
	Rina Hepi	Manager Community & Recreational Facilities
	Chris Hankey	Senior Management Accountant
	Peggy Veen	Manager Community & Economic Development
	Carole Colquhoun	Community Property Assets Officer
	Mana Robinson	Financial Accountant
	Karee Cadman	Strategy & Policy Advisor
	Hannah Rix	Executive Assistant Infrastructure
	Tessa Owen	Executive Assistant

1 Opening Karakia | Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Korty Wilson

2 Apologies

The Chairperson invited notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting.

No apologies were received.

3 Declarations of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 Notification of Additional Items

There were no additional items not on the Agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Meeting

The order of the meeting was confirmed.

6 Public Forum: Temporary Suspension and Reinstatement of Standing Orders

There were no requests for Public Participation.

7 Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting**RESOLVED**

Moved: Cr Nottage

Seconded: Cr Neeson

That the Council:

- 1 *Confirms the Public Business Minutes of the Ruapehu District Council meeting held Friday, 16 December 2022 as attached, a true and correct record*

8 Annual Plan 2023/24 Proposal

Note: Councillor Iwikau entered the meeting at 10:21AM

Members received a report presenting the proposal of the Annual Plan 2023/24, including fees and charges, recommending key issues from the proposal for community consultation. Council has faced significant challenges in the preparation of the 2023/24 Annual Plan. This is largely the result of the ongoing impacts of persistently high inflation and the rapid increase in interest rates. Council's Acting Manager, Finance, Strategy & Governance, and Manager Policy & Strategy spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

The recommended rates increase to existing ratepayers is an average of 8 per cent across the District, and the relative impact on different properties was provided in the rating examples report attachment. Any reduction to the proposed increase will have a significant effect on Council's

ability to maintain existing levels of service. The proposed 8 per cent will mean a forecasted debt level of \$60.5Million which is outside Council's self-imposed debt limit of \$57.7Million.

It is expected that the breach in Council's self-imposed debt limit is temporary, and when Three Waters is transferred to Entity B on 30 June 2024, this limit will no longer be breached. Council was advised there will not be an immediate reduction in Council's Three Waters related debt when the transition occurs, this will instead occur over time. This is due to the Government established National Transition Unit (NTU) advising it will not be paying off the total debt where the debt is over \$20Million at 1 July 2024 as will be Ruapehu District Council's case. Instead, it will pay off the interest on the debt until it matures. Future Council documentation should disclose that whilst Council's total debt may be \$60Million, a portion of the debt is assigned to the NTU and the NTU is responsible for the financing costs of that portion.

Traditionally Council has not fully funded depreciation on all Three Water assets, creating a deficit that has been covered by loan funding. From the NTU's perspective, it considers part of Council's existing debt has been used to loan fund operational expenditure, including depreciation, and this provides the NTU with an option not to pay for the portion of debt relating to operational expenditure. It was the officer's recommendation that Council does not increase the potential deficit by making further decisions to reduce funding of depreciation as there is a risk to Council the NTU may opt not to pay the debt. This could place Council in a position where \$4.4Million is not paid by the NTU, and thereby becoming a cost to all ratepayers.

Councillor Neeson acknowledged officer efforts to reduce the proposed rates increase from 25 per cent to 8 per cent, and the associated tough decisions that had to be made. A 1 per cent decrease in rates is the equivalent of \$240,000 in Council spending and if, as a result of the community engagement, the final proposed figure is a 7 per cent average increase, it would require courageous conversations to be had, and potentially a push back on Central Government initiatives. Council felt it was providing the Chief Executive with a clear direction to explore options to make savings across the organisation and encouraged the community to voice their opinions and ideas at the community engagement sessions.

Council's Chief Executive noted there were two options to find these savings; a one-off reduction that would not provide for any real savings, or ongoing recurring savings that can provide a sustainable reduction in rates.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Annual Plan 2023/24: Proposal**;*
- 2 *Agrees to consult with the community regarding an 8 per cent average general rating increase for current ratepayers and the breach of Council's self-imposed debt limit;*
- 3 *Agrees to consult with the community alongside the Annual Plan 2023/24 regarding proposed changes to Council's fees and charges for the 2023/24 financial year; and*
- 4 *Approves the proposed community consultation plan outlined in this report and authorises Council Officers to prepare a consultation document and supporting material for adoption at the March 2023 meeting of the Council.*

9 Adoption of Project Management Policy
--

Note: Councillor Iwikau left the meeting at 10:40AM and re-entered at 10:41AM

Members received a report advising of the creation of the Project Management Policy, created to guide the successful delivery of Council projects. The creation of a Project Management Policy was requested by the previous term's Audit and Risk Committee. Morrison Low was contracted to create the Project Management Policy, to support Council's Project Management processes.

Council's Manager Policy & Strategy and Manager Project Management Office spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Gram
Seconded: Cr Neeson

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Adoption of the Project Management Policy; and***
- 2 ***Adopts the Project Management Policy.***

10 Adoption of the Trees on Council Property (Maintenance and Removal) Policy
--

Members were presented with the Trees on Council Property (Maintenance and Removal) Policy for consideration and adoption. The policy deals with the operational aspects of managing trees on Council property and ensures that Council Officers have the appropriate approval from the respective Community Board before work proceeds. A policy change presented for adoption is the inclusion of Iwi feedback on planned tree works and guidance regarding cultural significance of the any trees.

Council's Manager Community & Recreational Facilities and, Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

It was noted the planting of trees on Council berms was not permitted, however, if Council received complaints about existing trees, the policy provides the option to remove the tree unless the tree provides an amenity value to the community. Where a tree has been planted on a Council berm by a private owner, it would be for Council to negotiate responsibility with the owner.

Following the recent weather event, several trees throughout the District were either downed or felled; officers are working with Civil Defence and contractors to distribute the firewood to communities in need. It was noted that due to changes in regulations, the clearing of felled trees and distribution timber was restricted to qualified arborists and certified transport operators.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Neeson
Seconded: Cr Nottage

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Adoption of the Trees on Council Property (Maintenance and Removal) Policy 2023; and***
- 2 ***Adopts the Trees on Council Property (Maintenance and Removal) Policy 2023.***

11 Smokefree and Vape Free Policy

Members received a report seeking approval for the implementation of a Smokefree and Vapefree Policy in the Ruapehu District. Implementation of the Policy would follow community consultation as this triggers Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Central Government adopted the Smokefree 2025 goal for New Zealand. Whilst most local authorities have adopted smokefree policies, Ruapehu District Council is one of eight councils that currently does not have such a policy.

Council's Manager Policy & Strategy and Policy Team Summer Intern spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

It was noted the policy was not enforceable, this would require a specific Bylaw, instead its goal was to support the Government's Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 initiative through education and community buy-in. Officers would seek to partner with external organisations to support messaging, signage and well-being promotion.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Seconded: Cr Hinch

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Smokefree and Vapefree Policy**;*
- 2 *Approves the creation and development of a Smokefree and Vapefree Policy in the Ruapehu District; and*
- 3 *Instructs the Policy Team to initiate and proceed in the development of the Smokefree and Vapefree Policy for the Ruapehu District.*

12 Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy 2023

Members received a progress report on the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy (the policy) review process. The policy was last reviewed and adopted in 2006. This policy was scheduled to be reviewed on a five-yearly cycle; however, it was not reviewed within the set review period.

The next iteration of the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings policy will be updated to reflect the amendments made to the Act since 2006. The policy will be consulted on with the public, as required by Section 132(2) of the Act and in line with the requirements of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Council's Executive Manager Regulatory and Customer Services, and Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

It was noted that vacant or dilapidated buildings in the District would need to meet the threshold for being classed as Dangerous and Insanitary before Council could intervene.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Wilson

Seconded: Cr Iwikau

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy 2023**.*

13 Implementation of the Ruapehu Bylaw

Members received a progress report of key actions resulting from the implementation of the Ruapehu Bylaw adopted by the previous Council with effect from 1 December 2022.

Council's Executive Manager Regulatory and Customer Services spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Members expressed their concerns that the Freedom Camping Policy had not been consulted. It was noted the Freedom Camping Policy and the Dog Control Policy were consulted upon as part of the Ruapehu Bylaw review. The Freedom Camping Policy was adopted by the previous Council 21 September 2022 and Members instructed the Chief Executive to engage with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association and the Holiday Parks in the District on the topic of Freedom Camping.

It was noted the Ruapehu Bylaw includes areas prohibited for Freedom Camping as opposed to areas where it is permitted. It was felt the area by the Ohakune Pump Track should be amended to include the Old Station Road, as that is where most Freedom Camping occurs during the annual Mardi Gras event. The previous Council resolved to not amend schedule 3 of the Bylaw and schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Policy to include the car park by the Ohakune pump track as a restricted site and consult with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association as appropriate.

Members were advised the maps presented as schedules to the Bylaw could be amended, without consultation, subject to a resolution of Council, however, if Members wished to make material changes to maps, for example, prohibiting Freedom Camping in an area where it is already permitted, due process would need to be exercised.

Members expressed their disappointment in the general approach to consultation and requested future consultation with iwi, hapu, Māori is improved going forward.

Members felt the new clauses requiring the de-sexing and chipping of domestic cats imposed additional costs on cat owners, and the focus should be targeting the reduction of feral cats.

Members were advised if they wished to make fundamental changes to the Bylaw, the consultation process could be re-opened.

RESOLVED

Moved: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

Seconded: Cr Hinch

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Implementation of the Ruapehu Bylaw**; and the points raised at this meeting are considered in the continued implementation of the Ruapehu Bylaw.*

14 Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Performance- based Class 4 Licensing Consultation

Members received a copy of Council's submission to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) consultation on Performance-based Class 4 Licensing for retrospective adoption. Prior to the submission being made, Elected Members were sent a copy of the submission for comment. No feedback was received and accordingly the submission was forwarded to DIA prior to the due date of 31 January 2023.

Council's Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Neeson

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Report Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Performance- based Class 4 Licensing Consultation**; and*
- 2 *Retrospectively adopts Council's submission to the Performance- based Class 4 Licensing Consultation.*

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Iwikau

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Hoeta

- 1 *That the meeting continues past the 2-hour mark.*

15 Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 31 December 2022

Note: Deputy Mayor Hoeta left the meeting at 11:58AM and re-entered at 12:02PM

Members received a report monitoring Council's financial performance against the Annual Plan 2022/23. Council's Executive Manager Finance & Strategy, and Senior Management Accountant spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

It was noted the Mangateitei and Ruapehu Road Bridge Renewals, Ohakune had been delayed and would impact on the level of external subsidy revenue Council would receive. The projects would be further delayed due to the country's bridge specialists being deployed to the regions impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Te Ara Mangawhero and Te Hangaruru Cycle Trails Projects are gearing up for construction, and i-SITE rebranding is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2023.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Seconded: Cr Ralph

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 31 December 2022**.*

The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:30PM and reconvened at 1:15PM

16 Mayor's Monthly Report

Members received a report advising Elected Members of appointments and meetings undertaken by the Mayor during December 2022 and January 2023. The report also outlines fee waiving applications approved (if any) by the Mayor during the same period. Mayor Kirton spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Mayor Kirton advised he had written to the Minister of Tourism and Economic Development to highlight the frustration around progress with Ruapehu Alpine Lifts and its need to run a season pass sale to generate revenue and enable a winter 2023 season.

Mayor Kirton asked members for their views on supporting neighbouring regions in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. Members agreed it was important to return the support neighbouring Councils had previously given to Ruapehu during its own challenging times.

RESOLVED

Moved: Mayor Kirton

Seconded: Cr Kahukura Hadley-Chase

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Mayor's Report: December 2022 and January 2023***
- 2 *Agrees to contribute \$10,000 to a Mayoral Relief Fund to support those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.*

17 Chief Executive's Monthly Report

Members received an update of the organisation's activity over the December 2022 to January 2023 period. The report provides a snapshot of the wider legislative environment and focus from a regional perspective, an overview of the wellbeing of the District, and highlights key achievements and activity over the period, including significant projects from the Chief Executive's perspective since the last Council meeting. Council's Chief Executive spoke to the report and answered Members' questions.

Councillor Nottage expressed his concerns at the frequency of cars parking on the yellow cross hatch outside the Ohakune Fire Station and the risk it created when the appliances were called out to attend an incident. Officers undertook to work together to see what structures could be put in place to prevent further parking outside the Fire Station.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Iwikau

Seconded: Cr Wilson

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the Report **Chief Executive's Report** for information.*

18 Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Reports (Verbal)

Members each gave verbal updates on recent and upcoming events, and other matters of general and topical interest to the District.

19 Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business
--

Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 gives the Council the right by resolution to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on one or more of the grounds contained within that Section.

RESOLVED

Moved: Cr Gram

Seconded: Cr Nottage

That the Council:

- 1 *Receives the **Report Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business**;*
- 2 *Excludes the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting;*
- 3 *Notes the general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting 30 November 2022	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Council Meeting 30 November 2022.	
C2 Confidential Briefing by the Chief Executive	s7(2)(c) To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

The Public Business part of the meeting concluded at 2:32PM.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held this 22nd day of March 2023.

Weston Kirton, JP
MAYOR

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: Adoption of the Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document and Supporting Material

Report for: Decision

Author(s): Melissa Jackson

MANAGER: POLICY & STRATEGY

Endorsed By: Fiona Ferrar

ACTING MANAGER: FINANCE, STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document and supporting material as the basis for community consultation in relation to the Annual Plan 2023/24 for approval of the Council.

Executive Summary | Whakarāpopototanga matua

- 2.1 Ruapehu District Council (Council) is required by legislation to prepare and adopt an Annual Plan for each financial year.
- 2.2 Before adopting an Annual Plan, Council must consult on any significant or material differences from the content of the Long Term Plan (LTP) that relate to the financial year to which the proposed Annual Plan relates.
- 2.3 Council must adopt the 2023/24 Annual Plan by 30 June 2023.
- 2.4 This year's Annual Plan needs to take a balanced approach to meeting the budget shortfall anticipated for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 2.5 Council has faced significant challenges in the preparation of the 2023/24 Annual Plan. This is largely the result of the ongoing impacts of persistently high inflation and the rapid increase in interest rates.
- 2.6 Council has agreed to consult with the community regarding an eight per cent average general rating increase for current ratepayers and the breach of Council's self-imposed debt limit.
- 2.7 Council has agreed to consult with the community alongside the Annual Plan 2023/24 regarding proposed changes to Council's fees and charges for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 2.8 Council has approved a proposed community consultation plan and authorised Council Officers to prepare a consultation document and supporting material for adoption today.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Adoption of the Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document and Supporting Material**;
- 2 Adopts the following supporting material for the 2023/24 Annual Plan Consultation:
 - (a) Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24;
- 3 Adopts the Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document; and
- 4 Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes, including grammar and spelling, to the Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document prior to publication (if necessary).

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Making informed and fiscally responsible decisions is an essential function of the Council. The decisions made in relation to the Annual Plan 2023/24 will have a huge impact on the potential economic wellbeing of the Ruapehu District's communities.</p>			
	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

4.1 Significance

This report triggers Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background | Tuhinga

- 5.1 The process to develop the Council's Annual Plan 2023/24 began in September 2022. A Project Working Group was established, and a project timeline developed. A progress report was tabled at the September 2022 meeting of Council's Audit and Risk Committee, providing the committee with a high-level update regarding the project and a copy of the draft project timeline.

- 5.2 Since the beginning of the new triennium, Council Officers have provided information to Elected Members (Councillors, the Mayor, and Community Board Members) in relation to the operating budget pressures, financial options or levers to mitigate the pressures, and a plan to address the ongoing financial risks the Council is operating under.
- 5.3 Several workshops have been held with Elected Members to discuss the Annual Plan:
- (a) 9 November 2022: Financial Overview and Understanding - Long Term Planning, Annual Planning, Rating (an introductory workshop during the post-election induction period)
 - (b) 7 December 2022: Annual Plan 2023/24 (discussion of the timeline, challenges of this Annual Plan including the operating gap and a high-level analysis of the financial options available to mitigate issues)
 - (c) 1 February 2023: Annual Plan 2023/24 (discussion of items for consultation with the community including rating matters and fees and charges).
- 5.4 Council must consult on any significant or material differences from the content of the Long Term Plan for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 5.5 Council has agreed that the proposed rating position of an increase in general rates of current ratepayers, of an average of eight per cent, and the breach of Council's self-imposed debt limit (the projected proposed debt limit contained in the Long Term Plan is \$57.7Million, however the forecasted debt level is now \$60.5Million) are issues of significant and material difference that will be consulted with the community on, as well as the increases to Council's fees and charges.
- 5.6 A progress report was tabled at the February 2023 meeting of Council's Risk and Assurance Committee (previously the Audit and Risk Committee), providing the committee with an update regarding the project.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

6.1 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

- 6.2 When consulting with the public in relation to an Annual Plan, Council is required to prepare a Consultation Document. Section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA) outlines the purpose and content of a Consultation Document for an Annual Plan.
- 6.3 Council Officers have prepared a Consultation Document in relation to the proposed Annual Plan 2023/24. The Consultation Document presents the required information and is consistent with the requirements for such documents as outlined in section 95A of the LGA. A copy of the Consultation Document is **attached** to this report. The Consultation Document includes the rating examples that were presented to the Council at the February meeting of the Council.

7.1 PROPOSED RATING EXAMPLES

- 7.2 Council Officers have prepared proposed rating examples for each township. The eight per cent rates increase is an average over all current properties levied. The rating examples show the impact on the different categories of property for low, medium, and high values within each area. The value of the properties shows indicative values for each area rather than being for actual properties within our district.

8.1 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES

- 8.2 A copy of the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges is **attached** to this report. This Schedule was attached to the report regarding the Annual Plan 2023/24 that was tabled at the 22 February 2023 meeting of Council.
- 8.3 The only changes to the Schedule are to the table regarding Housing on page 11. There was an error in the 2022/23 Fees and Charges for Council's Miriama Street flats in Taumarunui. The fee the tenants are currently paying is \$135 per week, increasing to \$140 per week for the 2023/24 financial year. Council also has a property at 11 Islington Street, Raetihi that was not included in the previous Fees and Charges document. This property has now been added to the document.
- 8.4 Pursuant to Section 150 of the LGA, when prescribing Fees and Charges, Council is required to give effect to the consultation provisions outlined in Section 82 of the LGA. Accordingly, the proposed changes to Council's Fees and Charges will be consulted on in the proposed 2023/24 Annual Plan consultation process.

9.1 CONSULTATION PLAN

- 9.2 Council approved the Consultation Plan set out in the report regarding the Annual Plan 2023/24 that was tabled at the 22 February 2023 meeting of Council.
- 9.3 In summary, Council has agreed that:
- (a) Community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Section 82 of the LGA, with consultation open from Monday 27 March 2023 and concluding on Wednesday 26 April 2023 (a twenty working day period).
 - (b) Council will accept written feedback from the community, including formal submissions. The community will have the chance to discuss their views with Council Officers at several public meetings. Communication regarding the consultation will be made utilising Council's social media channels, radio, the local newspapers, and Council's website. A formal hearing will not be held in relation to the consultation.
 - (c) Council Officers will collate and analyse all written submissions received within the consultation period and prepare a deliberation report for discussion at the 25 May 2023 meeting of Council that outlines the results of the community consultation. The Council will then complete the final decision-making process ahead of the adoption of the Annual Plan 2023/24 at the 28 June 2023 meeting of Council.

Next Actions | Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

- 10.1 Community Consultation will occur between Monday 27 March 2023 and Wednesday 26 April 2023.
- 10.2 Council Officers will prepare a Deliberation Report for discussion at the 25 May 2023 meeting of Council where the Council will complete the final decision-making process.
- 10.3 The Annual Plan 2023/24 will be adopted at the 28 June 2023 meeting of Council.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document
- 2 Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu
Ruapehu District Council



Annual Plan 2023-2024



Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation Document

Have your say.

Consultation is open from Monday 27 March until Wednesday 26 April 2023

Content.

Mayor's introduction to Annual Plan with comment on key issues	Pages 4 - 5
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\$4.12m Better Off Funding confirmation	Page 10
Tourism	Page 11
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Feedback Form and options for having your say	Page 18



Key points.

- **Proposed 8% average rate increase and debt of \$60.5m to maintain levels of service and fiscal responsibility.**
- **Proposed increases to fees and charges required due to inflation and to maintain cost recovery.**
- **Operational spending of \$51m and \$21.2m on capital investment.**
- **Debt of \$60.5m exceeds self-imposed 2x rates revenue limit but under Local Government Funding Agency prudent debt level of \$68.9m.**
- **When new multi-regional water entities take over water services and associated debt from 1 July 2024 Council debt will be within self-imposed debt limit.**
- **The high inflationary environment with market pressures and rising interest rates are the underlying story to the Annual Plan budget.**

Proposals we would like feedback on.

1. **Proposed 8% average rate increase.**
2. **Proposed increases in Council's fees and charges.**
3. **Council exceeding our self-imposed debt limit of 2x rates revenue.**
4. **Anything else relating to the Annual Plan.**

The Annual Plan outlines our 2023/2024 work programme and funding.

8% avg. rate rise to maintain services and work programme

Council is responsible for a wide range of infrastructure and services that our communities and visitors to the district are reliant on.

Our Annual Plan sets out how we plan to deliver these services and infrastructure for the coming 2023/2024 financial year and how it will be funded.

In the 2021/2031 Long Term Plan we had forecast a 3% average rate increase for the 2023/2024 financial year. Unfortunately, increasing costs as discussed in this Consultation Document has required Council to review our budget requirements.

We are now proposing an average 8% rate rise and increases in fees and charges to recover cost increases over the last couple of years and a debt level of \$60.5m for 2023/2024.

The proposed 8% average rate rise and increases in fees and charges will provide a sustainable level of funding to maintain reliable services while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Challenging headwinds

In setting the proposed rate and fees and charges increases Council has been very mindful of the cost of living issues confronting our communities.

Unfortunately, Council is not immune to the same economic pressures and is facing a number of operational headwinds including; high inflation, rising interest rates and debt servicing costs, labour market pressures along with increasing supplier, construction and depreciation costs.

The combination of these cost increases and other pressures on Council saw a rate rise starting point of 25% for the 2023/2024 Annual Plan rating year.

The increases in the Official Cash Rate (OCR) by the Reserve Bank to combat inflation has meant we require a 6% rate rise for higher interest payments before we even start to cover supplier contract commitments and other factors.

Many of our major contracts for maintaining critical infrastructure or services are linked to an inflation index relevant to that industry.

By way of example the waste management contract has increased by 18% while inflation in the infrastructure area is up 15% both underpinned by significant jumps in operating costs such as fuel, materials and labour.

As Council's contracts for these types of services adjust automatically in response to inflation pressures we have no choice but to absorb and then pass on the increase.

Another impact of high inflation is that it pushes up asset valuations and with it depreciation costs which has implications for areas such as roading which is a significant driver of rural rates.

In order to keep the rate rise to a minimum staff undertook a line-by-line budget review looking for potential savings and other mitigation options for Council to consider.

Parks and Reserves are provided by Council's Community Facilities activity.



Balancing rate increases against maintaining local spending

While any increase in rates and fees and charges adds to the cost of living for our communities, it is important to recognise the positive impact Council spending has on our local economy.

Council has a policy of spending local rates locally wherever possible. If our rate income was to drop significantly so would our spending on local services.

This would have an immediate impact on local businesses and communities with the result that any recessionary impacts and our recovery from them would be slower and more painful.

This funding proposal for the Annual Plan will allow us to continue providing essential services and infrastructure that people rely on every day helping ensure their future well-being and security.

Increase in fees and charges helps keep rates in check

As a general philosophy Council supports 'user pays' for funding services over rating. This ensures that users of specific services pay the cost directly rather than all ratepayers as a whole.

Council's line-by-line cost review also included fees and charges to ensure they fairly reflected the cost of providing the service and were not out of line with the sector.

The review found that there had been no increase in many fees and charges over the last two financial years (2021/22 and 2022/23) and with the current high general inflation adjustments were unavoidable for most services.

Council is proposing increases in fees and charges by around 10%. While this is above the headline CPI inflation rate of 7.2% it comprises an element of catch-up from previous years.

The Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24 can be found via the QR code or in the Document Links panel on the Annual Plan 2023/24 consultation page at: ruapehudc.govt.nz (direct link via the homepage)

Debt exceeding self-imposed limit but within LGFA

While \$60.5m in debt exceeds Council's self-imposed debt limit of 2x rates revenue (\$57.7m) it is within our Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) debt limit of \$68.9m.

When three waters debt transfers to the new multi-regional entity we will be within the self-imposed 2x rates revenue debt limit.

Have your say

We have worked hard to manage the rate increase by keeping costs under tight control, managing debt servicing and depreciation costs, by carefully scheduling major capital projects, and taking full advantage of any Government funding opportunities.

While the proposed average 8% rate increase is higher than we would like with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) being over 7% it is considered an absolute minimum to meet increasing costs without impacting on essential services and infrastructure needs.

Consultation on our Annual Plan proposals is open from Mon 27 March to Wed 26 April.

Please take some time to inform yourself of the issues and tell us what you think to help inform Council's final decision.



Weston Kirton
MAYOR JP
RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL



Inflation and market pressures on projects.

Planning for major capital projects requires Council to work out timing, budgets and funding well in advance of the project commencing.

While Government financial support has been key to enabling our work programme it has not been enough to offset the significant construction sector inflation.

The long tail of COVID19 disruption on material costs, availability and labour markets has had a major impact on our capital works programme pushing costs up and projects out.

It has required Council to adjust the timing of our planned work programme to keep within the approved expenditure.

These project timing adjustments are impacting on all our activity areas but most notably in three waters and land transport.

Three waters

The three waters investment programme in the 2021/2031 Long Term Plan set out major water capital works for National Park, Ohakune, Ohura, Owhango, Raetihi and Taumarunui worth \$32.1m, wastewater projects worth \$12.9m and stormwater worth \$2.7m.

In the two years since the Long Term Plan we have made significant progress against this work plan with major works on Taumarunui's underground three waters infrastructure, the Matapuna Water Treatment Plant and the Hikumutu Wastewater Treatment Plant, upgrades to the Ohura Water Treatment Plant, a new Raetihi water reservoir, and starting replacement of the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant amongst other maintenance and renewals.

The impact of cost increases over this period has however had an impact on three waters projects.

Costs for the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant have more than doubled from \$3.5m in the Long Term Plan to \$9.6m.

Work on the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant is now well advanced with a planned completion date in the current financial year (June 2023).

Three waters funding in this 2023/2024 Annual Plan is \$5.746m for:

- \$3.6m for drinking water projects including on-going work on Taumarunui's underground infrastructure notably the Hakiaha St watermain, upgrade to the National Park and Owhango Water Treatment Plant and a new Owhango reservoir,
- \$2m for wastewater projects notably the Ohakune wastewater main refurbishment, and
- \$146,000 for stormwater focused on network maintenance.

Land Transport

Council's largest area of expenditure continues to be on land transport with \$9.9m budgeted for capital works in the coming year and another \$22.8m on operational spending.

The roading programme is subsidised by Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency - NZTA) through their Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) which pays 74% of all general works.

The exception is the Ohakune Mountain Road where there is a 100% subsidy until the end of 2023/2024 financial year when it will drop to 74% and emergency works where Waka Kotahi pay 94% for anything above \$1.4m.

In response to lower income from road user charges since COVID19, and to fund strategic initiatives such as Road to Zero, Waka Kotahi NZTA have reset their funding priorities for certain types of works in rural communities.

This has required the roading team to change investment priorities and reduce funding available for minor improvements in rural roads in favour of more urban issues such as road safety and public transport initiatives (inline with Waka Kotahi strategies).

Waka Kotahi's change in investment focus will see Council developing our inaugural Speed Management Plan which is now a mandatory requirement for all road controlling authorities.

The first Speed Management Plan will consult on reducing speed limits around schools and associated townships.

Resourcing issues have delayed the replacement of the Ruapehu Rd and Mangateitei Rd rail over-bridges near Ohakune.

Work on the Ruapehu Rd rail over-bridge is now underway with completion scheduled for August 2023.

The Matahiwi Track Suspension bridge project has also been delayed as Waka Kotahi work through issues with the road alignment due to geological issues.

Total Land Transport spending in this 2023/2024 Annual Plan is \$9.9m.



Inflation has seen the cost of the new Ohakune Water Treatment Plant grow from \$3.5m in the Long Term Plan to \$9.6m. This has required Council to adjust the timing on other three waters projects.

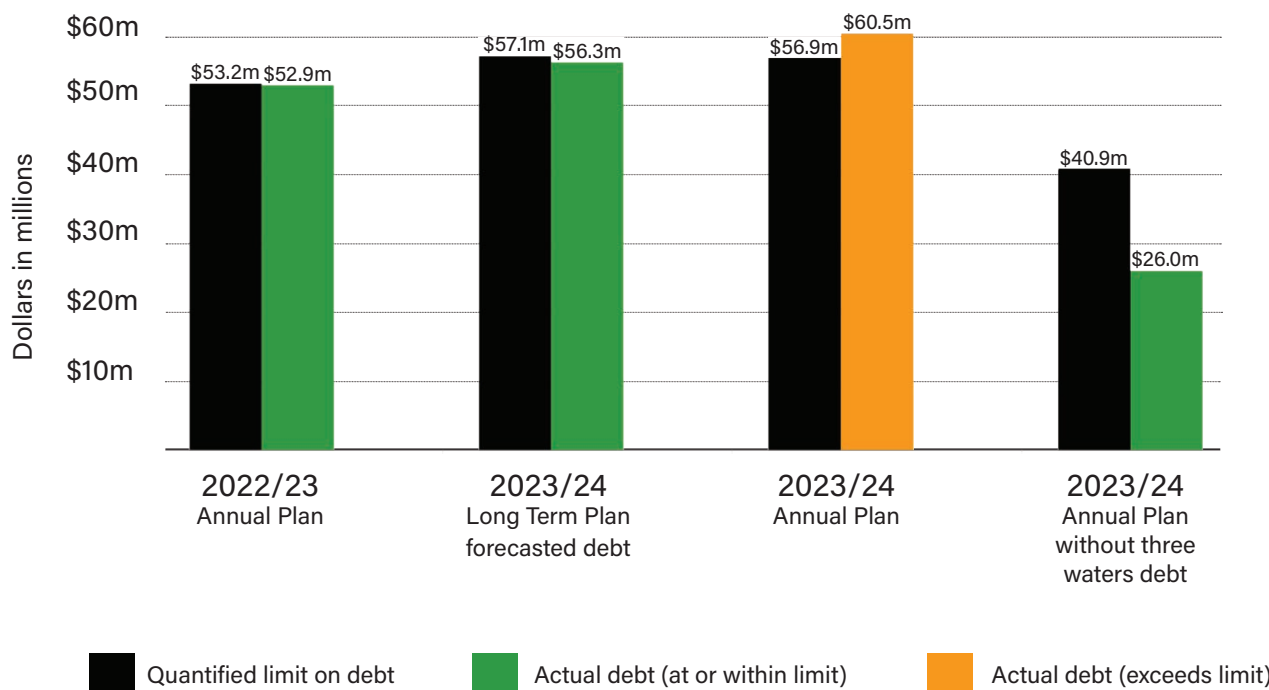


The Annual Plan three waters work programme includes on-going upgrade work on Taumarunui's underground infrastructure and the Hikumu Wastewater Treatment Plant.



The Annual Plan land Transport work programme includes \$1.7m for sealed road resurfacing, \$2.4m for pavement rehabilitation and \$1.1m for unsealed road metalling.

Debt position and three waters.



Debt affordability benchmarks

- This graph compares Council's actual borrowing with our self-imposed quantified limit on borrowing of 2x rates revenue.
- While \$60.5m in debt exceeds Council's self-imposed debt limit of 2x rates revenue it is within the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) prudent debt covenant of \$68.9m.
- When three waters debt transfers to the new multi-regional entity we will also be within the self-imposed 2x rates revenue debt limit.

As consulted on in the current Long Term Plan 2021/2031 Council has been implementing an accelerated three waters capital works programme to bring our drinking water standards up to that required by the new Water Services Regulator - Taumata Arowai.

The three waters capital works has required Council to borrow significantly more but under the Government reform proposals when the new multi-regional entities take over our water services from 1 July 2024 they will also take over all our water related debt.

In the interim however, we will see Council debt projections reach higher levels than we would like.

In the coming financial year our debt level is forecast to hit \$60.5m which will exceed Council's self-imposed debt limit of two times rates revenue (\$57.75m).

However, when three waters debt is transferred to the new water entity our debt limit will not be breached and we will be within the limit.

Council is still in discussion with Government on the total amount of three waters debt that will be taken off our books on 1 July 2024.

At this stage the starting position as at 1 July 2022 is \$16m.

Council's borrowing associated with the \$16m and any three waters capital works being undertaken this financial year and

next will remain on Council's books until it matures at which time it will transfer to the new entity. In the interim the interest will be paid by Government.

It is also worth noting that our debt limit with the Local Government Funding Agency is for our total borrowing to be no more than 175% of our total revenue.

For the 2023/2034 financial year that would mean a debt ceiling of \$68.9m and we remain within this limit.

Future of three waters reform

Although the Government has indicated some potential refinements to water reform they have also confirmed their commitment to the current direction.

Minister for Local Government, Kevin McAnulty, is seeking to put forward a proposal to Cabinet shortly on water reform which will:

- Seek the right balance between economic and financial sustainability,
- Strengthen the links between local communities and their water services,
- Will look to address the concerns of regional and rural communities, in particular the local link to the entities.
- Recognise the importance of Te Tiriti and the role of mana whenua in the system and how that would be managed.

The intention is for the Minister to speak with colleagues prior to consulting with the local government sector and iwi before taking a proposal to Cabinet.

The indications from these statements is that any changes will be around local influence on the new entities and the role of iwi rather than any substantive changes to the overall model design notably and the transfer of water services to new multi-regional entities.

The Minister's stated intention to consult further with local government and iwi may mean changes to some timings. Until we are advised otherwise Council is continuing to work toward the current transition plan as instructed by Government and the NTU.

Despite any uncertainties from the above the new Water Services Regulator (Taumata Arowai) has made it clear that all councils must meet the required water standards.

What if the Govt changes?

If National wins in the October election they have stated they would keep water assets under local control but would also set strict water quality standards and require councils to invest in the ongoing maintenance of their vital water infrastructure.

As such, no matter who is in government after the October election the requirement for councils to meet water quality standards, and invest in water infrastructure, means our three waters investment strategy will leave us well placed for whatever model we need to adhere to.

How water is paid for the bigger issue

The bigger issue for Ruapehu is around repayment of water debt (as promised) and whether there is a commitment to price harmonization (everyone paying the same irrespective of where they live).

Should the reforms not proceed, or be delayed from what is currently outlined, there is a risk Council would have to keep three waters debt on our balance sheet longer.

If price harmonization is not implemented Ruapehu would miss out on the pricing benefits offered by the economies of scale a large regional entity can deliver.

Having our water costs effectively subsidised by being spread across a significantly larger number of regional water users was a key attraction of water reform for smaller councils.

The adoption of price harmonization where everyone pays the same is critically important if Ruapehu is to benefit from being part of a multi-regional entity



\$4.12m Better Off funding confirmed.

As part of the three waters reform the Government developed a \$2 billion 'Better Off' funding package for councils to invest in their future and lift community wellbeing.

Ruapehu's share of the \$2 billion package is \$16.4m available in two separate payments of \$4.12m (Tranche 1) and \$12.35m (Tranche 2).

In September last year we consulted on a number of ideas we had for the Better Off funding and invited the community to submit any ideas of their own.

Three funding proposals accepted

Following the consultation and consideration by Council we applied for Tranche 1 funding toward three proposals being:

1. Waimarino social housing upgrade - \$540,000
2. A contestable fund of \$500,000 for projects to be chosen from the ones submitted by the community as part of the consultation last year. A process still needs to be developed for how the \$500,000 will be allocated, and,
3. \$3.08m toward existing Town Revitalisation projects.

We have now received confirmation that we will receive the first \$4.12m (Tranche 1) of our Better Off funding.

Township projects in the Annual Plan

The Community Facilities budget which covers Township Revitalisation has \$1.2m allocated to it in this 2023/2024 Annual Plan.



Confirmation that Council will receive the \$4.12m from Tranche 1 from the Better Off Fund secures \$3m toward township revitalisation projects. The Annual Plan has budgeted funding to progress work in National Park, Ohakune, Raetihi and Tamarunui.

Tourism.

While agriculture is still Ruapehu's largest area of economic activity tourism continues to provide a large area of opportunity that provides critical resilience.

Advocating for RAL and Chateau

Because of the importance of the snow industry and iconic hospitality institutions such as the Chateau Council has been working hard behind the scenes advocating for their support from Government and others.

Isites struggle with staffing issues

Like many other businesses the isites are currently struggling with staff shortages and sickness which is affecting their operations.

This has created issues in maintaining normal opening hours. While we are actively recruiting for staff due to the current environment we anticipate that these issues may persist over the next little while.



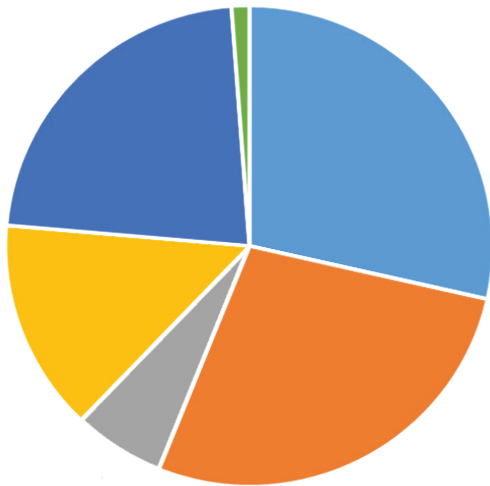
Annual Plan

The Annual Plan has \$3m budgeted for work on the Te Ara Mangawhero and Missing Links cycle trails projects as well as the Ohakune to Raetihi cycle trail.



Funding sources

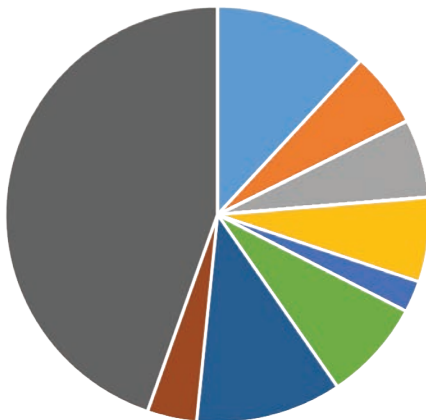
- Council uses a range of income sources to pay for its activities including rates, grants and subsidies, fees and charges, and other minor sources such as development contributions, interest and dividends.



Other	\$0.6m	1%
General Rates & Annual Uniform Charge (UAGC)	\$14.5m	29%
Targeted Rates	\$14.0m	28%
Fees and Charges	\$3.0m	6%
Operational Subsidies & Grants	\$7.2m	14%
Capital Subsidies & Grants	\$11.4m	22%
Total:	\$50.7m	

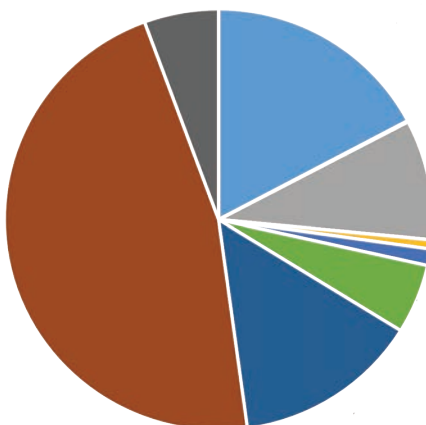
Spending by activity

Operational spending



Water Supply	\$6.0m	12%
Solid Waste	\$3.0m	6%
Wastewater	\$3.1m	6%
Regulation	\$3.3m	6%
Storm Water	\$1.2m	2%
Community Support	\$4.0m	8%
Community Facilities	\$5.7m	11%
Leadership	\$1.9m	4%
Land Transport	\$22.8m	45%
Total:	\$51m	

Capital spending



Support/Overheads	\$1.2m	6%
Water Supply	\$3.6m	17%
Waste Water	\$2.0m	9%
Stormwater	\$146k	1%
Community Support	\$268k	1%
Community Facilities	\$1.1m	5%
Leadership	\$3.0m	14%
Land Transport	\$9.9m	47%
Solid Waste	\$16k	>1%
Total:	\$21.2m	

- Capital expenditure is the money Council spends on providing or improving long-life assets such as buildings, water and land transport infrastructure, etc. and is debt funded.
- Funding by debt means the cost of the asset is paid over a longer period by both present and future ratepayers who will benefit from it.

For every \$100 in rates Council is proposing to spend.



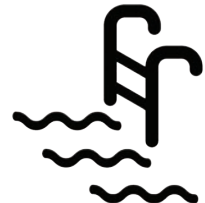
Land Transport
\$22.27



Drinking Water
\$15.62



Community Support
\$13.60



Community Facilities
\$14.81



Wastewater
\$8.23



Leadership
\$6.57



Regulation
\$7.97



Storm Water
\$4.24



Kerbside Collection
\$5.36



Transfer Stations
\$1.33

The Resource Recovery Centres at the Taumarunui and Ohakune Transfer Stations are popular with the community. As well as diverting many tonnes of material that would otherwise have gone to landfill their sales support local employment and Council's Zerowaste 2040 vision.



Rating examples.



Residential properties

Township RESIDENTIAL	Value Range	Capital Value Dollars	Rate Requirement Dollars	Rate Change Dollars	Rate Change Percent
Kakahi	Low	130,000	1,348	128	10.5%
Kakahi	Medium	255,000	1,703	157	10.2%
Kakahi	High	380,000	2,059	186	9.9%
National Park	Low	200,000	3,008	147	5.1%
National Park	Medium	400,000	3,577	193	5.7%
National Park	High	600,000	4,146	240	6.1%
Ohakune	Low	200,000	3,008	147	5.1%
Ohakune	Medium	450,000	3,719	205	5.8%
Ohakune	High	700,000	4,430	263	6.3%
Ohura	Low	50,000	2,105	173	9.0%
Ohura	Medium	150,000	2,389	196	8.9%
Ohura	High	250,000	2,674	219	8.9%
Owhango	Low	150,000	2,299	174	8.2%
Owhango	Medium	275,000	2,654	203	8.3%
Owhango	High	400,000	3,010	232	8.3%
Pipiriki	Low	100,000	1,861	81	4.6%
Pipiriki	Medium	150,000	2,003	93	4.8%
Pipiriki	High	200,000	2,146	104	5.1%
Raetihi	Low	100,000	2,723	124	4.8%
Raetihi	Medium	225,000	3,079	153	5.2%
Raetihi	High	350,000	3,434	182	5.6%
Rangataua	Low	200,000	2,146	104	5.1%
Rangataua	Medium	350,000	2,572	139	5.7%
Rangataua	High	500,000	2,999	174	6.1%
Taumarunui	Low	100,000	2,723	124	4.8%
Taumarunui	Medium	300,000	3,292	170	5.5%
Taumarunui	High	500,000	3,861	217	5.9%
Waiouru	Low	200,000	3,008	147	5.1%
Waiouru	Medium	300,000	3,292	170	5.5%
Waiouru	High	400,000	3,577	193	5.7%





Rural properties

Township RURAL	Value Range	Capital Value Dollars	Rate Requirement Dollars	Rate Change Dollars	Rate Change Percent
Kakahi	Low	500,000	2,310	192	9.1%
Kakahi	Medium	2,500,000	7,998	654	8.9%
Kakahi	High	4,500,000	13,687	1,116	8.9%
National Park	Low	500,000	2,310	192	9.1%
National Park	Medium	1,000,000	3,732	307	9.0%
National Park	High	1,500,000	5,154	423	8.9%
Ohakune	Low	1,000,000	3,732	307	9.0%
Ohakune	Medium	3,500,000	10,842	885	8.9%
Ohakune	High	5,000,000	15,109	1,232	8.9%
Ohura	Low	500,000	2,310	192	9.1%
Ohura	Medium	2,250,000	7,287	596	8.9%
Ohura	High	4,000,000	12,265	1,001	8.9%
Owhango	Low	1,000,000	3,732	307	9.0%
Owhango	Medium	3,500,000	10,842	885	8.9%
Owhango	High	5,000,000	15,109	1,232	8.9%
Pipiriki	Low	500,000	2,310	192	9.1%
Pipiriki	Medium	1,750,000	5,865	481	8.9%
Pipiriki	High	3,000,000	9,420	770	8.9%
Raetihi	Low	1,000,000	3,732	307	9.0%
Raetihi	Medium	3,500,000	10,842	885	8.9%
Raetihi	High	5,000,000	15,109	1,232	8.9%
Taumarunui	Low	1,000,000	3,732	307	9.0%
Taumarunui	Medium	3,500,000	10,842	885	8.9%
Taumarunui	High	6,000,000	17,953	1,463	8.9%
Waiouru	Low	1,000,000	3,732	307	9.0%
Waiouru	Medium	3,500,000	10,842	885	8.9%
Waiouru	High	6,000,000	17,953	1,463	8.9%





Commercial properties

Township COMMERCIAL	Value Range	Capital Value Dollars	Rate Requirement Dollars	Rate Change Dollars	Rate Change Percent
Kakahi	Low	75,000	2,007	139	7.4%
Kakahi	Medium	100,000	2,110	146	7.4%
Kakahi	High	125,000	2,214	153	7.4%
National Park	Low	300,000	4,015	102	2.6%
National Park	Medium	900,000	6,504	273	4.4%
National Park	High	1,500,000	8,992	444	5.2%
Ohakune	Low	500,000	4,879	148	3.1%
Ohakune	Medium	1,250,000	7,990	362	4.7%
Ohakune	High	2,000,000	11,100	576	5.5%
Ohura	Medium	100,000	3,185	45	1.4%
Ohura	Medium	200,000	3,600	74	2.1%
Ohura	Medium	300,000	4,015	102	2.6%
Owhango	Low	150,000	3,393	59	1.8%
Owhango	Medium	250,000	3,808	88	2.4%
Owhango	High	350,000	4,222	116	2.8%
Raetihi	Low	100,000	3,220	80	2.5%
Raetihi	Medium	250,000	3,842	122	3.3%
Raetihi	High	400,000	4,464	165	3.8%
Taumarunui	Low	500,000	4,879	148	3.1%
Taumarunui	Medium	1,000,000	6,953	291	4.4%
Taumarunui	High	1,500,000	9,027	433	5.0%
Waiouru	Low	150,000	3,427	94	2.8%
Waiouru	Medium	450,000	4,672	179	4.0%
Waiouru	High	750,000	5,916	265	4.7%



Assistance with rates.

- **Council has a number of ways in which we can assist people who are struggling to pay their rates.**
- **The important thing is to not leave things too late and to contact Council as soon as there is an issue so we can discuss available options.**

Direct Debit

Making smaller, regular payments in weekly, fortnightly or monthly arrangements by Direct Debit avoids getting a large quarterly rates bill and makes a staying on top of your rates a lot easier.

Rates Postponement Policy

This is for residential properties occupied by the ratepayer as their normal place of residence. The Policy is designed to provide temporary rates relief in cases of extreme financial hardship.

Rates Remission Policy

This Policy allows for the remission of rates for a range of specific situations for homeowners under circumstances of extreme financial hardship.

Māori Freehold Land Rates Remission Policy

This Policy allows for the remission of rates on Māori freehold land.

Rates Rebate Scheme

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates. You must apply for the rebate every rating year even if you have successfully received a rebate in previous years.

More info.

For more information on these options please call Council on **07 895 8188** or see our website: ruapehudc.govt.nz





Feedback form.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the issues raised in the Consultation Document and providing your feedback. Your views will form part of Council considerations before a final decision is made on the 2023/24 Annual Plan budget.

NOTE: Submissions to this Annual Plan are public documents.

All feedback must be received by Council by Wednesday 26 April 2023

Name:

.....

Organisation (if applicable):

.....

Postal address:

.....

Best daytime contact number:

.....

Email:

.....

Do you have any comments on the proposed rates increase?

Do you have any comments on the proposed fees and charges?

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Do you have any comments on Council exceeding our self-imposed debt limit of 2x rates income?

Do you have any other comments in relation to the 2023/24 Annual Plan?

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Have your say.

When you have completed the Feedback Form you can either:

- Post it for free to: **Freepost 492, Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946**
- or **drop in at your nearest Council office** (Taumarunui - 59-63 Huia Street, Ohakune - 37 Ayr Street, Raetihi - Corner of Seddon & Duncan Street).

You can also give feedback on-line via:

- Council's website: **ruapehudc.govt.nz**
- Use your smartphone and **QR code** to go direct to the on-line feedback form!
- Facebook page: **facebook.com/ruapehudc** or Instagram: **instagram.com/ruapehu.council**
- Email: **consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz** with 'Annual Plan' in the subject line



FEES & CHARGES 2023-24 / COVER

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Alcohol Licensing Fees

Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013

	2022/23	2023/24
On Licence, Off Licence, Club Licence	Fees vary – see below	No change
Variation or Cancellation of Conditions of On/Off/Club Licence	Fees vary – see below	No change
Special Licence	Fees vary – see below	No change
Temporary Authority	\$296.70	No change
Temporary Licence During Repairs from Other than Licensed Premises	\$296.70	No change
Manager's Certificate (new or renewal)	\$316.25	No change
BYO or On/Off Licence for Caterers or Auctioneers (new or renewal)	Contact Council	No change
Replacement of Certificate	Contact Council	No change
Renewal of On/Off/Club Licence	Contact Council	No change
Planning Certificate for new and renewal applications (for the purpose of Section 100(f) Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012)	\$150 <i>Refer Resource Management Fees</i>	\$165.00
Building Certificate for new and renewal applications (for the purpose of Section 100(f) Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012)	\$100 <i>Refer Building Fees</i>	\$110.00
Extract of Register (ARLA or DLC)	\$57.50	No change
Appeal to ARLA	\$517.50	No change
Public Notice Administration Fee	\$80.00	\$88

Special Licence Categories

These are divided into three categories, small, medium and large events (Class 3, 2 and 1). The size and the number of events determine the category. The events on one Special Licence must be similar in nature.

	People in attendance	2022/23	2023/24
Small (Class 3) One or 2 events that are of a small size	Less than 100	\$63.25	No changes
Medium (Class 2) 1 – 3 medium size events, or 3 – 12 small size events	100 – 400	\$207.00	No changes
Large (Class 1) 1 large event, or more than 3 medium events, or more than 12 small events	More than 400	\$575.00	No changes

Bank Fees

	2022/23	2023/24
Dishonour fee for foreign cheques	As Per Bank Charges	No change

Building Inspection Services

Building Act 2004 and Local Government Act 2002

	2022/23	2023/24
<i>The fees set for actual and reasonable costs will be reduced, as appropriate, when a Building Certifier undertakes work on behalf of the applicant. Building Consent fees are categorised in the following schedule for work up to \$300,000. Actual and reasonable cost will be charged for works over this value.</i>		
Evaluation or pre-lodgement meeting (first hour free) Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Inspection Per Inspection	\$150 (norm) \$235 (final)	\$165 \$259
Re-inspection Per Inspection	\$150 (norm) \$235 (final)	\$165 \$259
Mileage for re-inspection Per Km/Per Re-Inspection	.76c	No change
Work Example (Indicative Only)		
Project Information Memorandum (PIM) only	\$310	\$341

2023/24 Fees and Charges

Minor Works	Demolition, Removal, Wastewater Connections, Swimming / Spa Pool Fences	\$562.75	\$619
Fire Installation	Free Standing Fire	\$512.75	\$564
	Inbuilt Fire	\$602.75	\$663
Additional Inspections		\$150	\$165
New Alterations	Garages, Carports, Conservatory, Covered Yards and Farm Sheds	\$893.75	\$983
Less than \$5,000		\$688.75	\$758
\$5,001 - \$10,000	Room Extensions, Minor Kitchen and Bathroom Alterations	\$1,242.75	\$1,367
\$10,001 - \$20,000	Serviced Garages, Relocations, Un-serviced Sleep-Outs	\$1,297.75	\$1,428
All Building Work	\$20,000 - \$60,000	\$2,227.75	\$2,632
	\$60,001 - \$300,000	\$2,392.75	\$3,254
	\$300,001 - \$600,000	\$2,792.75	\$4,106
	over \$600,000 (requires deposit)	\$2,957.75	\$5,000
Accreditation Levy	per \$1,000 total value of work	\$1.40	\$2
BRANZ Levy for GST inclusive work for applications of \$20,000 or more		\$1.00	\$1.00
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Levy for GST inclusive work for applications of \$20,444 or more	per \$1,000 total value of work	\$1.75	\$1.75
Assessing Amended Plans		\$260	\$286
	Plus Processing and Inspection Fees		
Exempt Building Works (includes assessment and filing fee)		\$200	\$220
Exempt Building Works filing fee only		\$55	\$60
Change of Use Application		Actual Cost	
<i>Note: All Building Consent applications requiring Compliance Schedule must include the Compliance Schedule application. The above fees do not include the cost of checks by Structural Engineers or Fire & Emergency New Zealand</i>			
Compliance Schedule - New		\$360	\$396
Compliance Schedule – Updated		\$150	\$165
Certificate of Acceptance		\$1,127 Plus Building Consent Application fee Plus Cost of Inspection	\$1,240.00
Certificate of Public Use		\$200	\$220
Extension of Time for Building Consent		\$90	\$99
Photocopying		Refer Photocopying, Laminating, Printing, Media, Faxing, Scanning Charges	
Building Warrant of Fitness (BWOFF)			
Building WOF Audits		\$150	\$165
Incomplete/Expired Building WOF	Per Hour	\$125	\$138.00
Building WOF Annual Renewal Fee		\$65	\$72
Building WOF Second Reminder		\$65	\$72
Miscellaneous Building Inspection Fees			
Hard copy Building Consent Lodgement Fee		\$200.00	\$220
Hard Copy Building Consent Issued Document Fee		Refer Photocopying, Laminating, Printing, Media, Faxing, Scanning Charges	
Infringement Notice – Issuing Fee		\$150	\$165
Notice to fix – Issuing Fee		\$150	\$165
Desktop audit (first 15 minutes free)	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Inspection and/or further investigations	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Monthly report of Building Consents issued	Per Annum	\$360	\$396
Building Control			
Building File Charges (file retrieval fee)		Refer to File Charges	

2023/24 Fees and Charges

Professional Advice	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Photocopying		Refer Photocopying, Laminating, Printing, Media, Faxing, Scanning Charges	
Safe & Sanitary Report – to be supplied (building work 1992) (Council filing fee only)		\$85	\$94.00
Record of Title		\$15	\$17
Council Officers' hourly rate	Administration	\$125	\$138
	Building Control Officer	\$150	\$165
Code of Compliance Bond (potentially refundable – on completion of works)		\$500	\$550
Building Certificate – Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 Section 100f		\$100	\$110
Inspections of building for compliance with Section 224f RMA		\$235	\$259
Street Damage Bond – includes roads, street signage, street lighting, kerb & channelling, culvert ends, footpaths and water and sewer connections. Relocation of Buildings and Other Structures (<i>Sections 12 & 150(6), Local Government Act 2002</i>) Other Building Works – to be assessed by Land Transport Manager at time of Building Consent Application Plus 2 x inspection fees (1 before commencement of works, 1 at end of works) – non-refundable		\$5,000 Bond As Assessed \$300	\$5,500

Cats

Cat – application fees

2023/24

Application is made to Council for a licence to keep additional cat(s) at the property described below pursuant to the Ruapehu Bylaw 2022

Processing fee

\$65

Cemeteries

Cemeteries – Interment Fees	2022/23	2023/24
<i>(All interment fees include a Cemetery Record fee)</i>	Fee Regardless of Age	
Ashes	\$275	\$302
Stillborn Child	Nil	Nil
Standard Depth (1.5m)	\$620	\$990
Extra Depth	\$180	\$207
Extra cost for Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays	\$145	\$166
Disinterment Fee	\$1,240	\$1,426
Cemeteries - Sale of Plots		
Burial Plot – Taumarunui, Manunui, Ohakune and Raetihi	\$1,450	\$1,668
Burial Plot – other cemeteries	\$860	\$1,100
Ashes Plot or Stillborn Child Plot – all cemeteries	\$420	\$485
Cemeteries - Other Fees		
Headstone Permit	Nil	Nil
Recording fee for memorials (no interment)	Nil	Nil
Search Fee	\$60	\$60
Removal of soil from excavation and return of soil to fill in excavation at request of customer	At Cost	
Genealogy Search	First 1.5 hours Per Hour Thereafter	\$155 \$105
<i>Note: No plot fee will be charged for the burial of deceased servicemen and women being interred within an RSA section of the Ohura, Taumarunui, Manunui, Ohakune or Raetihi cemeteries.</i>		

Council Chambers and Meeting Room Hire

	2022/23	2023/24
<i>Note: Food is not to be consumed in the Taumarunui and Ohakune Council Chambers. A separate room is available for consumption of food.</i>		
Taumarunui Council Chamber		
Bond (Refundable)	\$500	\$500
Half day or evening	\$250	\$250
Full day and evening	\$500	\$500
<i>Note: Community groups can apply in writing to the Chief Executive for a remission of part of the hire fee (minimum \$50 to cover power and cleaning).</i>		
Ohakune Council Chamber		
First Hour (Minimum charge)	\$25	\$25
Each further hour or part thereof	\$5	\$5
Other Public Meeting Rooms (other than Council Chambers)		
Community groups	Nil	Nil
Commercial organisation (No Catering Facilities Available) Per Day Or Part There of	\$50	\$50

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Development Contributions

2022/23 Fees	Land Transport \$	Water Supply \$	Wastewater \$	Stormwater and Flood Protection \$	DC 2022/23 \$
All areas of the District (other than those stated below)	\$2,040	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,040
National Park (Urban)	\$2,040	\$587	\$1,859	\$0	\$4,486
Ohakune (Urban)	\$2,040	\$1,205	\$2,601	\$726	\$6,572
Raetihi (Urban)	\$2,040	\$575	\$4,059	\$0	\$6,674

Dog Control Fees

Sections 37 and 38, Dog Control Act 1996 and Section 12, Local Government Act 2002

	2022/23	2023/24
Non-Working Dogs		
Entire dogs	\$145	\$160
Entire dogs (paid by 30 June)	\$97	\$106
Neutered dogs	\$100	\$110
Neutered dogs (paid by 30 June)	\$67	\$73
Responsible Dog Owner	\$38	\$42
Working Dogs		
Working dog	\$33	\$37
Working dog (paid by 30 June)	\$22	\$25
Hunting Dog		
Hunting dog	\$37	\$41
Hunting dog (paid by 30 June)	\$25	\$27
<i>Note: the hunting dog classification applies only to dogs that are used for pig and deer hunting in the conservation estate – not water fowl hunting dogs.</i>		
Dangerous Dog Classification		
Registration will be 150% of the level that would apply if the dog were not classified as a Dangerous Dog. E.g: Non-working Dog / Entire \$160 x 150% = \$240		
Dog – Impounding		
First impounding – all dogs	\$80	\$90
Second impounding – all dogs	\$170	\$180
Third impounding – all dogs	\$285	\$285
Daily sustenance and care	\$15	\$17
Registration investigation	\$30	\$33
Surrender Fee	\$45	\$50
Dog replacement tags	\$3.50	\$4
Licence Fee for more than two dogs (excluding Rural zoning)	\$42	\$45
Micro-chipping	\$25	\$25
Hire of dog trap	Per Week Plus Bond	\$21 \$110
Replacement of Trap	Current Cost Of Replacement Value	

Environmental Health

Section 12, Local Government Act 2002 and Regulation 7 Health (Registration of Premises) Regulations 1966, Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, Food Act 2014, Food Regulations 2015

	2022/23	2023/24
Premises Inspection and Enforcement Fees		
Additional monitoring and compliance visits Per Hour	\$150 or \$37.50 per 15 Minutes	\$165 Or \$41 per 15 minutes
Infringement fee – dependant on offence (set by legislation in Food Regulations 2015)	\$300-\$450	\$300-\$450
Food Control Plan (FCP) from 1 March 2016 under the Food Act 2014		
New Registration Fee (includes administration and verification fee)	\$521	\$573
Annual Fee (includes administration and verification fee)	\$384	\$422

2023/24 Fees and Charges

Additional monitoring and compliance visits Per Hour	\$150 or \$37.50 per 15 Minutes	\$165 or \$41 per 15 minutes
National Programme (NP) from 1 March 2016 under the Food Act 2014		
New registration fee (administration fee only)	\$84	\$92
Annual Fee (administration fee only)	\$84	\$92
Additional monitoring or compliance visits Per Hour	\$150 or \$37.50 per 15 Minutes	\$165 or \$41 per 15 minutes
Food Stalls Registration		
High Risk (Covers stalls that sell high risk food which requires to be kept chilled or frozen and involves preparation, cooking and heat treatment such as BBQ or sausage sizzles, etc., which could operate from markets, events or approved public site)	\$49/day	\$54
Low Risk (Covers stalls selling fruit and vegetables, eggs and foods that are considered low risk to members of the public and includes food prepared in a registered food premises and is pre-packaged and has a limited shelf life, e.g., cheese, olive oil, bread, jams, pickles, etc.)	\$38/day	\$42
Pre-registered Mobile Shop with another Territorial Authority (TA)- Existing clear registration with another TA. No additional inspection required	\$84	\$92
Events/Markets Health Licence		
Blanket Licence (covers all fruit and vegetable stalls and 5 High Risk stalls). Per day All market operators are required to hold a market licence. However, mobile food vehicles selling high risk food are required to obtain their own individual licence registration.	\$218 for 5 High Risk Stalls \$49 For Any Additional Stalls thereafter	\$240 for 5 High Risk Stalls \$54 For Any Additional Stalls thereafter
Events – Commercial (Multiple premises at an event may be charged on a bulk time basis and number of stalls, as determine by the Environmental Health Officer)	\$512.50 For 5 High Risk Stalls \$49 For Any Additional Stalls thereafter	\$564 For 5 High Risk Stalls \$54 For Any Additional Stalls thereafter
Events – Community Based (Fee as determined by the Environmental Health Officer)	\$110-\$165	\$121-\$190
Temporary Stalls in Public Places		
Non-Food Per Day	\$38	\$42
Hawkers Licence Per Event	\$38	\$42
Sale of Food by Charitable Organisation – maximum of 20 per year (Application Form for Permission to sell to be completed)	Free	Free
Itinerant Traders Permit Per Day	\$12	\$13
Per Annum	\$59	\$65
Premises Registration (Other)		
Hairdressers/Funeral Directors/Beauticians/Health Protection Premises (Tattoo Parlours)	\$170	\$187
Stock and Sale yards	\$200	\$220
Camping Grounds	\$188	\$207
Offensive Trades	\$200	\$220
Transfer of Licence/Reissue of Certificate	\$84	\$92
Late Registration Fee or Late Payment Fee on Licence Renewals	Extra 10% of Annual Registration Fee	Extra 10% of Annual Registration Fee
Alfresco Dining – One Off Application Fee	\$200	\$220
Noise Control		
Impounding Stereo (<i>Note: impounded stereos will be sold after six months if not claimed and charges not paid</i>)	\$250	\$275
Breach of Excessive Noise Direction (END) Notice	\$500	\$500
Noise Control Administration (Repeat Offenders)*	\$300	\$330
*Repeat offenders are offenders that have been issued with warnings or infringements previously. These offenders will be infringed on the first callout.		

2023/24 Fees and Charges

Noise Measurement	Per Hour	\$180	\$198
		Or Charged at \$45 per 15 minutes	Or Charged at \$50 per 15 minutes
Class 4 Gambling Venues			
Application Fee		\$840	\$924
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996			
Site Inspection (HASNO)		\$120	\$132
Property Inspections and Remedial Actions taken			
Health Nuisance Property Inspections (Section 29 Health Act 1959)	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Amusement Devices (set by Amusement Devices Regulations 1978)			
First Seven Day Period - First Device		\$11.50	\$11.50
Second and Subsequent Devices (each)		\$2.30	\$2.30
Further Period of Seven Days – First Device		\$1.15	\$1.15
Second and Subsequent devices (each)		\$1.15	\$1.15

Fencing of Swimming Pools

Local Government Act 2002

	2022/23	2023/24
Triennial Inspection required under Building (Pools) Regulations 2016	\$115	\$125
Re-inspection	\$51	\$55
Hearing for Request for Exemption	\$1,230	\$1,350

File Charges

	2022/23	2023/24
File Retrieval for counter viewing Per Viewing	\$20	\$22
Digital Copy of File Per File	\$20	\$22
Hardy Copy of File	Refer to fees for Photocopying, Printing, Faxing and Scanning.	Refer to fees for Photocopying, Printing, Faxing and Scanning.

GIS and Information Systems

		2022/23	2023/24
GIS Staff Time			
GIS – Minimum 15 mins plus media charges (see below)	Per Hour	\$100	\$115
GIS Media Charges			
USB Pen Drive	Per USB Fob	\$10	\$12.00
GIS Printed Maps			
Customised maps – additional charge at GIS hourly rate			
GIS Cadastral Maps (Vector Only)		Hard Copy	Image
A4 (smallest size)	Per Page/Image	\$3	\$3
A3	Per Page/Image	\$6	\$6
A2	Per Page/Image	\$15	\$9
A1 (largest size)	Per Image	\$25	\$12
GIS Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)		Per Hour	Travel
Aerial Photography		\$180	76c/km

Hall Hire

Section 150, Local Government Act 2002

		2022/23	2023/24
Refundable deposit against damage, to be charged to all users <i>Note: Where the damage costs are more than the deposit, the actual cost of reparation will be charged</i>		\$100	\$100
Refundable deposit against loss of keys, to be charged to all users <i>Note: Where the replacement cost is more than the deposit, the actual cost will be charged</i>		\$50	\$50
Commercial users		Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Hall Hire			
<i>Casual Users</i>			
Half day (up to 4 hours during the day, minimum charge)		\$35	\$40
Full day 8am to 4.30pm (key return before 5pm same day)		\$85	\$95
Evening function from 4.30pm (key return before 10am the following day)		\$85	\$95
Full day and evening		\$160	\$176
<i>Note: a longer hire can be made up of multiple periods of use (add the cost for each hire period together).</i>			
Cleaning Charge (<i>Mandatory charge added to every hire</i>)		\$70	\$80
<i>Note: The cleaning charge is not able to be omitted by the hirer completing the clean</i>			
Regular Users (eg every week or every month)			
Hourly (requires approval from Chief Executive)		As Negotiated	As Negotiated
Half day (up to 4 hours during the day, minimum charge)		\$20	\$20
Full day 8am to 4.30pm (key return before 5pm same day)		\$45	\$50
Evening function from 4.30pm (key return before 10am the following day)		\$45	\$50
Full day and evening		\$80	\$92
<i>Note: a longer hire can be made up of multiple periods of use (add the cost for each hire period together).</i>			
Cleaning Charge (<i>Mandatory charge added to every hire</i>)		\$70	\$77
<i>Note: The cleaning charge is not able to be omitted by the hirer completing the clean</i>			
Use of carpark and power		Per Day	\$55
Hire of Chairs		Each Per Day	\$1
Hire of tables		Each Per Day	\$10
Refundable deposit against damage, to be charged for the hire of chairs and tables		\$100	\$100

Housing

Section 150, Local Government Act 2002

		2022/23	2023/24
Taumarunui			
Rangimarie and Rochfort – Bedsit	Per Week	\$95	\$100
Rangimarie and Rochfort – 1 Bedroom	Per Week	\$135	\$140
Miriama – 1 Bedroom (includes a carport)	Per Week	\$140	\$140
Cherry Grove – 2 Bedroom	Per Week	\$150	\$155
Rangimarie – Garage Only	Per Week	\$10	\$15
Raetihi			
11 Islington Street	Per Week	\$250	\$255
Ohakune			
1 Bedroom Per Week		\$140	\$145
2 Bedroom	Per Week	\$170	\$175
Waimarino			
Flat 1,2,4,5,6 bedsits (116 Seddon Street)	Per Week	\$105	\$105
Flat 3 - one bedroom (116 Seddon Street)	Per Week	\$125	\$125
Flat 7-12 one bedroom (114 Seddon Street)	Per Week	\$125	\$125
Studio Units -bedsits (112 Seddon Street) with power included	Per Week		\$125
Flats 1-4 One bedroom (110 Seddon Street)	Per Week	\$125	\$125
Replacement of lost keys	Per Event	\$25	\$25
After hours staff call out	Per Event	\$50	\$50

Note: The fees/charges highlighted in green are new fees/charges. These fees/charges are yet to be confirmed by Council staff.

Land Information Memorandum (LIM)

Section 44A, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act and Section 12, Local Government Act 2002

		2022/23	2023/24
Standard LIM (ten working days) Deposit		\$300	\$300
	Plus Actual and Reasonable Costs		Plus Actual and Reasonable Costs
Urgent LIM (five working days) Deposit		\$600	\$600
Note: Criteria applies, and applications will only be accepted on a case by case basis.	Plus Actual and Reasonable Costs		Plus Actual and Reasonable Costs
Additional fee for a hardcopy of the LIM. To cover cost of printing, postage and resources and encourage requests for digital copies only.		\$25.00	\$25.00

Land Transport (Roading)

Sections 12 and 150(6) of the Local Government Act 2002, Sections 119, 135, 136 and 142 of the Telecommunications Act 2001, Sections 25 and 26 of the Gas Act 1992, Sections 24 and 25 of the Electricity Act 1992, , Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016 (NZTA), Land Transport (Certification and Other Fees) Regulations 2014

		2022/23	2023/24
Corridor Access Request (CAR)			
CAR Application Fee		\$210	\$242
Non-Notification Fee (charged if Council is not informed of the CAR)		\$310	\$357
Inspection Fee (as required)	Per Hour	\$184	\$212
Work completion with photos/testing (no inspection)		\$50	\$58
Travel Costs	Per Km	\$0.76	\$1
<i>Note: A Corridor Access Request is required for all works carried out within the road corridor. No CAR fees will be charged for Council contractors if the works are being done for and on behalf of Council.</i>			
Approval of Traffic Management Plans			
First and second resubmission of Plan		No charge	No charge
Third resubmission of Plan		\$160	\$184

2023/24 Fees and Charges

Rapid Numbering		
Supply and installation of new RAPID plate (for rural properties)	\$65	\$75
Supply and installation of replacement RAPID plate (for rural properties)	\$55	\$63
Supply replacement RAPID plate – no installation	\$20	\$23
Measurement only for RAPID only – no plate supplied (for rural properties)	\$45	\$52
Non Spraying Areas		
Road frontage with no kerb or footpath – supply and install 2 pegs	\$60	\$69
Additional Pegs (each)	\$25	\$29
Road frontage with kerb or footpath – supply and install 2 painted limit lines	\$35	\$40
Road Closures		
Temporary road closure (not requiring inspection)	\$350	\$403
Temporary road closure (requiring inspection)	\$530 plus actual and reasonable costs for repair or damage	\$609.50 plus actual and reasonable costs for repair or damage
Application for a permanent road closure (road stopping)	\$600 plus actual and reasonable costs if stopping proceeds	\$690 plus actual and reasonable costs if stopped proceeds
Road Encroachment		
Fee charged on application	\$125	\$144
Inspection Fee (as required per hour)	\$125	\$144
<i>Note: Fee may be waived if, in the opinion of Council, there is significant public benefit for the private occupation of the public road reserve.</i>		
Overweight Permits		
Application for each continuous, high-productivity motor vehicle, or specialist vehicle permit where 3 or more working days available for processing	\$62.73	\$72
Reissue of a Continuous or Area Overweight Permit	\$10.45	\$12
Application for each single or Multiple trip overweight permit where 3 or more working days are available for processing	\$20.91	\$24
Application for renewal of each continuous permit where 3 or more working days available for processing	\$10.45	\$12
Additional Fee for any Overweight Permit when there are fewer than 3 working days available for processing	\$10.45	\$12
Relocation of Buildings and Other Structures		
<i>The following fee and bond are to ensure the protection of Council assets such as roads, street signage, street lighting, kerb and channelling, culvert ends, footpaths and water and sewer connections. Inspections will take place before and after relocation. The bond will be refunded on demonstration that there has not been any wilful or negligent damage or interference with Council assets.</i>		
<i>Note that Resource Consents and/or Building Consents are required for the relocation of buildings and other structures. In addition, Council sets a separate bond for the relocation of buildings into the District. This is outlined under “Resource Management”. Please refer to this section before relocating a structure into or within the District.</i>		
Inspection and Monitoring Fee	\$300	\$345
Bond	\$5,000	\$5,750
Total	\$5,300	\$6,095
Bond for commercial construction site (applied at Building Consent stage and returned at Code Compliance stage)	\$5,000	\$5,750
Professional Services – Land Transport		
External Professionals	At Cost + 10%	
Land Transport - Roading Manager	Per Hour	\$173
Land Transport – Technical Services	Per Hour	\$144
Road Banner – Hakiha Street, Taumarunui		
Installation Fee - Banner supplied by applicant	\$280	\$322

Library Fees

	2022/23	2023/24
Overdue books	N/A	N/A
Inter loan books (including search fee) with reciprocal libraries Per Book	\$8	\$8
Inter loan books (including search fee) with non reciprocal libraries Per Book	Up to \$30	Up to \$30
Membership – Temporary – Non-Resident and Non-Ratepayers per 6 months	\$20	\$20
Printing charges for APN computers	Refer Photocopying, Laminating, Printing, Media, Faxing, Scanning Charges	Refer Photocopying, Laminating, Printing, Media, Faxing, Scanning Charges

Photocopying, Printing, Faxing, Scanning

Section 13 Local Government Act 2002

	2022/23	2023/24
Photocopying/Printing/Scanning/Faxing		
Black and white – A4 Per page	\$0.50	\$0.60
Black and white – A3 Per Page	\$1	\$1.15
Colour – A4 Per Page	\$3	\$4
Colour – A3 Per Page	\$4	\$5
Plan Printing Black and White Only		
A2 Per Page	\$5	\$6
A1 Per Page	\$5	\$6
A0 Per Page	\$6	\$7

Requests for Official Information

Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

	2022/23	2023/24
Search Fee (first 30 mins free) Per hour	\$60	\$60

Rating Information Extracts

Local Government (Rating) Act

	2022/23	2023/24
Reprint of individual Roll set fee	\$20	\$22
Reprint of complete Rolls	\$480	\$528
Electronic copy of Roll (PDF)	\$50	\$55
Administration Fee		
Rate Refund	\$15	\$17
<i>The bulk collection of owner names and mailing address is not permitted under the Local Government (Rating) Act. Therefore, when a reprint is requested, the owner names and mailing address will be removed. This information will only be made available for inspection at Ruapehu District Council offices, in Taumarunui, Ohakune and Raetihi.</i>		
Property Title Search		
Per Property	\$15	\$17
Research of rating information after the first 15 minutes	\$15 per 15 minute intervals	\$17 per 15 minute intervals

Reserves

	2022/23	2023/24
Council Reserves		
Short term commercial use of Council reserves Per Day or Part Thereof	\$100-\$500 Depending on event scale, at	\$100-\$500 Depending on event scale, at

	the discretion of the CEO	the discretion of the CEO
Short term community (not for profit) use of Council reserves	Free	Free
Plus bond	\$100 - \$1,000	\$100 - \$1,000
(dependant on use)		
Taumarunui Domain Grandstand		
Hire of Grandstand	Per Day	\$50
Professional Services - Reserves		
External Professionals	At Cost + 10%	At Cost + 10%

Resource Management

Section 150 Local Government Act 2002, Section 36(2)(a) Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 2002

*See note 2 below

		2022/23	2023/24
Deemed Permitted Boundary Activity - Fixed		\$500	\$550
Land Use			
Land Use Application	Deposit	\$1,500	\$1,650
Subdivision			
Subdivision - 1 – 3 lots	Deposit	\$1,500	\$1,650
Subdivision – 4 – 10 lots	Deposit	\$2,500	\$2,750
Subdivision – 11 or more lots	Deposit	\$3,500	\$3,850
Notification			
Resource Consent – Limited Notified	Deposit	\$5,000	\$5,500
Resource Consent – Public Notified	Deposit	\$10,000	\$11,000
Other Activities			
Change or Cancellation of Resource Consent Condition	Deposit	\$1,500	\$1,650
Section 125 - Lapsing Consent - Application for Extension	Deposit	\$1,500	\$1,650
Other RMA/LGA Requirements	Deposit	\$500 Plus actual and reasonable costs	\$550
Monitoring	Per Visit Plus Mileage (/Km)	\$125 .76c	\$137 .84c
Non notification- alteration of Designation Deposit	Deposit	\$1,500	\$1,650
Notification of Notice of Designation	Deposit	\$5,000	\$5,500
Request for a Change to the Ruapehu District Plan Deposit	Deposit	\$10,000	\$11,000
National Environmental Standard (NES) for Contaminated Land. View all Files (file retrieval fee)		Refer to File Charges	Refer to File Charges
Photocopying of Files / Administration re: NES of Contaminated Land (file collation fee)		Refer to File Charges	Refer to File Charges
Technical Certificates			
Section 221 - Consent Notice		\$340	\$374
Section 223 – Approval of Survey Plan	Deposit	\$400	\$440
Section 224 – Deposit of Survey Plan (Combined application – One Fee)	Deposit	\$400	\$440
Section 357 - Objection to Council	Deposit	\$525	\$577

Planning Certificates (pursuant to Section 100(f) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012)		\$150	\$165
Property Title Search (Certificate of Title)			
Per Property	Refer Rating Information Extracts		
Bond – Relocation of Buildings			
Refundable Bond (for buildings relocated within or in to the District and is refundable once Council is satisfied that Resource Consent conditions have been met) Note: On Average: \$10,000		Variable cost	
Bond for Inspection of Council assets where buildings and other structures are relocated or moved from or onto a property in the District - see "Relocation of Buildings and Other Structures" under "Land Transport Fees". Please refer to this section before relocating a structure		Refer Land Transport Page	
Ruapehu District Plan			
District Plan (Planning Maps included)		\$300	\$330
District Plan (Planning Maps excluded)		\$150	\$165
District Plan (Planning Maps only)		\$150	\$165
District Plan Update Service (once adoption process takes place)		\$50	\$55
Development Contributions			
Refer Development Contributions Page		Refer Development Contributions Page	
Charge out Rates for Planning, Engineering, Property and Building Staff within Council			
Planner	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Resource Management Administrator	Per Hour	\$125	\$137
Senior Planner	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Consent Authority (Chief Executive or Delegate)	Per Hour	\$200	\$220
Building Control Consents Manager	Per Hour	\$150	\$180
Environmental Health Officer	Per Hour	\$150	\$165
Mileage	Per Km	.76c	\$0.84
Pre Application Advice (first 30mins free)	Charge out Rates plus actual and reasonable costs		
Professional Services			
External Professionals		At Cost ONLY	
Advice First hour free – hourly thereafter		\$150	\$165

Stock Ranging

Impounding Act 1955 and Impounding Regulations 1981

		2022/23	2023/24
Stock – Callout Charge (Hourly Rate)			
During Working Hours per officer	Per Hour	\$90	\$100
After Hours	Per Hour	\$120	\$132
Travel Expenses – Vehicle	Per Km	\$1	\$1.10
Travel Expenses – Trailer	Per Km	\$0.50	\$0.60
Winch / Cartage fee	Per Hour	\$30	\$30

Stock - Impounding			
(Cattle, Horses, Pigs, Deer, Sheep, Goats and Calves)			
First Time	Per Head	\$95	\$105
Second Time	Per Head	\$125	\$135
Third Time	Per Head	\$150	\$165
Stock – Daily Sustenance and Care (Per Head)			
Cattle, Horses, Pigs or Deer		\$15	\$17
Sheep, Goats or Calves		\$10	\$11

DRAFT

Swimming Pools

Council's contractor sets swimming pool fees for ticket sales, casual hire and key bond, under agreement with Council. Fees are not set through the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan process. Please contact Council's Customer Service Group if you have any enquiries relating to fees. Or visit Council's website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz for current fees and charges.

Taumarunui Airport

Section 12 Local Government Act 2002

	2022/23	2023/24
Topdressing aircraft – fertiliser airlifted from aerodrome per tonne	\$7	\$7
Commercial helicopter or fixed wing aircraft based at aerodrome -annual site/landing fee	\$600	\$660
Taumarunui Aero Club – annual ground rental, site fee and landing rights for Club-owned plane	\$350	\$385
Private helicopter or fixed wing aircraft based at aerodrome – annual site/landing fee (for new applications)	\$200	\$220
Visitors to aerodrome – landing fee payable under an honesty scheme to Council	\$10	\$10
Visiting Club or Flying Instruction – annual landing fee for members or students of the club/institution	\$250	\$250

Waste Management (Refuse)

Section 146, Local Government Act 2002

		2022/23	2023/24
Refuse Bags for Kerbside Collection Service			
Official Council bags 60 litre (recommended retail price)	Per Bag	\$3.80	\$4.50
Official Council bags 35 litre (recommended retail price) (available at Council offices only)	Per Bag	\$2.20	\$2.60
Wholesale price (60 litre bags) to distributing outlets (authorised dealers for the retail trade)	Per Bag	\$3.50	\$4.15
Purchase of replacement blue kerbside recycling bin		\$16	\$19
Purchase of replacement compost kitchen caddie		\$8	\$9
Purchase of replacement compost large outdoor bin		\$11	\$12
Refuse Disposal			
Council operates a waste acceptance criteria at all transfer stations and reserves the right to not accept material outside of the criteria or to direct that it be disposed of at the District Landfill			
Official RDC refuse bag (residential quantities)		Free	Free
Other refuse bags (50 litre)	Each	\$6.90	\$8.20
Residential (domestic) users	Per M ³	\$62.50	\$74
Extraordinary (commercial) users	Per M ³	\$75	\$89
Greenwaste	Per M ³	\$2.20	\$12
Weighbridge			
Minimum Charge		\$20	\$24
Commercial Waste Per Tonne		\$360	\$450
Domestic Waste Per Tonne		\$230	\$297
Special Waste (see "Special Difficult Waste" next page)Per Tonne		\$240	\$310
Polystyrene >20% content Per Tonne		\$1,200	\$1,445
Green waste (flax, cabbage tree must be separated)Per Tonne		\$2.20	\$58
Definitions			

2023/24 Fees and Charges

<p>Extraordinary (commercial) users are significant providers of refuse for disposal generated from the commercial, and public sectors. Significant volumes are considered to be greater than 10 m³ of refuse per year in total. Council will, from time to time, identify and enter into waste management agreements with extraordinary users.</p> <p>Residential (domestic) users are providers of domestic refuse from single residential dwellings at volumes of less than 10 m³ per year in total.</p> <p>Uncompacted Refuse is material that is delivered loose, eg, material delivered on a trailer and is measured by the formula <i>length x width x height = volume</i> (in cubic metres).</p> <p>Compacted Refuse is refuse that is mechanically compacted, eg, material delivered in a compactor truck.</p>			
Tyres (excluding rims and inner tubes)			
Car, two wheel motor bikeper tyre		\$15	\$18
4WD and Light Trucks, ATVs		\$20	\$25
Truck and trailerper tyre		\$25	\$30
Cleanfill Disposal			
Must be uncontaminated, separated and meet cleanfill guidelines		\$42.50	\$50
per m ³			
Hazardous Waste Liquids <5 litres per year			
Paints, thinners, oils, insecticides, and herbicides	Per Litre	\$4.00	\$8
Intractable pesticides	Per Litre	\$4.80	\$12
Waste oil, contaminated oil, fuels		Free	Free
Motor vehicle batteries		Free	Free
Other batteries		Free	Free
Fluorescent tubes and HID lamps	Per Lamp	\$1.80	\$2.50
Disposal charge for gas cylinders	Per Unit	\$15	\$17.25
Concrete			
Clean, no rebar (steel) Up To 250kg	Per tonne	\$30	
Over 250kg		\$30	
Small Commercial Quantities			
Waste oil by arrangement	Per Litre	\$0.80	0.95
Special / Difficult Waste			
Special/difficult waste is waste containing offensive odour, excessive dust, or is easily windblown, attractive to vermin or has health implications. It may, with the approval of authorised Council staff, be accepted at the District landfill in Taumarunui only, and requires prior arrangement before it can be deposited or disposed of, as per the waste acceptance criteria. For clarification, contact the Waste Minimisation Officer (07) 895 8188.	Per M ³	\$115	Price is depending on classification of the waste
Recyclable Waste – Residential			
Recyclables are only accepted for free if presented in the appropriate manner. Attendants have the right to refuse the items and apply the waste rate if they do not meet the prescribed method of presentation. Recyclables not presented correctly attract a waste charge	per m ³	\$50	\$55
Conditions Relating to Recyclable Waste			
The following conditions must be met before material is acceptable as recyclable			
Wire			
Can be deposited at a designated transfer station, providing it contains no battens or other wood. It is coiled and secured		Free	Free
Scrap Steel			
Can be deposited at transfer stations, providing it is sorted into light and heavy gauge steel. Small scrap steel such as nuts,		Free	Free

2023/24 Fees and Charges

bolts, etc, can be deposited at transfer stations in 240 litre steel drums		
Whiteware/Corrugated Iron		
Can be deposited at transfer stations. This includes burnt and/or rusty iron	Free	Free
Aluminium		
Can be deposited at transfer stations, providing it is presented without other non-aluminium material attached	Free	Free
Plastic 1 and 2		
<i>Must be washed and squashed. Lids must be removed.</i>		
<i>Note: all other plastic products are not classified as recyclables and must be placed in the household rubbish bag</i>		
Cardboard, Paper and Newspaper, Glossy Magazines		
Flattened magazines, envelopes, junk mail, office paper, newspaper (staples OK)	Free	Free
Flattened boxes and egg cartons	Free	Free
E-Waste		
CRT – TV	\$26	\$30.00
LCD – TV	\$17	\$19.60
Printer/scanner/fax	\$13	\$15.00
Photocopiers	\$46	\$53.00
Sale and Recovery of Material		
Council has an active recovery policy and recovered items will be made available to the public for sale. This will include, but may not be limited to, clean fill, household items and mechanical parts, etc. The pricing of these items will be determined by the quality of the goods		
Refuse Disposal Invoices		
All transactions with the public require that a tax invoice is presented to the customer without exception		
Contact Details		
Should be referred firstly to: Ruapehu District Council - Telephone (07) 895 8188 24-hour Pollution Hotline free phone (for refuse in waterways) - 0508 476 558		

Wastewater and Stormwater

	2022/23	2023/24
<i>Council allows approved contractors to install new stormwater and wastewater connections. The property owner is required to negotiate a price with the approved contractor. Before the installation can commence, the owner of the property or the approved contractor must apply in writing to Council and an administration fee is payable. The application will take ten days to assess and, once approved by Council, the invoice must be paid before the connection is installed. Council or its agent must inspect the connection at the time of installation and connection to Council's stormwater or sewerage system.</i>		
Stormwater Connections		
The fee for a domestic connection is set for a standard 100mm connection. Administration Fee to cover costs associated with a connection to stormwater where there is an existing lateral	\$231	\$265
Installation of a new 100mm lateral into an underground main by Council contractor (includes administration fee)	\$1,440	\$1,656
Installation fee for a new 100mm into a kerb channel or open drain by Council contractor (includes administration fee)	\$787.50	\$905
Wastewater Connections		
Taumarunui, National Park, Ohakune, Raetihi, Waiouru, Rangataua, Pipiriki, Manunui, Hikurangi Terrace, Ruapehu Crescent, Tarrangower Avenue, Manson Street, Hall Street and Corlett Street- Administration Fee to cover costs associated with a connection to wastewater where there is an existing lateral.	\$231	\$265
Installation of a new 100mm lateral by Council contractor (includes administration fee)	\$1,950	\$4,100
Discharge of Wastewater		
At approved manholes per 5,000 litre tanker	\$185	\$212
At approved manholes other volumes – per m3	\$38	\$43
Additional fees and charges for Stormwater and wastewater connections		

Council Engineer inspection of installed services		
Plus travel to property site		
Professional Services – Stormwater and Wastewater		
External Professionals eg: Asset Locates initiatives by a before U Dig request	At Cost + 12.5%	At Cost + 12.5%
External Professional services: If CCTV investigation is required to locate wastewater services and / or the condition of the pipes for the purpose of connection.		
Plus travel to property site		
Traffic management plan (TMP) – Based on the property location, if a TMP is required to undertake CCTV investigations or trench digging	At Cost + 12.5%	At Cost + 12.5%
Disconnection Fee		
per disconnection	\$360	\$414
<i>Note on Connections:</i> The following installation fees apply to property located within 20 metres of a stormwater system or wastewater main (as appropriate). The installation fees for a property located at a distance greater than 20 metres from the stormwater system or wastewater main will increase by \$74 for each additional metre. Any stormwater or wastewater connection larger than 100mm is considered extraordinary and will be charged on the basis of actual costs for each particular connection. (Legislation allows for rates to be collected from any property that is able to be connected to a service line.)		

Water Supply

	2022/23	2023/24
Notes on Connections		
<i>The following installation fees apply to property located within 20 metres of a water main. The installation or connection fees for a property located at a distance greater than 20 metres from the water main will increase by \$56 for each additional metre. Any connection other than 20mm is considered extraordinary and will be charged on the basis of actual costs for each particular connection. (Legislation allows for rates to be collected from any property that is able to be connected to a service line.)</i>		
Water Supply - Council-Approved Contractor		
Only Council's contractor may install new water supply connections. Before the installation can commence, the property owner must apply in writing to Council and the application will take 10 days to assess. Once approved by Council the relevant fees must be paid before the connection is installed.		
National Park, Taumarunui, Manunui, Ohura, Ohakune, Raetihi, Owango and Waiouru		
Administration fee to cover costs associated with a connection by an approved contractor	\$231	\$265
Installation fee to install and connect to a new 20mm lateral by an approved contractor (includes administration fee)	\$1,575	\$1,811
Professional Services – Water Supply		
External Professionals eg: Asset Locates initiated by a Before U Dig request	At Cost + 12.5%	At Cost + 12.5%
Additional Fees and Charges for Water Supply		
Council Engineer inspection of installed services Plus travel to property site	At Cost + 12.5%	At Cost + 12.5%
Water Supply - Connection/Disconnection/Location Fees		
Disconnection Fee	\$399	\$460
Meter Testing Fee	\$200	\$230
Reconnection Fee	\$756	\$870
Toby Location Fee	\$61	\$120
Backflow service fee, which excludes price of service kit which will be purchased at market rates and vary according to unit type and size		
Water Billing- Excessive use of water change Per m ³		
Low - 75 - 500m ³	\$0.65	\$0.80
Medium - 500 - 1500m ³	\$0.75	\$0.90
High - Over 1500m ³	\$1.10	\$1.30
Carrot Washers	\$0.70	\$0.80

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: Community and Town Revitalisation Projects Status Report

Report for: Information

Author(s): Pauline Welch

EXECUTIVE MANAGER: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Endorsed By: Clive Manley

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the various Town Revitalisation projects that sit within the Community and Economic Group, in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP).

Executive Summary | Whakarāpopototanga matua

- 2.1 This Report provides information to Elected Members on the Town Revitalisation Long Term Plan projects, and their current status.
- 2.2 While not technical in nature, there are several projects discussed. Any further information required can be brought to the meeting if requested.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Community and Town Revitalisation Projects Status Report**

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ruapehu had a deprivation of nine in September 2022, and is currently New Zealand's 7th most deprived district. This measure comes from a collation of data from New Zealand's government agencies and private businesses. Within Ruapehu, Taumarunui and Raetihi are the most deprived communities, with a deprivation index of 10, and National Park is the least deprived with an index of six.

Most of Ruapehu's social indicators are in the lower 20 per cent, for example, in September 2022, Ruapehu's Jobs Seeker Support Rate was 8.5 per cent (ranking it 10th highest out of 68), compared to the national average of 5.4 per cent.

Town Revitalisation projects build pride in community, by investing in them. Social wellbeing is often less well understood than environmental or economic wellbeing because it deals with human perceptions and lived experience, and challenges Council to translate the intangible into something it can identify and measure.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Between January 2022 and January 2023, 55 per cent of the total EFTPOS spending in the Ruapehu District came from outside of the district. Out-of-town spending made up 56 per cent of all spending in January 2022, but this is down compared with 62 per cent in January 2021, and 60 per cent in January 2020.

Having an attractive town, and main road, encourages visitors to stop, which can help increase the economic wellbeing. Visitors from Auckland spend the most, followed by visitors from Wellington.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Changes to urban environments need to ensure that they contribute to, and not detract from the environment. Council's Town Revitalisation projects target improvements to the urban environment, without negative effects.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
3.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Town Revitalisation is 'by the locals, for the locals'. The importance of community and iwi involvement is why Council needs to ensure that there is real engagement with the community and iwi for all projects.

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

4.1 Significance

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy as it is for information only, not action.

Background | Tuhiinga

5.1 2016 to 2021

5.1.1 Council started the process of engaging with Ruapehu communities on township revitalisation in 2016. Initially this was funded from existing operational budgets in 2016, and in the 2017/18 Annual Plan, Council asked for ratepayers to support budgeting \$500,000 for township revitalisation to allow for detailed planning and initial project work to begin.

5.1.2 The pace and direction of the township revitalisation journey is being determined by each community, with the result that all townships involved in the process are at different stages.

- 5.1.3 In the 2018 Long Term Plan (LTP), Council budgeted \$8.4Million over the ten years of the LTP for township revitalisation. The initial focus was in Taumarunui, on the site of the ex-Library building (now play/community area), the immediate area past the toilets, upgrading the area outside the Railway station (as part of longer term changes to the railway station as a Museum) and new/upgraded toilets.
- 5.1.4 A new/upgraded service centre and budget for Town Revitalisation was budgeted for Raetihi, and the Park and Ride in National Park was also (part) funded through the 2018-28 LTP.
- 5.1.5 Prior to 2018, Council had been successful in obtaining funds (mainly from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF)) to help fund a number of projects that fall under the revitalisation umbrella:
- the Ohakune Carrot Park (\$622,500 in government funding)
 - National Park Village Park and Ride (\$748,500 in government funding)
 - public toilet projects in Raetihi (two), Ōhura and Ōwhango (\$520,000).
- 5.1.6 Council also introduced the Pride of Place Funding in 2018 with \$50,000 per year, to help fund projects in some smaller villages. Some examples of the type of applications are:
- Kakahi signage
 - Shade and picnic tables at Taumarunui Domain
 - Friends of the Timber Trail: tables
 - National Park Village: electric BBQ, tables and shade
 - Information signage along various walkways.
- 5.1.7 Due to the success of the Pride of Place fund, Council resolved in 2021 through the LTP process to increase the funding amount to \$100,000 a financial year.

5.2 2021-2031 LONG TERM PLAN BUDGETS

- 5.2.1 In the 2021-31 LTP, Council proposed more detailed budgets for Town Revitalisation across the district, with a total of \$11Million in the first five years. This was in anticipation of the Future Ohakune Plan project, phase three of Taumarunui revitalisation, the Raetihi Hub and National Park Village Plan, and Council also increased the Pride of Place to \$100,000 per year. As below:

Project	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
Town Revitalisation Raetihi Service Hub	\$154,350	\$257,250	\$2,675,400		\$3,087,000
Raetihi CBD Development			\$1,029,000		\$1,029,000
Ohakune Outcomes Revitalisation				\$2,058,000	\$2,058,000
Ohakune Town Planning (operational, debt fund)	\$102,900	\$308,700			\$ 411,600
National Park Revitalisation Plan	\$102,900	\$102,900	\$514,500	\$205,800	\$926,100
Taumarunui Main Street Stage Three			\$514,500		\$514,500
Taumarunui Hakiaha Street Verandas	\$159,495	\$95,697			\$255,192
Taumarunui Railway Station Museum / i-SITE			\$514,500		\$514,500
Demolition of Earthquake Prone Buildings				\$2,058,000	\$2,058,000
Financial Year Total	\$519,645	\$764,547	\$5,247,900	\$4,321,800	\$10,853,892

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

6.1 PROJECT STATUS

6.1.1 The following Town Revitalisation projects sit under the Community and Economic Group for community consultation and any initial design work or other work. Building new assets, major repairs etc. sit under the Infrastructure group.

6.2 Raetihi

6.2.1 There are three major projects in Raetihi currently, two are funded in the LTP, and one is not.

6.2.2 The Community Hub is progressing. Currently there is \$3Million in the budget spread over a number of years. Budget for this financial year will be allocated to the procurement process already underway.

6.2.3 The procurement process is seeking expressions of interest for a Community Hub Design, and, once the design has been chosen, for the design work to be completed. The project's Governance Group will be part of the team looking at the expressions of interest and choosing the final design. It is also clear in the process that external funding will be necessary for the final build.

6.2.4 Town Revitalisation currently has a budget of \$1Million. There have been a number of attempts to get Town Revitalisation in Raetihi started, but as yet no progress has been made. The budget will likely be carried forward.

6.2.5 The Raetihi Swimming Pool Feasibility study was completed in 2022 from existing budgets. The Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board (WWCB) agreed to continue the investigation with a Business Case into a new pool, given the ongoing issues with leaks. There is no budget for the Raetihi Pool upgrade/new build in the current Long Term Plan. During the development of the next LTP, any funding for the pool will need to be included, but it is also expected that external grant funding will be sought.

6.3 Ohakune

6.3.1 There are two budgets in Town Revitalisation for Ohakune, with 2022-24 budgets being where most of the planning takes place, with some budget going towards items such as street furniture and Wayfinder signage. The budget set for 2025/26 is for the major infrastructure expenses.

6.3.2 Council funded consultants Boffa Miskell to work with the community on developing a strategic revitalisation plan for Ohakune. The table below shows the high-level strategies and plans either completed or under development.

Item	Timing
Spatial Plan	Completed
Wayfinding Strategy	Completed
Consultation concept designs for: Wayfinder Design, Christie Park, Transport and Parking, and Junction and refresh of the Streetscape	Completed
Christie Park Detailed Design	Detail plan 2023
Junction Detailed Design	Detail plan 2023
Transport and Parking Strategy	In draft waiting on feedback

6.3.3 Currently, planning is underway for the upgrade of Christie Park, and planning will start in July 2023 for the upgrade at the Junction area. The street furniture is planned to be replaced by July 2023 in the Central Business District (CBD).

6.4 **Waiouru**

6.4.1 Currently the only major project in Waiouru is the new playground to be built. This project is not considered a Town Revitalisation project, and therefore is captured in the Parks and Reserves budget.

6.5 **National Park**

6.5.1 National Park has \$9Million over the first five years of the 2021-31 LTP for Town Revitalisation. Just over \$150,000 has been used for the Hall upgrade, roading upgrades and development of a Structural Plan. Council staff are working with a steering group to consult with the community to prioritise future projects.

6.6 **Taumarunui**

6.6.1 The Town Revitalisation in Taumarunui began in 2016, when the Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Committee resolved to commission Bespoke Landscape Architects to produce an overall plan for Taumarunui. Bespoke Landscape Architects were to specifically develop the Taumarunui Town Centre designs following an expression of interest and request for proposal process. This plan included enhancing the entrances to the town, greater connecting walkways, and the further development of the Domain.

6.6.2 The CBD area redevelopment was to be completed in three stages:

- (a) the west side of Hakiaha Street between the boundary of the old library and the boundary to the south of the Taumarunui Railway Station
- (b) the verandas on the east side of Hakiaha Street and down Manuaute Street
- (c) Manuaute Street re-development.

6.6.3 Work on the Main Street redevelopment started in 2019, with changes to the bus shelters, parking outside the railway station and moving onto the redevelopment of the area between the old library site and the public toilets, including the fishpond area. The section of Main Street from that point to the railway station is part of the Railway Station Project. Completion of the civic space was completed in September 2019, with a public opening occurring on 14 September 2019.

6.6.4 Outside the scope of the original Town Revitalisation project, the public toilets and showers at the railway station were also renewed.

6.6.5 Further work was completed in 2022 to erect a shelter over part of the civic space.

6.6.6 The budgets in the 2021-31 LTP allow for:

- (a) the design and engagement of the Main Street verandas
- (b) the main street area between the main street toilets and the railway station (beyond the pond)
- (c) the upgrade of the railway station (Museum).

6.6.7 **Hakiaha Street Veranda Upgrade**

6.6.8 The verandas on Hakiaha Street need to be replaced to meet earthquake prone standards and regulations. Whilst Council does not own the verandas, it does own a portion of the air space and has a public liability responsibility as the verandas are over the footpath. During

the 2018-21 Long Term Plan and review of Council's Revenue and Funding Policy, a 40 per cent (Council), 60 per cent (property owner) targeted rate was put into the policy.

6.6.9 The current design is basic and focused on ensuring that the infrastructure is safe and meets earthquake standards. Future thinking will be required to give the verandas a unique Taumarunui theme. The design work is part of the Wayfinder project.

6.6.10 **Railway Station and Museum**

6.6.11 Council can again look at progressing the upgrade of the Taumarunui i-SITE and Museum, including the exterior of the Railway Station, now that works to the upstairs of the Station has been completed.

6.7 The final budget line under Town Revitalisation, is for the demolition of earthquake prone buildings. As yet, there is no plan for Council to buy and demolish any building.

6.7.1 While there are no other Town Revitalisation budgets in the LTP, other communities have used Pride of Place funding for projects.

Next Actions | Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

7.1 No actions are required.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

NIL

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: **Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill**



Report for: **Decision**

Author(s): Melissa Jackson

MANAGER: POLICY & STRATEGY

Endorsed By: Fiona Ferrar

ACTING MANAGER: FINANCE, STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill for Council's consideration and retrospective adoption.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill**; and
- 2 Retrospectively adopts the submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill.

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

One of the reasons that Local Government's purpose involves the promotion of social wellbeing is due to the relationship councils have with their communities. Councils understand the uniqueness of their communities and represent them accordingly. Having a single representative of each council as a member of the regional planning committee is not enough to effectively represent small rural communities like those in the Ruapehu District. This structure threatens local placemaking and will result in a loss of local voice.

By submitting to the Parliamentary Select Committee regarding the draft Bills, Council is advocating on behalf of its communities, and seeking to promote social wellbeing by highlighting these issues to the Parliamentary Select Committee.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The economic impact of this reform on councils will depend on the level of funding central government puts into the reform process. The Ruapehu District is already under enormous financial pressure, with one of the highest deprivation levels in the country. Increasing rates to assist funding the reform is not feasible. Council also has concerns regarding how the reforms will financially impact iwi and hapū. Iwi and hapū will require financial investment from central government to enable them to effectively participate in the new system.

By submitting to the Parliamentary Select Committee regarding the draft Bills, Council is advocating on behalf of its communities, and seeking to promote economic wellbeing by highlighting these issues to the Parliamentary Select Committee.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the reform can achieve its objectives, it will be both promoting environmental wellbeing and protecting the environment. Council has concerns about whether the reform will be able to achieve its objectives. The delay in the introduction of the Climate Adaptation Act is of significant concern. The three new pieces of legislation are meant to work together to transform the resource management system, but it is difficult to see how that will be achieved as the Climate Adaptation Act has not advanced with the other two pieces of legislation.

By submitting to the Parliamentary Select Committee regarding the draft Bills, Council is advocating on behalf of its communities, and seeking to promote environmental wellbeing by highlighting these issues to the Parliamentary Select Committee.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Increasing the involvement of iwi and hapū in the resource management process will help promote cultural wellbeing. There is, however, a major risk that iwi and hapū voice will also be lost in the new system. In the Ruapehu District there are many iwi, and many more hapū, that have differing opinions on matters. It will be impossible to effectively promote the cultural wellbeing of the communities of the Ruapehu District with only one or two Māori representatives on the regional planning committee.

By submitting to the Parliamentary Select Committee regarding the draft Bills, Council is advocating on behalf of its communities, and seeking to promote cultural wellbeing by highlighting these issues to the Parliamentary Select Committee.

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

3.1 Significance

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background | Tuhinga

- 4.1 Central Government is in the process of reforming the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA). The intention is that the RMA will be split into three pieces of legislation, the Natural and Built Environment Act, the Spatial Planning Act, and the Climate Adaptation Act.
- 4.2 In principle, Council supports central government's five objectives for the reform, which are to:
- (a) protect and restore the environment and its capacity to provide for the wellbeing of present and future generations
 - (b) better enable development within natural environmental limits
 - (c) give proper recognition to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and provide greater recognition of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori
 - (d) better prepare for adapting to climate change and risks from natural hazards, and better mitigate emissions contributing to climate change.
 - (e) improve system efficiency and effectiveness and reduce complexity while retaining appropriate local democratic input.
- 4.3 While Council supports the objectives of the reform, it has concerns regarding whether the objectives can be achieved. Council's primary concerns in relation to the reform are regarding the loss of local voice, the funding pressures that small councils will be subject to, what the transition from the existing system to the new system will look like, and how the different reforms that are currently underway will tie together.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 5.1 Council officers prepared a draft submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee outlining the key concerns that Council has regarding the proposed Bills.
- 5.2 Prior to submitting Council's submission, Elected Members were sent a copy of the submission for comment. One response was received in support of the submission. Accordingly, the submission was forwarded to the Select Committee on 5 February 2023.

Next Actions | Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

- 6.1 Council Officers will inform the Council about the results of Parliament's proposal and discuss how these changes may affect Council in due course.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 Submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill



RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Email info@ruapehudc.govt.nz

Website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz

5 February 2023

To: Committee Staff
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

en@parliament.govt.nz

Subject: **Natural Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill**

Submission from: Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001
TAUMARUNUI 3964

Point of Contact: Warrick Zander
Executive Manager Regulatory & Customer Services

Email: policyplanning@ruapehu.govt.nz

Phone: 07 895 8188 ext 235

Council does not wish to speak in support of its submission.

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 1.1 Ruapehu District Council (RDC) thanks the Environment Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to submit on the Natural Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill.
- 1.2 The resource management system is central in how we manage our natural environment and built environment, including urban development, housing supply and regional economic development. RDC supports the need for resource management reform. Aotearoa New Zealand's current resource management system is complicated and time consuming. It does not provide the best outcomes for our natural and built environments, or our communities.
- 1.3 Both Bills will result in wide reaching change, and they are of a significant scale and size. Given the length and complexity of the Bills, and the tight submission time frame, our submission focuses solely on the key issues that are relevant to us as a small rural local authority. We acknowledge that there are other issues that are not addressed in our submission and that those issues require careful consideration. Accordingly, we endorse the submissions of Taituarā and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) who expand on, and deal with, some of those issues.

2 ABOUT US

- 2.1 The Ruapehu District is a land-locked area covering 6,733km², with a usual resident population of 12,309 (Statistics NZ, Census 2018). Ruapehu is one of New Zealand's largest districts by land area, however, has a relatively small and dispersed population base with one of the lowest resident population densities in the country (0.02 persons per hectare).
- 2.2 The Ruapehu District has high levels of deprivation compared to other parts of the country. We have a strong primary industry sector and despite Covid, the Ruapehu District is also a growing tourist destination and enjoys a significant and steadily increasing number of visitors and non-permanent residents each year. The Ruapehu District receives approximately 1.2 million visitors annually, and although the district's usual resident population is lower, the population goes up to approximately 28,000 on our peak day.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 In principle, RDC supports central government's five objectives for the reform, which are to:
1. Protect and restore the environment and its capacity to provide for the wellbeing of present and future generations.
 2. Better enable development within natural environmental limits.
 3. Give proper recognition to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and provide greater recognition of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori.
 4. Better prepare for adapting to climate change and risks from natural hazards, and better mitigate emissions contributing to climate change.
 5. Improve system efficiency and effectiveness and reduce complexity while retaining appropriate local democratic input.
- 3.2 RDC's primary concerns about the proposed reform are:

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1. The loss of local voice
2. Funding and resourcing for local authorities
3. What the transition will look like
4. How the different reforms will tie together.

4 THE LOSS OF LOCAL VOICE

- 4.1 The loss of local voice is the fundamental concern for the local government sector in relation to the resource management system reform. The ability of local authorities and communities to contribute to decisions made under the new system is severely reduced. This reduction in local voice will make it difficult to accurately capture and protect the uniqueness of communities when making planning decisions under the new regional planning system.
- 4.2 Local authorities remain central to the operation of the resource management system. They will be responsible for implementing the regional plans via the consenting, compliance, monitoring and enforcement process, but are not in control of the planning process and have a limited ability to influence the major decisions in the regional plans. Having a single representative of each council as a member of the regional planning committee is not enough to effectively represent small rural communities. This structure threatens local placemaking and will result in a loss of local voice.
- 4.3 There are stark contrasts between different communities i.e., socioeconomic conditions, differences between urban and rural communities, variations in population sizes, areas of high growth, and areas of low growth. Those contrasts exist within the Ruapehu District and are challenging to represent, so it is difficult to see how a Regional Planning Committee will be able to capture and protect the unique qualities of small communities such as Ōhura, Kakahi, Raetihi and Rangataua when making planning decisions. Local communities are effectively excluded from the decision-making process, which will result in a loss of local voice. It is essential that the Committee ensures communities are heard in the new regionalised system.
- 4.4 The loss of local voice is also a substantial concern from a Māori perspective. There are various iwi and a multitude of hapū within the Ruapehu District. It is difficult to see how one or two Māori representatives on a Regional Planning Committee can successfully and genuinely represent the collective group of iwi and hapū within the Ruapehu District when making planning decisions.

5 FUNDING AND RESOURCING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 5.1 RDC agrees with the local government sector's concerns regarding how the reform is to be paid for, including the transition to the new system. It is of critical importance that all aspects of the resource management system reform are equitably funded. As LGNZ state in their submission, "*transformative reform requires transformational resourcing by central government*". Local government, and in particular small rural local authorities like RDC, are under enormous financial pressure with limited ability to increase rates. The Ruapehu District has one of the highest deprivation levels in the country, with a National Ranking of 7 out of 68 and a Deprivation Index level of 9 out of 10 (10 being the highest). RDC's financial challenges are substantial, and the demographics of the Ruapehu District make increasing



rates to assist with funding the new resource management system unfeasible. The required financial assistance must come from central government. Significant funding commitments will be required to implement the new system and to establish the new bodies if the new system is to be successful.

- 5.2 Another funding issue of significant importance is the resourcing of iwi. RDC supports the greater role iwi and hapū are being given in the new resource management system, however central government need to work with iwi and hapū to provide them with the necessary resourcing, both financial and investment in the upskilling of iwi and hapū members, so they can effectively participate in the new system. A plan should be made to work through these issues from the outset.
- 5.3 RDC agrees with and endorses both Taituarā and LGNZ's recommendations to the Committee regarding how the new system is to be funded, and in particular the recommendation that the Committee works with the Office of the Auditor General to develop guidance for local authorities on how to incorporate the new activities into the Long-Term Planning process.

6 TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1 There is a lack of clarity regarding the transition from the existing system to the new system. This lack of clarity is of concern, particularly to a small local authority like RDC that has limited resources available to undertake the work required under the existing system, let alone the additional resources required to transition to the new system. Central government guidance is required to clarify when work should stop on existing Resource Management Act plan changes, and when preparation is to begin for the transition. It would be a waste of valuable resources undertaking unnecessary work due to a lack of clarity around the transition from the existing system to the new system.
- 6.2 RDC supports the indication from the Ministry for the Environment that the the new system will be implemented in tranches, based on regional groupings, over a 10-year period. It is however concerning that there is a lack of clarity around who will be in each tranche, and that no clear process or criteria for tranche selection has been outlined. The speed of implementation has also not been addressed. It is important that regions who are ready and have the capacity to implement the new system are able to, and that regions who are not ready are able to wait for a later tranche. Having the ability to learn from the "pilot" regions will be crucial to the overall success of the new system. Clarity and certainty are required for local authorities on what the transition will look like for each region, as soon as possible. Central government guidance on how local authorities are to incorporate the reforms into current work programs is also required, given the uncertainty around when aspects of the new system come into effect.

7 ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER LEGISLATION AND REFORMS

- 7.1 Given the significance of the resource management system reform, it is essential that the new system aligns with other legislation and the other reforms that are currently underway. There are several significant reforms taking place that affect local authorities, i.e., Three Waters, Future for Local Government, Climate Change, Freshwater Management, and



Indigenous Biodiversity. It is unclear how these significant reforms will align and integrate with the new resource management system.

- 7.2 The delay in the introduction of the Climate Adaptation Act is of concern. The three new pieces of legislation are meant to work together to transform the resource management system, but it is difficult to see how that will be achieved as the Climate Adaptation Act has not advanced with the other two pieces of legislation.
- 7.3 The submissions of Taituarā and LGNZ adequately outline the sector wide concerns in relation to the lack of clarity around how the different reforms will tie together, and RDC supports their respective recommendations.



Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: **Retrospective Adoption of the Water Services Legislation Bill Submission**

Report for: **Decision**

Author(s): Melissa Jackson

MANAGER: POLICY & STRATEGY

Endorsed By: Fiona Ferrar

ACTING MANAGER: FINANCE, STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the submission regarding the Water Services Legislation Bill to the Council for consideration and retrospective adoption.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of the Water Services Legislation Bill submission**; and
- 2 Retrospectively adopts Council's submission to the Water Services Legislation Bill.

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ruapehu District Council (Council) acknowledges that changes are necessary to improve the delivery of water services to the communities of the Ruapehu District (the District). The implementation of the Water Services Legislation Bill has the potential of improving aspects of social wellbeing in the District, however Council has also raised concerns in its submission regarding potential adverse impacts to social wellbeing.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Providing safe and reliable drinking and wastewater services is an expensive undertaking. The three waters reform will likely improve the economic wellbeing of the District as the cost of providing three waters services will be spread between more people under the new entity.

Once the District's water services are transferred to the new entity, Council's three waters related debt will likely also be taken over by the new entity, which will improve Council's financial position and by extension the economic wellbeing of the District.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

3.1 Significance

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background | Tuhinga

- 4.1 The Water Services Legislation Bill (the Bill) is part of the three waters reform and is primarily technical in nature. It provides the new Water Service Entities with the detailed powers necessary to operate successfully, together with limitations and accountabilities on their use.
- 4.2 The Bill seeks to ensure that the entities have the financial and operational independence they need to deliver safe efficient and affordable water services.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 5.1 Council Officers prepared a draft submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee outlining the key concerns that Council has regarding the proposed Bill.
- 5.2 Prior to submitting Council's submission, Elected Members were sent a copy of the submission for comment. No feedback was received. Accordingly, the submission was forwarded to the Select Committee on 12 February 2023.

Next Actions | Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

- 6.1 Council Officers will inform the Council in due course regarding the progress of the reform and discuss how these changes may affect Council.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 Water Services Legislation Bill Submission



RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Email info@ruapehudc.govt.nz
Website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz

12 February 2023

To: New Zealand Parliament
1 Museum Street
Pipitea
Wellington

Subject: **Water Service Legislation Bill**

Submission from: Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001
TAUMARUNUI 3964

Point of Contact: Vini Dutra, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Email: policyplanning@ruapehudc.govt.nz
Phone: 07 895 8188

Council does not wish to speak in support of its submission.

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 1.1 Ruapehu District Council (RDC) thanks the Select Committee for the opportunity to present its views on the Water Services Legislation Bill (the Bill). RDC supports the purpose and objective of the Bill and acknowledges that Aotearoa New Zealand faces significant infrastructure challenges in relation to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

2 ABOUT US

- 2.1 The Ruapehu District is a land-locked area covering 6,733km², with a usual resident population of 12,309 (Statistics NZ, Census 2018). Ruapehu is one of New Zealand's largest districts by land area, however, has a relatively small and dispersed population base with one of the lowest resident population densities in the country (0.02 persons per hectare). The Ruapehu District has high levels of socio-economic deprivation compared to other parts of the country.
- 2.2 The Ruapehu District has a strong primary industry sector and despite Covid, it is also a growing tourist destination and enjoys a significant and steadily increasing number of visitors and non-permanent residents each year. The Ruapehu District receives approximately 1.2 million visitors annually, and although the district's usual resident population is lower, the population goes up to approximately 28,000 on our peak day.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 RDC agrees that changes are necessary to improve the delivery of water services to our communities, however the speed at which the reform is progressing is of concern. It is notable that the first half of the Bill contains amendments to the recently enacted Water Services Entities Act 2022 (WSEA).
- 3.2 RDC's primary concerns in relation to the Bill relate to the impact these changes will have on us as a local authority, and include the following:
- a) The process around the transfer and vesting of assets in the Water Services Entity (WSE) and the payment for the associated debt;
 - b) If WSEs are not in a position to charge consumers for stormwater services after the transition has occurred, WSEs can charge councils for the use of stormwater services after the transition has occurred and until 1 July 2027;
 - c) The requirement that councils share rating information with WSEs that WSEs may not be appropriately remunerating councils for;
 - d) The Bill appears to intend to make land owned by WSEs non-rateable;
 - e) Councils being used by WSEs for pass-through billing;
 - f) Issues with WSEs charging principles and inconsistencies between those charging principles and the ability of WSEs to use geographic average pricing;
 - g) The Crown's exemption from being required to pay water infrastructure contribution charges;
 - h) The lack of clarity around what water services functions may continue to be carried out by councils;
 - i) Issues around how existing council bylaws will be adopted by WSEs and the lack of engagement required during that process;



- j) Concerns around the inability of small mixed-use rural water supplies to opt-out of the regime;
- k) The lack of clarity regarding how the three waters reform will align with and complement other legislation and other reforms that are currently under way, in particular the Resource Management Act reform.

4 TRANSFER AND VESTING OF ASSETS IN WSE AND PAYMENT OF DEBT

- 4.1 The process governing the transfer of assets and associated debt is critical to the overall success of the reform. The Bill states that the assessment of what will transfer to the Water Service Entities (WSEs) will lie with the relevant WSE's Chief Executive (CE), by giving them the responsibility of developing an allocation schedule. This process is currently underway. There are two obligations when preparing an allocation schedule. The first is the relevant CE must consult with each council when developing the schedule, including the supply of a draft and the opportunity to make written comments. After comments are provided, the CE must inform councils in writing of the reasons for any "amendments made" to the draft allocation schedule. Should councils wish to request additions to the allocation schedule, the consultation process does not contain a requirement for the CE to address any requested additions. RDC submits that section 39(d) of the Bill should be amended to provide for this.
- 4.2 The second obligation is that the Minister must approve each allocation schedule. Under the current proposal the Minister has unconstrained power when giving approval or not, including the power to amend the schedule as they consider appropriate. There is no requirement for the Minister to engage with the WSE or the relevant council when making their decision. This second obligation is of concern to RDC, particularly in respect of how the transfer of assets and associated debt is to be dealt with. Providing the Minister with such unconstrained power has the possibility of creating long-term fiscal problems for councils. RDC agrees with and endorses Taituarā's recommendation contained in their submission regarding the Bill that clause 40(2), Schedule 1 of the Bill be amended to require that any ministerial amendments to the allocation schedule submitted under clause 40(1), Schedule 1 be forwarded to local authorities for comment, within 14 days of receipt.
- 4.3 Of further concern is the fact that there is currently no recourse to the Minister if there is a disagreement regarding the allocation schedule. Councils are only able to agree on a date and manner of payment, not the amount that is to be paid. RDC submits that a statutory dispute resolution process should be added to the Bill to assist where there is a disagreement between the Minister and councils regarding the allocation schedule.

5 WSES CHARGING COUNCILS FOR STORMWATER UNTIL 1 JULY 2027

- 5.1 Proposed clause 63 of Schedule 1 of the WSEA states that between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2027, a WSE may charge a council for stormwater services provided within that council's district, if the WSE is not charging customers directly. RDC strongly opposes this provision. A WSE is providing services to its customers, not to councils, and it should be charging those customers, in its own right, from its establishment date. The ability of using councils in this way is inappropriate, lacks transparency and is unfair to councils who must then somehow recover those costs without having any responsibility for, or relationship with, the services in question.



- 5.2 It is unclear how this provision would work in practice. The Bill gives no specific power to councils to rate to recover these costs, nor does it put in place any timing requirements to enable that to be accommodated within a council's normal funding and financial planning cycle. RDC submits that if the Bill continues to allow WSE's to charge councils for stormwater instead of their customers, this provision should be accompanied by a specific authority for councils to rate to recover those costs, perhaps on a prescribed basis, in order to reflect the fact that the council is being used as a conduit for recovering charges on behalf of the WSE.

6 SHARING OF RATING INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Bill states that councils must give WSEs information from their rating information database that the WSE reasonably needs in order to charge its customers. This information must be provided on a "reasonable cost basis". The Bill contains no further guidance as to what a "reasonable cost basis" would be, including whether it encompasses just the cost of extracting and providing the information, or also the cost of the information itself.
- 6.2 The information contained in the rating information database will be derived from the district valuation role (DVR), prepared under the Rating Valuations Act 1998 (RVA). The DVR information is currently used by both territorial authorities and regional councils. Section 43 of the RVA contains a formula for the sharing of costs and its preparation (if not otherwise agreed), which depends on the respective rates revenue generated by the councils and the costs incurred in preparing and maintaining the particular information required by the regional council.
- 6.3 RDC submits that it would be appropriate for WSEs to also share in the costs of the preparation of the relevant information, in a manner proportionate to the revenue which the WSEs will receive through the use of that information. It is inappropriate that councils should be subsidising the operating costs of WSEs. Accordingly, RDC submits that section 319 of the Bill should be amended to make it clear that WSEs can be required to pay a share of the costs calculated on a specified basis, in the same or similar way to section 43 of the RVA.

7 WSE RATES EXEMPTION

- 7.1 The Bill appears to intend to make land owned by WSEs non-rateable. RDC strongly opposes this. There is nothing about land that is used for water services which qualifies it for non-rateability under the schedule of non-rateable land contained in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. The same land, used for the same purpose, and presently owned by councils or their CCOs, is currently fully rateable. There is no good reason for removing that status and depriving councils of much needed rates revenue, simply because the assets are transferring to WSEs.
- 7.2 It is arguable that granting non-rateable status to WSE land is inconsistent with the statutory principle of financial independence of WSEs, in particular the prohibition on council owners giving their WSE financial support (section 171(1)(c) of the Water Service Entities Act 2022). An exclusion from paying rates is a form of financial support. Councils should not be subsidising WSEs in this manner.

8 COUNCIL COLLECTION OF CHARGES / PASS-THROUGH BILLING



- 8.1 Section 336 of the Bill states that a WSE “may authorise” a council to collect charges on behalf of the WSE, and the Chief Executive of a WSE and the council “must take all reasonable steps” to enter into a charges collection agreement. The agreement must provide for “reasonable compensation” to councils, and the Minister determines any terms, if the parties are unable to agree.
- 8.2 Councils are clearly being required to provide billing services for the WSEs. This is concerning as Councils may not have the resources required to provide this service to the WSEs. Attracting and retaining staff in the local government sector is a challenge, particularly for small rural councils like RDC. Councils may need to employ additional or temporary staff to carry out this work. The issue of attracting and retaining staff will be compounded by the fact that the WSEs will be competing for the same staffing resources. There is potential for an arrangement that allows WSEs and councils to share staff and resources to assist through the transition period. In any event, councils need control over whether they carry out this service or not. Accordingly, RDC submits that councils should have the ability to refuse to accept authorisation to enter into a charges collection agreement.
- 8.3 Where a council agrees to be a collection agent, there is potential for confusion with the public about who is responsible for water services if councils are doing the billing. Processes will need to be developed to ensure that when invoices are issued, they clearly reflect the fact that it is a WSE charge that is being billed for. Issues are likely to also arise in respect of identifying and reconciling payments, dealing with partial payments etc.
- 8.4 There is also potential for disagreement about what “reasonable compensation” is. Guidance will need to be provided by central government around the type of costs that can be included. Usual costs such as postal fees and other administration costs like the reading of meters would likely be included, but what if improvements are required to council systems to deal with invoicing and payments, or what if new staff are required to be employed to undertake this work? The final decision regarding compensation should be for the relevant councils to determine. This is not something that needs to be decided by the Minister. RDC submits that a statutory dispute resolution process should be added to the Bill to assist where there is a disagreement on terms between the WSE and councils in relation to councils collecting charges on behalf of WSEs.

9 CHARGING PRINCIPLES AND GEOGRAPHIC AVERAGING

- 9.1 The Bill contains charging principles in the proposed section 331 of the WSEA, which are mandatory considerations when setting charges. There are some issues with this section. The section does not state whether the list of charging principles is exclusive, or whether the WSE is able to consider and take into account, other matters as well. If WSEs are unable to consider and take into account other matters when setting charges, this section is too limited.
- 9.2 In line with the statutory objectives of WSEs in section 12 of the WSEA, the charging principles should allow WSEs to set charges taking into account matters such as:
- a) the affordability of the charges to consumers or groups of consumers;
 - b) the need for or desirability of incentivising consumer behaviour (e.g., reduced water consumption);



- c) the extent to which consumers or groups of consumers are causing or contributing to the need for particular services or the costs of that service (this may be relevant to trade waste charges in particular);
- d) the administrative costs and benefits to the WSE of uniform vs differentiated charging;
- e) the overall impact on consumers and communities.

9.3 Currently, broader considerations such as these must be taken into account by local authorities when determining how the water services they provide are to be funded (section 101(3) of the LGA). Accordingly, RDC submits that charging principles in proposed section 331 of the WSEA be expanded to include consideration of the principles set out in paragraph 9.2 above.

9.4 RDC supports the use of geographic average pricing. Using this pricing method can smooth and share costs across a WSE's service area, despite differences in the actual cost of servicing different communities in that area. This will assist vulnerable customers such as those who reside in the Ruapehu District. There is however a potential inconsistency between the charging principles and the geographic averaging authorised under section 334. RDC submits that there needs to be a distinct link between sections 331 and 334 where it is clearly stated that the charging principles do not limit the power to charge geographically averaged prices.

10 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION CHARGES

10.1 Under proposed section 331 of the WSEA, the Crown is exempt from paying water infrastructure contribution charges. This will mean that the water user must subsidise the Crown's infrastructure connection charges. RDC submits that an exemption from paying infrastructure contribution charges is something that the Crown should have to apply for and be required to justify. Crown agencies are often major developers that can exacerbate issues that are the responsibility of councils, or that will soon be the responsibility of WSEs.

10.2 An application should reference the benefits that would be obtained by a particular community from such a Crown project, and those benefits should be sufficient to justify the associated water services-related costs that would be borne by all consumers across the WSEs' service area. RDC agrees with and endorses LGNZ and Taituarā's recommendation that section 348 be removed from the Bill. The Crown should be liable for infrastructure contribution charges.

11 RESIDUAL WATER SERVICES FUNCTIONS OF COUNCILS

11.1 The Bill lacks clarity around what water services functions may continue to be exercised by councils. WSEs have the function of providing water services in their respective areas, which are: water supply, wastewater and stormwater. The proposed amended definition of "water supply" excludes water supplied for agricultural or horticultural purposes, unless supplied by the WSE. There are also issues in respect of the Bill's definition of "stormwater network", as it is limited to WSE infrastructure in an urban area. This seems to indicate that stormwater outside of urban areas will remain under council control, however the WSE's statutory stormwater function applies to its entire service area. This needs to be clarified. RDC submits that the Bill should clearly set out what the respective roles and functions of WSEs and councils are in relation to stormwater, rather than that being left to interpretation.



- 11.2 If there are indeed residual water services functions that councils will be responsible for, there are some powers that will be necessary for councils to retain to enable them to carry out those residual water services functions i.e., the power to recover development contributions that relate to councils residual water services functions, and the power to construct works on private land (section 181 of the Local Government Act 2002). RDC submits that these matters need to be clarified and addressed in the Bill.

12 BYLAWS

- 12.1 Section 56 of the proposed new part 2 of Schedule 1 of the WSEA provides for the WSE Board to make certain “instruments” during establishment, which are not effective until the establishment date. This includes the power to adopt (with or without change) councils’ existing water services bylaws to become new stormwater network rules, trade waste plans, water use restrictions, or other instruments under the WSE’s new powers. It is concerning that the normal engagement requirements do not apply, provided the instrument applies to the same area and has the same *material effect* as the existing bylaw.
- 12.2 These provisions will facilitate the transition, but it is not clear how easy it will be to make modifications to and consolidate council bylaws to become workable instruments. If there is no requirement to engage with councils and communities, how can the WSE be certain that modifications or consolidation will have the same *material effect*? RDC submits that the WSE should be required to consult with the relevant council regarding modifications to instruments when adopting councils’ existing waters bylaws.

13 RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

- 13.1 Section 234 of the proposed new Part 8 of the WSEA deals with small mixed-use rural water services. The provision states that suppliers that supply drinking water (to 1000 or fewer non-farmland dwellings) and/or water for farming related purposes (where 85% or more of the water supplied goes to agriculture/horticulture) will transfer to the WSEs. These rural supplies can subsequently be transferred to an “alternative operator” i.e., the local community served by the supply, if they meet certain requirements.
- 13.2 The transfer provisions outlined in proposed Part 8 are complex and could become costly to the users of these rural water supplies. As a predominately rural district, the Ruapehu District has numerous rural water supplies that would fit this definition. RDC submits that there should be an opt-out option available for communities that can demonstrate that they satisfy the “transfer requirements” outlined in section 236. This is in line with Local Government New Zealand’s submission in relation to the Bill, whereby they support the recommendation of the Rural Supplies Working Group, which promoted a regime where the local / affected community could ‘opt out’ from the initial transfer. RDC supports and endorses that recommendation.

14 ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER LEGISLATION AND REFORMS

- 14.1 Given the significance of the three waters reform, it is essential that the new system aligns with other legislation and other reforms that are currently under way. In particular, it is essential that the Water Services Legislation Act aligns and integrates with the Resource Management Act reform.



- 14.2 The Bill empowers WSEs to prepare a wide array of documents, including controlled drinking water catchment areas and plans, stormwater management plans and rules, and water services assessments. The scope of these documents may extend beyond three water service delivery and into land use regulation, which is a core council function. This allows the potential for overlap between the two, creating uncertainty in terms of land use regulation and enforcement. RDC submits that clarity needs to be provided around these matters before the Bill progresses further.



Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: **Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill**



Report for: **Decision**

Author(s): Melissa Jackson

MANAGER: POLICY & STRATEGY

Endorsed By: Fiona Ferrar

ACTING MANAGER: FINANCE, STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the submission to the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill for the Council's consideration and retrospective adoption.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of the Submission to the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill**; and
- 2 Retrospectively adopts Council's submission to the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill.

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This Bill gives effect to central government's decision to introduce consumer protection regulation for three waters services. Retrospectively adopting Council's submission regarding the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill (the Bill) will confirm Council's concerns regarding aspects of the Bill, thereby advocating on behalf of the District's communities and promoting social wellbeing in the Ruapehu District.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Bill gives effect to central government's decision to introduce economic protection regulation for three waters services. Retrospectively adopting Council's submission regarding the Bill will confirm Council's concerns regarding aspects of the Bill, thereby advocating on

behalf of the District's communities and promoting economic wellbeing in the Ruapehu District.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

3.1 Significance

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background | Tuhinga

- 4.1 The Bill is part of the three waters reform and gives effect to central government's decision to introduce economic and consumer protection regulation for three waters services.
- 4.2 The Bill is largely based on similar provisions that apply to the electricity market. The Commerce Commission is to be the regulator, with a new position of Water Services Commissioner established. The Water Services Commissioner must be a member of the Commerce Commission.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 5.1 Council supports the objectives of the Bill, although it does hold some reservations regarding the timing of the implementation of quality regulation and the timing of price-quality regulation. Council also has some financial concerns in relation to the new entities, and concerns about how the regulatory standards of the Water Service Entities and Taumata Arowai will align.
- 5.2 Prior to submitting Council's submission, Elected Members were sent a copy of the submission for comment. No feedback was received. Accordingly, the submission was forwarded to the Select Committee on 12 February 2023.

Next Actions | Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

- 6.1 Council Officers will inform the Council in due course regarding the progress of the reform and discuss how these changes may affect Council.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill submission



RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

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12 February 2023

To: New Zealand Parliament
1 Museum Street
Pipitea
Wellington

Subject: **Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill**

Submission from: Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001
TAUMARUNUI 3964

Point of Contact: Vini Dutra, Executive Manager Infrastructure

Email: policyplanning@ruapehudc.govt.nz
Phone: 07 895 8188

Council does not wish to speak in support of its submission.

The Ruapehu District ... where adventure begins!



1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 1.1 Ruapehu District Council (RDC) thanks the Select Committee for the opportunity to present its views on the Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill (the Bill). RDC supports the purpose and objective of the Bill and acknowledges that Aotearoa New Zealand faces significant infrastructure challenges to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

2 ABOUT US

- 2.1 The Ruapehu District is a land-locked area covering 6,733km², with a usual resident population of 12,309 (Statistics NZ, Census 2018). Ruapehu is one of New Zealand's largest districts by land area, however, has a relatively small and dispersed population base with one of the lowest resident population densities in the country (0.02 persons per hectare). The Ruapehu District has high levels of socio-economic deprivation compared to other parts of the country.
- 2.2 The Ruapehu District has a strong primary industry sector and despite Covid, it is also a growing tourist destination and enjoys a significant and steadily increasing number of visitors and non-permanent residents each year. The Ruapehu District receives approximately 1.2 million visitors annually, and although the district's usual resident population is lower, the population goes up to approximately 28,000 on our peak day.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Bill introduces economic regulation to regulate the price and quality of water infrastructure services in a market where there will be virtually no competition, as well as consumer protection measures. RDC supports the Bill's objective to regulate the price and quality of water infrastructure services and to protect consumers. Economic regulation will play an important role in securing overall public confidence in relation to the implementation of the reform.
- 3.2 Although RDC supports the objectives of the Bill, RDC has some concerns in relation to the Bill, including the following:
- a) The timing of the implementation of quality regulation;
 - b) The timing of the implementation of price-quality regulation;
 - c) Debt capacity and financial concerns in relation to WSEs;
 - d) How the WSEs' and Taumata Arowai's regulatory standards will align.

4 QUALITY REGULATION

- 4.1 Quality regulation aims to regulate the supply of water infrastructure services so that the services meet minimum quality standards. The first regulatory period starts on 1 July 2027 (unless delayed up to two years by Order in Council). The first regulatory period duration is three years. Subsequent regulatory periods are no longer than six years. RDC submits that the intention of rolling out quality regulation in the first regulatory period is unrealistic.
- 4.2 Quality regulation requires information. It takes time to gather the useful type of information that would support quality regulation. This information would include engagement with communities to understand what they require from the services. RDC agrees with and



endorses Local Government New Zealand's comment in their submission to the Bill where they state that they believe the earliest time for quality regulation to be introduced is in the second regulatory period, not the first. That will allow WSEs to utilise information obtained through the information disclosure regime and the first regulatory period.

5 PRICE-QUALITY REGULATION

- 5.1 Price-quality regulation aims to discourage excessive profits and to increase WSEs' efficiency. Price-quality regulation is a costly and complex form of regulation. There is an argument to be made that price-quality regulation would be a disproportionate regulatory burden, when gains in that area could be made by way of the information disclosure regime outlined in the Bill alone. Information disclosure has been effective in other sectors i.e., airports, which are regulated with information disclosure only, and it has been effective in driving efficiency. It also doubles as a soft form of price control because financial returns can be exposed to public scrutiny. RDC submits that the intention of rolling out price-quality regulation just three years into the new regime is unrealistic. If price-quality regulation becomes necessary down the track, it is likely that the regulator would be better placed to implement it with two or more regulatory periods of data available.
- 5.2 RDC agrees with and endorses Local Government New Zealand's comment in their submission to the Bill where they state that they believe the information disclosure component of the Bill should be given a chance to do its work, before a move is made to a more complex, onerous, and costly form of regulation.

6 DEBT CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL CONCERNS

- 6.1 In the short to medium term, the WSEs will have to borrow substantial amounts of money from different debt markets to ensure they are able to provide water services. This includes fulfilling their obligations under the allocation schedules that deal with the transfer and vesting of councils' waters assets and the payment of the associated debt and meeting their obligations in relation to their share of the "Better Off" funding commitments. WSEs will also need to meet compliance costs, including regulation and expected future investment requirements.
- 6.2 RDC shares the concerns of the local government sector regarding whether the WSEs will be able to handle their financial obligations without compromising their operations. The challenges of the transitional arrangements will make providing water services at an economical price challenging. RDC submits that financial assistance from central government should be made available to the WSEs, if required, so the WSEs' debt burden does not result in an increase of costs to consumers.

7 ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE WSE'S AND TAUMATA AROWAI'S REGULATORY STANDARDS

- 7.1 Given the significance of the three waters reform and the work that has already been undertaken in relation to the establishment of Taumata Arowai, it is essential that some clarity be provided regarding how the economic and consumer protection regime outlined in the Bill aligns with the health and regulatory functions set by Taumata Arowai. It is essential that these two regimes align.
- 7.2 RDC agrees with and endorses the recommendation made by Taituarā in their submission to the Bill that an explicit requirement should be included in the Bill that the Commission consult with Taumata Arowai when developing input methodologies and quality standards.



Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: **Retrospective Adoption of the Future for Local Government Submission**

Report for: **Decision**

Author(s): Vivita Matanimeke **STRATEGY & POLICY ADVISOR**

Endorsed By: Fiona Ferrar **ACTING MANAGER: FINANCE, STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE**

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Future for Local Government Submission for Council's consideration and retrospective adoption.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Retrospective Adoption of the Future for Local Government Submission**, and
- 2 Retrospectively adopts the Future for Local Government Submission.

Well-Being Outcomes

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.1 Social: Safe, healthy communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If central government proceeds with the Future for Local Government review, it will transform the function of local government.

The Future for Local Government report (the report) indicates that the function of local government will change, to focus more on community wellbeing and move away from infrastructure related work. The report argues that because local government has established relationships within their respective communities, they are better positioned to lead work that aims to address certain social issues.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.2 Economic: Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unfunded mandates place a tremendous amount pressure on local government. Councils around the country have been calling on central government to either fund mandates or cease unfunded mandates. The report suggests re-structuring local government to enable councils to keep up with the changes that are being introduced by central government.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.3 Environmental: Sustaining beautiful environments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
2.4 Cultural: Vibrant and diverse living	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Improving and strengthening local government and iwi partnership is a key theme throughout the report. Establishing a trusted relationship with iwi requires investment and expertise that local government often lack. The report calls on central government to assist local government and Māori with building (in some cases re-building) their relationships.

Background | Tuhinga

3.1 WHY IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEING REVIEWED?

- 3.1.1 A lot has changed since the 1989 reorganisation of local government and the enactment of the Local Government Act in 2002. Local government has become much more complex and demanding, having been dealt increasingly more responsibilities with little increase in funding or capability. Further, planned resource management and three water reforms, if implemented as signalled, will also call into question the broader functions and roles of local government, and have implications for local governance and the promotion of community wellbeing.
- 3.1.2 Over the next 30 years, local government authorities around Aotearoa New Zealand will face new challenges and may need to change its role and functions. The impacts of climate change; relationships between local government, iwi, hapū and Māori; and reforms of resource management, water infrastructure, health and education will all have implications for local governance in the future.
- 3.1.3 Ineffective local governance can create or exacerbate challenges. Effective local governance can create the conditions in which communities prosper and thrive. The review of local government is an opportunity to consider how local democracy and governance might need to develop in order to maximise wellbeing and prosperity for all.

3.2 THE PANEL

- 3.2.1 The Future for Local Government draft report was written by a Review Panel (the Panel). According to the Future for Local Government website, members of the panel were selected through the Cabinet appointment process. Careful consideration was given to the range of background and experience, including Te Ao Māori perspectives, strong connections with the community, knowledge of local government issues, and urban and rural representation.

3.3 THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Review is being undertaken in three stages and will involve engagement with local and central government, iwi, the business sector, community organisations, young people and the wider public. The three stages are:

3.3.1 Early Soundings

The first stage involved initial scoping and early engagement with local government and other organisations to help the panel take a future-focused look at the local governance system and identify key issues and lines of inquiry. The panel's interim report reflects the results of that work and signals their broad lines of inquiry for the next stages of the Review.

3.3.2 **Broader Engagement**

The second stage of the review process involved broader public engagement about the future of local governance and democracy in New Zealand, alongside research and policy development. The panel's draft report outlined draft findings, recommendations and posed questions. Submissions on the draft report will be considered by the panel when it develops its final report.

3.3.3 **Formal Consultation and Final Report**

The third stage (the current stage) involves formal consultation about the panel's draft recommendations. The panel is considering public submissions before it delivers its final report in June 2023. Please note that the updated due date for the final report has changed from April 2023 to June 2023, as agreed by the Minister of Local Government.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 4.1 Ruapehu District Council's (Council's) submission acknowledges the current state of local government and supports most of the Report's recommendations on how to improve and support local government.
- 4.2 The submission focuses on the topics discussed in the Report and the questions asked by the panel. This approach was taken to ensure the submission spoke directly to the matters at hand.
- 4.3 Prior to submitting Council's submission, Elected Members were sent a copy of the submission for comment. No feedback was received and accordingly the submission was forwarded to the panel on the due date of 28 February 2023.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

- 1 Submission on The Future for Local Government Draft Report



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28 February 2023

To: Future for Local Government Panel

Subject: Review into the Future for Local Government Report

Submission from: Ruapehu District Council
Private Bag 1001
TAUMARUNUI 3964

Point of Contact: Pauline Welch

Email: policyplanning@ruapehudc.govt.nz
Phone: 07 895 8188

Council does not wish to speak in support of its submission.

The Ruapehu District ... where adventure begins!



1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) thanks the Future for Local Government Panel for the opportunity to submit on the Future for Local Government draft report. This is an exciting and uncertain time for local government, the sector is in need of a transformation. Currently, local government structures and systems are facing considerable pressure from climate change, three waters, and resource management reform etc. The work local government does has become much more complex and demanding, with little increase in funding and capability. RDC acknowledges the need for change, and our submission highlights key concerns and considerations for the Panel to think about in the final report.

2 ABOUT US

The Ruapehu District is a land-locked area covering 6,733km², with a usual resident population of 12,309 (Statistics NZ, Census 2018). Ruapehu is one of New Zealand's largest districts by land area, however, has a relatively small and dispersed population base with one of the lowest resident population densities in the country (0.02 persons per hectare). The Ruapehu District has high levels of socio-economic deprivation compared to other parts of the country.

The Ruapehu District has a strong primary industry sector and despite Covid, it is also a growing tourist destination and enjoys a significant and steadily increasing number of visitors and non-permanent residents each year. The Ruapehu District receives approximately 1.2 million visitors annually, and although the district's usual resident population is lower, the population goes up to approximately 28,000 on our peak day.

3 REVITALISING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY

What might we do more of to increase community understanding about the role of local government, and therefore lead to greater civic participation?

RDC supports the panel's vision (pg. 42) for what strong civic participation should look like. However, the 'them vs us' narrative in the way communities and councils are discussed in this report does not help achieve the vision. The report views councils and communities as separate entities. In RDC's view, the council and community are part of the same body. The council is the community and vice versa. The challenge lies in helping key stakeholders recognise the relationship between the community and councils. This shift in perspective will alter the way communities view councils and how councils engage with communities.

RDC agrees with the report's assessment of the state of civic participation in local government. There must be an investment in building the skills and experience of councils to facilitate citizen-led democracy. RDC recognises the benefits of using digital tools and civic education to increase community understanding of the role of local government. RDC believes an assessment must be conducted first to understand the current levels of knowledge and understanding communities have. This will allow for tailored approaches that directly address the barriers of civic participation.

Instead of asking "*What might we do to increase civic education?*", the question should be "*Why should communities/ individuals care about local government?*". In RDC's view, the future of local government review should centre around improving and growing the relationship between communities, central government, and local government.

The Ruapehu District ... where adventure begins!



RDC supports the report's recommendation to review the legislative provisions relating to engagement, consultation and decision-making. Current legislative provisions outline the core requirements, however, as mentioned in the report it needs to be modernised to consider the multiple media and communication mediums available.

RDC supports the report's recommendation to review requirements for engaging with Māori across local government-related legislation. RDC supports the report's recommendation for central government to provide a transitional fund to subsidise the cost of building both Māori and council capability and capacity for Tiriti-based partnership in local governance.

RDC supports the report's recommendation for local government to lead the development of coordinated organisational and workforce development plans to enhance the capability of local government to partner and engage with Māori.

4 A TIRITI-BASED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MĀORI AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The report recommends that central government should lead an inclusive process to develop new legislative framework for Tiriti-related provisions in the Local Government Act (LGA), that drives a genuine partnership in the exercise of kāwanatanga and rangatiratanga in a local context and explicitly recognise Te Ao Māori values and conceptions. RDC agrees that this process should be led by central government. Furthermore, if the aim of this framework is to provide a better understanding and give greater clarity to councils, it would be in local governments best interest to support this.

The report recommends that councils develop a partnership framework with hapū/iwi and significant Māori organisations within a local authority area, that complements existing co-governance arrangements by ensuring all groups in a council area are involved in local governance in a meaningful way. RDC supports this recommendation, however it would need significant financial and capability support from central government to establish and maintain genuine and effective partnerships with iwi within our rohe. Currently iwi are experiencing high demand on their time to engage with various agencies across several sectors, which is an exhaustive exercise. To ensure that our iwi partners are well resourced to engage, there must be assistance available beforehand, whether it be in the form of pūtea or otherwise, to enable meaningful collaboration.

The report recommends that central government introduces a statutory requirement for local government chief executives to develop and maintain the capacity and capability of council staff to grow understanding and knowledge of Te Tiriti, the whakapapa of local government, and Te Ao Māori values. This would provide certainty to councils and ensure greater recognition and understanding in relation to the legal obligations of Te Tiriti. Councils will require clarity around what the intention of the phrase "the whakapapa of local government" is.

The report recommends that central government explores a stronger statutory requirement for councils to foster Māori capacity to participate in local government. RDC supports this view, however central government must provide councils with financial assistance and other tools to assist with undertaking this work.

The report recommends that central government explores a stronger statutory requirement for councils to foster Māori capacity to participate in local government. Again, RDC supports



this view, however central government must provide councils with financial assistance and other tools to assist with undertaking this work.

The report recommends that local government leads the development of coordinated organisation and workforce development plans to enhance the capability of local government to partner and engage with Māori. In RDC's view, local government should co-lead with iwi. To foster and encourage genuine partnership, local government must work with iwi as equal partners.

The report recommends that central government provides a transition fund to subsidise the cost of building both Māori and council capability and capacity for a Tiriti-based partnership in local governance. RDC supports this recommendation. As mentioned further in this submission, it must not be a contestable fund. Funds should be awarded by need. When distributing the fund, central government should consider matters like, existing partnership, whether plans put forward have been endorsed by local government and iwi, and willingness to work together.

5 **ALLOCATING ROLES AND FUNCTIONS IN A WAY THAT ENHANCES LOCAL WELLBEING**

The report recommends that central and local government note that the allocation of roles and functions is not a binary decision between being delivered centrally or locally. This view skews the purpose of allocating roles. There will always be cases whereby roles overlap, however, there must be clear lines to delineate who does what. As stated in the report, local government is struggling to understand its role in addressing certain challenges such as climate change. Assigning clear roles to key stakeholders allows for cohesive working partnerships through setting agreed upon expectations from the outset.

The report recommends that local and central government, in a Tiriti-consistent manner, review the future allocation of roles and functions by applying the concept of subsidiarity and Te Ao Māori values. RDC supports the concept of subsidiarity. Councils are well positioned to influence and champion wellbeing due to our proximity to communities and people. However, as mentioned in the report, councils struggle with limited resources and capacity. These limitations prevent councils from taking up opportunities to collaborate with our community on locally driven solutions. In addition, the report does not take into consideration the unique challenges in increasing capacity for rural councils like RDC, such as our ability to attract people to live and work in our district.

What process would need to be created to support and agree on the allocation of roles and functions across central government, local government, and communities?

An assessment must be conducted first, to capture stakeholder capabilities and their scope of work. This process should also be used to review each agent's vision and goals and align it with the district or region's overall wellbeing goals. Having this information provides an overview of who does what. This information is critical in informing how roles are allocated and the resources required to effectively carry out those roles.

What conditions will need to be in place to ensure the flexibility of the approach proposed does not create confusion or unnecessary uncertainty?

As mentioned in the report, strong relationships between local government, central government and relevant agencies must be established before the discussion about roles is had. As a consequence of historically working in silos, there is limited understanding both



within and between agencies about what each agency does, especially in areas where work overlaps. By first understanding what each other's role and capacity is, a plan can then be developed that takes advantage of opportunities to work together to effectively address local challenges, with central government resources.

What additional principles, if any, need to be considered?

The 'new' LGA principles should consider whether they support place making, wellbeing, partnership, and Te Ao Māori values. This could include equity, social inclusion, participation in democracy and decision making, and maximising local input.

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS A CHAMPION AND ACTIVATOR OF WELLBEING

The report recommends that local government, in partnership with central government, explores funding and resources that enable and encourage councils to:

- (a) lead, facilitate and support innovation and experimentation in achieving greater social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing outcomes;
- (b) build relational, partnering, innovation, and co-design capability and capacity across their whole organisation;
- (c) embed social/progressive procurement and supplier diversity as standard practice in local government with nationally supported organisational infrastructure and capability and capacity building;
- (d) review their levers and assets from an equity and wellbeing perspective and identify opportunities for strategic and transformational initiatives;
- (e) take on the anchor institution role, initially through demonstration initiatives with targeted resources and peer support;
- (f) share the learning and emerging practice from innovation and experimentation of their enhanced wellbeing role.

RDC supports all of these recommendations, but as mentioned throughout this submission, local government will require significant investment and support from central government to enable us to successfully achieve these recommendations.

What feedback do you have on the roles councils can play to enhance intergenerational wellbeing?

The report describes councils as an anchor institution. Anchor institutions are entities like hospitals, schools, faith groups etc. that have a long-term and enduring commitment and connection to communities; because of these entities purpose and placement within communities, they can and do create and increase public good and value.

As an anchor institute, RDC enhances intergenerational wellbeing by targeting initiatives and or services to those in our community who need them the most. In RDC's view this function of local government should further be supported by expanding local government's powers, through the LGA, to sufficiently design and resource projects targeted at increasing equity of vulnerable communities.

What changes would support councils to utilise their existing assets, enablers, and levers to generate more local wellbeing?

The relationship between central government and local government is one of the key focus areas that requires improvement to enhance the relationship and facilitate the successful achievement of local wellbeing. RDC believes there is an obvious need for an agreed wellbeing plan – an integrated strategic plan for wellbeing that sets out objectives, and



outlines the steps to be taken, by whom and by when, and shapes the funding required to deliver.

7 **A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

RDC agrees with the report's proposal on how to strengthen the relationship between local government and central government. As mentioned in the report, the challenges our communities face are deep-seated, complex, intergenerational and can only be tackled with a cohesive approach. This means local government and central government must both invest in building a relationship that not only connects on systematic level, but more importantly on an interpersonal level. The report effectively captures the nuances of the challenges of re-establishing a relationship between the two parties, however, it must be reiterated that accessibility and transparency should be at the core of the relationship building process as it is these two components that build trust.

This can be done by bringing 'Wellington' to the regions. Often, local government is left out of the conversation because big picture decisions that have local impacts happen outside of our district, region and or city. The report suggests establishing co-investment as a solution to this issue. RDC supports this proposal, however, will this 'system' function outside of our region? If it leads to the establishment of a separate 'entity', which it appears to be leading to, where will it be located? RDC recommends that if an 'entity' is created, it should be based in a region other than Wellington and or a major city. As a way to support the revitalisation of small town communities, central government should consider de-centralizing their services. Close proximity to community improves community buy in and builds strong relationship between local government, central government and Māori.

8 **REPLENISHING AND BUILDING ON REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**

The report recommends that the Electoral Commission be responsible for overseeing the administration of local body elections. RDC acknowledges the benefits of centralising local government elections, however, any system that replaces the administration of local body elections must be able to retain the benefits of localised delivery of the electoral process.

While localised delivery can mean electoral processes are better tailored to local circumstances, RDC agrees with the report's observation that it can lead to inconsistency in the interpretation and application of electoral law across the country. It can also lead to different standards of voter support and promotional activities due to differing council budgets.

In RDC's view the report's recommendation to lower the eligible voting age in local body elections to 16 to increase participation does not address the cause of low voter participation. For this policy option to work, it must be preceded by thorough civic education that is introduced throughout different stages of schooling.

The report recommended that central and local government, in conjunction with the Remuneration Authority, review the criteria for setting elected member remuneration to recognise the increasing complexity of the role and enable a more diverse range of people to consider standing for election. RDC supports this recommendation. As stated throughout this submission, local government is increasingly having to manage complex issues, and remuneration should reflect the demand it places on councillors time and capabilities.



RDC supports the report's recommendation to build the capacity of elected members by implementing a professional development programme targeted at members. Any support to expand elected members ability to deliver good quality services for their community is welcomed. Lack of experience is a barrier to standing for local government elections. The implementation of a professional development programme targeted at educating newly elected members will greatly assist their transition to a governance role.

The report does not consider the impact home ownership has on representation. Given that rates make up 60% of most councils revenue, there is a built in incentive for homeowners to be involved in local government. Home ownership is low amongst Māori and Pacific people. This may be a reason for these groups' lack of involvement in local government. A conversation should be had between central government, local government, Māori and Pacific groups to discuss the challenge of home ownership in relation to local government participation.

RDC supports the report's recommendations that central government and local government:

- (a) support and enable councils to undertake regular health checks of their democratic performance;
- (b) develop guidance and mechanisms to support councils resolving complaints under their code of conduct and explore a specific option for local government to refer complaints to an independent investigation process, conducted and led by a national organisation;
- (c) subject to the findings of current relevant ombudsman's investigations, assess whether the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and how it is being applied, support high standards of openness and transparency.

RDC supports the report's recommendation for central government to retain Māori wards and constituencies mechanism (subject to amendment in current policy processes) but additional options should be considered that provide for a Tiriti-based partnership at the council table.

9 BUILDING AN EQUITABLE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND FINANCING SYSTEM

RDC agrees that a sustainable and equitable co-investment model is needed to support local government. Rating, as the primary funding mechanism, constrains local government's ability to lead in areas like climate change, disaster management, economic development etc. An intergenerational national funding mechanism is needed.

RDC cannot afford to pay for investments necessary to support community wellbeing and keep up with unfunded mandates. The Ruapehu District is geographically isolated, with a small rating base and many areas of our community experience high levels deprivation. A co-investment model is a welcome idea, but it will need to be established by central government.

RDC strongly agrees with the report's recommendation to cease unfunded mandates. The financial pressure of additional responsibilities delegated from central government without additional resources is a huge challenge and burden to our ratepayers. RDC believes that there should be regulatory impact assessments on proposed and existing regulations that have significant, ongoing funding impacts for local government.

RDC supports the report's recommendation for central government to develop an intergenerational fund for climate change, with the application of the fund requiring appropriate regional and local decision-making input. The recent floods in Auckland and



Hawkes Bay demonstrated what climate change experts have warned for years. Ruapehu is vulnerable to flooding and land erosion. RDC is not in a position to develop and implement comprehensive mitigating measures necessary to keep our community safe. If an intergenerational fund for climate change is established, RDC believes that it should not be a contestable fund. The fund should be allocated by need.

RDC supports the report's recommendation for central government to review relevant legislation to:

- (a) enable councils to introduce new funding mechanisms; and
- (b) retain rating as the principal mechanism for funding local government, while redesigning long-term planning and rating provisions to allow a more simplified and streamlined process.

RDC supports the report's recommendation that central government agencies pay local government rates and charges on all properties.

What is the most appropriate basis and process for allocating central government funding to meet community priorities?

In RDC's view, developing a funding allocation process should be done in collaboration with local government, local communities, and Māori. A discussion prior to the creation of a process will assist with identifying key barriers to achieving wellbeing outcomes. By identifying barriers to community wellbeing, funds can then be targeted at communities that not only need it the most, but who are also prepared to work together with local government and Māori to implement wellbeing plans that encompass community priorities.

10 DESIGNING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM TO ENABLE THE CHANGE WE NEED

RDC endorses the core guiding principles highlighted by the report. RDC would like to see the inclusion of a principle that enables and supports small councils' ability to explore investment options, using the co-investment model of work, between local government and central government.

Although the 'single authority' model is only used as an example to demonstrate how guiding principles are applied, RDC wants to emphasise that it does not endorse this model for local government. One of the guiding principles stated in this report is 'local', and in RDC's view, this model does not centre local knowledge of communities, hapū and iwi.

If the Panel decides to recommend a local government structure, the 'combined authority' model is the closest example of what ideally would work for local government. This model brings the local and regional tiers of local governance closer together by having shared representatives and more aligned decision-making. Granted there are issues with this model. The report rightly points out that the main challenge with the 'combined authority' model is ensuring the combined councils are accountable to their local communities. This can be remedied by creating, via legislation, an entity whose sole responsibility is to regulate local government. This is an option that the Panel should explore in the final report.

RDC supports the report's recommendation for central government and local government to explore and agree to a new Tiriti-consistent structural and system design that will give effect to the design principles. It is vital, that collaboration takes place before any legislative change



is undertaken. This report reiterates the idea that for meaningful change to occur in the local government sector, there must be a significant shift in the relationship between central government and local government. Engaging with local government earlier in the reform process is vital to building a strong relationship between the government entities, local communities, and Māori.

RDC supports the report's recommendation for central government to invest into a programme that identifies and implements the opportunities for greater shared services and collaboration.

RDC supports the report's recommendations for local government to establish a Local Government Digital Partnership to develop a digital transformation roadmap for local government.

11 SYSTEM STEWARDSHIP AND SUPPORT

RDC supports the report's recommendation for central and local government to consider the best model of stewardship and which entities are best placed to play system stewardship roles in a revised system of local government.

How can system stewardship be reimagined so that it is led across local government, hapū/iwi, and central government?

The current system stewardship is delivered through a range of ways across central government and local government, and at times, there is a lot of crossovers of work between entities within local government. This results in multiple agencies and ministers placing demand on local government, often without an awareness of the collective impact or supported by resources that reflect an increased responsibility. This breeds a competitive environment that is not conducive to a collaborative working relationship.

The system would benefit from intervention options, short of appointing commissioners, that can address any performance issues while preserving the intent of local democracy. These options should be explored.

How do we embed Te Tiriti in local government system stewardship?

RDC suggests the panel explore how to embed Te Tiriti into the function of organisations responsible for system stewardship. This should relate to mechanisms of central and local government focused on things such as:

- (a) national advocacy for councils and coordinating insights and influence on government policy;
- (b) training and development for elected members, including conferences;
- (c) training and development for staff;
- (d) best practice guidance on the conduct of local government business, such as long-term planning, funding and financing, rating, and local elections.

How should the roles and responsibilities of 'stewardship' organisations (including the Secretary of Local Government (Department of Internal Affairs), the Local Government Commission, LGNZ, and Taituarā) evolve and change?



RDC supports the report's suggestion that central government, local government and hapū/iwi need to determine together the best way to develop local government models of system stewardship to ensure all actors are working towards the same outcomes for communities.

12 CONCLUSION

RDC cautions the Panel to consider that the success of this reform depends on building a healthy relationship between central government and local government. Therefore, it is important that local government is engaged as a genuine partner throughout this review process.



Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 28 February 2023

Report for: Information

Author(s): Mana Robinson
Chris Hankey

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT
SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Endorsed By: Fiona Ferrar

**ACTING EXECUTIVE MANAGER: FINANCE,
STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE**



Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to monitor Council's financial performance against the current revised budget (Forecast) and to show the impact of any budget changes made to date on Council's expected year end position. All budget changes are transparent to readers of this report through the comparison of Council's 2022/23 Annual Plan to Council's Forecast, with variances (budget changes) listed in the notes section.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 **Receives** the Report **Financial Monitoring Report for the Month Ending 28 February 2023**;
- 2 **Approves** the **Transfer** of \$325,680 from the Taumarunui Sewerage Level of Service Funding to the Ohakune Sewerage Upgrade Programmes for:

(a) Goldfinch WW Main Critical Upgrade	\$315,000
(b) Burns Street WW Main Critical Upgrade	\$ 10,680

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

2.1 **Significance**

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background | Tuhinga

- 3.1 Every three years, Council develops a long-term plan (LTP) in consultation with its community. This sets Council's vision, direction, budgets and work plans for each of the next 10 years. An Annual Plan is produced in the two years between each LTP being developed and shows any changes to the LTP proposals for that year. Annual Plans and the first year of the LTP set out the annual budget that Council use as a benchmark to report its actual financial results to.
- 3.2 After the Annual Plan is adopted, Council makes decisions that further impact the financial expectations and outcomes for the year. These have been taken into account in this report and changes made in Council's budget are reported through Council's Forecast. This allows Council to see the impact of these decisions on the expected year-end financial performance and position.

- 3.3 Financial performance to date is tracked by comparing year-to-date (YTD) actuals, against Council's Forecast, as this is the most up to date budgeting information available. This approach is real time budgeting, instead of backwards looking.
- 3.4 This monthly report presents the financial performance of Council, focussing on the key financial metrics, compared with Council's forecast and significant changes to the budget, since the previous months report to Council.
- 3.5 This report does not consider the impact of decisions beyond the current year (2022/23).

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

4 OVERALL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 Overall financial results to date show a YTD deficit of \$2.3Million which is \$11.9Million unfavourable against the revised budget.
- 4.2 Continuing the unfavourable variance that was identified to the end of December 2022, the year-to-date outcome is due primarily to the unfavourable subsidies and grants revenue of \$8.4Million, being \$5Million from Waka Kotahi NZTA funded work being behind the planning assumptions YTD and \$3Million from Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant.
- 4.3 In addition, depreciation is over budget by \$3.4Million due to the increase in asset values. It is unlikely that Council will be able to catch-up on the full revenue year plan by 30 June 2023, and the depreciation costs will continue through the rest of this year.
- 4.4 Council's unfavourable variance has been partially offset by favourable items, such as, underspent budget of personnel costs of \$332,000 and finance costs of \$153,000.
- 4.5 It is recommended that Council **receives** this report.

5 DETAILED COMMENTARY

5.1 Operating Financial Performance

- 5.1.1 Key metrics are disclosed in the Operating Performance Dashboard. Year to Date (YTD) financial performance is based on Council's forecast.
- 5.1.2 The Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses (**attached**) shows the operating performance of all of Council, with significant variances to forecast identified. This statement does not include capital expenditure but includes capital revenue.
- 5.1.3 Changes to Council's approved budget are reported and described for transparency purposes.

5.2 Forecast Operating Performance

- 5.2.1 The dashboard line graphs for Whole of Council Revenue and Expenditure includes a grey forecast line.
- 5.2.2 The forecast is prepared based on an extrapolation of the YTD variances recognising one off items and ongoing items that are not part of the extrapolation.

6 GROUPS OF ACTIVITIES FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- 6.1 The Groups of Activities Performance Dashboard shows the financial performance compared to the phased Group of Activity Funding Impact Statements in the Annual Plan
- 6.2 The Dashboard shows YTD actuals compared with the phased Annual Plan budget for:
- Operating revenue (including rates but not capital revenue);
 - Operating expenditure (including overheads);
 - Capital expenditure (against the Annual Plan excluding subsequent resolutions of Council);
 - Commentary on the main variances is included in this and the attached dashboard report.

7 SUNDRY AND RATES DEBTORS

- 7.1 Aged Sundry Debtors are \$2.7Million; of which \$233,000 is greater than 90 days. Most of this balance relates to the Waka Kotahi subsidy.
- 7.2 Rates Arrears are \$3.1Million, of which 65 per cent is from the current year. \$730,000 across 77 properties are with debt collection. Overall rates debtors are slightly higher to where they were at this time last year.
- 7.3 91.5 per cent of rates and penalties levied for this year to date have been collected.

8 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Current Council Debt is \$41.4Million. The Annual Plan forecasted this to increase to \$52.9Million at year end. No additional funds have been drawn this year as the Capital Programme is behind the planned activity level. No budget changes have been made to date that have an impact on Debt.
- 8.2 **Treasury Performance Measures Are Met**

Policy Compliance for the Month	Yes/No
Are all treasury transactions in compliance with policy?	Yes
Are all the fixed rate hedging percentages within policy control limits?	Yes
Is liquidity maintained within policy control limits?	Yes
Are all counterparty exposures within policy control limits?	Yes
Are all borrowing covenants / limits being complied with?	Yes

9 CAPITAL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- 9.1 Overall the capital programme is behind the original planning assumptions. In the roading area it is unlikely that the full programme of works will be achieved this year.
- 9.2 The two bridge renewals (\$8Million in budgeted cost) have been delayed, with one having commenced in February. Council is engaging with contractors on the levels of work that can be expected to be completed this financial year. This will also impact on the level of external subsidy revenue that Council will receive.

- 9.3 Capital revenue, reported in the operating revenue and expenditure report, is currently down \$8.4Million against the year-to-date budget. This is:
- (a) \$5Million from Land Transport operations
 - (b) \$3Million from MBIE for the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant (OWTP).
- 9.4 The revised agreement with MBIE for the OWTP subsidy has \$1.8Million in funding for the project, due as the project meets set milestones. Of this, \$350,000 was invoiced in January and the next milestone is set in the funding agreement to be achieved in March.

10 Capital Completion Against Approved Budgets

Year to Date February 2023		
Activity	Actual Spend \$	Annual Budget \$
Community Facilities	1,119,353	5,959,765
Community Support	64,520	198,786
Land Transport (Roading)	3,736,735	19,182,486
Stormwater	159,591	1,335,200
Support	453,106	1,604,380
Waste Management and Minimisation	146,885	355,205
Wastewater (Sewerage)	1,445,948	3,949,826
Water Supply	4,011,363	14,570,506
Grand Total	11,137,501	47,156,154

Table 1.1 – Year to Date Capital Expenditure Actual and Full Year Budget by Activity Group

11 Capital Budget Transfers

- 11.1 Since the last finance report, the following budget transfers have been identified as needing Council's approval, in accordance with the Council's Delegations Policies. These movements are to support the delivery of projects identified during the year that were not part of the original budget presented for this year.
- 11.2 It is recommended that Council **APPROVES** the **Transfer** from funding for the Taumarunui Sewerage LOS Funding Pool of \$325,680 to be applied to Ohakune Critical Sewerage upgrade projects:
- (a) Goldfinch Street Waste Water Main \$315,000
 - (b) Burns Street Waste Water Main \$ 10,680

12 EMERGING ISSUES

- 12.1 There are currently no new emerging issues.

13 REPORTING DEVELOPMENT

- 13.1 The financial statements **attached** are presented in the same format and terms as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and Local Government Legislation / Regulation.

14 READING THE DASHBOARD AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 14.1 Favourable and Unfavourable assessments are applied on the following basis:
- (a) Revenue under budget is Unfavourable
 - (b) Expenditure under budget is Favourable
 - (c) Capital Expenditure under budget is Unfavourable
- 14.2 While this can be a simplistic approach, each item needs to be considered on the merits of what is actually happening. For example, traditionally Council struggles to complete its capital programme and therefore being under budget is considered to be an Unfavourable variance against budget, however a cost overrun on a project would appear in the reports as Favourable. This should be reflected in the attached commentary.
- 14.3 Numbers in brackets e.g. (222) are always Unfavourable. This means the math is different for revenue and expenditure.

Attachment(s) Ngā āpitihanga

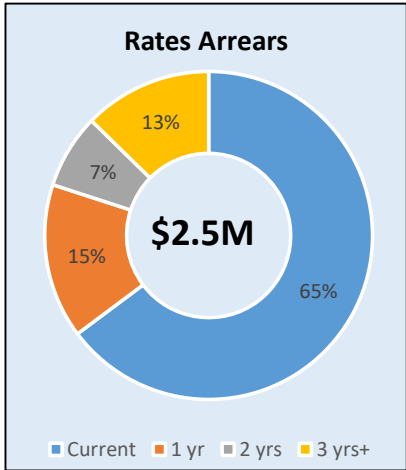
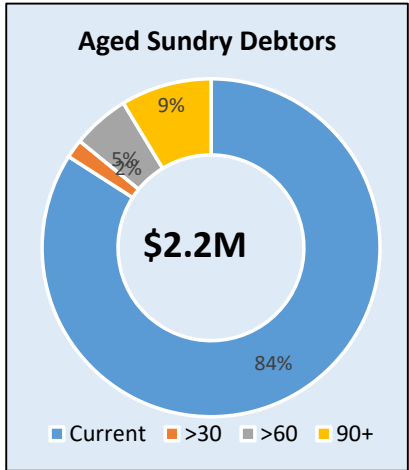
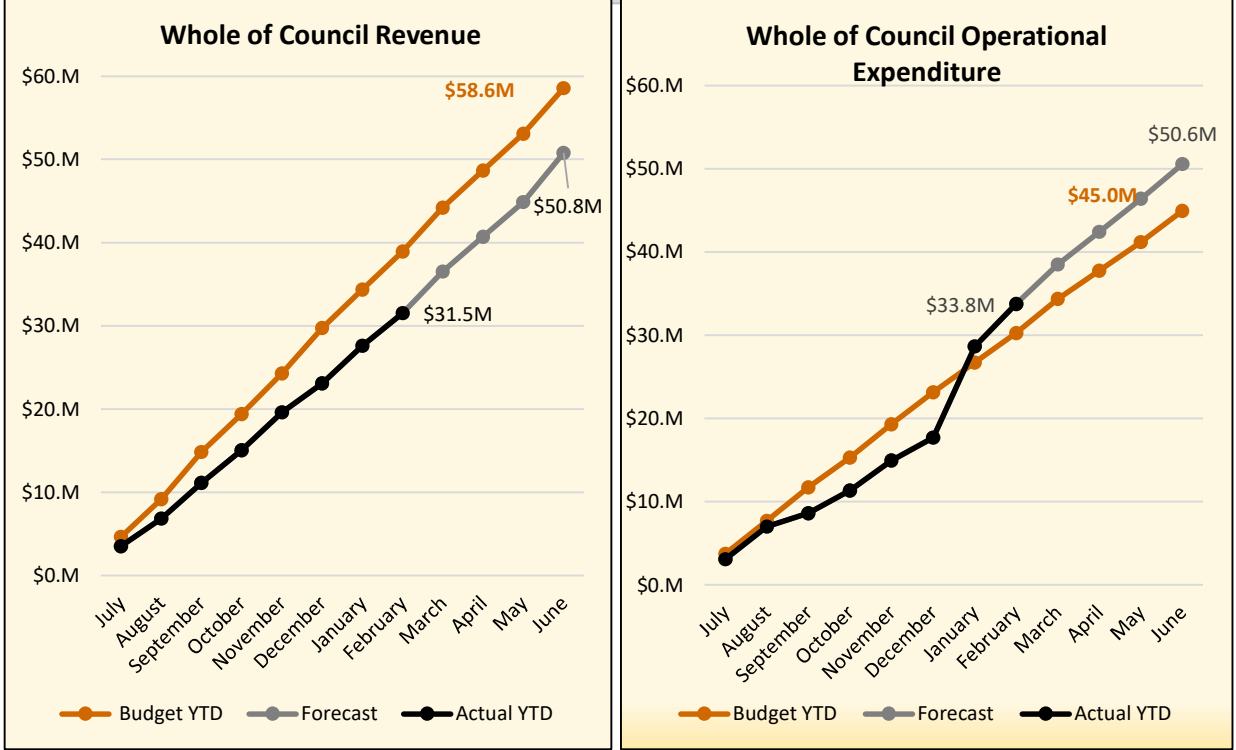
- 1 Monthly Management Reporting YTD February 2023 Dashboard

Ruapehu Financial Dashboard

Operating and Debt Performance

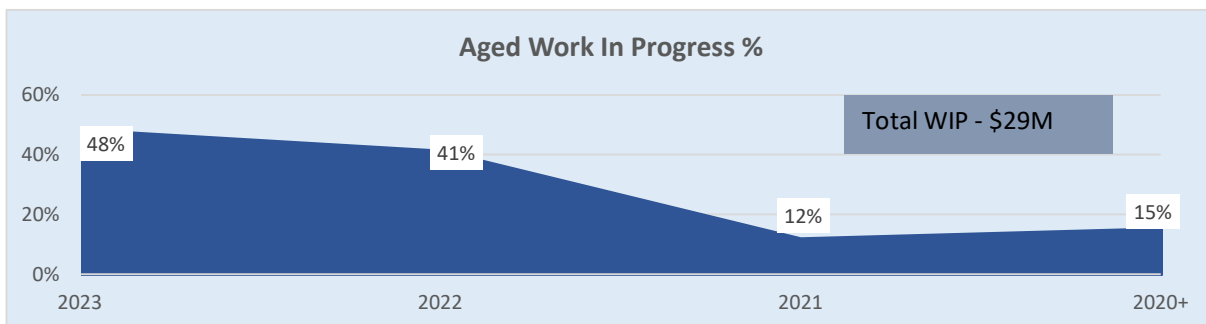
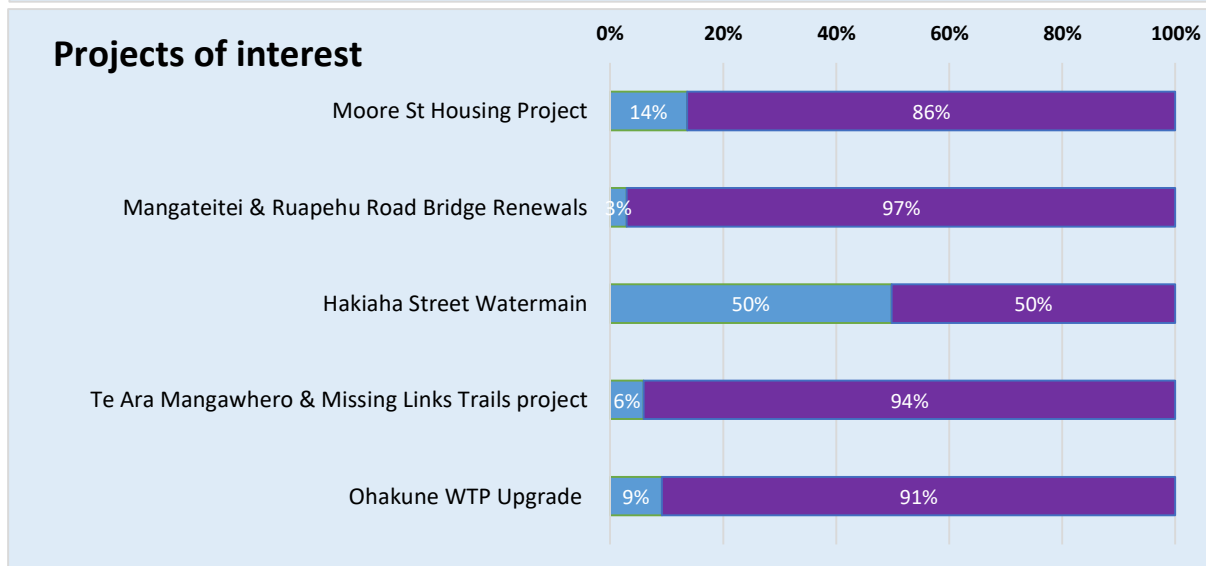
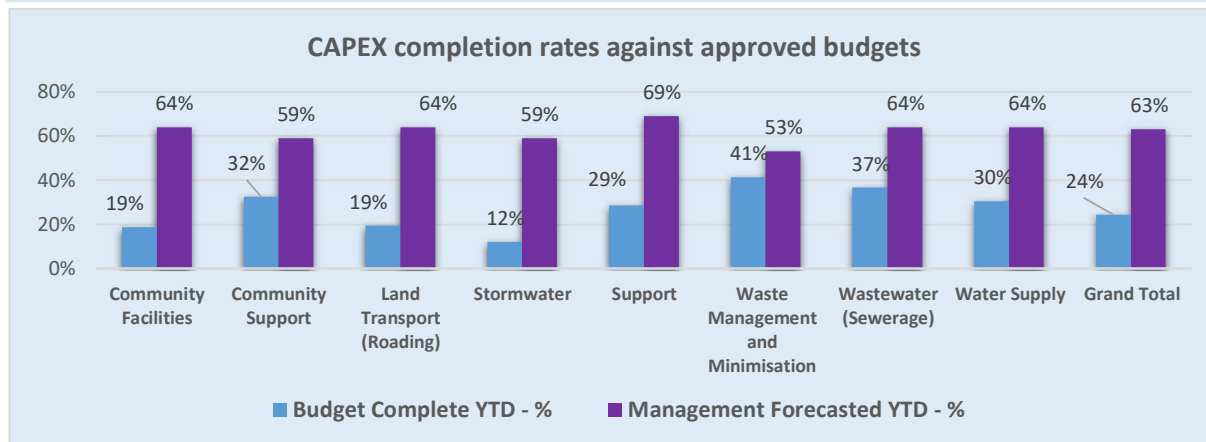
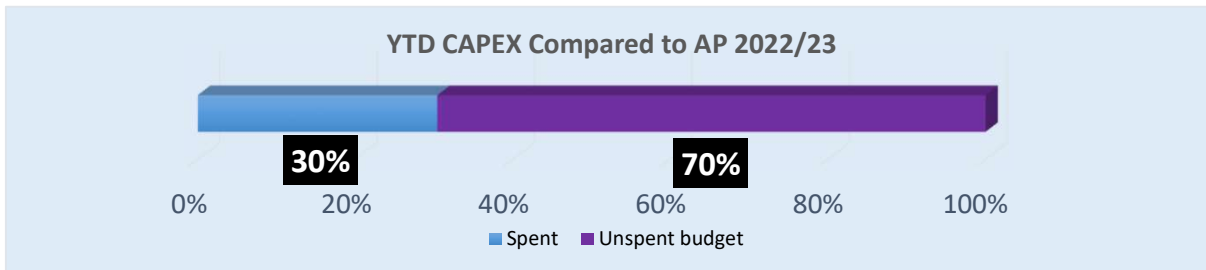
YTD Actual to Forecast		
YTD Revenue \$31.5M \$8.0M Unfavourable	YTD Operational Expenditure \$33.8M \$3.8M Unfavourable (\$3.4m Depn)	Surplus / (Deficit) (\$2.3M) \$11.9M Unfavourable

Forecast YE		
Revenue \$50.8M \$7.8M Unfavourable	Operational Expenditure \$50.6M \$5.6M Unfavourable (5.2M Depn)	Surplus / (Deficit) \$0.1M \$13.4M Unfavourable



YTD Change in Debt	NIL
Current Debt	\$41.4M
New Emerging Issues	NO
New Material Variances	NO
Policy and KPI Compliance	✓

Capital Performance



Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

For the period ending 28 February 2023

	Actual YTD (\$000)	Rev Bud YTD (\$000)	Variance YTD (\$000)	Notes	FY Rev Budget (\$000)	Annual Plan (\$000)
Revenue						
Rates	18,029	17,717	312	1	26,578	26,578
Subsidies and Grants	10,586	19,045	(8,458)	2	27,826	27,826
Interest Revenue	33	17	-		26	26
Fees and Charges	2,155	2,040	-		2,974	2,974
Development and Financial Contributions	155	137	18	3	120	120
Other Revenue	582	679	(97)		1,047	1,047
Gains	-	-	-		-	-
Total Operating Revenue	31,541	39,635	(8,094)		58,571	58,570
Expense						
Personnel Costs	4,485	4,817	(332)	4	7,226	7,226
Finance Costs	707	860	(153)	5	1,290	1,290
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	10,405	6,936	3,470	6	10,404	10,404
Other Expenses	18,168	17,356	812	7	26,034	26,034
Losses	-	-	-		-	-
Total Operating Expenditure	33,766	29,969	3,797	-	44,954	44,954
Share of Associate's Surplus / (Deficit)						
Share of Associate's Surplus / (Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Share of Associate's Surplus / (Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,225)	9,666	(11,890)		13,617	13,616
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense						
Gain / (Loss) on Property, Plant & Equipment Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movement in Landfill Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense / (Deficit) for the Year Attributable to Council	(2,225)	9,666	(11,890)		13,617	13,616

Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

Note	Comment - Actual to Revised Budget
1	<p>Rates: \$312K favourable</p> <p>Rates are favourable due to current year rates being higher than budgeted \$312K (additional growth), plus penalties received of \$432K. This has been offset by (\$328K) for remission and (\$178K) of payment discounts.</p>
2	<p>Subsidies and Grants: \$8.4M unfavourable</p> <p>Subsidies and Grants unfavourable. This is \$5m from Land Transport operations and \$3m from MBIE for the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant (OWTP). The Land Transport funding is directly related to the work that is undertaken in agreement with Waka Kotahi, and with the upcoming likelihood of completing the planned programme of works falling, we will likely not recover all or most of the current shortfall. \$1.5m has been billed for January work. The revised agreement with MBIE for the OWTP subsidy has \$1.8m of the \$3m shortfall now receivable as the project meets its milestones.</p>
3	<p>Development and financial contributions \$18K favourable</p> <p>Development and financial contributions are favourable due to unbudgeted revenue coming in from Ohakune development.</p>
4	<p>Personnel Costs \$332K favourable</p> <p>Personnel Costs are favourable mainly due to vacant positions, which has been offset by the cost of temporary services and contractors. This will be reforecast.</p>
5	<p>Finance Costs \$153K favourable</p> <p>Finance Costs are favourable at this stage of the year due to timing. Our weighted average cost of capital is higher than we budgeted but due to timing of lending, we are still under budget at this stage, although we expect this to change. This will be reforecast.</p>
6	<p>Depreciation \$3.4M unfavourable</p> <p>Depreciation is unfavourable due to an unplanned asset revaluation, undertaken effective 30 June 2022. The additional depreciation is non-funded for this year and will result in an unfavourable outturn for the full year.</p>
7	<p>Other Expenses \$812K unfavourable</p> <p>Other expenses were unfavourable mainly due to Maintenance and Land Transport maintenance works being undetraken and payment of the Visit Ruapehu Contract having been made, but the budget spread across the year, due to budget phasing.</p>
Note	Comment - Revised Budget to Annual Plan

Statement of Financial Position

For the Period Ending 28 February 2023

	Actual YTD (\$'000)	Notes	Rev Bud Var Prev Period (\$'000)	Full Year Revised Budget (\$'000)	Annual Plan 2023 (\$'000)	Notes
Current Assets						
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,056		-	2,197	2,197	
Receivables	4,598		-	2,482	2,482	
Prepayments and Accrued Income	2,101		-	500	500	
Inventory	364		-	382	382	
Other Financial Assets	-		-	-	-	
Total Current Assets	11,119		-	5,561	5,561	
Non-Current Assets						
Investment in CCOs and Other Similar Entities	67		-	48	48	
Other Financial Assets	1,092		-	869	869	
Property, Plant & Equipment	716,112	3	10,559	534,245	523,686	4
Intangible Assets	159		-	805	805	
Investment Property	6,569		-	5,022	5,022	
Total Non-Current Assets	723,999		10,559	540,989	530,430	
Total Assets	735,119		10,559	546,550	535,991	
Current Liabilities						
Creditors and Other Payables	4,299			3,746	3,746	
Borrowings	14,000	1		8,000	8,000	
Employee Entitlements	289			403	403	
Income in Advance	4,014	2		1,300	1,300	
Total Current Liabilities	22,602			13,449	13,449	
Non-Current Liabilities						
Borrowings	27,400	1		44,918	44,918	
Provisions	217			205	205	
Derivative Financial Instruments	-			-	-	
Total Non-Current Liabilities	27,617			45,123	45,123	
Total Liabilities	50,219			58,572	58,572	
Net Assets	684,901		10,559	487,978	477,419	
Equity						
Accumulated Funds	306,497		10,559	487,978	293,588	
Other Reserves	378,404			183,831	183,831	
Total Equity	684,901		10,559	487,978	477,419	

Notes to the Statement of Financial Position**Note Comment - Actual to Revised Budget**

- 1 Regular treasury reviews are completed ensuring management are within Council policy limits. Total debt currently sits at \$41.4M and was planned to increase to of \$52.9M in the Annual Plan. Any increase in debt over the rest of this year is dependant on the level of capital work to be achieved over the rest of this year.
- 2 Income in advance is higher than Annual Plan due to timing of those people who have paid their Rates Instalments in full in advance, and current external funding received in advance from DIA.
- 3 Property, Plant, & Equipment is higher than Annual Plan due to out-of-cycle Land Transport revaluation as at 30 June 2022 increasing asset values.

Note Comment - Revised Budget to Annual Plan

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: Mayor's Report: February 2023

Report for: Information

Author(s): Weston Kirton **MAYOR**

Endorsed By: Clive Manley **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of appointments and meetings other than Council, Committee and Community Board meetings undertaken by the Mayor during February 2023.
- 1.2 The report also outlines fee waiving applications approved (if any) by the Mayor during the same period.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Mayor's Report: February 2023**.

Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

2.1 Significance

This report does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Discussion | He Kōrerorero

3.1 APPOINTMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MAYOR DURING FEBRUARY 2023.

- 3.1.2 Please note that where the Mayor is unavailable, he will deputise to the Deputy Mayor or a Councillor.

FEBRUARY 2023

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 2 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting at The Menzshed • Attend Local Government NZ (LGNZ) Leaders fortnightly Zoom with the Chief Executive |
| 6 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Interview – Trunk FM • Radio Interview – Peak FM |
| 7 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Regional Transport Matters fortnightly Zoom with the Chief Executive • Met with Ohakune Property Developer around maintenance site issues with Deputy Mayor Vivienne Hoeta and Councillor Rabbit Nottage |
| 8 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with constituent regarding Economic Development Plan and Social Housing • Met with Ian McKelvie MP and Hon Todd McClay |

FEBRUARY 2023

- 10 February • Attended Accessing Central NZ Governance Group Meeting by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 13 February • Attended Mayors' Weather Briefing Horizons Meeting by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 14 February • Met Tony Hape Downer at Cherry Grove, Taumarunui regarding drainage
- Attended Ruapehu Tourism Horizons Meeting by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- Attended Cyclone Gabrielle Horizons Briefing by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 15 February • Attended Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Joint Committee Briefing by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 16 February • Attended Ruapehu Tourism Meeting by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- Attended Local Government NZ (LGNZ) Leaders fortnightly Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 17 February • Attended Ruapehu District Council/Department of Conservation (DOC) catchup meeting quarterly Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 18 February • Attended Waimarino A & P Show - opened produce shed and judged pet parade
- 20 February • Attended CDEM Group Support Coordination meeting by Zoom with the Chief Executive
- 21 February • Met with Jo Kennedy General Manager, Visit Ruapehu
- 22 February • Attended Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) Regional Briefing on Potential Weather Event by Zoom
- 23 February • Attended Elected Members Regional Forum in Bulls
- 24 February • Attended Rural Health Crisis Response Hui follow up at Kokiri Trust with the Chief Executive
- 28 February • Met with Suze Redmayne, National's Candidate for Rangitikei
- Attended Nga Kaumatua o te Mauri Atawhai Community Network Meeting with the Chief Executive
- Attended Ruapehu District Council /Waka Kotahi Regional Relationship discussion by Teams with the Chief Executive

4.1 WAIVING OF FEES

- 4.1.1 Hall hire fees were waived for the Taumarunui War Memorial Hall during February for the Quiltmakers' exhibition.
- 4.1.2 Hall hire fees were waived for the Miriama Hall Community Health Forum in February 2023.

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

NIL

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: Chief Executive's Report: February 2023

Report for: Information

Author(s): Clive Manley

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an update of the organisation's activity over the February 2023 period for Elected Members' information. It provides a snapshot of the wider legislative environment and focus from a regional perspective, an overview of the wellbeing of our district, and highlights key achievements and activity over the period, including significant projects from the Chief Executive's perspective since the last Council meeting.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives and notes the Report **Chief Executive's Report** for information.

Chief Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following severe and destructive adverse weather conditions in parts of the country where local authorities had declared States of Emergency in Auckland, Northland, Thames Coromandel, Waitomo and Waikato, the government declared a National State of Emergency on 14 February to assist in response to Cyclone Gabrielle.
- 2.2 This Council has Civil Defence trained staff on standby to deploy to affection regions when required.
- 2.3 Whilst the Ruapehu district did not bear the brunt of the emergency, there were various slips and unsafe issues which our team, with contractor support, have and continue to address.
- 2.4 Other key issues for Council during February were, and continue to be:
 - (a) Three Waters Reform which is to be refined by the government
 - (b) RMA Reform
 - (c) Regional collaboration through MW LASS
 - (d) Annual Plan
 - (e) Housing initiatives with Kāinga Ora
 - (f) Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL)
 - (g) Chateau Tongariro
- 2.5 The Prime Minister has revisited some of the government's reform and works programmes which have been referred to by some media as the 'bonfire of the policies'. These include:
 - (a) Merger of RNZ/TVNZ
 - (b) Biofuels Mandate
 - (c) Social Insurance Scheme (on hold for reconsideration until economy improves)
 - (d) Hate Speech legislation has been withdrawn for consideration by the Law Commission

Legislative Briefing

3.1 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION UPDATES

3.2 The following Government initiatives (related to the local government sector) are currently open for public submissions:

- (a) Smoked Tobacco Regulatory Regime. No proposed action.
- (b) Occupational Regulation Consultation. No proposed action.

4.1 BILLS ON THE HORIZON

- (a) Civil Defence and Emergency Management Amendment Bill.
- (b) Land Transport Management Amendment Bill (*working title*).
- (c) Building Amendment Bill.
- (d) Climate Adaptation Bill.

Social Well-Being Overview: Safe, healthy communities

5 EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

5.1 The Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs with King Country REAP continues to produce sustainable employment outcomes with placements across a range of sectors with a strong focus on pastoral care and making placements that are the correct fit for both the employee and the employer. Transportation, drivers' licences and accessibility are a continued issue across the district.

5.2 Businesses continue to provide feedback of a tight labour market across most sectors.

6 COMMUNITY SAFETY

6.1 When viewed as a rolling average, the crime rate in Ruapehu has been decreasing since a high in early 2020, with a slight increase in the twelve months to August and September 2022. This crime rate is most influenced by unlawful entry, theft, and assault. A large proportion of this crime is centred in Taumarunui and Ohakune.

7 CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATES

7.1 Training Provided

- (a) Nil over this period due to the response to Cyclone Gabrielle, however, discussions have been held with Taumarunui High School and Ruapehu College, Ohakune to run Civil Defence training over Term Two of the school year.

7.2 Emergencies in the Last Period

- (a) In late January and early February, the region mostly north of Taumarunui was affected by the weather system that hit Auckland:
 - (i) Opotiki Rd closed due to multiple slips.
 - (ii) SH43 multiple issues
 - (iii) Ohura River flooding and slips.
 - (iv) Ohura Rd north of Ohura was flooded.
 - (v) A slip on Ohura Rd 11km out of Matiere, where it was down to one lane
- (b) After that event it was indicated Cyclone Gabrielle was on its way and the majority of the North Island was under a Red or Orange weather watch. Ruapehu was placed under an Orange weather watch 13 February, which initiated a Civil Defence Incident Control Point being established at the Civil Defence Base in Taumarunui to initially monitor the cyclone effects on the region as well as act as liaison with Contractors and Emergency Services to set up an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in the Taumarunui Council Chambers if required.

- (c) The cyclone, as expected, gave the region gale force wind gusts of over 120 kph in exposed places which mainly brought down trees and disrupted the power for some communities. Compared to other districts in the North Island, Ruapehu got off fairly lightly. It must be said that Utility companies and Contractors over the period of the Cyclone did an amazing job to react to all reported issues over the weather event, which showed the region to have only limited disruption.
- (d) A review of our response will be held in early March with those in Council who were involved but will also consist of the 'what if' we experienced worse.

7.3 **Local and Regional Civil Defence Update**

Following the cyclone, there has been progress to the National Park Emergency Response facility.

8 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

8.1 **Housing**

- (a) The Healthy Homes upgrades for all the flats have commenced, starting with the Miriama Street Council flats in Taumarunui. These upgrades include extractor fans for the bathroom and kitchen areas.
- (b) The upgrades for the 11 Moore Street homes are going well. All doors have now been replaced with double glazed sliding doors and the building team onsite are working hard complete this as soon as possible to minimise inconvenience for the tenants.

8.2 **Parks and Facilities**

8.3 Update

- (a) Mulching of King Tawhio gardens.
- (b) Install of soft fall at Taumarunui Playground.
- (c) Additional mowing for Taumarunui Southern entrance, Forgotten Highway Matiere and Ohakune sections.
- (d) Playground inspections, replacement of worn parts.
- (e) Removal of dead conifers at Anzac Memorial, Taumarunui Cemetery.
- (f) Clearing of multiple kerb and channel in built up areas.
- (g) Mowing regimes completed.
- (h) Track maintenance Cherry grove walkway.
- (i) Seven burials and six ashes for February.
- (j) 22 incidents of graffiti, vandalism and illegal dumping attended.

8.4 Priorities

- (a) Cemetery maintenance and edging along with continued spray controls.
- (b) Planting plan for key areas.
- (c) Mowing Regimes with continued growth further into January than normal.
- (d) Continued improvement and upkeep of assets including painting, water blasting and cleaning.

9 LICENSING AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY

9.1 Alcohol Licensing

9.1.1 Renewal applications for February 2023 when compared to last year have been very quiet. However, new applications have been steady along with special licence applications which are starting to roll in for the annual events.

9.1.2 The District Licensing Committee (DLC) has been kept busy with the flow of applications coming through and with no matters of concern. It appears all applicants know what is required of them now, which therefore makes for a quick easy process.

9.2 Compliance

9.2.1 February has seen an increase in abandoned vehicles being dumped around the district.

9.2.2 Continual work being done on parking compliance as the complaints remain steady this month.

9.2.3 We received several calls in February for dog attacks on animals with one dog being shot on site and a dog attack on a human resulting in that dog being classified as Dangerous.

Economic Well-Being Overview: Thriving economy

10 ECONOMIC SPEND

10.1 Figures for February are not yet available. However, retail consumption increased in January 2023 compared to October to December 2022, which may indicate a summer recovery in spending, following lower spending in the spring. The average number of transactions rose 0.3 per cent, the total value of transactions rose 8.2 per cent. As a share of all spending, out of town spending in Ruapehu spiked over early January.

11 TOURIST SPEND

11.1 The majority of Ruapehu's out of town spending continues to come from Auckland (30 per cent). Between January 2022 and January 2023, 55 per cent of the total eftpos spending in Ruapehu came from outside of the district.

12 AVERAGE HOUSE PRICES

12.1 In December 2022, the median property value in Ruapehu was \$434,000, up 0.9 per cent from July 2022, ranking it 59th out of 68 districts nationwide.

13 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

- (a) Businesses are still reporting difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff, and training and knowledge base is also an issue.
- (b) Businesses reported a drop in referral business due to the Ohakune i-SITE being closed on some days and highlighted the need for more support around business signage for visitors.
- (c) Glenbrook Vintage Railway suffered damage to their facility in Auckland due to Cyclone Gabrielle, which may impact the trips planned for March and possibly April into the district.

Environmental Well-Being Overview: Sustaining beautiful environments

14 RESOURCE CONSENT ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

- 14.1 Three applications were received which is on par with the same time last year. Resource Consent applications are all processed well within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days with an average turnaround of 16 days.

15 BUILDING CONSENT ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

- 15.1 A total of 15 Building Consents were issued during February, compared with 24 during February last year.
- 15.2 A total of 16 Code Compliance Certificates were issued during February compared with 19 during February last year.
- 15.3 A total of 97 inspections were undertaken during February compared with 55 during February last year.
- 15.4 All consents were issued within the 20-day statutory period required, with the average number of days to issue a Building Consent being 5.8 days.

16 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

- 16.1 There were seven Development Contribution (DC) assessments carried out during February 2023. Six of these were for Building Consents and one Subdivision Consent, of which four had DC fees payable.
- 16.2 The total assessed value was \$14,099. The number of assessments relates directly to the number of Building Consent applications for dwellings and the number of Subdivision Consent applications.
- 16.3 Two Building Consents and one subdivision consent were invoiced DC charges during February 2023. The total invoiced was \$14,340.00.

17 REFUSE, RECYCLING AND REUSE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

- 17.1 The refuse and recycling statistics which cover the district will be reported quarterly when data is collated for Ministry of the Environment. Envirowaste supports Council's journey to zero waste by 2040 through the collections of kerbside refuse, recycling and food waste. Along with manning the other transfer stations sites with a single operator.

18 TRANSFER STATION AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

- 18.1 Taumarunui
- (a) Taumarunui Resource Recovery Centre at this stage is the front part of the transfer station operating as a shop.
 - (b) The shop diversion rate for February was 7,931.07 kg.
 - (c) Volunteer hours were 81.75 hours for February.
 - (d) A number of sleeping bags, blankets and camp stretchers were also donated to Cyclone Gabrielle.
- 18.2 Waimarino
- (a) Waimarino Resource Recovery Centre is a combination of a Resource recovery site and transfer station operation.
 - (b) The shop diversion rate for February was 15,200 kg.

- (c) The total site operations accounts for all refuse, greenwaste, recycling and cleanfill items entering the site and subsequently removed by Envirowaste.

18.3 Community Support

- (a) This support saw a number of bags of blankets, clothes going to Cyclone Gabrielle relief.
- (b) Event kits were donated to the Raetihi A&P show during February.
- (c) The Ethical Waste second hand store received 21 hours of volunteer time on general operations.

Cultural Well-Being Overview: Vibrant and diverse living

19 EVENT DETAILS

19.1 Events in the district during February included:

- (a) Kotahitanga Festival, Taumarunui
- (b) A&P Show, Raetihi
- (c) Kakahi Rodeo
- (d) Kokiri Trust Community Health Event, Taumarunui

20 VISITOR USAGE STATISTICS

- (a) February saw lots of challenges for business and the weather impacted many. These included, but were not limited to, the closure of the Whanganui River Journey, and the Mangapurua Track closed from 13 to 16 February, due to Cyclone Gabrielle.
- (b) The 42 Traverse is closed due to a significant slip and an important part of the mountain bike offering in Ruapehu.
- (c) There were fewer days with good weather for bookings on the Sky Waka Gondola and the Tongariro Alpine Crossing as well as other key outdoor activities.
- (d) Closure of Chateau Tongariro on 5 February.

20.1 Positive Impacts

- (a) There have been riders coming through the district participating in the [Tour Aotearoa bike trail](#) that runs through the centre of the North Island and takes in the rides from Mangakino to Pureora, Timber Trail, Ohura Connector Heartland ride, Mountains to Sea including all sections via Kaiwhakauka and onwards to Whanganui. Also, the Kopiko Aotearoa [Tour Aotearoa: Kopiko Aotearoa](#) travels east to west or vice versa via Ohura and the Forgotten World Adventure and the timber trail.
- (b) There was a diesel train bringing around 285 passengers from Fielding into Taumarunui on 19 February. Local businesses were informed that the passengers would be there for around an hour and 45 minutes.

Executive Manager Summaries

21 EXECUTIVE MANAGER PEOPLE, SAFETY AND CAPABILITY

- 21.1 We continue to monitor our Kaimahi wellbeing and where appropriate, take a holistic approach to meet individual needs on a case-by-case basis.
- 21.2 The Vehicle Policy is under review and scheduled for completion by the end of March 2023. Incremental changes have commenced to improve on existing processes including vehicle induction, safety awareness and Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) implications.
- 21.3 Our Information Technology team is continually changing the IT security posture to prepare and mitigate for cyber-attacks with local and central government becoming more popular targets for hackers. Staff awareness is very high with an ongoing training programme in place to assist staff in identifying threats and malicious emails. We have robust measures in place to ensure business continuity if, and when this were to arise.

- 21.4 Payroll Audit for the 2021/2022 is well underway, we anticipate this will be finalised by the end of March.

22 EXECUTIVE MANAGER REGULATORY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

- 22.1 Building and Resource consenting activity is higher than the same time last year. It is noted that COVID prevention measures were still in place during February 2022 and that whilst property prices are generally in a current down-turn, there is still activity which indicates growth for the district.
- 22.2 Four properties (one shed and a block of three units) in Ohakune were classified as dangerous due to unauthorised tunnelling underneath the buildings. The earthworks went directly under concrete foundations which subsequently compromised the integrity of the flooring and buildings. Building Control staff are working closely with property owners to ensure the issue is resolved in a prompt manner.
- 22.3 February's Requests for Service (RFS) note that RMA Planning enquiries, Water (minor leaks), Rates, Social Housing and Animal Control were the top five recurring matters for this month.

23 EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 23.1 Work is progressing on a number of Town Revitalisation fronts. Meetings were held to progress the Ohakune/Raetihi cycleway, the Streetscape for Ohakune has progressed to the build stage, and other Town Revitalisation projects are progressing through engagement and design stages with contractors.

24 EXECUTIVE MANAGER IWI RELATIONSHIPS

- 24.1 Progress is underway with relationship agreements for Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust and Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust. These will be brought to the Council table for discussion once they have been reviewed by Council's legal team.
- 24.2 Working alongside Te Arawhiti in relation to the Treaty Settlement for Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust. This work follows on from the signing of their Agreement in Principle "Te Whiringa Muka" in October 2022.

24.3 Cross Team Functions

24.3.1 INFRASTRUCTURE

Work continues across projects within the Infrastructure team:

- (a) Waters – Hikumutu Waste Water Treatment Plant resource consent renewal
- (b) Waste Management and Minimisation – Parakore initiatives looking to connect with contacts to Marae, Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa
- (c) Roading – Global Bridges and Culverts resource consent applications for painting and maintenance work

24.3.2 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wayfinding signage, Town revitalisation projects, Matariki Event requests for funding from Community organisations.

24.3.3 FINANCE, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

Met with the Policy team to discuss policies relevant to Māori that other council's currently have in place, and to look at whether these policies need to be formulated within council.

24.3.4 **RATES**

Involved in discussions with the Rates team in reference to specific properties affected by the changes of the Act for Māori Freehold Land

24.4 **Training and Educational Activities**

24.4.1 **The Wall Walk, 8 February 2023**

As part of our ongoing commitment to introducing a better understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, a workshop was held with Elected Members and the Executive Management team. This program was designed to raise collective awareness in key events in the history of New Zealand. The Iwi Relationships team is currently organising another workshop for our staff to take part in over the next couple of months.

24.4.2 **Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Online Course for Staff**

There has been a new intake of approximately 30 participants who are keen to learn Te Reo Māori, and have kick started the next six month. This is an online learning course and will be run over the next six months. This user-friendly course is great for learners at all levels and positive feedback has been received to date from current participants.

24.4.3 **Waiata Wednesdays**

Several staff have requested an opportunity for waiata sessions to be held. The Iwi Relationships team is organising to hold waiata sessions in the northern office to start us off and will be underway in the next week.

24.4.4 **Treaty of Waitangi Toolkit, Internal Resource Toolkit**

The ability to have an internal resource toolkit on hand for staff to access and utilise is currently being looked at. The resource toolkit is anticipated to assist internal teams to gain a better understanding and provide guidance to the legislative obligations that local governments are now more accountable to because of Treaty Settlements.

25 **EXECUTIVE MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE**

25.1 The District roading reseal programme for 2022/23 commenced in late January, with 6.48 km of chip sealing completed in Raetihi and Rangataua townships and work started on the 6.1km Raetihi-Ohakune Road reseal. Inframax have completed the pre-reseal repairs and stockpiling of sealing chip.

25.2 Several road closures occurred in the district due to bad weather. Otunui Road was closed after a large washout damaged the whole width of this section. The washout had pumice backfill up to 8 metres in depth. The rock wall toe had one further layer of rock, which was fully rebuilt. The installation of a 600mm overflow culvert was completed. Once the aggregate pavement construction was done, the road was open to all traffic. Final pavement seal will be scheduled as the rebuilt section settles.

25.3 The Matapuna Water Treatment Plant experienced issues with the carbon dosing system, interrupting the chemical treatment for taste and odour removal. Some of the properties within the water network experienced unpleasant taste in the water, reported via request for services. The quality of the drinking water remained safe as confirmed by the regular laboratory test results.

25.4 The Ohakune water demand remains higher than expected, even at night-time. The vast majority of the water leaks identified in the network during the leak detection campaign were repaired, with little impact towards any significant reduction in the demand for treated water.

26 **ACTING EXECUTIVE MANAGER FINANCE, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE**

- 26.1 The audit for the 2021/2022 Annual Report is underway with many queries being received for information. It appears that there several Councils who are just starting or still waiting for their audits to start.
- 26.2 With the Annual Plan draft position being adopted, staff are preparing for community meetings as part of the consultation.
- 26.3 There are several workshops planned in the next few months with supporting information/education for the Long-Term Plan. Staff are busy preparing for those.

27 **EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

- 27.1 Civil Defence messaging covering Council's response to Cyclone Gabrielle and its impact on local communities was a large part of February's public communications. Messaging focused on Civil Defence's establishment of an Incident Control Point (ICP) to monitor and respond to any local events, sharing and amplifying Metservice weather warnings/watches, community preparedness (get ready – get thru), roading information and other impacts. Council social media channels have also been used to promote useful post cyclone information from Horizons and other partners.
- 27.2 Communications recognising the cost-of-living issues challenging our communities and difficulties facing Council in keeping rates affordable in the high inflation environment were put out in advance of the Annual Plan 8 per cent average rate rise proposal. The release was well covered by local media. It is part of our communications strategy to establish and maintain public understanding between Council and our communities.
- 27.3 Communications on the up-coming consultation on an inaugural Speed Management Plan with a focus on reducing speed limits around schools and associated townships was picked up by local media and generated significant discussion on Facebook. There was a balance between supporters and people opposed.
- 27.4 Communications on Animal Control needing to shoot a dog found harassing cattle in Taumarunui also generated significant discussion on Facebook. The significant majority of responders understood and supported the action.
- 27.5 Communion on Council seeking owners of damaged headstones at Taumarunui cemetery generated a lot of local interest and comment on Facebook.
- 27.6 Consultation on the proposed locations for a new Waiouru Community Playground location closed on 24 February. The consultation was supported with media releases, video, social media posts, mail-outs and a full consultation document.
- 27.7 Council supported Waka Kotahi NZTA, Veoila, The Lines Company and Horizons messaging on our Facebook page.
- 27.8 Executive Manager Communications Paul Wheatcroft and Manager Policy and Strategy Melissa Jackson attended the Taiturā Long Term Plan Engagement (LTP) Forum in Wellington over 20 and 21 February. The Forum provided useful insights and ideas for Council's LTP engagement planning and implementation.
- 27.9 Work on the Annual Plan 2023/24 and next year's 2024-34 Long Term Plan has been on-going with teams established to deliver the required outcomes. Communications is working closely with Policy and Strategy who is leading the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan projects. The main communications focus over February was on discussion and preparing for the Annual Plan consultation (27 March to 26 April).

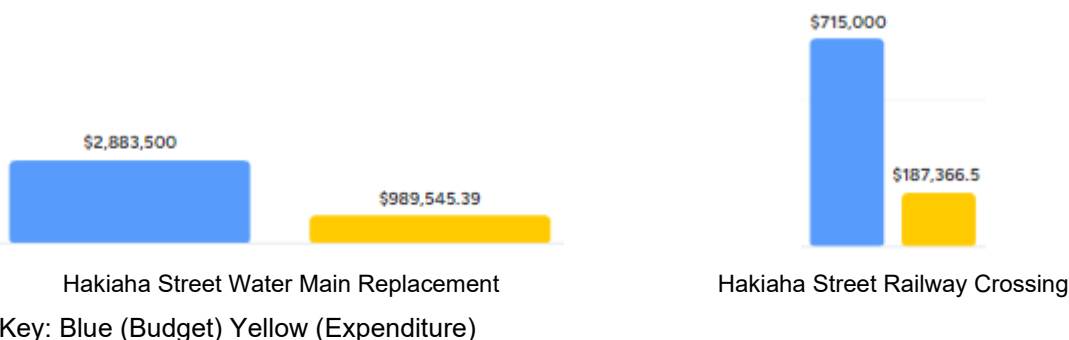
27.10 Radio advertising over February promoted applications being open for Council administered grant funding; Creative Communities, Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund and Community Hall Repairs and Maintenance Grants.

Key Infrastructure Capital Project Updates

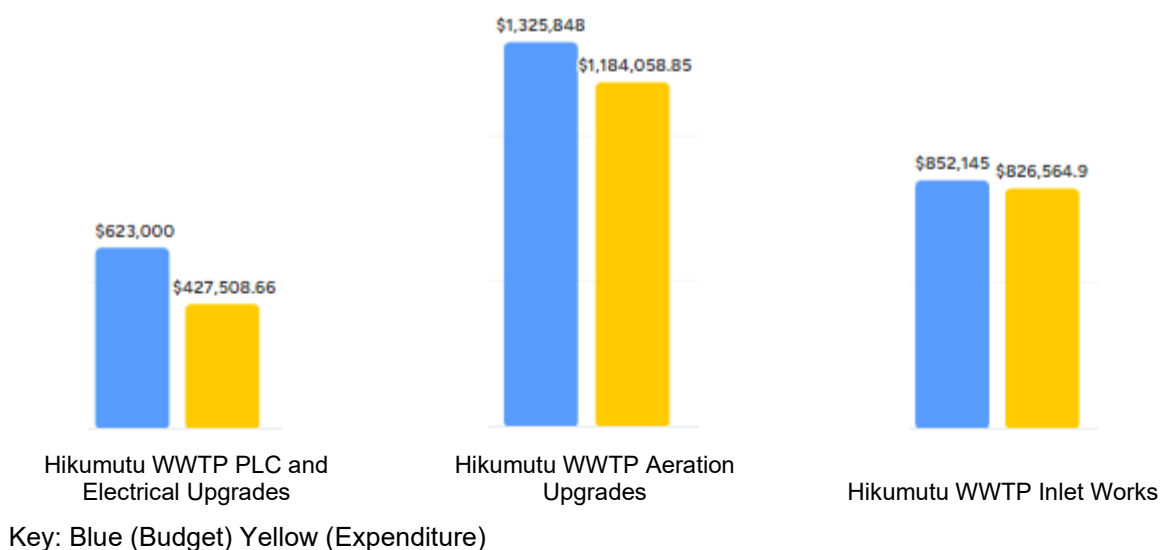
28.1 Work progressed well at the Ruatiti Road 10.5 Km to 11.9 km pavement construction in preparation for sealing. The team also undertook earthworks and culverts on the Ruatiti Rd 8.5 to 10.5 km site, while preparing for sealing. This was achieved at the end of the month.

28.2 The Ruapehu Road overbridge replacement is now awaiting crane pads to be formed and Soldiers Road widening work. It is expected that the site will be set up for construction during the month of March. The replacement of the bridge is expected to take five to six months once Emmetts establish onsite.

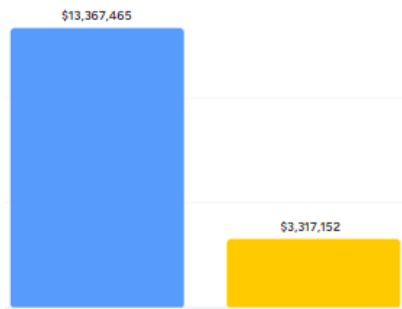
28.3 The Hakiaha Street water main replacement continued well during February. A total of 1,100 metres of PE100 450mm was installed in Bell Road. This pipeline will replace the existing 375mm PVC pipe at Hakiaha Street, connecting the Matapuna reservoir to the other areas of Taumarunui. This project’s completion target is June 2023.



28.4 At the Hikumutu Wastewater Treatment Plant, commissioning of the Aerators, inlet screen and electrical room will be undertaken during the month of March. Some elements of these projects are already fully operational, such as inlet screen and flow meter.



- 28.5 The construction of the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant continued during the month, with some delays due to the poor weather experienced. As some of the tasks to be completed involved working at heights, it was decided to pause and wait for better conditions. This will affect the completion and achievement of Milestone Three as this relates to the completion of the building structure.



Ohakune WTP Upgrade

Key: Blue (Budget) Yellow (Expenditure)

Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga

NIL

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and Elected Members' Verbal Reports

Report for: Information

Author(s): Tasha Paladin **GOVERNANCE MANAGER**

Endorsed By: Clive Manley **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and Elected Members to provide verbal updates on upcoming events and other matters of general and topical interest to the District.

Report to: Council

Meeting Date: 22 March 2023



Subject: Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business

Report for: Decision

Author(s): Tasha Paladin GOVERNANCE MANAGER

Endorsed By: Clive Manley CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo

- 1.1 In accordance with section 48(1) 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 sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be) the Council has the right by resolution to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting on one or more of the grounds contained within that Section.

Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhunga

That the Council:

- 1 Receives the Report **Resolution to Exclude the Public for Consideration of Council Business**;
- 2 Excludes the public from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting;
- 3 Notes the general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds for excluding the public, as specified under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting 22 February 2023	For the reasons set out in the Public Business Minutes of the Council Meeting 22 February 2023.	
C2 Confidential Deputation: Te Arawhiti and Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust Negotiations - Sites Proposed for Vesting in Ngāti Hāua	s7(2)(j) To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. Release would prejudice the goodwill of the parties and the progress of the negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i) the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
C3 Confidential Briefing by the Chief Executive	s7(2)(c) To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to: prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, where it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	

- 4 Approves that Officers of Te Arawhiti and the Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust Treaty Settlement Project Manager is permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of Item C2.