



ORDINARY MEETING of Council AGENDA

Time: 9:30 am
Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024
Venue: Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road,
Masterton

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Gary Caffell (Chairperson)

Councillor Bex Johnson
Councillor Craig Bowyer
Councillor Brent Goodwin
Councillor David Holmes

Councillor Tom Hullena
Councillor Stella Lennox
Councillor Tim Nelson
Councillor Marama Tuuta

Values

1. **Public interest:** members will serve the best interests of the people within the Masterton district and discharge their duties conscientiously, to the best of their ability.
2. **Public trust:** members, in order to foster community confidence and trust in their Council, will work together constructively and uphold the values of honesty, integrity, accountability and transparency.
3. **Ethical behaviour:** members will not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, will not behave improperly and will avoid the appearance of any such behaviour.
4. **Objectivity:** members will make decisions on merit; including appointments, awarding contracts, and recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.
5. **Respect for others:** will treat people, including other members, with respect and courtesy, regardless of their ethnicity, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Members will respect the impartiality and integrity of Council staff.
6. **Duty to uphold the law:** members will comply with all legislative requirements applying to their role, abide by this Code, and act in accordance with the trust placed in them by the public.
7. **Equitable contribution:** members will take all reasonable steps to ensure they fulfil the duties and responsibilities of office, including attending meetings and workshops, preparing for meetings, attending civic events, and participating in relevant training seminars.
8. **Leadership:** members will actively promote and support these principles and ensure they are reflected in the way in which MDC operates, including a regular review and assessment of MDC's collective performance.

These values complement, and work in conjunction with, the principles of section 14 of the LGA 2002; the governance principles of section 39 of the LGA 2002; and our MDC governance principles:

Whakamana Tangata	Respecting the mandate of each member, and ensuring the integrity of the committee as a whole by acknowledging the principle of collective responsibility and decision-making.
Manaakitanga	Recognising and embracing the mana of others.
Rangatiratanga	Demonstrating effective leadership with integrity, humility, honesty and transparency.
Whanaungatanga	Building and sustaining effective and efficient relationships.
Kotahitanga	Working collectively.

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The Chairperson will open the meeting with the karakia

Karakia timatanga

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a te mea ngaro	Let the strength and life force of our ancestors
ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o tātou	
Kia mahea te hua mākihikihi	Be with each and everyone of us
kia toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te aroha, toi te Reo Māori	Freeing our path from obstruction
kia tūturu, ka whakamaua kia tīna! Tīna!	So that our words spiritual, power, love and language are upheld
Hui e, Tāiki e!	Permanently fixed established and understood
	Forward together

At the appropriate time, the following karakia will be read to close the meeting

Karakia whakamutunga

Kua mutu ā mātou mahi	Our work has finished
Mō tēnei wā	For the time being
Manaakitia mai mātou katoa	Protect us all
Ō mātou hoa	Our friends
Ō mātou whānau	Our family
Āio ki te Aorangi	Peace to the universe

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

2 APOLOGIES

The Chair invites notice from members of:

- leave of absence for future meetings of Masterton District Council
- apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

PRESENTATION FROM YOUTH COUNCIL

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows:

Matters requiring urgent attention as determined by resolution of the Council

- The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
- The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Minor matters relating to the general business of Council

No resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of Masterton District Council for further discussion.

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2024

File Number:

Author: Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 26 June 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 26 June 2024**



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 26 June 2024**

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**MINUTES OF MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT WAIATA HOUSE, 27 LINCOLN ROAD, MASTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2024 AT 9:30 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor G Caffell (Chair), Councillors B Johnson, C Bowyer, B Goodwin, D Holmes, T Hullena, S Lennox, T Nelson and M Tuuta

IN ATTENDANCE: Iwi Representative Jo Hayes, Chief Executive, General Manager - Finance, General Manager - Strategy and Development, General Manager - Community, Chief Advisor, General Manager - Corporate, General Manager - Infrastructure and Assets, Strategic Planning Manager, Policy Manager, Project Delivery and Assets Manager, Economic Development Lead and Governance Team Leader.

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Johnson declared an interest in relation to Item 7.4 *Adoption of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy* as she was a director on the Trust House Board.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The Supplementary Report providing advice on the Notice of Motion was tabled once the Notice of Motion in Item 7.1 had been moved and seconded. The meeting agreed to accept the report.

RESOLUTION 2024/35

Moved by Councillor S Lennox
Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That the Supplementary Report providing advice on the Notice of Motion be accepted

CARRIED

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/36

Moved by Councillor B Johnson

Seconded by Councillor B Goodwin

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 May 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting

.CARRIED

5.2 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

A request was made to include the source of Councillor Johnson's comments on the building industry in the minutes. Councillor Johnson clarified that she had spoken to a number of developers and tradespeople in the building industry.

RESOLUTION 2024/37

Moved by Councillor S Lennox
Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 June 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING - 29 MAY 2024

A request was made to note that the comment in the minutes in relation to the Opaki Water Race Committee representing 15% on the water race needed to be clarified as the Committee represented 100% of the water users, not 100% of the community.

RESOLUTION 2024/38

Moved by Councillor D Holmes
Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That Council confirms the report of the Infrastructure and Services Committee meeting held on 29 May 2024 including the following resolutions:

- *Infrastructure and Assets Update*
That the Infrastructure and Services Committee receives the update from Infrastructure and Assets on key infrastructure projects and areas of project focus.
- *Community Update*
That the Infrastructure and Services Committee receives the update from the Community team on key projects and a summary of progress since the last report.
- *Building and Planning Update*
That the Infrastructure and Services Committee receives the update from the Building Control Services team and the Consents and Planning team.

CARRIED

6.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - 22 MAY 2024

RESOLUTION 2024/39

Moved by Councillor C Bowyer
Seconded by Councillor M Tuuta

That Council confirms the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 22 May 2024 including the following resolutions:

- Endorsing the Masterton District Council Sensitive Expenditure Policy Manual, Fraud, Dishonesty and Corruption Policy and Fraud and Corruption Procedure

That the Audit and Risk Committee

1. **notes** that the Sensitive Expenditure Policy Manual (“the Manual”) has been updated to align with best practice guidance from the Office of the Auditor General;
 2. **notes** the Fraud, Dishonesty and Corruption Policy (“the Policy”) and the Fraud and Corruption Procedure (“the Procedure”) have been reviewed in line with Ministry of Justice guidance;
 3. **notes** all documents require approval before 30 June 2024 to apply for the 2024/25 financial year;
 4. **notes** the Manual, Policy and Procedure were approved at the Executive Leadership Team meeting on 9 May 2024; and
 5. **endorses and recommends Council adopts** the:
 - (a) Sensitive Expenditure Policy Manual;
 - (b) Fraud, Dishonesty and Corruption Policy; and
 - (c) Fraud and Corruption Procedure.
- Service Provision Report Aratoi Regional Trust
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the Service Provision Report Aratoi Regional Trust, covering the summary results of the key result indicators for the quarter 1 January – 31 March 2024.
 - Destination Wairarapa Quarterly Report (1 January 2024 to 30 March 2024)
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the third quarter report (1 January 2024 – 30 March 2024) from Destination Wairarapa.
 - Corporate Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan Implementation: Progress Report
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the third six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the Corporate Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan.
 - Non Financial Performance 2023/2024 Quarter 3 Report
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the Quarter 3 non-financial performance report for the 2023/24 financial year.
 - Health and Safety Quarterly Report
That The Audit and Risk Committee notes the content and receives the Health and Safety Report for the quarter: (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024).

- Nine Months to Date Financial Report 2023/24

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the 9 months to date financial report and commentary.

- Investment Management Update

That the Audit and Risk Committee

- 1. receives the information contained in the Investment Management Update Report.*
- 2. directs staff to follow a procurement process to place the funds with other external fund managers or products and report back to the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting or Council meeting as appropriate.*

- Insurance Update

That the Audit and Risk Committee

- 1. receives the information contained in the Insurance Update Report and notes that options to reduce insurance cover and costs will be brought through the LTP Deliberations report.*
- 2. acknowledges that changing the deductible amount has little impact on premiums*
- 3. requests staff to bring back recommendations to the LTP Deliberations meeting around increasing the risk Council carries in relation to material damage insurance on building assets.*

CARRIED

7 REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR GOODWIN

Councillor Brent Goodwin introduced his notice of motion. He asked Council to defer the decision on the town hall to a future Council where there is more consensus within Council and the community. He was concerned about the integrity of the decision making process, which had been driven by hearsay, was without hard evidence and which ignored expert opinion.

The supplementary report providing advice on the Notice of Motion was tabled and accepted by the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9.42am and reconvened at 9.51am

All members were present when the meeting reconvened.

The General Manager – Strategy and Development advised that the supplementary report provided information to help councillors make a decision on the notice of motion itself. The report also provided some preliminary advice on the motion Councillor Goodwin proposed to substitute for the motion he sought to revoke.

Those who supported the motion thought that the opportunity to pause and get more information should be taken and that the decision should be delayed as it was a significant decision that impacted on the community and evidence was needed to support spending that amount of money, and that Council hadn't asked the question about how that money might be spent in other ways to

benefit and grow the town.

Those who didn't support the motion thought that the matters raised had been deliberated on at length already and that, as had been discussed at the Deliberations meeting, the current motion meant that there would be touch points along the way where further decisions would be made e.g. the resource consent process, the demand analysis and the tender process. It was time for action and a number of members of the current Council had stood for rebuilding on the current site.

In reply Councillor Goodwin noted that the one thing Council had was time, the Government's proposed change to the Earthquake Prone Building rules provided Council with that. If the notice of motion failed, ratepayers would be paying an extra \$2m a year in rates for the next 25 years, and there were quite a few risks with taking the contingency away, and, in the next council or two the issues of core infrastructure which are plaguing many councils will arrive here, as the Homebush sewerage system will need to be addressed along with stormwater consenting issues and roading issues.

MOTION

Moved by Councillor B Goodwin
Seconded by Councillor T Nelson

That Council

1. **Notes** the Notice of Motion provided to the Chief Executive

2. **Refers** the proposal set out below to the Chief Executive for consideration and report.
 - (i) That Resolution 2024/41 set out below from the Council meeting held on 5 June 2024 be revoked:
That Council:
 1. **Agrees** to retain and expand the existing Waiata House, as outlined in the Council's preferred option, to accommodate Civil Defence, customer services, a Council Chamber, public meeting rooms and a lab, at an estimated cost of \$8.7million (including 33% contingency) to be loan funded and included in years 1 to 3 of the LTP.
 2. **Agrees** to demolish the Town Hall and Municipal Buildings and build a new Town Hall on the current Town Hall site including a multi-purpose space for performances or functions, as outlined in the preferred option but **DO NOT** retain the Municipal Building façade, at a budget of no more than \$25 million (including contingency) to be included in years 1 to 4 of the LTP.
 3. **Directs** officers to proceed to demolish the Town Hall and Municipal Buildings and with detailed design for the new Town Hall.
 4. **Directs** officers to proceed with a fixed price tender process for the build for no more than the remaining budget.
 - (ii) That Council **proceeds** with the proposed Waiata House extension, as outlined in the preferred option, to accommodate an IL4 Civil Defence headquarters, a Council Chamber, customer services, public meeting rooms and a laboratory at an estimated cost of \$8.7m [including 33% for contingency] to be loan funded and

included in years 1 to 3 of the LTP.

- (iii) That Council **agrees** that the existing Town Hall and Municipal buildings be left as they are, noting that the government's changed regulations don't require any action until 2031

LOST

The meeting adjourned at 10.45am and reconvened at 10.55am

All members were present when the meeting reconvened.

7.2 ADOPTION OF THE 2024-2034 LONG TERM PLAN

The report seeking Council adoption of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) was presented by the General Manager – Strategy and Development and the General Manager – Finance. The final Plan once adopted provides a formal and public statement of Council's intentions in relation to the matters covered by the Long-Term Plan and will set the rates requirement for the 2024/25 year. A copy of the 2024-34 LTP was included as Attachment 1 (provided under separate cover), with final proofing, formatting and design work to be completed once the Plan is adopted.

The General Manager – Strategy and Development advised that a slight amendment had been made to the Strategic Direction document to add another value.

The General Manager – Finance advised that the Audit Opinion noted the uncertainty around the part of the roading work programme that hadn't yet been accepted by Waka Kotahi. He also advised that if the work programme wasn't approved for Mataikona, the resilience work planned wouldn't go ahead, the road would just be maintained to keep it open, and in relation to the remainder of the work programme, if it wasn't funded Council would only spend what was budgeted as Council share, without the Waka Kotahi subsidy, which would make it harder for Council to deliver the work the roading engineers had identified in the Roding Asset Management Plan

RESOLUTION 2024/40

Moved by Mayor G Caffell

Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That Council:

1. **note** the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan reflects the decisions made by Council at the Deliberations Meeting held on 5 June 2024.
2. **note** the 2024/25 Schedule of Fees and Charges which forms the basis for some income for Year 1 of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan was adopted at the Deliberations Meeting on 5 June 2024.
3. **acknowledge** the Audit opinion that has been issued on the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.
4. **adopt** the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan included as Attachment 1 noting that it includes i) the Council's budgets for ten years, ii) a Rating Funding Impact statement that forms the basis of the 2024-25 rates revenue and iii) it reflects changes made to the financial model and

budgets through the consultation and deliberations meeting decisions.

5. **delegate** authority to the Chief Executive to approve minor proofing corrections and formatting prior to publication of the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan document; and
6. **note** that the final 2024-34 Long-Term Plan will be published within one month of its adoption.

In Favour: Mayor Gary Caffell, Councillor Bex Johnson, Councillor Craig Bowyer, Councillor David Holmes, Councillor Stella Lennox, Councillor Marama Tuuta

Against: Councillor Brent Goodwin, Councillor Tom Hullena, Councillor Tim Nelson

CARRIED 6/3

7.3 RATES RESOLUTION 2024-2025

The report setting rates, due dates and penalties regime for the 2024/2025 year was presented by the Manager Finance.

RESOLUTION 2024/41

Moved by Councillor C Bowyer

Seconded by Councillor T Hullena

That Council

- (i) Receives the *Rates Resolution 2024-2025* Report
- (ii) having adopted its 2024-34 Long Term Plan, sets the rates, due dates for payment and penalties regime for the 2024/2025 financial year as follows:

2024-25 MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL RATES RESOLUTION

That, pursuant to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, the Masterton District Council, hereby sets the rates and charges as set out in this resolution in respect of rateable properties in the Masterton District for the period of one year commencing on 1st July 2024 and ending on 30th June 2025

The Council has adopted its 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, including a Rating Funding Impact Statement for 2024-25. The Rating Funding Impact Statement puts into effect the Revenue and Financing Policy and it contains definitions of "Rural rating area", "Urban rating area" and "differential groups U1, U2 and R1" and "separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit". The resolution below will enable the Council to generate rating revenue to fund the services and activities as outlined in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan (for year 1 of that Plan).

RATES HEREBY SET IN THE DISTRICT:

Rates quoted are inclusive of GST.

GST has been added at the prevailing rate of 15%.

Total dollars being raised are also stated inclusive of GST and have generally been rounded to nearest \$1,000.

All section references are references to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

1. TARGETED RATES SET ACROSS THE DISTRICT

A series of targeted, differential rates set under section 16(3)(a) and (4)(b) set as described:

1.1 ROADING RATE – per dollar of **land value** as follows:

U1	\$0.001273 per dollar of land value raising	\$2,723,000
U2	\$0.002546 per dollar of land value raising	\$ 923,000
R1	\$0.001554 per dollar of land value raising	\$5,055,000
	Total	<u>\$8,701,000</u>

1.2 REPRESENTATION & DEVELOPMENT RATE – per dollar of **capital value** as follows:

U1	\$0.000418 per dollar of capital value raising	\$2,037,000
U2	\$0.000836 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 628,000
R1	\$0.000143 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 709,000
	Total	<u>\$3,374,000</u>

1.3 REGULATORY SERVICES RATE – per dollar of **capital value** as follows:

U1	\$0.000557 per dollar of capital value raising	\$2,712,000
U2	\$0.001114 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 837,000
R1	\$0.000191 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 944,000
	Total	<u>\$4,493,000</u>

1.4 SUNDRY FACILITIES & SERVICES RATE – per dollar of **capital value** as follows:

U1	\$0.000487 per dollar of capital value raising	\$2,370,000
U2	\$0.000974 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 732,000
R1	\$0.000182 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 899,000
	Total	<u>\$4,001,000</u>

2. TARGETED ANNUAL CHARGE (TAC)

A differential targeted rate [referred to as a Targeted Annual Charge in the Funding Impact Statement] set in accordance with section 16(3)(a) and (4)(b) on each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, with a differential between urban and rural properties based on allocation of costs between rating areas, as detailed in the Revenue & Financing Policy and as follows:

U1 & U2	\$545.00 per part of rating unit, raising	\$5,622,000
R1	\$673.00 per part of rating unit, raising	\$2,713,000
	Total	<u>\$8,335,000</u>

3. TARGETED CIVIC AMENITIES RATE

A differential targeted rate set under sections 16(3)(b) and (4)(b), assessed in the urban rating area only, for civic amenities costs allocated to that area as per the Revenue and Financing Policy and as follows:

Civic Amenities Rate – per dollar of **capital value** as follows:

U1	\$0.000663 per dollar of capital value raising	\$3,228,000
U2	\$0.001326 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 997,000
	Total	<u>\$4,225,000</u>

4. DIFFERENTIAL TARGETED ANNUAL CHARGE (ROADING CHARGE)

4.1 A differential targeted roading charge set in accordance with sections 16(3)(a) and (4)(b) 17 and 18. This rate is in addition to the (land value) Roading Rate, and is set on each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

4.2 The Differential Targeted Roading Charge is as follows:

U1& U2	\$ 85.00 per part of rating unit, raising	\$ 876,000
R1	\$ 537.00 per part of rating unit, raising	\$2,166,00
	Total	<u>\$3,042,00</u> 0

5. TARGETED URBAN WATER SUPPLY RATES AND CHARGE

Targeted on a Uniform Basis and a Capital Value Rate

5.1 According to sections 16(3)(b) and (4)(a) and (4)(b), and 19, a differential targeted Capital Value Rate applying to connected and serviceable rating units (excluding those rural properties charged by metered rate) plus a Uniform Charge for water supply for each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit throughout the serviced area where the rating unit is connected to the Masterton urban water supply scheme.

Note: urban connected properties will be liable for both rates, rural connected properties will be liable for the uniform charge and a volume-based charge (as per 5.3 below).

5.2 The rates are as follows:

UNIFORM URBAN WATER SUPPLY CHARGE

(i) Connected **\$ 180.00** Raising \$ 1,847,000

URBAN WATER SUPPLY RATE (with Differential) - per dollar of **capital value** is:

U1	\$0.000658 per dollar of capital value raising	\$3,238,000
U2	\$0.001316 per dollar of capital value raising	\$1,072,000
	Total	<u>\$4,310,000</u>

The Rate and the Charge raising a total of \$ 6,157,000

Metered Water Supply

5.3 A targeted rate for water supplied to metered rural and out-of-district properties from the urban water supply, based on volumes of water supplied through water meter: (and in addition to the Uniform Water Supply Charge in 5.2 above).

5.4 The metered rates are as follows:

- (i) Minimum charge for use per quarter for 50 cubic mtrs or below **\$82.80**
- (ii) Price per cubic mtr for consumption between 50 and 100 cubic mtrs
per quarter **\$2.00**
- (iii) Price per cubic mtr for consumption over 100 cubic mtrs
per quarter **\$2.60**

6. TARGETED URBAN WASTEWATER RATES AND CHARGE

Targeted on Uniform Basis and Capital Value Rate

6.1 According to sections 16(3)(b) and (4)(a) and (b), 17, and 18 Council will set a targeted capital value rate on connected and serviceable rating units, plus a uniform charge for wastewater services on each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit throughout the Masterton serviced area where rating units are connected to the urban sewerage system.

Note: connected properties will be liable for both rates.

6.2 The rates are:

UNIFORM WASTEWATER CHARGE

(i) Connected **\$ 269.00** Raising \$ 2,714,000

WASTEWATER RATE (with Differential) - per dollar of **capital value** is:

U1 & R1*	\$0.000965 per dollar of capital value raising	\$ 4,775,000
U2	\$0.001930 per dollar of capital value raising	<u>\$ 1,569,000</u>
	Total	\$ 6,344,000

The Rate and Charge raising a total of \$ 9,058,000

**R1 connected properties that are outside the urban area are subject to the U1 differential for this rate.*

7. TARGETED RECYCLING COLLECTION CHARGE

7.1 According to sections 16(3)(b) and (4)(a), a uniform targeted rate for kerbside recycling collection on the following basis:

- (i) Urban – on every separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit situated within the urban area of Masterton to which Council is prepared to provide the service;
- (ii) Rural – on every separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit situated within the rural area of Masterton to which Council is prepared to provide the service.

7.2 The uniform charge is: **\$105.00** Raising \$ 1,062,000

8. RURAL TARGETED SERVICES RATES & CHARGES

According to sections 16(3)(b) and (4)(a), the Council will set:

8.1 A targeted rate for the **Opaki Water Race** on each rating unit serviced by the Opaki Water Race.

The land value rate for 2024-25 is: **\$0.001468** per dollar of land value
Raising a total of \$ 79,000

8.2 A targeted rate for the **Tinui Water Supply** on connected residential rating unit.

The uniform targeted charge for 2024-25 is: **\$573.00**
Raising a total of \$ 17,800

8.3 A targeted rate for the **Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme** on each assessed residential equivalent (RE) (based on Sch 3, cl 8 of the LG (Rating) Act 2002) of each connected rating unit (including those that will be connected during the year).

The Targeted RBSS charge for 2024-25 is: **\$714.00** per RE
Raising a total of \$ 297,000

8.4 A targeted rate for the **Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme** on each serviceable, but not connected rating unit within the serviced area of the scheme.

The targeted uniform charge for 2024-25 is: **\$164.00**
Raising a total of \$ 10,000

8.5 **Riversdale Beach Sewerage Capital Contributions**

Based on the Capital Project Funding Plan adopted in 2010, targeted rates for the Riversdale Beach Community Sewerage Scheme (RBCSS) capital contributions for the 2024-25 year are charged on the basis of connected residential equivalents (REs) within the scheme area, on those properties that elected the 20 year time payment option, or were defaulted to that option, payable via property rates.

A **RBCSS 20 Year time payment** charge per residential equivalent connection for 2024-25 (year 15 of 20) of **\$1,643.40**

Estimated to be charged on 31.9 REs, raising a total of \$ 52,000

- 8.6 Targeted rates for the **Tinui Sewerage Scheme** for the 2024-25 year, on the basis of connected rating units and elected capital contributions. There are three separate rates as follows:

The **Tinui Sewerage Operating Costs** rate per residential connection (and including Tinui School as 5 connections based on assessed usage) for 2024-25 is: **\$564.00**

Raising a total of \$10,700

The **Tinui Sewerage Part Capital Contribution (stage 1)** rate per property for 2024-25 (year 19 of 20) is: **\$212.50** (1 property elected to be charged this sum, which meets their capital contribution spread over 20 years).

The **Tinui Sewerage Part Capital Contribution (stage 1 & 2)** rate per property for 2024-25 (year 19 of 20) is: **\$744.50** (6 properties elected to be charged this sum, which meets their capital contribution spread over 20 years).

Raising a total of \$4,500

- 8.7 A targeted rate, known as the **Beach Refuse & Recycling Collection Charge**, on those rating units in the Riversdale Beach and Castlepoint localities to which the Council is providing refuse bag and recycling collection services:

Targeted uniform charge for 2024-25 is: **\$255.00**

Raising a total of \$ 136,000

- 8.8 A targeted rate for the **Castlepoint Sewerage Scheme** on each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP) connected to the scheme:

Targeted uniform charge for 2024-25 is: **\$670.00**

Raising a total of \$ 138,600

- 8.9 A targeted rate known as the **Sewage Treatment Charge** on each connected rating unit in the rural area that is allowed to discharge effluent from septic system outflows to the urban sewerage system and including Rathkeale College assessed per residential equivalents (RE assumed to be 600 litres/day) based on estimated flow volumes.

The targeted uniform charge is: **\$550.00** per residential equivalent

Raising a total of \$37,400

9. OUT-OF-DISTRICT WATER & WASTEWATER/SEWERAGE CHARGES

Council will set the following charges (to be assessed by Carterton District Council) for non-metered water supply and wastewater/sewerage services which are supplied from Masterton District to properties in the Carterton District on the following basis:

- (i) Water supply - a Uniform Water Charge of \$180.00 on all connected rating units plus water usage measured by water meter and charged as per 5.4 above, both charged by Carterton District Council.
- (ii) Wastewater – a capital value rate per dollar of Capital Value at \$0.001930 on all serviceable rating units, plus a Uniform Wastewater Charge of \$269.00 on all connected rating units, both charged by Carterton District Council.
- (iii) Trade Waste bylaw charges (as listed in the schedule of fees and charges) if Trade Waste Charges are applicable.

10. GOODS & SERVICES TAX (GST)

GST has been added to the rates at the prevailing rate of GST and will be included in each instalment notice/tax invoice when it is raised.

11. INSTALMENTS, PENALTIES

Invoice Dates and Due Dates: The rates are to be assessed in four equal instalments as follows:

		<u>Month of Invoice</u>	<u>Last Day to Pay</u>
(i)	1 st instalment	July 2024	20 August 2024
(ii)	2 nd instalment	October 2024	20 November 2024
(iii)	3 rd instalment	January 2025	20 February 2025
(iv)	4 th instalment	April 2025	20 May 2025

Penalty Charges - Pursuant to section 57 and 58(1)(a) a penalty as listed below will be added to such part of each instalment of rates which remain unpaid after the due date stated above, to be added on the penalty date for that instalment, as follows:

		<u>Penalty %</u>	<u>Date Penalty Added</u>
(i)	1 st instalment	10%	21 August 2024
(ii)	2 nd instalment	10%	21 November 2024
(iii)	3 rd instalment	10%	21 February 2025
(iv)	4 th instalment	10%	21 May 2025

Penalty on Arrears - Pursuant to section 58(1)(b) an additional penalty of 10% will be added to all rates outstanding from the previous financial years and remaining unpaid as at 5 July 2024. The penalty will be applied on 8 July 2024.

Roundings - The Rates Statements will be subject to roundings. The rates due will be calculated to the nearest cent but rounded to the nearest 10 cents for ease of payment.

CARRIED

7.4 ADOPTION OF THE WAIRARAPA CLASS 4 GAMBLING AND STANDALONE TAB VENUES POLICY

The report seeking Council adoption of an amended Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy (Attachment 1) with additional wording on the temporary relocation of venues following direction from Council on 8 May 2024 was presented by the Policy Manager.

Due to her declared interest, Councillor Johnson did not take part in the discussion or voting on the item.

RESOLUTION 2024/42

Moved by Mayor G Caffell
Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That Council:

1. **considers** the proposed additional wording for the temporary relocation of Class 4 venues under Clause 6.1 of the Policy.
2. **adopts** the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy (Attachment 1), including any changes to the drafting of the attached Policy by South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council to reflect an amended venue relocation policy for their respective councils.

In Favour: Mayor Gary Caffell, Councillor Craig Bowyer, Councillor David Holmes, Councillor Tom Hullena, Councillor Stella Lennox, Councillor Marama Tuuta

Against: Councillor Brent Goodwin, Councillor Tim Nelson

CARRIED 6/2

7.5 DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP APPOINTMENTS

the report seeking Council agreement to an amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Disability Advisory Group to provide for the appointment of an alternate, and to appoint the Mayor, Councillor Tuuta and an alternate to the Masterton District Council Disability Advisory Group was presented by the Community Development Team Leader.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Johnson would be the alternate member and the recommendation was adjusted to reflect that.

RESOLUTION 2024/43

Moved by Mayor G Caffell
Seconded by Councillor B Goodwin

That Council:

1. Agrees to amend the Terms of Reference of the Masterton District Council Disability Advisory Group to enable an alternate elected member to be appointed.
2. Appoints Mayor Gary Caffell, Councillor Tuuta and Councillor Johnson (as an alternate member) to the Masterton District Council Disability Advisory Group.

CARRIED

7.6 WAIRARAPA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WORK PROGRAMME, OPERATING MODEL AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The report seeking Council agreement to the WEDS Work Programme for 2024/2025, the WEDS Operating Model and agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding for 2024-2027 was presented by the Economic Development Lead.

RESOLUTION 2024/44

Moved by Councillor T Hullena

Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That Council

1. **Notes** the WEDS Forum (including Council Mayors and CEOs) ran a Lessons Learnt exercise in November 2023 and a prioritisation workshop in April 2024.
2. **Notes** the lessons learnt and the outcomes of the prioritisation workshop have been utilised to focus WEDS activity in the Work Programme for FY24/25.
3. **Notes** the Work Programme for FY24/25 and process to determine initiatives has been endorsed by the WEDS Forum and the three Wairarapa District Councils Mayors and CEOs.
4. **Agrees** the Work Programme for FY24/25, focused on Water Resilience, Food & Fibre, and Workforce.
5. **Notes** other strategic priorities include Transport resilience, Māori Economic Development and Tourism/Dark Skies, which are best addressed through existing channels.
6. **Notes** the lessons learnt, work programme complexity and budget have been considered to “right size” the WEDS operating model.
7. **Notes** the WEDS Operating Model for FY24/25 has been endorsed by the three Wairarapa District Councils Mayors and CEOs on 28 May.
8. **Agrees** the WEDS operating model for FY24/25 and beyond, with oversight provided by a small WEDS Steering Group consisting of place-based and skilled economic development representatives.
9. **Notes** the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expires on 30 June 2024.
10. **Agrees** the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027, including funding provision.
11. **Notes** that operational improvements will continue to be made by the WellingtonNZ Programme Management Office for WEDS (PMO) to deliver the Work Programme effectively, with visibility to the Steering Group.
12. **Notes** that quarterly and annual reporting will be provided to Council, including work programme delivery and financial reporting.
13. **Agree** the existing MoU to 30 June 2024 will remain in force until a new agreement is signed and any unspent budget allocation under the current MoU will be carried over to

FY24/25

CARRIED

7.7 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

The report seeking Council approval to disestablish the Infrastructure and Services Committee, reallocate governance oversight responsibilities to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council and maintain the Chairperson's remuneration was presented by the General Manager – Strategy and Development. The report also sought adoption of the updated Schedule of Meetings 2024 to reflect these decisions.

RESOLUTION 2024/45

Moved by Councillor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor S Lennox

That Council:

1. **Disestablishes** the Infrastructure and Services Committee for the remainder of the 2022-25 triennium.
2. **Reallocates** the responsibility for governance oversight of council's District Planning and Building Consent Authority activities to the Audit and Risk Committee and agrees to update the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee accordingly.
3. **Agrees** to maintain the Chairperson's remuneration to recognise additional responsibilities undertaken through the triennium.
4. **Adopts** the Updated Schedule of Meetings 2024 in Attachment 1 to this report.

CARRIED

7.8 MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY CLIMATE FUND RECOMMENDATIONS

The report seeking Council approval of the 2024 Community Climate Fund grant allocations recommended by the Masterton District Council Climate Advisory Group was presented by Bella Duncan and Sam Ludden from the Climate Advisory Group.

Councillor Tuuta and Councillor Lennox, Council's appointees on the Group also spoke in support of the recommendations and noted the amount of good work that was being done in the community and the importance of the Fund to help the community to do that.

RESOLUTION 2024/46

Moved by Councillor M Tuuta
Seconded by Councillor S Lennox

That Council:

1. **notes** that 14 applications were received for the 2024 round of the Masterton District Community Climate Fund

2. **notes** that the Masterton District Climate Advisory Group's Terms of Reference includes responsibility for assessing the Masterton District Climate Fund applications and making recommendations back to Council
3. **notes** that 12 applications are recommended a funding allocation, either full or partial amounts
4. **approves** the Masterton District Council Climate Advisory Group's funding recommendations for the 2024 round of the Community Climate Fund:

Applicant	Amount allocated
Divine River NZ Trust	5,000
East Side Community Group	3,000
Good Lives Wairarapa	3,000
House of Science Wairarapa	3,000
Ko Te Aroha Trust	3,000
Oxford St Community Garden	7,820
Pickled Compost	4,000
Solway Community Group	1,626.87
Sustainable Wairarapa	5,000
Wairarapa Community Trust	5,000
Wairarapa Women's Centre	5,000
Waiwaste Food Rescue	4,500
Total	\$ 49,946.87

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.13pm and reconvened at 12.18pm

All members were present when the meeting reconvened.

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive presented his report, providing Council with an update on Council operations (as at 21 June 2024).

RESOLUTION 2024/47

Moved by Mayor G Caffell
Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

That Council receives the Chief Executive's Report as at 21 June 2024.

CARRIED

8.2 MEETING REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillors are appointed to a number of external groups and organisations as representatives of Masterton District Council. This agenda item allows Councillors to report back on meetings attended in that capacity.

Councillor Lennox reported back on the Shelter Masterton AGM and the Refugee Steering Group meetings she had attended.

Councillor Johnson reported back on the Wairarapa Youth Governance Group meeting she had attended.

8.3 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided a verbal report including:

- The Water Services Bill submission presentation to the Select Committee he had sat in on
- The 56 Mayors and Chairs who had expressed their disappointment to the government on their position on Māori Wards
- The function he had attended to recognise NZ Volunteer Week.
- The Community Coffee morning he had attended at Douglas Park Primary, where the children were very interested
- The Mayors and Deputy Mayors meeting he had attended where Mike Butterick came and spoke to the group. Matters discussed included Water, Judds Road and speed limits.

The LGNZ Report was discussed and a request made for the Chief Executive to bring a report to Council on the costs to Council of being a part of LGNZ and what benefits that brings Council.

RESOLUTION 2024/48

Moved by Mayor G Caffell

Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

That Council

1. receives the verbal report from the Mayor
2. receives the LGNZ March to June 2024 Report to Members

CARRIED

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2024/49

Moved by Councillor D Holmes

Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the

reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 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 for the passing of this resolution
<p>9.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of Council Meeting held on 8 May 2024</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>9.2 - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 22 May 2024</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the</p>	<p>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</p>

	<p>information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest</p> <p>s7(2)(d) - the withholding of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public</p> <p>s7(2)(e) - the withholding of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	
9.3 - District Licensing Committee Appointments	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	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
9.4 - Section 17A Review of Solid Waste Services and Recycling Operations	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial 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

CARRIED

The Meeting moved into public excluded at 1.00pm

The Meeting closed at 1.16pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 7 August 2024.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

5.2 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2024

File Number:

Author: Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 31 July 2024 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 31 July 2024**



MINUTES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 31 July 2024**

Order Of Business

1	Conflicts of Interest	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Public Forum	3
4	Items not on the Agenda	4
5	Confirmation of Council Minutes	4
	Nil	
6	Committee Reports	4
	Nil	
7	Reports for Decision	4
	7.1 Māori Wards: Changes to the Local Electoral Act.....	4
8	Reports for Information	6
	Nil	
9	Public Excluded	6
	Nil	

**MINUTES OF MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT WAIATA HOUSE, 27 LINCOLN ROAD, MASTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2024 AT 9:00 AM**

PRESENT: Mayor G Caffell (Chair), Councillors B Johnson, B Goodwin, D Holmes, T Hullena, S Lennox, T Nelson and M Tuuta

IN ATTENDANCE: Iwi Representative Jo Hayes, Chief Executive, General Manager - Strategy and Development, General Manager - Community, Chief Advisor, General Manager - Corporate, General Manager - Infrastructure and Assets, Pou Ahurea Māori - Kaitakawaenga Strategic Planning Manager, and Governance Advisor.

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2024/50

Moved by Councillor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor S Lennox

That the apology received from Councillor Craig Bowyer be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Tia Tuuta, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust - Pou Whakahaere (General Manager), spoke about the importance of Māori wards and being circuit breakers. She advised that Option 1A was preferred (to retain the Māori ward for the 2025 term and hold a binding poll at the 2025 election).

Mihirangi Hollings, Rangitāne o Wairarapa Chief Executive, spoke about Māori wards and noted her support of what Tia Tuuta had said. She noted that they stood as representatives of the two iwi in the Wairarapa and that their preferred approach is to take it to a poll and urged Members to think about where they had come from and where we are to go.

Nelson Rangi, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Kaumatua, spoke about the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constitutencies) Amendment Bill, which has passed into law. He highlighted the short timeframe available for Council to make their decision and urged them to choose Option 1A and hold a series of explanatory events to explain, inform, and educate the general public before the poll is held.

He spoke of discrimination and that no other local body ward has been required to go through a government edict to hold any sort of a poll or referendum to be in existence, that's the prerogative of councils in every way, except one that is directed at Māori.

He stated that it is time for Māori to stand up and be counted, and do what is appropriate to assist and support the council in any endeavour to ensure the wards we have now are protected.

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no items not on the agenda.

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Nil

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

7 REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 MĀORI WARDS: CHANGES TO THE LOCAL ELECTORAL ACT

The report updating Council on recent legislative changes in relation to Māori wards was presented by the General Manager – Strategy and Governance. It seeks a Council decision to either retain the Māori ward for the 2025 term and undertake a binding poll at the 2025 election, or to agree an option for consultation with the community.

The third reading of the bill took place on 30 July 2024, this finishes the bill in the house and it then goes for royal assent. The bill goes into effect the day after royal assent.

In response to a query whether, if Option 1A was chosen, consultation is able to take place prior to the binding poll, it was advised that Council could carry out education allowing for information to be circulated and engagement to take place prior to the poll.

Members discussed their opinions on the changes to the Local Electoral Act, with many feeling that the need to make a decision on the Māori ward was a step backward. They voiced their opposition to disestablishing the Māori ward, and their support for Option 1A, to give people a chance to have their voice be heard. It was noted that Council have a responsibility to ensure the consultation process is an education and consultation one.

RESOLUTION 2024/51

Moved by Mayor G Caffell
Seconded by Councillor B Johnson

That the Council:

1. **notes** that changes to the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires Council to resolve to

disestablish its Māori ward by 6 September 2024 or hold a binding poll at the 2025 election.

2. **notes** that a decision to disestablish the Māori ward will require community engagement, but Council is not required to undertake the special consultative procedure.
3. **notes** that council can choose not to consult with the community on the decision to retain Māori wards for the 2025 election;
4. **notes** that if Council decides to consult, consultation material will be presented for adoption at the 7 August 2024 Council meeting ahead of a final decision being made at a Council meeting on 4 September 2024.
5. **agrees** that when the changes to the Local Electoral Act come into effect Council will retain the Māori ward for the 2025 election and hold a binding poll at the 2025 election.

CARRIED

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Nil

The Meeting closed at 10.00am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 7 August 2024.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 AWARDS & GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING - 10 JULY 2024

File Number:

Author: Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

Members: Chair Councillor Tim Nelson Councillor Craig Bowyer, Councillor Gary Caffell, Iwi representative Jo Hayes, Councillor Bex Johnson, Councillor Stella Lennox, and Councillor Marama Tuuta

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

That Council confirms the report of the Awards and Grants Committee meeting held on 10 July 2024 including the following resolutions:

- **2024-34 Long Term Plan Funding Applications**

That the Awards and Grants Committee:

1. **Receives** the 14 applications for 2024-34 Long-Term Plan funding,
2. **Decides** funding allocations for these applications, as summarised below

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Allocation
1	Business Wairarapa	Seeking funding towards further economic development, training, connections and advocacy on behalf of all Wairarapa businesses.	Year 1 \$30,000 Year 2 \$30,000 Year 3 \$30,000
3	Digital Seniors	Seeking funding towards supporting two part-time staff and 22 volunteers with travel costs across Masterton and maintain key infrastructure such as a website and 0800 helpline.	Year 1 \$15,000 Year 2 \$15,000 Year 3 \$15,000
4	Fab Lab	Seeking funding towards the delivery of Fab Lab for the Masterton Community providing a hub space, unlimited use of equipment to create a library makerspace and deliver industry-level digital fabrication access and provision of the Open Lab Fridays 1-5pm for drop in enquiries and making at zero cost.	Council will support by providing a rent free premise and the use of power and resources until decisions are made regarding the library expansion.
5	Life Flight Trust	Seeking funding towards covering essential operational expenses and primarily purchasing and maintaining medical and rescue equipment, staff salaries, aircraft fuel and maintenance.	Year 1: \$20,000 Year 2: \$20,000 Year 3: \$20,000

6	Masterton Foodbank	<i>Seeking funding towards the continuation of financing the Foodbank Manager for 30 hours per week for one year.</i>	Year 1: \$25,000 Year 2: \$25,000 Year 3: \$25,000
7	Nuku Ora	<i>Seeking funding towards assisting the production of a Masterton District Sport and Facility Strategy (Year 1 only), the Senior Regional Games, community strength and balance classes in the Masterton district and assistance with connections, advocacy and national information within the sport and recreation sector.</i>	Year 1: \$15,000 Year 2: \$15,000 Year 3: \$15,000
8	Pasifika o Wairarapa Trust	<i>Seeking funding towards work being undertaken in the Wairarapa including funding the Community Connector position.</i>	Year 1: \$15,000 Year 2: \$15,000 Year 3: \$15,000
9	Pukaha Mount Bruce	<i>Seeking funding towards providing lower cost community access to local Masterton residents by way of a 50% discount and holding an annual open day.</i>	Year 1: \$20,000 Year 2: \$20,000 Year 3: \$20,000
10	Riversdale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club	<i>Seeking funding towards staff wages for the Regional Guard Lifeguard services at Riversdale Beach for the summer of 2024/25.</i>	Year 1: \$40,000 Year 2: \$40,000 Year 3: \$40,000
11	Te Awhina Community Hub	<i>Seeking funding towards funding the Coordinator's salary and operational costs of the Community Hub located in the Masterton East community.</i>	Year 1: \$30,000 Year 2: \$30,000 Year 3: \$30,000
12	Waiwaste Food Rescue	<i>Seeking funding towards ongoing operational costs.</i>	Year 1: \$25,000 Year 2: \$25,000 Year 3: \$25,000
13	Wairarapa Community Centre Trust	<i>Seeking funding for operating expenses and Food Resilience Programmes that use centre resources and staff time.</i>	Year 1: \$25,000 Year 2: \$25,000 Year 3: \$25,000
14	Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA)	<i>Seeking funding towards the running costs of this service includes fuel, vehicle maintenance, operation of the station and purchasing consumable medical equipment.</i>	Year 1: \$30,276 Year 2: \$30,882 Year 3: \$31,500

and

- Notes** that 14 applications submitted by these organisations were presented to the Committee at the meeting and are listed in Schedule 1.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Minutes of Awards & Grants Committee Meeting held on 10 July 2024**



MINUTES

**Awards & Grants Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 10 July 2024**

Order Of Business

1	Conflicts of Interest	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Public Forum.....	3
4	Items not on the Agenda	3
5	Reports for Decision.....	3
5.1	2024-34 Long Term Plan Funding Applications	3

**MINUTES OF MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
AWARDS & GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT WAIATA HOUSE, LINCOLN ROAD, MASTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY 2024 AT 10:00 AM AND RECONVENED ON WEDNESDAY 17
JULY 2024 AT 2.00PM**

PRESENT: Chair Councillor Tim Nelson, Mayor Gary Caffell, Councillors B Johnson, Councillor Stellar Lennox (on 17 July) and Councillor M Tuuta and Iwi Representative Jo Hayes.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Community, Grants Administrator and the Governance Advisor.

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mayor Caffell noted that he was the past Chair of the Wairarapa Community Centre Trust.

Councillor B Johnson noted that she was the three Wairarapa Council's representative on Pasifika o Wairarapa Trust.

Councillor S Lennox noted that she is on the board of the Te Awhina Community Hub.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/1

Moved by Councillor Tim Nelson

Seconded by Mayor G Caffell

That apologies from Councillor Craig Bowyer and Councillor Stella Lennox [for Wednesday 10 July] be received and accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum as the meeting included presentations from the applicants for funding.

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no late items.

5 REPORTS FOR DECISION

5.1 2024-34 LONG TERM PLAN FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The report providing the Awards and Grants Committee with the applications that have been received, applying for funding from the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan was presented by the General Manager - Community. The applications were summarised in Attachment 1.

The Committee heard from the following presenters:

Application No.	Organisation	Presenter
8.	Pasifika o Wairarapa	Luther Toloa
14.	Wellington Free Ambulance	Cheryl Watson
1.	Business Wairarapa	Nicola Belsham
6.	Masterton Foodbank	Steve Sale
2.	Cobblestones	Joseph Gillard
12.	Waiwaste Incorporated	Louise Lee and Christine Kernohan
3.	Digital Seniors	Rick Bryant
10.	Riversdale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club	Dave Rose
5.	Life Flight Trust	Sebastian Grodd

The meeting adjourned at 11.43am and reconvened at 12 noon

Members present when the meeting reconvened were Chair Councillor Nelson, Mayor Gary Caffell, Councillor Bex Johnson, Councillor Marama Tuuta and Iwi Representative Jo Hayes.

Application No.	Organisation	Presenter
11.	Te Awhina Community Hub	Donna Gray and Tracy Graham
9.	Pukaha National Wildlife Centre	Emily Court
7.	Nuku Ora	Andrea Jackson
13.	Wairarapa Community Centre Trust	Bev Jack
4.	Fab Lab	John Hart and Kirsten Browne

The meeting adjourned at 12.52pm to reconvene on Wednesday 17 July at 2.00pm
The meeting reconvened at 2.00pm on Wednesday 17 July

Members present when the meeting reconvened were Chair Councillor Nelson, Mayor Gary Caffell, Councillor Bex Johnson, Councillor Stella Lennox and Councillor Marama Tuuta and Iwi Representative Jo Hayes.

Members discussed the applications and made the allocations listed in the resolution below, noting that any unallocated funds would be added to the 2024 Community Wellbeing Grant budget.

Members requested that the General Manager - Community provide a report on the number of Masterton residents that have utilised the 50% discounted admission to Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 2024/2

Moved by Councillor Tim Nelson
Seconded by Councillor B Johnson

That the Awards and Grants Committee:

1. **Receives** the 14 applications for 2024-34 Long-Term Plan funding,
2. **Decides** funding allocations for these applications, as summarised below

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Allocation
1	Business Wairarapa	Seeking funding towards further economic development, training, connections and advocacy on behalf of all Wairarapa businesses.	Year 1 \$30,000 Year 2 \$30,000 Year 3 \$30,000
3	Digital Seniors	Seeking funding towards supporting two part-time staff and 22 volunteers with travel costs across Masterton and maintain key infrastructure such as a website and 0800 helpline.	Year 1 \$15,000 Year 2 \$15,000 Year 3 \$15,000
4	Fab Lab	Seeking funding towards the delivery of Fab Lab for the Masterton Community providing a hub space, unlimited use of equipment to create a library makerspace and deliver industry-level digital fabrication access and provision of the Open Lab Fridays 1-5pm for drop in enquiries and making at zero cost.	Council will support by providing a rent free premise and the use of power and resources until decisions are made regarding the library expansion.
5	Life Flight Trust	Seeking funding towards covering essential operational expenses and primarily purchasing and maintaining medical and rescue equipment, staff salaries, aircraft fuel and maintenance.	Year 1: \$20,000 Year 2: \$20,000 Year 3: \$20,000
6	Masterton Foodbank	Seeking funding towards the continuation of financing the Foodbank Manager for 30 hours per week for one year.	Year 1: \$25,000 Year 2: \$25,000 Year 3: \$25,000
7	Nuku Ora	Seeking funding towards assisting the production of a Masterton District Sport and Facility Strategy (Year 1 only), the Senior Regional Games, community strength and balance classes in the Masterton district and assistance with	Year 1: \$15,000 Year 2: \$15,000 Year 3: \$15,000

		connections, advocacy and national information within the sport and recreation sector.	
8	Pasifika o Wairarapa Trust	Seeking funding towards work being undertaken in the Wairarapa including funding the Community Connector position.	Year 1: \$15,000 Year 2: \$15,000 Year 3: \$15,000
9	Pukaha Mount Bruce	Seeking funding towards providing lower cost community access to local Masterton residents by way of a 50% discount and holding an annual open day.	Year 1: \$20,000 Year 2: \$20,000 Year 3: \$20,000
10	Riversdale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club	Seeking funding towards staff wages for the Regional Guard Lifeguard services at Riversdale Beach for the summer of 2024/25.	Year 1: \$40,000 Year 2: \$40,000 Year 3: \$40,000
11	Te Awhina Community Hub	Seeking funding towards funding the Coordinator's salary and operational costs of the Community Hub located in the Masterton East community.	Year 1: \$30,000 Year 2: \$30,000 Year 3: \$30,000
12	Waiwaste Food Rescue	Seeking funding towards ongoing operational costs.	Year 1: \$25,000 Year 2: \$25,000 Year 3: \$25,000
13	Wairarapa Community Centre Trust	Seeking funding for operating expenses and Food Resilience Programmes that use centre resources and staff time.	Year 1: \$25,000 Year 2: \$25,000 Year 3: \$25,000
14	Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA)	Seeking funding towards the running costs of this service includes fuel, vehicle maintenance, operation of the station and purchasing consumable medical equipment.	Year 1: \$30,276 Year 2: \$30,882 Year 3: \$31,500

and

- Notes** that 14 applications submitted by these organisations were presented to the Committee at the meeting and are listed in Schedule 1.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed on 17 July at 2.50pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council meeting held on 7 August 2024.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

7 REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: REMITS

File Number:

Author: Karen Yates, General Manager Strategy & Development

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council endorsement of the remits proposed in the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) 2024 Annual General Meeting Remits document.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. endorses the remits to the 2024 Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting; and
2. delegates authority to Councillor Lennox to vote in accordance with Council's agreed position on each of the remits at the 2024 LGNZ AGM.

CONTEXT

The Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) remits are voted on at the LGNZ Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21 August 2024. This year there are 8 remits. The full LGNZ 2024 Annual General Meeting Remits document is attached (see Attachment 1).

Proposed remits address current strategic issues. They have a national focus articulating a major interest or concern at the national political level.

Remits raised by a council must have formal support from at least one zone or sector group meeting or five councils prior to being submitted, as they must be relevant to local government as a whole.

The proposed remits are then voted on by all councils in a ballot at the LGNZ AGM and require more than 50% support for LGNZ to advocate for them on behalf of the sector. Once passed, remits become official policy to be actioned by LGNZ.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE

The table below outlines all 8 remits with officer advice on considerations for each.

LGNZ 2024 AGM REMITS: FEEDBACK AND ADVICE

No	Remit	Detail	Considerations
1	<p>Representation reviews (Waikato Regional Council)</p>	<p>That LGNZ advocate for changes that support the provision of timely and accurate regional and sub-regional population data to councils for use in council representation reviews.</p>	<p>Officers support the provision of timely and accurate regional and sub-regional data as soon as possible after a Census – this information can support/inform a range of Council decision-making processes.</p> <p>However, we accept that the release of Statistics NZ may not always align with Representation Review processes given councils are required to undertake a Representation Review at least every six years, and different councils are on different representation review cycles. This means there are councils undertaking Representation Reviews every three years, while the Census is undertaken every five years.</p> <p>Statistics NZ release estimated resident population (ERP) statistics as at 30 June each year. The Local Government Commission generally reference the last available ERP for Representation Review processes. An alternative could be to advocate for a change to the timing of representation review processes, so these take place as soon as possible after the release of Census data.</p>
2	<p>Community Services Card (Palmerston North City Council)</p>	<p>That LGNZ advocate to Central Government to amend the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 so that the cardholder can use the Community Services Card as evidence for the purposes of accessing Council services which would otherwise rely on a form of means testing.</p>	<p>Any way of streamlining the testing requirements of people accessing council services sounds like a good idea. If the same form of means testing are already completed to enable people to get a Community Services card then it seems wasted effort to do the same tests again by all councils if the results are the same. It is extra time and costs for both councils and members of the public.</p> <p>However, a CSC may not be appropriate for all Council</p>

No	Remit	Detail	Considerations
			services; for example a CSC may only apply for three months, and it would be administratively onerous to accept such a card for a service that lasts a year, such as dog registration.
3	Local government constituencies & wards should not be subject to referendum (Palmerston North City Council)	That LGNZ lobbies central government to ensure that Māori wards and constituencies are treated the same as all other wards in that they should not be subject to a referendum. We oppose the idea that Māori wards should be singled out and forced to suffer a public referendum.	MDC supported the previous Government's repeal of the requirement for a poll following a decision to introduce Māori wards and made a submission not supporting the current Government's proposal to reintroduce the poll.
4	Entrenchment of Māori ward seats for local government (Northland Regional Council)	That LGNZ proactively promote and lobby to entrench the Māori Wards and Constituencies for the 64 councils which currently have these, to require the support of a supermajority of parliament should either parliament or councils seek their removal.	This is likely to be too late for those authorities given the timing of the Māori Wards Amendment Bill. Officers support equity for local representation arrangements. Local Government legislation is not entrenched so this proposal would need to be part of broader changes.
5	Graduated driver licensing system (Ashburton District Council)	That LGNZ advocate for changes to the fee structure for driver licensing, better preparing young people for driver license testing, and greater testing capacity in key locations throughout New Zealand, in order to relieve pressure on the driver licensing system and ensure testing can be conducted in a quick and efficient manner.	The remit is particularly relevant to the Ashburton and Christchurch regions but will have a positive impact on the younger part of the community.

No	Remit	Detail	Considerations
6	Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings (Gisborne District Council)	That LGNZ advocate to Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For legislative change enabling local authorities to compel building owners to remediate unoccupied derelict buildings and sites that have deteriorated to a state where they negatively impact the amenity of the surrounding area. • To incentivise repurposing vacant buildings to meet region-specific needs, for example, accommodation conversion. 	The issue will always be affordability for the building owner.
7	Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives (Northland Regional Council)	That LGNZ proactively promote and lobby for the development of a more equitable and appropriate funding model for central government initiatives.	Any development of a more equitable and appropriate funding model for central government initiatives would be beneficial. Historically as a smaller provincial council we often get combined with Greater Wellington in decision making and our specific circumstances are not always taken in to account.
8	Goods and services tax (GST) revenue sharing with local government	LGNZ be proactive in lobbying central government on sharing GST revenue with local government, derived from local government rates and service fees related to flood protection mitigation, roading, and three waters, for investment in these areas.	Officers support the concept of central funding support for local government, however, the solution needs to be designed in a way that does not define the share as GST revenue. Failing to do so will increase the amount of GST received which has to be offset against GST paid. The shortfall is a GST liability payable by Council; this could mean Councils ability to claim GST on expenditure is impeded and the net return moot.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic, Policy and Legislative Implications

The remits align with the intent of relevant Council policies and strategies, as described in the table above.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

The decision has been assessed against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and is considered to be of low significance.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications as a result of this decision.

Implications for Māori

No particular implications for Māori have been identified.

Communications/Engagement Plan

No communication or engagement plan is required as a result of this decision.

Environmental/Climate Change Impact and Considerations

No direct implications as a result of this decision.

NEXT STEPS

The LGNZ remits will be voted on at the LGNZ AGM on 21 August 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. LGNZ 2024 Annual General Meeting Remits** [↓](#)



2024 Annual General Meeting

REMITTS



Please note that this document is not the full set of papers for this year's AGM. It just includes the remits going forward to the AGM so members can decide how they will vote on them. The full set of AGM papers will be shared no later than 10 working days before the AGM.



Prioritising remits

Every year, LGNZ adopts new remits at the AGM. Each remit requires resourcing to deliver, and there is no limit to the number of remits that can be considered and passed. This means remits can create resourcing challenges, including conflict with agreed policy priorities.

LGNZ's National Council decided at its June meeting to ask the AGM to prioritise remits, to make it clearer where most resource should be directed. This will be a two-step process:

1. At the AGM, delegates will vote on remits as usual. Then, in a separate vote, they will rank successful remits in order of priority. This vote will be carried out electronically and result in a prioritised list of remits.
2. National Council will look at this prioritised list and allocate resource accordingly.
 - This will include determining where on the list the cutoff lies between a 'maximalist' and 'minimalist' approach. Depending on the nature of the remit, a 'maximalist' approach could include commissioning advice or research, or in-depth policy or advocacy work. A 'minimalist' approach could involve less resource, such as writing a letter to the relevant minister or agency.
 - Any support that proposing councils offer to deliver the remit will be considered in this decision making.

National Council will share its decision with councils, along with proposed actions.

Progress made against remits will continue to be reported in the four-monthly update to members.



Proposed Remit		Page
1.	Representation reviews	4
2.	Community Services Card	5
3.	Local government constituencies & wards should not be subject to referendum.	7
4.	Entrenchment of Māori wards seats for local government	20
5.	Graduated driver licensing system	22
6.	Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings	26
7.	Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives	46
8.	Goods and services tax (GST) revenue sharing with local government	48



// 01

Representation reviews

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate for changes that support the provision of timely and accurate regional and sub-regional population data to councils for use in council representation reviews.*

Proposed by: Waikato Regional Council

Supported by: Zone 2

Why is this remit important?

Because local democracy relies on accurate and up to date electoral population data to ensure fair and effective representation.

Background and Context

Census and local electoral cycles are not aligned which means that census data used to inform representation reviews can be up to six years old.

This remit is flexible enough to enable advocacy that takes into account a possible move to a four-year term and possible future shifts in the way the census may be conducted in the future, including a possible replacement by the use of administrative data.

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

This is a critical issue for local government as it goes to the very foundation of localism. Seeks advocacy in relation to a significant issue impacting local government.

This is not currently part of the current work programme but could be linked to the Electoral Reform Working Group's look at how to best implement a four-year term.

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

Drafting submissions and attending meetings with Statistics New Zealand amongst other things.



// 02

Community Services Card

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to Central Government to amend the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 so that the cardholder can use the Community Services Card as evidence for the purposes of accessing Council services which would otherwise rely on a form of means testing.*

Proposed by: Palmerston North City Council

Supported by: Zone 3

Why is this remit important?

Councils are restricted from requesting a community services card as evidence of eligibility to access services. Instead Council must instead request a series of other documents from an individual to test eligibility. This creates obstacles for applicants and privacy and consistency concerns for councils.

Background and Context

The authorised uses of Community Services Cards are set out in the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 regulation 12 and restrict the purposes for which it can be used. The Regulations state that no person, other than an employee of the department or the Ministry of Health or a pharmacist or any person (other than the cardholder) mentioned in regulation 12(b) or (ba) shall demand or request a Community Services Card as a form of identification of the cardholder or as evidence that the cardholder is eligible for that Community Services Card.

People in receipt of a main benefit (e.g. Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment) or receiving a Student Allowance automatically qualify for a Community Services Card. Otherwise people can apply for a Community Services Card and must meet qualifying criteria including:

- They are over 18 years of age (or over 16 years of age if enrolled in full-time tertiary study)
- They are living legally in New Zealand (or are applying for refugee status)
- They meet an income test.

Palmerston North City Council in seeking to determine a means of establishing eligibility for some council services, including social housing, found that the Community Services Card, based on its eligibility criteria, would appropriately identify eligible people. However, current regulations do not allow councils to ask if a person is a Community Services Card holder in order to establish eligibility for council services.

Cabinet has previously amended the Health Entitlement Cards Regulation 1993 and the Social Security Regulations 2018 to add public transport authorities to those able to request or demand to see a Community Services Card, and the combination SuperGold and Community Services Card, as evidence that the cardholder is eligible for public transport concessions.



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

This remit could increase accessibility to local government services. It also comfortably sits within the principles of the Local Government Act 2002 in that it would give local government a tool to provide services more efficiently.

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

We can provide further legal background knowledge and research to date; and accompany LGNZ in any advocacy meetings with the Ministry or legislators.



// 03

Local government constituencies & wards should not be subject to referendum

Remit: *That LGNZ lobbies central government to ensure that Māori wards and constituencies are treated the same as all other wards in that they should not be subject to a referendum. We oppose the idea that Māori wards should be singled out and forced to suffer a public referendum.*

Proposed by: Palmerston North City Council

Supported by: Zone 3, Te Pae Tawhiti (Horizons Region, Māori ward and constituency councillors)

Why is this remit important?

It is evident that the introduction of Māori wards and constituencies empowered more Māori to nominate, stand, vote, and participate in local government.

Legislative changes will only apply to Māori wards and constituencies but not all wards and constituencies. This shows a prejudice to Māori, a complete lack of fairness and will result in further disengagement of Māori in local government. It will see the demise of Māori representation and engagement in local government.

Background and Context

Māori wards and constituencies councillors serve on district, city and regional Councils in New Zealand and represent local ratepayers and constituents registered on the Māori parliamentary electoral roll. The purpose of Māori wards and constituencies is to ensure Māori are represented in local government decision making.

In February 2021, the Government made legislative changes which would uphold local council decisions to establish Māori wards and abolish the existing law which allowed local referendums to veto decisions by councils to establish Māori wards and Constituencies. The Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2021, eliminated mechanisms for holding referendums on the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies on local bodies.

Many councils took the opportunity to make decisions about establishing Māori wards and Constituencies after the law change and as a result, the 2022 local elections saw six of the eleven regional councils (54.5%) have Māori constituencies and 29 of the 67 territorial authorities (43.3%) have Māori ward/s. Horizons Regional Council, and all seven District Councils of this region, have Māori wards.

Following the changes in legislation, there was a significant increase in Māori representation. The 2022 Local Government election saw the highest number of Māori elected members in local government, growing from 5% to 22%.



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

The proposed remit fits within LGNZ's stance that they too believe that Māori wards and constituencies should be treated the same as other wards in that they should not be subject to a referendum or if so, all wards should be subjected to the referendum.

Councils should be empowered to make decisions about the make-up of their representation through the Representation Review process.

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

Palmerston North City Council and Te Pae Tawhiti already made oral and written submissions to the Justice Select Committee in June.

We also encouraged LGNZ to lead out the letter from the mayors to key ministers in May.

We are keen to support ongoing messaging, noting this remit is submitted prior to the Parliamentary decision on the proposed legislation.



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Committee Secretariat
Justice Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

justice.submissions@parliament.govt.nz

29 May 2024

Members of the Justice Select Committee,
Re: Local Electoral Amendment Act 2024

E ngā mana e ngā reo e ngā karangatanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa.

E te tēpū whakatau o ngā whakakaupapa hou mō 'Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill' Nei rā he mihi nui ki a koutou i āta whakaaro i āta whiriwhiri i ēnei kaupapa whakahirahira e pā ana ki ngā kaunihera o te motu. Ko mātou tēnei o Te Kaunihera o Papaioea e mihi atu nei ki a koutou me te kaupapa e kaweā nei e koutou. Kia kaha, kia māia kia manawanui. Anei o mātou ake whakaaro e pā ana. Nō reira tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill. We challenge the Select Committee to genuinely consider the feedback provided through this process. Councils do not want or need this change to occur. Our communities, and certainly Rangitāne o Manawatū our Treaty partner, are not asking for this.

Palmerston North is home to:

- near on 100,000 people of over 150 ethnicities
- one of the youngest populations with the highest number of PhDs per capita in the country

We proudly display:

- our city crest in our Council Chamber- one of we understand only four in the country which depict both Māori and Pākehā in the heraldry. Three being councils and the Crown you represent being the fourth.
- a statue of Te Peeti Te Awe Awe in the heart of our city- Te Marae o Hine The Square. Erected in 1906 jointly by city and Rangitāne leaders.

Our representation arrangements, most recently reviewed in 2021, are 1 mayor + 15 members: 2 Māori ward seats and 13 General ward seats, at-large across the city.

PNCC is committed to the principles of local government. Namely, as set out in the Local Government Act 2002 sections 4 and 81, which state we must

"... recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local

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government decision-making processes... to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes.”

and

“establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and

consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority.”

There are also other statutory obligations, most notably the Resource Management Act 1991, to account for the culture and traditions of Māori as it relates to the natural environment. Not to mention obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi and the Human Rights Act. These obligations alone do not adequately emphasise the foundational importance of councils’ partnership with Māori and the critical value that relationships with tangata whenua bring to local governance.

Councils have many strategic commitments that support the development of Māori capacity to participate more fully and effectively in the Council’s decision-making processes. We engage directly with tangata whenua as a part of our statutory responsibilities and as a means of giving expression to the Council’s commitment to bicultural development and responsiveness. A Māori ward is another expression of this.

PNCC is committed to its kawenata relationship with tangata whenua Rangitāne o Manawatū, who support a Māori ward for wider Māori voice at Council. In 2021 Rangitāne o Manawatū gifted names for the city-wide wards:

- Te Hirawanui General Ward: reflects the long history of partnership between the Council and Rangitāne in the founding of Palmerston North, most particularly recognising one of our Rangatira chief Te Hirawanui who coordinated and inter alia signed the deed for sale for Te Ahu a Turanga land block, of which Palmerston North became a part.
- Te Pūao Māori Ward: the heralding a new dawn, and the mouth of a river as it leads to the ocean, reminiscent of the words spoken by Rangitāne rangatira Tiweta and Mahuri to the Ngāti Upokoiri people when they invited them to take refuge in the Manawatū-- in other words signalling the opportunities to come from the Māori ward and the relationship between Māori and Local Government in the Manawatū and beyond.

On 1 May 2024, Council resolved to formally endorse this current representative structure.

PNCC wants to increase engagement with parts of the city’s community that have historically been representationally marginalised. A Māori ward ensures Māori voices will be represented at local decision-making tables. It is one tool to support democracy, which a council can use to best represent the communities it serves. Māori can stand in general wards, but the data tells us they haven’t been doing so, even in Palmerston North where STV voting and district-wide wards which should encourage diverse candidacy. Māori wards are one way to remove a structural obstacle to the choices of Māori voters. In our view, having Māori ward seats at councils to represent those on the Māori elector role is the equivalent of Māori seats in Parliament for Parliamentary elections. Participation literature repeatedly points to people being able ‘to see themselves’ in diverse candidates as a motivator for voting. Many councils chose to establish Māori wards for the 2022 elections. We then saw the highest number of Māori elected members in local government, growing from 5% to 22%, much more closely aligned to the population. It is evident the introduction of Māori wards and constituencies enabled through the 2021 legislative change empowered more Māori to nominate, stand, vote, and participate in local government.

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In its report to the Māori Affairs Committee in February 2021 on the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill of the time, National Party members made their own statement, separate to the Committee report. The members noted (emphasis in bold below) that:

Rushed legislation is not good legislation.

We agree.

The [prior] law requires that when a council proposes general wards it must publicly notify its proposals and call and hear submissions. These provisions do not apply to the creation of a Māori ward under this [previous] bill. If the Government genuinely wished to align the process it would require the same legal process for creating Māori wards as for general wards.

We agree.

If Government wishes to treat Māori wards in the same way as general wards, it should seek to include Māori wards within the representation review process subject to community submissions and Local Government Commission review NOT reinstate a different process.

Representation issues are complex. They cannot be reduced to simple binary questions of yes or no. Palmerston North knows first-hand what division looks like when lobby groups from outside our community lead a poll demand.

If the Government's true intentions were to improve the representation arrangements for councils, rather than revert this legislation, they would be looking to improve it. For example, could the rules around population ratios be removed so that councils can be more responsive to the needs of their communities of interest and not limited by percentages and population ratios?

"Our 78 local councils with their 1,600 elected members, are already obliged under legislation to have improving relationships with Māori and ensure proper engagement and involvement with Māori in decision-making. Local government and iwi/hapū take those responsibilities very seriously and in good faith. How they best meet their Treaty obligations should be up to them to decide. Local government and Māori are quite capable of doing that and achieving the outcome, without the central government deciding the means."

We agree.

Local democracy is one of the two purposes of local government set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act,

"The purpose of local government is—to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities."

Aotearoa New Zealand is a representative democracy. We elect leaders to lead. We understand well that as councillors we are democratically elected to make decisions on behalf of all of our communities, not just the majority. Local councils are well placed to make those decisions, because we consult our people and weigh up various viewpoints on an issue.

PNCC voted to establish a Māori ward for the City, in 2017 and again in 2021. Since then, every council in our Horizons region (8 councils) has established Māori wards or constituencies.

Why is the Government telling us we are not capable of making a decision we have already made twice, and must now be bound to the result of a referendum? New Zealand is a representative democracy. Referenda are usually used for consultative purposes on controversial issues. The 1993 electoral system referendum is the rare case of a binding referendum. None of the 5 citizen-initiated referenda held since 1994 have been actioned by Parliament. Why then impose a binding referendum

3

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that allows people not directly affected by the result (ie. those not on the Māori electoral roll) to determine an outcome?

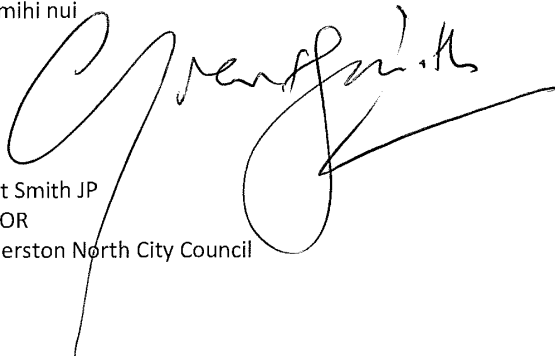
“Not the most important local government issue at this time when Local government is struggling on several fronts. The sector is overwhelmed and facing the most significant period of change in 30 years, and there are more pressing issues to address at this time like infrastructure, housing, transport, water, resource management, consenting processes, climate change impacts, and poor customer experiences.”

We agree. The costs of polls are another unfunded mandate on councils. We have more than enough to do without distractions of fixing something that is not broken; that is in fact working well. Having a Māori ward works extremely well for Palmerston North. Why is the central government now telling us to spend more ratepayer money and time on a referendum?

We ask that the Local Electoral Act provisions with regard to the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies not be changed.

Ngā mihi nui

Grant Smith JP
MAYOR
Palmerston North City Council



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29 May 2024

Submission of Te Pae Tāwhiti Rōpū

To: Justice Committee regarding the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill

Te Pae Tāwhiti Rōpū is a rōpū (group) made up of Māori Ward Councillors from the Horizons Region.

The Horizons Region is the Manawatū-Whanganui area of the lower North Island. The region is made up of eight Councils:

- Horizons Regional Council
- Palmerston North City Council
- Manawatu District Council
- Ruapehu District Council
- Rangitikei District Council
- Horowhenua District Council
- Tararua District Council
- Whanganui District Council.

All of the Councils of the Horizons Region, except Whanganui District Council, established at least one Māori ward/constituency in 2021, in time for the 2022 local elections. In October 2023, Whanganui District Council voted to establish a Māori ward for the 2025 and 2028 elections.

This submission in opposition to the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill (Bill) is based on the views of Māori Ward Councillors who belong to Te Pae Tāwhiti Rōpū.

Although we are current Councillors, we make this submission not to advocate for our personal positions on Council but for the future preservation of Māori wards and constituencies, to ensure that Māori who choose to be on the Māori electoral role, continue to have the choice of Māori representation in local government.

Introduction

We are Local Government elected members, elected to represent the best interests of Māori within our ward/constituency, and in addition we serve all constituents across the wider Districts and Region we represent. We provide a connection into Council and advocate for residents and ratepayers.

We believe that Māori have been under-represented in Local Government for far too long, and the establishment of Māori wards/constituencies at our Councils in 2021 have helped bridge this gap.

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Since we were elected in 2022, we have striven to provide a voice, true representation and a Te Ao Māori view on our respective councils. We wish to emphasise that the decisions by our respective Councils to establish Māori wards/constituencies in 2021 each followed an extensive public consultation process, whereby all members of the community had an equal chance to be heard, and Councils openly debated and decided the issues.

Poll provisions, by contrast, are a “tool of the majority” and never favour minority groups such as Iwi Māori. This has been proven to be the case since 2001 under the previous Māori wards regime – with only two Councils being able to establish Māori wards prior to the 2021 Amendment Act (Waikato Regional Council in 2013 and Wairoa District Council in 2016). All 15 other initiatives to establish Māori wards were voted down by binding poll.

Bringing back the poll provisions will recreate a higher procedural standard for Māori wards than that of general or wards for “communities of interest” such as rural wards, for which Council decisions are democratically made in a representation review and cannot be subject to a binding poll. This is completely unfair and seeks to silence the voice of Māori. We believe that Māori wards and constituencies should be treated the same as all other wards and not be subject to poll provisions. Instead Local Government should be empowered to make its own decisions – not have the ability to do so taken away.

In this respect, we fully support the letter dated 20 May 2024 to the Government from the 52 Mayors and Chairs, LGNZ and Te Maruata, and agree that this legislation is a complete overreach on the Coalition Government’s part, on local decision-making.

Ultimately, given the track record of binding polls in the past, we believe the Bill will result in many Māori wards and constituencies across the country being disestablished. Not having a Māori ward or constituency will remove the option for Māori voters to choose whether to be represented by general or Māori ward councillor and we believe that any alternative mechanisms for Māori participation in Local Government would not be the same as having a dedicated seat at the decision-making table.

We fully support the Waitangi Tribunal Report dated 17 May, which found that this Bill will breach the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles, and recommended the Bill be paused for further policy development and consultation. The Tribunal findings also show that the Department of Internal Affairs advised the Minister of Local Government against this move, providing good rationale and that it is likely to breach Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We do not agree with the Government putting its commitment to its Coalition agreement above Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and with the extremely rushed way in which the Coalition Government is progressing this change of legislation process, including only allowing 4 working days for a submission to be made.

Māori Wards Contribution to Local Government

We are opposed to this Bill because it does not honour and respect the contribution of Māori Wards to Local Government.

As Councillors of a Māori ward or constituency, we are honoured and privileged to represent Māori in our respective Councils. The participation of Māori representatives is crucial for fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive Council. It’s about having faces at the table that reflect their community and bringing our values, and lived and real perspectives to discussions and collective decision making.

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Māori ward/constituency elected members bring valuable cultural knowledge and perspectives to Local Government, enhancing the cultural competence of Councils. This leads to:

- Better Decision-Making with diverse viewpoints contributing to robust and well-rounded policy decisions
- Cultural Responsiveness in policies and services that are more in line with to the needs and aspirations of Māori
- Social Cohesion which promotes mutual respect and understanding between Māori and non-Māori populations.

Inclusive governance that actively involves Māori can lead to improved outcomes across various sectors, such as:

- Environmental Stewardship with Māori often bringing a deeper understanding of and commitment to environmental sustainability, informed by traditional ecological knowledge
- Social Wellbeing where policies reflect Māori values and needs can contribute to healthier, more vibrant communities.

We wish to note that, while we have Councillor colleagues elected to general wards and constituencies who have whakapapa Māori, and they can also seek to bring their Māori-centric experiences to the Council table, those Councillors did not campaign to be (and may not want to be) a voice or representative for Māori on their Council. They are not and should not be expected to represent the voice of Māori in the way that we, as specifically-elected Māori Ward/Constituency Councillors, are.

Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi

We are opposed to this Bill because it does not honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi establishes a foundational relationship between Māori and the Crown, emphasising partnership, participation, and protection. The changes enacted by the Crown in 2021 have helped ensure Māori representation in Local Government aligns with the principles of Te Tiriti by:

- Partnership - facilitating collaborative decision-making processes that involve Māori perspectives
- Participation - encouraging active Māori involvement in governance, ensuring these voices and concerns are heard
- Protection - safeguarding Māori rights and interests, particularly in areas impacting our whenua, resources, and cultural heritage.

The participation of Māori Councillors is crucial for fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive governance structure.

We fully support the Waitangi Tribunal Report dated 17 May. Although the Tribunal was forced to draft the Report under intense time pressure due to the imminent introduction of the Māori Wards legislation into Parliament, the report findings are comprehensive and compelling. The Tribunal found that this Bill will breach the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles, and recommended the Bill be paused for further policy development and consultation.

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Poll Provisions – not compatible with complex constitutional matters

We are opposed to this bill because binding polls are not fair in practice and not compatible with complex constitutional matters such as establishing Māori wards.

The Waitangi Tribunal findings show that the Crown’s own advisors on Local Government issues – the Department of Internal Affairs advised the Minister of Local Government against this move, providing good rationale and that it is likely to breach Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Historically, providing poll provisions for Māori wards and constituencies did not deliver on the original policy intent which was to involve the community in decision making, and to support Māori communities by providing an avenue for them to demand that their Council holds a poll to establish Māori wards or constituencies.

The effects of poll provisions from 2002 to 2019 have proven to be an insurmountable barrier to establishing a Māori ward or constituency. From the 16 polls taken between 2022 and 2019 only one poll was successful (Wairoa District Council 2016). This was a Council initiated poll with 54% in favour and 46% against.

Instead of being a mechanism for community participation, they have deterred Councils and communities from proposing a Māori ward or constituency.

The Department of Internal Affairs, in advice to the Minister on this Bill, summed up the problems with poll provisions in that:

Reinstating the polls will be unpopular with many in the local government sector and Māori communities;

Since the 2021 law changes, 46 local authorities have resolved to establish Māori wards. Our understanding is that many councils previously did not seriously consider establishing Māori wards. This was because of the perception that the polls could harm community relationships, including relationships with mana whenua, and undermine social cohesion.

We anticipate most of these councils will be very concerned about the re-introduction of the polls. It is likely to discourage any other councils considering establishing Māori wards in the future. The change is also likely to be very unpopular with Māori communities, especially where wards have been established.

Before the 2021 amendments, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and Taituarā – Local Government Professionals advocated strongly to remove the polls. In a 2018 letter, LGNZ noted “It is imperative that the Government act to address the unfairness created by the poll provisions and put in place a legislative framework that will enable mature and constructive conversations about options for Māori representation in local authorities”.

An LGNZ survey of elected members found that, after the 2022 local elections, about 21% of members identify as Māori or are of Māori descent. This is up from 14% in the 2019 survey.

We agree with this statement from the Department of Internal Affairs.

Advice to Minister Brown from Department of Internal Affairs 5 December 2023:

The polls proved to be an almost insurmountable barrier to establishing Māori wards. Only two councils were able to establish Māori wards using the Local Electoral Act process. When polls were held, community division and animosity was common. As a result many councils

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opted not to even put the option on the table because of the risk of community conflict. Similarly, mana whenua sometimes asked councils not to consider Māori wards because of the risk of a backlash against their community. The poll provisions gave no scope for councils to balance minority interests in the final decision because the poll outcome was binding, based on a straight majority. Since the poll provisions were removed, 46 councils have resolved to establish Māori wards

We agree with this statement from Department of Internal Affairs.

The Waitangi Tribunal has observed that “Alternative mechanisms for Māori participation in local government are not the same as having a dedicated seat at the council table”. A Māori ward or constituency is the only mechanism that guarantees Māori representation on the body that makes the final decisions (for example committees of council cannot adopt a District Plan or Long-Term Plan).

We agree with this statement from Department of Internal Affairs citing the Waitangi Tribunal.

The advice from the Department of Internal Affairs to Minister Brown was:

“Referendums and polls are an instrument of majority rule which can suppress minority interests. Normal lawmaking process have safeguards to make sure minority rights and interests are considered – human rights legislation, parliamentary debates and the select committee process. But referendums do not require that tabling and balancing of interests, and the outcome will depend on the majority’s perception of the minority interests.”

We completely agree with this advice and believe that the Department of Internal Affairs summed this up perfectly. The issue of representation for Māori is complex and should be decided upon locally by Councils in consultation with Iwi / Māori and its communities, not by a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ poll.

Further to this, the former LGNZ President Dave Cull summed up binding polls by saying:

“Of equal concern, the polls reduce a complex issue to a simple binary choice, which, by encouraging people to take sides, damages race relations in our districts. Matters of representation and relationships should be addressed in a deliberative manner that employs balanced and considered dialogue – not by poll. In fact, a poll is not necessary. Should a council resolve to establish Māori wards or constituencies, or any other ward, against the wishes of its community then the community has the option to hold that council to account at the next election – this is how representative democracy is intended to work

Again, we agree with this statement and also believe that binding polls and poll provisions in general are divisive and do nothing to enhance relationships within communities. In fact, it will do quite the opposite.

In summary, we are in opposition to the reinstatement of polls for Māori wards and constituencies and ask that this be relooked at and withdrawn.

If polls are to be implemented then we strongly urge the following to be implemented:

- That only those on the Māori roll vote in a poll. These are the only residents and ratepayers who will be affected by the outcome of the poll and therefore should have the most input into it.

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- We ask that there is an increase in the petition threshold from 5% to 10% of electors to initiate a poll. Five per cent is a low threshold given the costs and impacts of polls on communities. It is therefore not unreasonable to expect a larger demonstration of a desire for a poll before undertaking one. A move to 10 per cent would align with the threshold set out in the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993.
- We also recommend making the polls non-binding but require councils to give them due consideration in their decision making process. This would give the poll weight in the decision making process, but still enable these decisions to be made within the wider legal context and with due consideration of a range of relevant factors.

Cost to Ratepayers

The significant cost to ratepayers is another reason we oppose this Bill.

This change in legislation could result in up to 45 councils being required to hold a poll on Māori wards and constituencies at the 2025 elections, with the outcome to take effect in 2028. This is dependent upon what is decided by August 2024 in terms of disestablish now or ride it out until a poll in 2025. Councils throughout the country have extremely tight budgets and will need to fund the extra cost for the poll, as well as an early representation review. Many Councils are in the process of reviewing their Long Term Plan with proposed rates increases the highest ever seen. This in the midst of a cost of living crisis that will constrain Council budgets further. The cost of a poll and representation view will be dependent on the size of the council and district/region with an estimate at around \$175,000 for a poll and potential costs of up to \$170,000 for a representation review. In addition, Council staff and resource will be required.

Timing of Poll Should it Proceed

Finally, we are concerned at the timing of the proposed poll on Māori wards and constituencies. All Māori ward candidates will need to campaign for their seat, engage with Māori and participate in electioneering, while simultaneously convincing the community of the value of a Māori ward or constituency. This will be a huge undertaking and put potential Māori ward/constituency councillors to an unfair burden. The responsibility of educating the community on Māori wards will naturally fall to iwi to lead and coordinate without guaranteed resources or support.

Summary and Recommendation

In summary, Māori should be fairly represented in local government. This Bill will likely result in the disestablishment of many Māori wards and constituencies across the country. Disestablishing Māori wards and constituencies, and making them subject to a higher procedural standard than that of general or rural ward is opposed by Te Pae Tāwhiti Rōpū.

We recommend that the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill not be progressed and that status quo remains.

Whilst we oppose the reintroduction of poll provisions for Māori wards and constituencies, should these be reintroduced, we recommend the following:

- Increase the petition threshold from five per cent to 10 per cent of electors to initiate a poll. Five per cent is too low a threshold given the costs and impacts of polls on communities.
- Only those registered on the Māori roll can vote on a Māori ward and constituency poll.
- Make the poll non-binding and require councils to give them due consideration.

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We would like the opportunity to speak in support of this submission.

Parties to the submission:

Roly Fitzgerald

Te Pūao Māori Ward Councillor, Palmerston North City Council

Korty Wilson

Ruapehu Māori Ward Councillor, Ruapehu District Council

Justin Tamihana

Horowhenua Māori Ward Councillor, Horowhenua District Council

Nina Hori Te Pa

Horowhenua Māori Ward Councillor, Horowhenua District Council

Coral Raukawa

Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward Councillor, Rangitikei District Council

Piki Te Ora Hiroa

Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward Councillor, Rangitikei District Council

Bridget Bell

Ngā Tapuae o Matangi Māori Ward Councillor, Manawatū District Council

Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Ruapehu Māori Ward Councillor, Ruapehu District Council

Channey Iwikau

Ruapehu Māori Ward Councillor, Ruapehu District Council

Naioma Chase

Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua Māori Ward Councillor, Tararua District Council

Te Kenehi Teira

Tonga Māori Councillor, Horizons Regional Council

Turuhia (Jim) Edmonds

Raki Māori Councillor, Horizons Regional Council

And from Horizons Regional Council:

Wiremu Te Awe Awe

Councillor, Horizons Regional Council.



// 04

Entrenchment of Māori wards seats for local government

Remit: *That LGNZ proactively promote and lobby to entrench the Māori Wards and Constituencies for the 64 councils which currently have these, to require the support of a supermajority of parliament should either parliament or councils seek their removal.*

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1 (Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, Whangarei District Council)

Why is this remit important?

Zone 1 opposes the changes proposed to Māori wards and constituencies provisions in the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA), the Local Government Electoral Legislation Act 2023, and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

Zone 1 views are summarised below:

- a) Māori wards and constituencies are an appropriate and necessary way to deliver on Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations — they are not a race-based selection.
- b) Reversion to a poll system to establish / retain Māori constituencies in local government is inconsistent with the national electoral system of a Māori roll and Māori seats in Parliament. There is no rational reason for the different approach.

Background and Context

The current government has agreed to amend the legislation and regulation related to the establishment and continuation of Māori wards in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The proposed changes have a major impact for the representation of Māori communities and the unique opportunities and challenges they face. It also compromises the ability of local government across the country to deliver on its Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

Zone 1 members do not support the proposed changes and have submitted their views as individual councils and the broader local government sector through LGNZ.

As discussions have developed on the proposed amendments, the need to align Māori ward representation models with parliamentary Māori electorate representation model has become evident.

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

This proposal aligns with LGNZ's policy that states:

- Remits must be relevant to local government as a whole rather than exclusively relevant to a single zone or sector group or an individual council;



- Remits should be of a major policy nature (constitutional and substantive policy) rather than matters that can be dealt with by administrative action.

In accordance with LGNZ's strategy, this proposal would strengthen local government as a whole to support our communities to thrive - environmentally, culturally, economically and socially.

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

Northland Regional Council, with the support of Far North District Council and Whangarei District Council, will advocate, lobby, and promote the cause and case for the entrenchment of Māori ward seats in local government governance structures.



// 05

Graduated driver licensing system

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate for changes to the fee structure for driver licensing, better preparing young people for driver license testing, and greater testing capacity in key locations throughout New Zealand, in order to relieve pressure on the driver licensing system and ensure testing can be conducted in a quick and efficient manner.*

Proposed by: Ashburton District Council

Supported by: Hurunui District Council, Kaikōura District Council, Selwyn District Council, Timaru District Council, Waimakariri District Council and Waitaki District Council

Why is this remit important?

Communities across New Zealand are being impacted by excessive wait times associated with the graduated driver licensing system (GDLS). There are three stages to the GDLS, and those aged 16 or older can enter the system and undergo both theoretical and practical testing to graduate from a learner's license (accompanied driving) to a full license (license without restrictions) over the space of 24 months. Currently, across the country, demand for testing significantly exceeds testing capacity leading to negative implications for our young people, and the wider community. Action is required to ensure young people in our community can undertake testing without delay, failing to remedy this situation could result in:

- Reduced ability to access testing
- Increases in testing failure rates
- Social and economic disadvantages for young people

Background and Context

Work undertaken by Waka Kotahi and other agencies identified the need to remove barriers for young people associated with obtaining a driving license in New Zealand. Through this work, re-sit fees were identified as a potential barrier. According to Waka Kotahi data, only 53% of people on a restricted license pass their practical driving test first time around, meaning many young people trying to graduate were being financially burdened by subsequent fees in completing a re-sit.

From October 1 2023, Waka Kotahi introduced a revised fee structure for a learner's, restricted, or full license, which removed re-sit fees for drivers who failed a first or subsequent attempt. While this change makes graduation through the system more financially obtainable, it has put increased pressure on testing services as those who fail the first time are rebooking immediately. This, in combination with the shortage of assessors, is causing significant wait times across the country. The increase in wait times has multiple implications which are summarized below using national and local examples.

- **Reduced ability to access testing:** In 2020, the national average wait time to sit a restricted driving test was 16 days, this has dramatically increased to 53 days in 2023/24. Drivers in the Ashburton district are facing a 94-day delay in booking a restricted license test, with only one agent (VTNZ) being able to facilitate testing.



- Increases in testing failure rates: excessive wait times in Ashburton may be causing young people to book testing in alternative locations. According to information obtained during an Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee meeting, some young people from Ashburton and Timaru are travelling to the West Coast (3-5 hours away) to undertake practical testing, there is concern that completing a practical test on unfamiliar roads may lead to an increase in failure rates. Reports have also been made that the decision to remove re-sit fees has led to young drivers completing the test before they are ready, leading to multiple failed attempts.
- Social and economic disadvantages for young people: there are social and employability benefits to holding a driver's license. According to MBIE, two-thirds of all jobs advertised in New Zealand have a minimum requirement of a restricted license. The reduced ability for young people to obtain a restricted or full license may see otherwise suitably skilled candidates miss out on employment opportunities while they wait to sit and obtain the required license. This also has impacts for the community, in particular local businesses, who will potentially struggle to source young candidates for entry level roles. This is further amplified in our community where public transport is non-existent, with the only quasi-public transport available being the Mid Canterbury Connector – a locally led, volunteer driven service operating on a booked return trip service between rural communities.

Relevant legislation, policy or practice

- Land Transport Act 1998 (part 4)
- Land Transport (Driver Licensing and Driver Testing Fees) Regulations 1999.
- NZTA driving licensing fees schedule

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

While this is not currently part of LGNZ's work programme, engaging with central government will be essential to making progress in this area. Ensuring that the local voice is heard and understood by central agencies is the only way in which this issue will be able to be addressed. Given the impact on our young people, and the subsequent effects this has on their ability to gain independence and contribute to our communities and local economies, we believe this is a worthy project for LGNZ to drive on behalf of the sector.

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

While changing the fee structure will help incentivise people to pass their tests on their first attempt, other changes should be made to better prepare people, particularly young people, who are trying to obtain a driver licence, and ensure there is sufficient capacity in the system.

Ashburton District Council is willing to trial/pilot the practical applications of an improved graduated driver's licensing scheme.

Our Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme has been highly successful, working with community groups and schools to identify people who are disadvantaged in the labour market. A significant proportion of this group are seeking drivers' licences in order to improve their chances of employment. There is an opportunity to align the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme with an enhancement of an Ashburton based training and accreditation centre, leveraging the MTFJ programme's experience in driver licensing schemes. The goal of this would be to better prepare



young people for driver licence tests and reduce the pressure on the system imposed by people having to re-sit tests.

Ashburton District Council also proposes a pilot scheme to work with government to attract, train and supply increased numbers of examiners for the Ashburton district along with other centres throughout the country. Ashburton district would become a training region; prospective examiners would be based in the region while they train and qualify before returning to their respective regions to fill gaps and boost capability. Our region is well suited to examiner development, being close to Christchurch but more affordable and having a network of urban and rural roads.

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Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



James Meager MP
Member of Parliament for Rangitata
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

24 MAY 2024

Dear James

Thank you for your letter of 2 May 2024 regarding the driving licence processing delays in the Rangitata electorate. I share the frustration being experienced by people wanting to engage driver licence services only to be met with significant delays.

The Automobile Association (AA) and Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ) have been providing regulatory services on behalf of the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) since 1999.

NZTA advises me that since the previous government's decision last year to remove the re-sit fee for theory and practical tests there has been a significant increase in demand for testing services, leading to unacceptable delays.

The inability to engage driver licence services in a timely manner is having an impact on the employability of learners and delaying their progression into the community.

NZTA and VTNZ are currently taking measures to accommodate the current high demand by re-prioritising driver testing officers to driver licencing agent sites with high booking numbers and increasing site opening hours. NZTA is aware of the urgency and my expectation that the issues be addressed promptly.

These delays across New Zealand, which follow the previous government's changes to re-sit fees, are unacceptable. I remain very concerned about these delays and am currently considering advice on options to address it, which may include reinstating a re-sit fee.

Regarding your request that NZTA remove the age limit for booking drivers licence tests, I have been advised that it is a legal requirement for applicants of driver licences to be 16 years or older.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport

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[Ashburton District Council Remit 2024](#)



// 06

Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to Government:*

- *For legislative change enabling local authorities to compel building owners to remediate unoccupied derelict buildings and sites that have deteriorated to a state where they negatively impact the amenity of the surrounding area.*
- *To incentivise repurposing vacant buildings to meet region-specific needs, for example, accommodation conversion.*

Proposed by: Gisborne District Council

Supported by: Rotorua Lakes Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Wairoa District Council, New Plymouth District Council, Napier City Council, Rangitikei District Council, Whanganui District Council, Dunedin City Council

Why is this remit important?

There is no legislation enabling councils to take proactive action on the decaying condition of vacant buildings. Intervention is only possible when buildings become so dangerous that the Building Act 2004 (BA04) allows for dangerous building notices.

The absence of enabling regulations and enforcement tools can result in derelict sites negatively affecting both neighbourhoods and city centres. The public expects their local authorities to maintain community standards and they are frequently disappointed by our inability to intervene. Especially where keystone buildings deteriorate over decades.

The economic and social consequences of unoccupied derelict buildings negatively affect local businesses, city centre revitalisation, regional economic development, and tourism activity. Negative impacts suppress local investment and the prosperity of regional centres throughout New Zealand. Legislative change to enable the remediation of decaying building conditions and unlock their economic potential is in the national interest and significant to local government as a whole.

Background and Context

Existing building legislation is too late to mitigate decaying buildings

Once a Code Compliance Certificate has been issued, there is no regulatory avenue for proactive remediation of a vacant building's decaying condition. The BA04 is silent on maintenance responsibilities until the public is likely to be harmed by unsafe building conditions.

The BA04's approach to dangerous buildings is reactive as it seeks only to remediate dangerous conditions. The impact of a deteriorating building on its surrounding environment is not taken into consideration.

Waiting until a building becomes dangerous is too late to remediate the significant economic and social effects of vacant and deteriorating buildings.



In regional centres like Gisborne, a small number of deteriorating assets can have a significant impact on surrounding businesses and perceptions of the city centre. Long-term underinvestment means significant capital is required to restore these buildings before prospective owners and/or tenants can reoccupy the space. Investment is often cost-prohibitive, leaving vital buildings empty and further deteriorating.

In May 2024, Gisborne's Mayor wrote to Government detailing the national impact of this legislative gap (letter attached). The letter's appendix, *Ten years of the National Problem*, outlines how problematic buildings are challenging local authorities throughout New Zealand.

Local authorities have developed ad hoc, imperfect solutions to address the legislative gap

Upper Hutt City Council's Unoccupied Commercial Premises Bylaw and Clutha District Council's Regulatory Bylaw both aim to prevent building deterioration. However, bylaw solutions are unenforceable without costly prosecutions that risk uncertain outcomes.

In Rotorua, where houses are problematic, rather than commercial buildings, Rotorua District Council has spent \$60,000 on consultants' reports and legal advice for a single abandoned property because it lacks the authority to require its demolition.

The BA04 seeks to ensure safety and well-being, sustainable development, and building code compliance. However, because it does not provide local authorities with effective tools to encourage essential maintenance and building utilisation, we have no way to intervene when buildings are deteriorating until the problems are significant, sometimes beyond repair.

Wellington City Council recently signaled its intention to remove ten buildings from its heritage list as part of a district plan review. Among those buildings were the dangerous, unoccupied Gordon Wilson Flats, a contentious feature of the Wellington skyline intended for demolition by their owner, Victoria University, due to restoration cost.

List removal failed to secure ministerial approval. However, this situation illustrates the impossible predicament faced by local authorities when heritage buildings have not been adequately maintained, and the extraordinary measures they must take when buildings have deteriorated beyond repair. Local authorities' inability to prevent the deterioration of vital assets threatens a loss of national heritage and identity through demolition. The solution must be to enable proactive measures addressing deteriorating conditions before buildings are demolished by neglect.

Mitigating the social and economic consequences of underutilised buildings urgently requires:

- A new legislative lever that will enable earlier intervention and action to remediate deteriorating building assets and or
- Collaboration between local and central government and regional providers to develop region-specific incentives encouraging the use of unproductive assets, e.g., repurposing buildings for accommodation.

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

Addressing the gap in building legislation and its consequences for regional economic development does not currently feature in LGNZ's broader advocacy work programme. However, LGNZ has for some time been aware of the legislative gap and advocated on this issue as it aligns with their strategic priority of focusing advocacy on the big issues impacting local government.



In 2014, LGNZ wrote to the Minister of Building and Construction suggesting the BA04 define derelict sites, which would allow for such properties to be included in their Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policies. LGNZ's 2015 submission to the Rules Reduction Taskforce highlighted that derelict building issues are a regular source of community distress, presenting risks to health, fire hazards, and sites for criminal behaviour. In 2022, LGNZ again proposed that the government define derelict buildings; however, attempts to meet the Minister of Building and Construction were unsuccessful.

While these efforts failed to find favour, advocacy to political leaders is urgently required because:

- Current BA04 considerations are inadequate in addressing building issues that need to be remediated before buildings become derelict.
- The Government's accelerated review of building code requirements extends to improving economic activity.
- The Government has signalled its intention to develop housing improvement strategies through a cross-government Ministerial Working Group on Housing.
- Legislative change and incentives to activate unproductive buildings and unlock regional economic improvement align with the Coalition's Decision-Making Principles A – E.

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

Gisborne District Council will:

- Continue advocating directly to the Ministers for Building and Construction, Housing and Local Government.
- Collaborate with LGNZ, councils, Government and stakeholders to develop new legislative tools to tackle this issue, strengthening our national economic resilience.
- Share any appropriate research and development, and data analysis from our region.
- Undertake any pilot programme involving temporary rule changes or funding initiatives, such as incentivising the conversion of commercial buildings to housing.
- Identify and work with local providers and property owners on the implementation of any pilot.

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2 May 2024

Hon Chris Penk - Minister for Building and Construction
Hon Chris Bishop - Minister for Housing
Hon Tama Potaka - Associate Minister Social Housing
Hon Simeon Brown - Minister Local Government



GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Office of the Mayor

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**LEGISLATIVE CHANGE IS REQUIRED TO UNLOCK SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AND HOUSING
IMPROVEMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND'S REGIONAL CENTRE**

Good morning Ministers,

I would like to bring to your attention a gap in current building legislation, which is affecting local businesses, city centre revitalisation, regional economic development and tourism activity in our region.

In short, there is no enabling legislation that allows regulatory agencies to take proactive action on the decaying condition of vacant buildings.

Intervention is only possible when buildings become so dangerous that the Building Act 2004 allows for dangerous building notices. The absence of enabling regulations and enforcement tools, results in keystone buildings remaining idle and unproductive, sometimes for decades.

The attachments to this letter provide more information on the challenges facing Gisborne District Council and many other local authorities across New Zealand.

Legislative change to unlock the economic potential of underutilised and decaying buildings is in the national interest because the negative economic and social impacts created by underutilised buildings are nationally significant.

Unproductive buildings negatively impact regional prosperity throughout the country. We believe:

- New legislative tools are needed to unlock the economic potential of underutilised buildings.
- Urgent collaboration between local and central government is needed to develop a solution that will enable earlier intervention and action on commercial building issues.

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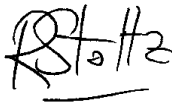
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- Activating unproductive buildings to support regional economic development is strongly aligned with the Government's Ongoing Decision-Making Principles A – E.

As this matter is significant for local government as a whole, Council will be putting forward a remit on this matter at the upcoming LGNZ Annual General Meeting.

We look forward to working with the Government to develop new legislative tools to enable us to tackle this issue and continue to strengthen our national economic resilience.

Warm regards,



Rehette Stoltz
Mayor Gisborne District Council

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Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Gisborne’s Deteriorating Buildings

Attachment 2 – Problem definition: Current legislation is too late to mitigate decaying buildings

Attachment 3 – Ten Years of the National Problem

Attachment 4 – Seized buildings in Gisborne

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Attachment 1 – Gisborne’s Deteriorating Buildings

Main Street retail space. Corner Gladstone Rd and Peel St



Former Westlake Hotel. Corner Gladstone Rd and Peel St



Premium retail space. Peel St



Deteriorating building. Lowe St



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Main Street retail space. Gladstone Rd



Deteriorating building. Childers Rd



Masonic Hotel decaying façade. Lowe St



Masonic Hotel frontage. Gladstone Rd



Abandoned detritus. Adjacent to Masonic Hotel



Main Street building decay. Gladstone Rd



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Attachment 2: Problem definition: Current legislation is *too late* to mitigate decaying buildings

During deliberations on the Gisborne Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy 2024¹ under the Building Act 2004 (the BA04), Gisborne District Council (Council) identified inadequacies in the existing building legislation framework. Also identified were the negative impacts these deficiencies are having both regionally and nationally.

Once a code compliance certificate (CCC) has been issued, there is no enabling legislation that allows regulatory agencies to take proactive action on the decaying condition of vacant buildings. Mitigation of problematic buildings is only possible when they eventually deteriorate to a condition so dangerous that BA04 provisions allow for dangerous building notices. The absence of enabling regulations and enforcement tools, in between CCC and dangerous building notices, results in essential buildings remaining idle and unproductive, sometimes for decades.

The BA04's approach to dangerous buildings is reactive. It seeks only to remediate dangerous conditions and does not consider the impact a decaying building has on its surrounding environment. This means it is both *too late* to remediate problematic conditions and an *inadequate tool* to address the significant economic effects caused when buildings become locked in a deterioration spiral. In Gisborne's case, deteriorating conditions negatively impact surrounding businesses and perceptions of the city centre, affecting a decline in economic activity. As regional economies underpin national economic prosperity,² the negative impact of underutilised buildings has a ripple effect on the national economy.

As a building's condition declines, the required investment in its essential maintenance and works (e.g. earthquake strengthening and cosmetic upkeep) decreases. The deteriorating condition of commercial buildings is particularly problematic in regional city centres, as this inefficient use of key placemaking assets contributes to poor amenity.

In regional centres, where the *heart of the city* is comprised of only a handful of buildings, even a small number of deteriorating assets can have a significant impact. A prolonged lack of maintenance requires significant investment to get a building back up to scratch before prospective owners and/or tenants can once again operate out of it. The required work is often cost-prohibitive, and vital buildings can remain empty, which leads to further deterioration.

The BA04 seeks to ensure safety and well-being, sustainable development, and building code compliance. However, because the current BA04 legislation does not provide local authorities with effective tools to encourage essential maintenance and building utilisation, we have no way to intervene when buildings are deteriorating until the problem is significant. We can only intervene when buildings have decayed to such a condition that they are likely to harm the public.

The public expects their local authorities to prevent city centre building deterioration, and they are frequently disappointed by our inability to intervene. Regional communities such as Gisborne, where the problem is acutely felt, are unable to prevent the gradual decline of their city centres. Without a legislative tool enabling the remediation of inactive buildings, and no central Government solution either, Council cannot achieve its aspiration of maintaining a

¹ Gisborne Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings [Policy](#) 2024.

² Hon Steven Joyce (2016) *Regions lead recovery from Global Financial Crisis*. This Beehive [Release](#) emphasises the instrumental role regional economies, including Gisborne, played in leading New Zealand's economic recovery from the Global Financial Crisis.

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high-quality urban environment that capitalises on heritage, tourism, and lifestyle to attract economic investment and development.

The Problem in Gisborne

Gisborne’s Central Business District (CBD) contains several **vacant** and **underutilised buildings** that have been **neglected for long periods**.³ Their deteriorating aesthetic condition **negatively affects the city's appearance, impacting tourism experiences and suppressing local utilisation, economic growth**, and community wellbeing.

Deterioration of Buildings: A lack of basic maintenance has led to the disrepair of unoccupied buildings in Gisborne. This includes premium ground-floor retail spaces on Gladstone Road, Gisborne's main street (see **Attachment1 – Gisborne’s Deteriorating Buildings**).

Negative Community Impact: Reduced vibrancy in the CBD has suppressed community utilisation and local commerce,⁴ making it less attractive to new businesses and shoppers. This decline in activity fosters increased incidences of vandalism and the impression of an unsafe CBD.

Homelessness Consequences: The declining condition of city buildings leads to squatters occupying vacant buildings, resulting in litter, sanitation issues, and antisocial behaviour adversely affecting adjacent businesses, some of which are rate-paying owner-occupiers. Council increasingly incurs the financial burden of cleanup and the disassembly of homeless encampments in conjunction with the Police.

Economic Investment Deterrence: Visible city centre decline creates the perception of an economically depressed area and discourages economic investment from outside the region, weakening local economic resilience. Decreased revenue from idled assets reduces the likelihood that owners of earthquake-prone buildings will fund reinforcement works, threatening key buildings with demolition.

Suppressed Tourism and Economic Growth: Tourism, a vital part of Gisborne’s economy, is growing slower than the national average,⁵ limiting regional employment opportunities. The declining state of Gisborne’s CBD negatively impacts tourists’ experiences in our region, which challenges the Government’s recent commitment to support tourism.⁶ A vibrant and welcoming city centre is essential for creating positive visitor experiences, as it influences overall impressions of a place.⁷ However, buildings becoming locked into a spiral of declining

³ In June 2007, Gisborne witnessed a 1.3% decline in retail sales despite national economic growth accelerating to 2.6%. In the same period. The number of commercial permits issued in Gisborne also fell by 13%. In December 2008, Gisborne experienced the largest quarterly decline in retail sales at a time when national retail sales were trending upward. Commercial building consents dropped by 6.1% in the same quarter. Sources: The National Bank Regional Trends Economics reports, February 2007, February 2008. In the wake of the global financial crisis, Council’s 2010/11 Annual [Report](#) identified Gisborne’s retailers among those most affected by economic conditions at the time.

⁴ Over 55% of Gisborne employment is currently located outside of land zoned for business.

⁵ The tourism sector contributed \$56.3 million to Gisborne GDP in 2022, accounting for 2.3% of the region's economic output and 7.1% of total annual employment. In 2022, total tourism spending in Gisborne was down 0.1% year on year, while national tourism spending increased by 1.4% in the same period. In the 10-year period 2012-2022, Gisborne has experienced only 1.8% annual employment growth, lagging 2.1% national growth. Sources: Trust Tairāwhiti (2023) [Draft Destination Management Plan](#) utilising data retrieved from Infometrics.co.nz; Infometrics (2023) *Tairāwhiti at a Glance: 2022* retrieved from Infometrics.co.nz on 7 March 2023.

⁶ Acknowledging tourism is the second biggest contributor to New Zealand’s recent economy, the Tourism Minister, Hon. Matt Doocey, recently affirmed government commitment to supporting the growth of tourism and hospitality operators. Source: Hon Matt Doocey (2024) *Tourism data shows determination of sector*. Beehive [Release](#).

⁷ The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment [Destination Management Guidance](#) emphasises that supporting infrastructure and amenities are essential to cultivating compelling visitor experiences.

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investment and physical deterioration presents a significant barrier to regional aspirations for a vibrant, thriving city that is a destination for business, employment, and tourism.

Figure 1 - the old Masonic Hotel greets cruise-ship tourists walking from Gisborne's port to the city centre.



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The Problem nationwide

Gisborne is not the only region with declining, under-utilised buildings. Provincial areas are experiencing a downward spiral in the status of city centre vitality when compared to major urban areas.⁸ Unoccupied buildings are contributing to this decline. They pose safety risks and affect community well-being, property values, and public perception of city centres around the country.

Attachment 3 – Ten Years of the National Problem outlines how issues with idle, unproductive buildings have become a nationwide concern in the last decade. Neglected heritage buildings face significant challenges as councils struggle to intervene where *demolition by neglect*⁹ becomes irreversible. The lack of clear criteria for identifying and addressing derelict properties hinders councils' ability to take proactive measures to remediate these buildings as they deteriorate.

Legislative Inadequacies Prevent a Proactive Approach

1. Building Maintenance Responsibility

- After local authorities have issued code compliance certificates and no further building work is required, building maintenance is the responsibility of property owners.
- Local authorities have no means to enforce minimum maintenance standards for dormant or underutilised buildings, even in cases where buildings are left to decay.
- The absence of any tool to encourage proactive maintenance means local authorities can be left with unsightly buildings, often in prominent locations. This creates a cycle of declining investment that negatively impacts regional prosperity.
- Gisborne has five large, central buildings locked in an ongoing legal dispute between the Police and silent offshore owners. This contested ownership status prevents building remediation, even under dangerous building notices, as no party assumes responsibility for remediating the unsafe conditions.

2. The Building Act 2004 Does Not Adequately Consider Remediation

- The BA04 enables local authorities to compel remediation via dangerous or insanitary building notices only when building issues become so dangerous, they may harm occupants or the public.
- These notices are a last resort. They cannot address situations where buildings essential to a city's social, cultural and economic fabric decay due to neglect. This is because the BA04 does not consider the negative consequences experienced during a building's decline when its conditions are deteriorating but not yet dangerous.
- Councils can intervene when there is evidence of infestation or fire risk; however, the threshold for action is high.¹⁰

⁸ Aigwi, I., et al. (2019). *A performance-based framework to prioritise underutilised historical buildings for adaptive reuse interventions in New Zealand*. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, [48](#), 101547-101547.

⁹ Dunedin City Council defines *demolition by neglect* as a building being allowed to deteriorate to the point that demolition becomes necessary, or restoration becomes economically unreasonable. In some cases, building owners may allow this to happen to bypass heritage protections and the substantial financial investment to enable ongoing use. Source: Dunedin City Council's 15 May 2023 [Agenda](#).

¹⁰ [Newshub](#). (2022). Call for law change as councils say there is an increasing problem of derelict, unoccupied houses.

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- Neglected heritage buildings are particularly vulnerable to becoming dangerous and, in instances of continued neglect, demolition.¹¹ Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga recently requested Council policy¹² encourage heritage building owners to undertake preventative maintenance and upgrades to conserve their essential heritage character. However, BA04 considerations do not provide any mechanism for local authorities to encourage such action. Therefore, any suggestion or encouragement of proactive maintenance via a dangerous building policy would be unenforceable under the current BA04 considerations.
- In cases where heritage buildings have been neglected, the costs associated with restoration or repurposing can be prohibitive for building owners. Lotteries funding is not always readily available¹³ and heritage funding prioritises category-one buildings. Not all vital buildings are so categorised, and few buildings in Gisborne meet eligibility requirements.

Solution needed: Legislative Change

Activating unproductive buildings to unlock regional economic improvements aligns with the Coalition’s Decision-Making Principles A – E:

- **Principled** decisions based on sound policy principles and economic efficiency;
- **Focused** on improving productivity and economic growth to increase prosperity, and enhance housing affordability, efficiency and effectiveness.
- Stopping interventions that aren’t delivering **Results**.
- **People-focused** public services will be designed around the needs of public and tourist users. The Government will be **accountable** for clear public service targets and regular progress reporting on these objectives.

Proactive remediation measures do not sit comfortably within the BA04 framework because it was not designed to address the problem of inactive buildings and the associated economic consequences. Fixing the problem requires:

- a lever compelling proactive remediation of deteriorating city centre assets and or
- incentivising the utilisation of unproductive assets.

Examples of proactive legislative tools for unlocking the potential of unproductive buildings can be found in both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

United Kingdom’s Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The UK mitigates unproductive buildings via Section 215,¹⁴ which enables Local Planning Authorities to:

- take proactive steps towards sustainable regeneration of local areas, including conditions that adversely affect the amenity of the surrounding area
- consider local circumstances, such as site conditions and impact on the surroundings
- require a broad scope of works, including painting, external repairs, demolition and re-building

¹¹ The Ministry of Culture and Heritage identified late requests to ‘save’ buildings are commonly requested at the last possible moment due to communities not seeking remediation until a building is under threat of demolition. Source: Ministry for Culture and Heritage. (2018). *Strengthening protections for heritage buildings: [Report](#) identifying issues within New Zealand’s heritage protection system.*

¹² HNZPT (2023) [submission](#) (Page 51) on the Gisborne District Council Dangerous Buildings Policy 2024.

¹³ Lottery Environment and Heritage Committee year on year funding [declined](#) by 46% in the 2023/24 financial year.

¹⁴ Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 215 [Best Practice Guidance](#) and [Act](#).

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- use Section 215 notices in conjunction with other powers, such as repair notices for heritage-listed or dangerous buildings.

'Amenity' is a broad concept not formally defined in the legislation. This means assessment is a matter of degree. A clear and well-presented case that stresses the adverse impact of the site on the local street scene has proven more effective than a technical definition of 'loss of amenity'.

The Republic of Ireland Derelict Sites Act 1990

Ireland mitigates unproductive buildings with the Derelict Sites Act,¹⁵ which defines *derelict sites* and makes local authorities responsible for dealing with them. Derelict sites are defined as detracting from the amenity, character or appearance of the neighbourhood with:

- structures in a ruinous, derelict or dangerous condition
- land or structure condition that is neglected, unsightly or objectionable
- deposits or collections of litter, rubbish, debris, or waste.

Under the legislation, local authorities can mitigate problems by:

- prosecuting owners who do not comply with notices
- making compulsory land purchases
- carrying out necessary work and recovering cost.

Proactive Measures to Mitigate Inactivity would not conflict with the New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990 (BORA)

BORA protects human rights and fundamental freedoms; however, it does not provide for a general right to privacy or property enjoyment. BORA protections are subject to reasonable limitations where they are demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society.¹⁶ Indeed, the Justice Minister, Hon Paul Goldsmith, has indicated the government wishes to strike an appropriate balance between individual rights and the public interest.¹⁷

Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the public interest should be safeguarded from neglected buildings and the significant negative impacts they have on our communities' life, livelihood, and economic output.

The [New Zealand Bill of Rights \(Right to Lawfully Acquired Property\) Amendment Bill](#) (introduced into Parliament on 27 July 2023) proposes reasonable compensation for property owners when deprived of the right to own and use lawfully acquired property. Enabling local authorities to encourage and or incentivise remediation or utilisation of vacant buildings would not conflict with this amendment, should it become law.

Alignment with improving housing availability

The Minister of Housing, Hon Chris Bishop, seeks to fix the housing crisis by increasing supply through the removal of barriers to construction. The Minister's recent Cabinet Briefing Paper *Fixing the housing crisis*¹⁸ outlines a programme to lift productivity, wages and ultimately national income by unleashing urban growth. The briefing paper identifies that:

- New Zealand's houses are among the world's least affordable due to persistent undersupply
- unaffordable housing has far-reaching social and economic consequences.

¹⁵ Republic of Ireland Derelict Sites [Act](#) 1990.

¹⁶ New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, [Section 5: Justified limitations](#)

¹⁷ [RNZ](#) (2024) Bill of Rights won't stop gang patch ban - Justice Minister

¹⁸ Hon Chris Bishop (2024) *Fixing the Housing Crisis* [Cabinet Paper](#).

- increasing housing supply and lowering housing costs will improve the living standards of all New Zealanders and lift productivity and wages by allowing more workers to live and work in cities.

Council agrees with the Minister’s assessment that fixing the housing crisis will involve collaborative actions across Government and by different Ministers.

Gisborne is currently experiencing a critical housing shortage while city centre buildings deteriorate due to a lack of investment. There is an opportunity for the Government to address the housing shortage by incentivising building owners to repurpose buildings for accommodation before they decay beyond repair.

As an example, in 2017, the city of Vancouver introduced an [empty homes tax](#). Which currently charges owners three per cent of a property's value if it remains unoccupied for more than six months. Since inception, the number of vacant properties in Vancouver has decreased by 54% and CAD\$142 million has been raised for the city’s housing initiatives.¹⁹

Figure 2 - Trends in Vancouver's Declared Vacant Properties 2017 – 2022. Source: City of Vancouver



¹⁹ Housing Vancouver. (2023). Empty Homes Tax Annual [Report](#) 2023. City of Vancouver.

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Attachment 3 – Ten Years of the National Problem

27 February 2013: Upper Hutt City Council adopted an Unoccupied Commercial Premises [Bylaw](#) that aims to prevent unoccupied commercial premises from falling into disrepair by setting standards for the maintenance of unoccupied commercial premises. By requiring commercial premises be maintained to an immediately tenable standard, the bylaw attempts to address issues such as rubbish, boarded windows, vermin and overgrown foliage. However, at best, this is a half-measure because it does not address utilisation and investment issues, which are the underlying cause of cosmetic conditions.

A fundamental problem with use of bylaws is unless new regulation enables fines, enforcement requires a prosecution. This would be cost-prohibitive with no guarantee of success or remediation of problematic conditions. This would waste a lot of time and resources that ratepayers expect to be well-utilised elsewhere.

2014: Following discussion with a number of councils, including discussion at an LGNZ Rural and Provincial Sector meeting, LGNZ wrote to the Minister of Building and Construction asking that the Government provide councils with powers to deal with problems created by derelict buildings to combat demolition by neglect. Specifically: "That a definition for derelict sites and homes be developed and included in the Building Act. This would enable Territorial Authorities to include such properties in their Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy and update their procedures to respond in a timely and cost-effective manner to the needs of their community." However, as [reported](#) in Dunedin City Council's 15 May 2023 Agenda, the MBIE response was this was not a priority at the time.

22 April 2014: South Wairarapa District Council identified derelict commercial [buildings](#) as a problem that did not qualify as dangerous or unsanitary. The inability to take proactive remediation action has resulted in a perception of Featherston's town centre as unattractive and run-down.

4 May 2015: LGNZ's [submission](#) to the Rules Reduction Taskforce highlights that councils regularly face derelict building issues with requests for action coming from many sources, including neighbours and health officials. Buildings in serious disrepair cause neighbours distress, are a risk to health, a potential fire hazard, and are sites for criminal activity. However, councils have limited powers to remediate derelict properties. Over a period of five years, Rotorua District Council has spent more than \$60,000 on consultants' reports and legal advice for a single abandoned property because they lack the authority to require its demolition.

1 August 2016: The Christchurch City Development Forum, made up of city councillors and the business community, [urged](#) Christchurch City Council to develop an incentivisation policy to encourage owners to develop their derelict sites. Frustrating city revitalisation efforts are buildings that remain in limbo due to unresolved intentions or insurance disputes. High-profile heritage buildings are also part of the concern. However, despite derelict buildings being dangerous, unsanitary and an eyesore the city council had limited powers to deal with them.

21 October 2016: Stuff.co.nz reporting [highlights](#) that shuttered, deteriorating buildings are frustrating towns around the country, with Councils in these towns having found there is virtually nothing they can do legally about it. South Wairarapa District Council found that despite complaints that problematic buildings were holding the town back, there was no effective legal remedy. While the council can take the owners of these buildings to court under the Resource Management Act for loss of amenity, it is a subjective rather than objective issue, making it challenging to win in court. Additionally, even if they did win, taking someone to the Environment Court is expensive, with potential costs ranging from \$60,000 to \$100,000. Enforcement remains difficult even after winning a case. In Rotorua, the problem is with houses

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rather than commercial buildings, but the issue remains the same. Derelict sites have potential fire risks, and the impact of these structures negatively impacts the value of surrounding properties. These abandoned buildings are eyesores; however, what is considered offensive is debatable under the law.

19 May 2017: Christchurch City Council outlines their [plan](#) for tracking derelict CBD sites they consider a barrier to the regeneration of the city centre. The plan of action seeks to address concerns about the sites, to improve investor confidence and to create a more positive impression of the central city. The third and final phase of their plan (to be used only as a last resort) involves joint action by agencies with enforcement and land acquisition powers. **This plan illustrates the problem: without legislative change, local authorities cannot prevent buildings from deteriorating to such a condition that outside agencies are required to facilitate collaborative solutions.*

16 June 2021: In the wake of a derelict house fire that destroyed a neighbouring house and damaged two others in Wellington, experts [question](#) why only a limited number of buildings meet strict criteria for dangerous or insanitary criteria. Otago University housing expert researcher Dr Lucy Telfar-Barnard said the bar was set too high for a dangerous or insanitary building. Regarding derelict houses, Victoria University Professor of Building Science Robyn Phipps says: "It's a ticking time bomb."

23 April 2022: Local authorities called for a change in the law to address the problem of derelict and unoccupied houses. In Whanganui, absentee owners are responsible for 10% of the derelict CBD buildings, committing to *demolition by neglect*. Litigating problem buildings is cost-prohibitive, and the bar is extremely high. Councils are completely powerless if a building simply looks terrible. As a result, LGNZ has [proposed](#) that the government define derelict buildings so that action can be taken. Stuart Crosby, LGNZ president, has highlighted that this problem is growing and needs to be addressed.

12 May 2022: Clutha District Council [identified](#) that its staff do not currently have the necessary tools to deal with abandoned buildings that become a target for vandals or unsightly in a town's main shopping street or issues of excessive waste and vegetation growth on private property.

May 2022: Dunedin City Council reports* that In May 2022, another attempt by LGNZ to meet the Minister of Building and Construction regarding derelict sites was unsuccessful. *Recounted in Dunedin City Council's 15 May 2023 [Agenda](#).

February 2023: As part of its submission to the Environment Select Committee on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill, DCC requested* the inclusion of "provisions in the NBEA to explicitly enable the management of neglected heritage buildings where a lack of maintenance is having an adverse effect on the structural stability, weather tightness, or long-term retention of a scheduled heritage building (aka demolition by neglect). This is urgently necessary for DCC (and other territorial authorities) to take actions to save heritage buildings where neglect has not yet progressed to a point of no return". *Reported in Dunedin City Council's 15 May 2023 [Agenda](#).

15 May 2023: Dunedin City Council (DCC) [identifies](#) that demolition by neglect is an issue in cities across New Zealand, yet is not regulated nor specifically referred to in either the Resource Management Act 1991, the Building Act 2004 or the Local Government Act 2002. DCC reports demolition by neglect is an issue for historic buildings that require significant investment to enable ongoing use. DCC asserts that, in the absence of legislative change, incentivisation is required to help motivate building owners to maintain buildings.

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9 August 2023: The Press [reports](#) that the absence of legislation dealing with derelict properties has resulted in a derelict Christchurch property that, despite significant decay, does not meet the threshold for action.

6 September 2023: Considering lower rates for businesses and higher rates for vacant land, Wellington City Councillors express [frustration](#) with the inability of local authorities to target underutilised land due to it being too difficult to define: "It's deeply frustrating ... we can't make people do more with their land."

8 February 2024: Homeless persons squatting in a derelict building near Point Chevalier's town centre raise well-being and safety [concerns](#). Local businesses report daily harassment from intoxicated individuals and an increase in shoplifting, which they attribute to the squatters.

8 April 2024: Wellington City Council aims to remove ten buildings from the heritage list as part of its district plan review, utilising a 2012 amendment to the Resource Management Act (RMA) amendment aimed at ensuring more housing intensification in the country's largest cities. Among the ten buildings are the dangerous, unoccupied Gordon Wilson Flats. Considered unsafe due to potential earthquake and wind damage and empty since 2012, the flats have become a contentious feature of the Wellington skyline.

This move by Wellington City Council illustrates the extraordinary measures local authorities must take when buildings have deteriorated beyond repair resulting in a loss of national heritage and identity. The solution must be to enable proactive measures that address deteriorating conditions before buildings reach this level of decay.

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Attachment 4 - Seized buildings in Gisborne

For almost a decade, five prominent Gisborne buildings have been the subject of an ongoing legal dispute between the Police and silent offshore owners. One of these buildings is Gisborne's finest, the heritage-listed [Masonic Hotel](#), and another features prominently in the Gisborne skyline (Figures 13 and 14, overleaf).

In 2016, Singaporean national Thomas Cheng was arrested in Gisborne for the importation and supply of methamphetamine. The Police subsequently obtained restraining orders over six commercial properties in Gisborne as part of a wider investigation into alleged tax evasion and money laundering by Cheng's father, William Cheng, and stepmother Nyioh Chew Hong, who live in Singapore.

An investigation into the "complex" ownership structure of the buildings saw restraining orders placed on associated bank accounts along with nine other buildings across Whanganui, Te Puke, Pahiatua, Timaru, and Gisborne. In 2020, the Police applied for the forfeiture of these buildings and associated bank accounts. The courts have recently declared the buildings to be beyond the reach of the drug investigation. However, legal proceedings continue to restrain the buildings.

In 2023, the Wellington High Court [ruled](#) that Cheng Jnr does not hold an interest in or have effective control of Cheng Snr's property. Therefore, the properties are not subject to forfeiture relating to Cheng Jnr's drug crimes. However, as the Police have appealed the ruling, the buildings remain in limbo, further complicated by possible [tax-evasion and money laundering](#) by Cheng Snr and Ms Hong.

Council has found it impossible to address building issues via Cheng Snr's New Zealand representatives. Cheng Snr is likely reluctant to undertake works without knowing what percentage of the buildings he will retain. The Police will not do anything as they are temporary custodians ill-equipped to deal with building remediation and unsure what percentage of the buildings they will retain.

This contested ownership status prevents building remediation, even under dangerous building notices, as no party assumes responsibility for remediating the unsafe conditions. Council has issued one seized building with a dangerous building notice; however, as ownership is contested, mitigation of dangerous conditions is not easily progressed. The restrained buildings, including the Masonic Hotel, continue to decline but are a long way from becoming Dangerous. Continued attempts by Council to engage building owners have met with little success.

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Seized building: Gisborne's Masonic Hotel (now closed) prior to its decline. 46 Gladstone Rd



Seized building (left). 200 Gladstone Road.



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// 07

Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives

Remit: *That LGNZ proactively promote and lobby for the development of a more equitable and appropriate funding model for central government initiatives.*

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

Supported by: Zone 1 (Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, Whangarei District Council).

Why is this remit important?

The constant reprioritisation of funding has a major impact on the ability of local government to provide quality infrastructure and services to the communities they are legally obliged to serve.

The development of a more equitable and appropriate funding model for central government initiatives would mitigate the risks and challenges the current funding model creates.

Background and Context

The reprioritisation of spending from community needs and services, to the implementation of central government policy and regulation, continues to be a major challenge for many councils.

Experience to date has shown that the current funding model needs to be reviewed and improved, to better reflect the community and operational realities of local government.

Zone 1 members firmly believe that central government should fully fund initiatives they wish to implement, or provide funding to local government in situations where they are required to implement a central government initiative.

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

This proposal aligns with LGNZ's policy that states:

- Remits must be relevant to local government as a whole rather than exclusively relevant to a single zone or sector group or an individual council;
- Remits should be of a major policy nature (constitutional and substantive policy) rather than matters that can be dealt with by administrative action.

In accordance with LGNZ's strategy, this proposal would strengthen local government as a whole to support our communities to thrive – environmentally, culturally, economically and socially.

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

Northland Regional Council, with the support of Far North District Council and Whangarei District Council, will advocate the case for the development of an improved equitable funding model for central government initiatives.



// 08

Goods and services tax (GST) revenue sharing with local government

Remit: That LGNZ be proactive in lobbying central government on sharing GST revenue with local government, derived from local government rates and service fees related to flood protection mitigation, roading, and three waters, for investment in these areas.

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1 (Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, Whangarei District Council).

Why is this remit important?

Local government faces funding and resourcing challenges due to current funding models. The sharing of GST revenue derived from local government rates and service fees related to flood protection, roading, and three waters, would allow for increased spending and investment in these areas.

Background and Context

S&P Global Ratings note that local government rates have not increased, as a percentage of the economy, in the past 100 years – compared with central government taxation which has gone up 200% in the same period.

This funding gap presents many challenges for local government and its ability to provide infrastructure and services to its communities.

Member councils of Zone 1 have not lobbied central government individually to date. However, there was full support for the position of LGNZ given on the matter on 27 February 2024.

This proposal seeks to elevate the matter and make it a high priority for LGNZ to lobby, with a view to achieve, the diversion of GST revenue for localised investment in flood protection mitigation, roading, three waters, and the related capital expenditure and debt servicing.

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

This proposal aligns with LGNZ's policy that states:

- Remits must be relevant to local government as a whole rather than exclusively relevant to a single zone or sector group or an individual council;
- Remits should be of a major policy nature (constitutional and substantive policy) rather than matters that can be dealt with by administrative action.

In accordance with LGNZ's strategy, this proposal would strengthen local government as a whole to support our communities to thrive – environmentally, culturally, economically and socially.



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

Northland Regional Council, with the support of Far North District Council and Whangarei District Council, will advocate, lobby, and promote the case for the sharing of GST revenue with local government from the areas noted in this proposal.

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 STRATEGY, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: Karen Yates, General Manager Strategy & Development

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Strategy, Policy and Governance team (see Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Strategy, Policy and Governance teams.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Strategy Policy and Governance Activity Report [↓](#)
2. Waha Kotahi Speed Rule Consultation [↓](#)

STRATEGY, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY REPORT

National Updates

Changes to legislation impacting Māori wards decisions

On 30 July Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill (the Bill) enacted amendments to the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act) to change the process for establishing Māori wards.

The amended legislation directs councils that established a Māori ward under prior legislation to resolve to disestablish the Māori ward or to hold a binding poll at the 2025 election. The result of a poll would take effect from the 2028 election. A decision to disestablish the ward would take effect from 2025 election. The changes also reinstate the ability for 5% of electors to call for a poll on Māori wards.

In addition, the legislation makes changes to the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 extending the statutory time frame for local elections to allow more time for the postal delivery of voting papers from six to 14 days.

On 31 July Council made the decision to retain the Māori ward and hold a poll at the 2025 local elections.

Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024 Consultation

Waka Kotahi have released a consultation document on a new *Land Transport: Setting of Speed Limits* Rule which implements the next steps in delivering on the Government's commitment to stop and reverse the previous government's blanket speed limit reductions.

The consultation focuses on five key proposals. These are:

- Requiring cost benefit analysis (CBA) when consulting on proposed speed limit changes
- Strengthening consultation requirements
- Requiring variable speed limits outside school gates
- Introduction of a Ministerial Speed Objective which sets out the Government's expectations for speed management
- Changes to speed limit classifications

Council has made a submission on the consultation, included as Attachment 2.

New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan consultation

Officers are preparing a submission for the Ministry for Environment's [second emissions reduction plan](#) for 2026-2030 (ERP2). The plan moves away from the previous government's approach, putting emphasis on the Emissions Trading Scheme carbon market and investment into research and development to find new technologies. It is unclear what the plan is if the immature technologies are found to be not fit for purpose.

The result of ERP2 is that the country is projected to meet the emissions budget for 2026-2030 but is calculated to no longer be on track to meet the 2031-2035 budget, or the 2050 net zero emissions target.

Infometrics Update

Infometrics provided updated economic forecasts for the next 12 months. They highlighted increased caution from businesses around investment and hiring in response to weakening demand. Reduced job and income security is becoming a major drag on consumer confidence, supplanting rising interest rates and cost-of-living pressures as the biggest concern for households. Further rises in the unemployment rate, from 4.3% currently to 5.3% in mid-2025, are expected to continue to limit spending during the next year.

The latest inflation data has confirmed that price pressures across much of the economy are being reduced by weak demand, and inflation is set to be back within the Reserve Bank's 1-3%pa target band by the end of this year. Infometrics believe that the Bank's monetary policy approach is confused and might still not be forward-looking enough. Although there is a rising chance of an interest rate cut in November, Infometrics currently expects it to be February 2025 before the Reserve Bank starts to lower the official cash rate.

With the government's most recent Budget proving to be less contractionary than anticipated, fiscal policy will need to stay tight for longer over the next few years to get the government accounts back into surplus. Internationally, there are some signs of improvement in commodity prices and the global economy, but prospects for exporters remain patchy due to China's economic struggles, ongoing conflict, and risks around more protectionist trade policies

Regional Updates

Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019 Review

The Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils (the Wairarapa District Councils) share a joint Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw made under sections 145 and 146 of the Local Government Act 2002, and other relevant statutes.

The Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019 (the Bylaw) has a legal review period of five years, which was due in June 2024. A review of the Bylaw is currently underway. The Wairarapa Policy Working Group (WPWG) has delegated authority to support the review and make recommendations back to the Wairarapa District Councils.

The WPWG last met on 31 May 2024 to discuss the current bylaws and review approach. The key focus of staff since this date has been undertaking background research, engagement with key stakeholders, options analysis and drafting of amended bylaws.

The WPWG will next meet in September to consider amended bylaws and a Statement of Proposal for consultation. Subject to a recommendation by the WPWG, the documents will go to the Wairarapa District Councils in October and community consultation will begin in November.

Wairarapa Local Alcohol Policy Review

The Wairarapa District Councils share a joint Wairarapa Local Alcohol Policy made under sections 75 and 76 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act).

The WPWG will next meet on 19 August to consider the draft policy, Statement of Proposal and relevant consultation documents. Subject to a recommendation from the WPWG, the draft policy for consultation and Statement of Proposal will then go to the three councils for approval in September.

Consultation with the wider community will follow and finish in October.

Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy

The Wairarapa District Councils share a joint gambling policy made under section 101 of the Gambling Act 2003 and section 96 of the Racing Industry Act 2020.

The policy has been adopted by the three councils following a recent review. Masterton District Council adopted the policy in June with an amendment to its venue relocation policy so that Class 4 Gambling Venues cannot permanently relocate in Masterton under any circumstances but may temporarily relocate while an existing site undergoes remedial work due to an adverse event, subject to certain criteria.

South Wairarapa and Carterton District Councils adopted the policy in July. Both councils agreed to the venue relocation policy they consulted on. This means venues cannot relocate to South Wairarapa and Carterton's most deprived areas if the proposed location is outside a main town centre.

Other key changes to the policy include no standalone TAB venues can be established in Wairarapa and no additional electronic gaming machines will be granted consent in any Class 4 gambling venue in the Wairarapa.

The updated policy is available on the Council website and key stakeholders are being notified.

Regional Adaptation Project

The objective of the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Regional Adaptation Project (RAP) is to identify mechanisms/actions for current and future impacts of a changing climate. MDC staff met with the Project Lead as part of the initial scoping of the project to provide a Masterton/Wairarapa perspective. This included a field trip with the Roding Manager to provide the Project Lead with insight into the challenges Council is facing with Mataikona Road.

District Updates

Compliments and Complaints Policy

The Executive Leadership Team recently approved an updated Compliments and Complaints Policy. The policy ensures compliments are recorded and provides a framework for staff to manage and resolve complaints in a fair and timely manner.

Key updates include clarifying staff roles and responsibilities, new complaint content conditions to promote staff being treated courteously, and additional information on maintaining the confidentiality of complaints, in line with best practice guidance.

The updated policy is available on the Council website.

2024-34 Long Term Plan

The LTP was published on Council's website on Friday 26 July 2024, meeting the legislative deadline of publishing within one month of adoption. Letters have been sent to all submitters advising them of Council's final decisions on the key consultation topics. Debriefs with elected members and staff are underway to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in developing the Plan.

The 2024-34 LTP document is available [here](#)

2023/24 Annual Report

Work on the 2023/24 Annual Report has commenced, with the initial interim audit completed. Non-financial performance measures will be reported to Council's Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 14 August 2024. Audit New Zealand will return in late September to complete the Audit process. The Annual Report is scheduled for adoption on 30 October 2024, noting the legal deadline for adoption is 31 October.

2024/25 Annual Plan

Project plans are also being developed for the 2024/25 Annual Plan, noting initial work programme and budget reviews are undertaken during Q2 of the financial year.

Stormwater and Wastewater Strategy

Support is being provided for the Stormwater and Wastewater Strategy that is being led by Council's Assets and Operations Team. In particular, the Strategy, Policy and Planning Teams are supporting the Catchment Planning workstream.

Environmental Work Programme

Environmental/Climate Change Action

In addition to Better Off funded projects, highlights for this reporting period include:

- Coordinating Te Tiriti/Tikanga Workshops tailored to those working on environmental related projects at MDC and in the community. The intent of these workshops is to support MDC staff and representatives from community groups to better understand Te Ao Māori worldview, especially in relation to the taiao/environment so they are better placed to engage with mana whenua/Māori on environmental projects and initiatives. A range of Council staff and representatives from community groups will attend the sessions together, also providing an opportunity for staff and community to continue to develop relationships.
- Administering the 2024 Community Climate Fund applicants as approved by Council at the 26 June 2024 meeting. These grants support community implementation of actions to deliver on our Climate Action Plan. Recommendations from the Climate Advisory Group (CAG) are discussed in a separate report included in this agenda.
- Reviewing the timeline for delivery of actions included in Council's Emissions Reduction Plan.
- Progressing the implementation of E-Bench, the tool Council is using to measure energy use and carbon emissions.
- Ongoing climate education and engagement activity to connect communities and support collaboration. One example for this reporting period was meeting with Sustainable Wairarapa to discuss projects currently being progressed by both MDC and Sustainable Wairarapa.

Economic Work Programme

Panama Vacant Land High Court Application

Our application to the High Court to for a new council scheme that would allow the sale or lease of the vacant land at Panama Village was heard at the Wellington High Court on 15 July. The hearing was short, with MDC represented by Simpson Grierson. There were four written submissions in

opposition to the application, with one submitter attending and presenting in person as well.

We received the judgement from Justice Radich on 1 August. The proposed council scheme was approved, without exceptions, meaning the vacant land can be sold or leased.

Officers are now working with Simpson Grierson on the next steps in the process.

Dark Sky Reserve






As part of the work on the application to join the Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve, officers are planning a community education week for October 7 – 13. The focus of the week will be what dark sky status means, what the benefits are, and opportunities for the community and businesses to help Masterton attain reserve status.

Governance

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act Requests

For the period 16 June to 28 July 2024, Council received a total of 13 Local Government Official Information Act (LGOIMA) requests.

The most common topics were parking, water and financial matters.

				
Total LGOIMA requests received	Completed	Average days for completion	Completed within statutory timeframe	NOT completed within statutory timeframe
13	12	20	10	2

Privacy Act Complaints

For the period 29 May to 29 July 2024, Council received one complaint of a breach of the Privacy Act 2020. Council’s Privacy Officer investigated and concluded that no breach had occurred.



Attn: Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Masterton District Council response to the draft Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024 (the draft Rule)

This submission outlines Masterton District Council's (MDC) response to the Waka Kotahi consultation on the draft Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024.

MDC adopted our Speed Management Plan under the current rule in June 2023, which was certified by the Director of Land Transport in October 2023. MDC took a considered approach to our Speed Management Plan, focusing on areas directly outside schools, kura and marae as well as roads that had been identified as high-risk.

MDC has two principal reservations regarding the proposed modifications:

1. Financial Implications: The Council is apprehensive about the potential costs associated with reversing previously implemented changes and the increased expenses related to variable signage implementation.
2. Impact on Local Governance: There are concerns about the effect on local decision-making processes that have already been concluded. MDC has conducted comprehensive community consultations on speed limit adjustments. Reversing these changes would contradict the collaborative approach that has been established with our community.

Our specific feedback on the proposals is as follows:

Proposal 1: Require cost benefit analysis for speed limit changes

We note that the proposal excludes:

1. Setting variable speed limits outside schools
2. New roads

We submit that:

- a) Undertaking a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) for individual roads in Masterton is unlikely to be effective because fatal and serious crashes are rare, random events in provincial areas and any CBA is unlikely to produce a positive cost-benefit ratio. This makes it an ineffective process as it would place an

overwhelming emphasis on the CBA and undervalue the social and health benefits of potential changes.

- b) Road Controlling Authorities (RCAs) should have the option to undertake a CBA for urban connectors as an input into the decision-making process, it should not be the only, or overwhelming, factor in the decision-making process.

Proposal 2: Strengthen consultation requirements

We agree with the proposal to strengthen consultation requirements.

MDC's approach to consultation aligns with the strengthened consultation requirements. We conducted extensive consultation on our Speed Management Plan, including:

- Early engagement with schools, kura, and marae
- Wider public consultation highlighting each proposed change

We believe this approach should be adopted by all RCAs.

Proposal 3: Require variable speed limits outside school gates

Concerns:

- Electronic variable signs are costly, and in some rural areas are not a viable option due to challenges related to cellular service in some areas.
- MDC has implemented permanent speed reductions on lower-volume streets adjoining school gates that are not primary collector roads to reduce implementation costs across the district.
- A number of schools in the Masterton district have long road frontages that would cover a large part of the 300m length. Applying a blanket length restriction to changes would reduce the potential safety impacts outside these schools, and also reduce the ability of police to enforce the limits.

Recommendations:

- A low-cost option, such as static signs, should be available to RCAs for implementing variable school zones.
- Note that in cases where MDC consulted and implemented permanent school zones, there was general community support, and these zones have been in place outside some schools in Masterton since August 2020.

Proposal 5: Changes to speed limit classifications

We submit that:

- a) Clarity is needed on the proposed process and details for the road classification system. The Rule doesn't align with the One Network Framework (ONF) and, in some cases, contradicts international best practices.
- b) ONF road classification "Activity Streets" should be added to the list.
- c) RCAs should have the option to implement speed limits as low as 30km/h on Activity Streets, considering:
 - i. Activity Streets are often destinations for motorists

- ii. Vehicles parking interrupt traffic flow
 - iii. Congestion
 - iv. Pedestrian activity (including elderly and children)
- d) RCAs should retain the option to reduce speed on urban streets to 30 or 40km/h:
- i. If requested by the community with widespread support from key stakeholders (e.g., FENZ)
 - ii. Where motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians share the carriageway

Proposal 7: Reverse recent speed limit reductions

The draft Rule proposes reversing certain speed limits reduced since 1 January 2020 by 1 July 2025.

MDC implemented speed limit changes under the bylaw process in August 2020, focusing on high-volume shopping areas with significant pedestrian activity and the urban areas of our two main beach settlements (Castlepoint and Riversdale).

MDC believes that changes carried out under the bylaw process should remain in place and not be subject to the reversal proposal, especially those with high levels of community support and that have been in effect for a significant period.

Ngā mihi, nā



Kym Fell

Chief Executive

8.2 COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: Corin Haines, General Manager Community

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Community team on key projects and activities (See Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Community team on key projects and activities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Activity Report [↓](#)

COMMUNITY TEAM ACTIVITY REPORT

Library and Archive

Library Programmes

- **Matariki in the Library** – On 26 May the library hosted its annual Matariki celebration. The event featured storytelling about Matariki, a rongoā (traditional Māori medicine) demonstration, crafts, and games. Over 40 people gathered at the library to celebrate the new year.
- **Matariki Winter Reading Challenge**: From 10 June to 19 July, over 100 children participated in a six-week reading challenge, vying for prizes that included book packs, LEGO sets, and a Bluey Picnic Set. At the finale, Kirsty Wadsworth, author of *The Promise of Puanga*, shared the story of Puanga, cousin to the Matariki sisters.
- **July School Holidays**: During the school holidays, the library hosted a variety of daily events, including Music and Movement sessions led by the Parents Centre, Virtual Reality experiences, Storytimes, LEGO building, Minecraft gaming, and movie screenings. Over 500 people attended these free library programs.

Library Collaborations

- **Digital Seniors** - The Digital Seniors program, which already hosts a popular Wednesday session, will now offer an additional free session on Mondays from 1-3pm. This service is provided by Digital Seniors and library staff.
- **Age Concern** - On 19 July the library collaborated with Age Concern to visit Panama Village. After an afternoon tea, the library staff presented some of their services, such as homebound deliveries and digital assistance. Age Concern also provided line dancing demonstrations and a performance by their ukulele group, which the residents enthusiastically sang along to.
- **Westpac** - The library held two Westpac-sponsored lunchtime sessions to educate customers on safeguarding themselves against online scams and fraud.

Archive Engagement

- Local Heritage Specialist Mark Pacey has been granted a weekly column in the Wairarapa Times Age, where he will spotlight a Wairarapa disaster from the past 150 years in each instalment.

Customer Services

The Customer Service Team have raised 1,774 service requests from end of May to 28 July 2024. These are generated from enquiries received via email, phone or over the counter. In the month of July we have increased number of administrative related tasks as there are community funding applications and licence renewals being processed.

Waste Track (replaced Garden Bags) has improved our ability to respond accurately to customers who advise us of issues with their scheduled recycling or rubbish collections.

Call Centre

- We have experienced an increased volume of calls over the month of July. Common trends of enquiries are related to Rates Rebate appointments and dog registration enquiries which were anticipated.
- A total of 2145 calls were received from May 30 to July 30. Of these 175 were abandoned and 1970 answered calls. This equates to 92% completed calls.

Service Desk

- We have experienced an increased number of walk-in customers with varied topics that require service requests for investigation.
- Current ongoing advice associated with water leaks about the district, street sign damage, slippery pavements, potholes and issues related to street trees.

Compliments & Complaints

- There were two compliments registered – one associated to the Bannister Street public toilet “*a great asset that is welcoming and practical*”. The other a note of thanks for the assistance provided from one of our customer service team who was ‘*helpful on the day*’.
- No registered complaints to date this month.

Community Development

Events

- ***The Big Shout Out*** - On 21 June we partnered with the Wairarapa Community Centre Trust to host a special morning tea at the Trust House Recreation Centre to celebrate the work of local volunteers as part of National Volunteer Month. Around 90 people attended this event representing a wide range of organisations.
- ***Matariki In The Square*** - On 26 June we hosted Matariki In The Square from 4.30pm - 7pm. Working alongside the Thursday Night Food Trucks, we created an event that celebrated the coming together of whānau and community to share kai, share the meaning of Matariki, and be entertained by local performers including our Kura. We estimate between 500-600 people attended this event at some stage during the evening.
- ***Upcoming Events*** - We are now in the process of planning the following events:
 - Cultural Festival - Saturday 7 September 2024

- Halloween - Thursday 31 October 2024
- Masterton Christmas Parade - Saturday 30 November 2024
- Masterton Christmas In The Park - Saturday 30 November 2024
- Twelve Days of Christmas – December 2024

Upskilling Young Kaimahi' Workshop

In collaboration with Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils, we were able to bring the 'Upskilling Young Kaimahi' training, run by Mana Taiohi and The Youth Mentoring Network. This free two - day course focused on preparing youth to support themselves and their peers. We had 20 participants who offered a cross- section of the community, with nine coming from Masterton and three representing the Youth Council.

Play Collaboration

A joint venture with Kia Hakinakina, Nuku Ora, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Council's; we offered free play pop-ups across the Wairarapa, during the recent school holidays. Waka Tākaro, our play trailer was present at all of these sessions. Collectively, we were able to offer six play sessions (each two hours long), one of which was held at the Recreation Centre and welcomed around 40 participants on a rainy day.

Community Associations

- **Bi-Annual Meeting** - On 12 July, we hosted the Bi-Annual Community Association Meeting, with representation from five of the six residents' associations we support. Each were able to present their team updates, as well as updates from Masterton District Council. There were also presentations from Predator Free Masterton, the DIA, Dark Skies and our 'Community Streets' pilot, which the associations are keen to support. It was a pleasing meeting with all groups being complimentary of work that council has done in their areas since the last meeting.
- **Riversdale Beach Community Plan Launch** - The Riversdale Beach Community Plan was officially launched on 21 July. Twenty-six members of the community attended to workshop some thoughts and to work through the plan together. The plan is a testament to the Riversdale Beach Community and the members of the steering group who have worked alongside Council to see their plan come to fruition. It is now available on the Council's website.

Welcoming Communities

- **Funding for Food Safety Business Course** – Council has successfully secured funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) under the Meaningful Refugee Participation Theme. The funds will support the "Food Safety Business 101" course, designed to aid refugees in their entrepreneurial endeavours. This course will include tailored, one-on-one support. Final delivery dates are pending confirmation.

- **Establishment of Wairarapa Multicultural Council** - The Welcoming Communities program has resulted in the successful establishment of the Wairarapa Multicultural Council. This initiative was started by Welcoming communities and the final resolution meeting was held at Council office. The resolution meeting was attended by 28 participants. The official registration of the Wairarapa Multicultural Council at company house was done on 5 June 2024.



- **Draft Welcoming Plan** - On 25 June Welcoming Communities held its inaugural planning session for the draft Welcoming Plan, collaborating with various community leaders and organizations. The Welcoming plan will be drafted in order to remove all the gaps and barriers that newcomers face while settling in Masterton.
- **Engagement in Long-Term Plan Consultation** - The program engaged with two distinct community groups to ensure their participation in the Long-Term Plan consultation process.
- **Orientation for Newly Arrived Refugees** - An orientation session for newly arrived refugee families was conducted on 10 June 2024.
- **Partnership with Iwi** - Welcoming Communities collaborated with iwi partners to enhance support and guidance for its initiatives. A statement of commitment ceremony was held on July 16th, with participation from the Masterton District Council Chief Executive, Masterton Mayor, iwi partners, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, and the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust.
- **Career Expo Project Planning** - Welcoming Communities is actively involved and part of planning team for the upcoming career expo project, scheduled for delivery in September.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - **Planning for Welcoming Week Activities** - Welcoming Communities is actively planning a series of activities for the upcoming Welcoming Week. These events are aimed at fostering community engagement, celebrating diversity, and promoting inclusivity. The activities will be designed to bring together residents from various cultural backgrounds and provide opportunities for meaningful interaction and collaboration.
 - **Cultural Festival** - Preparations are underway for a Cultural Festival, which will showcase the rich cultural diversity of our community. This festival will feature performances, food, and art from different cultures, providing a platform for cultural exchange and understanding. The event will highlight the

contributions of various cultural groups to the social and cultural fabric of the region.

Youth Council

During the second week of the school holidays nine members of the Youth Council attended Festival for the Future (a two-day event leadership and innovation summit), During this event, one of our Co-Chairs was invited to present in a panel with six other youth council representatives, to discuss the issues facing youth councils. A smaller team also attended The Mayor's Lunch and had the chance to meet Tory Whanau, as well as connect and attend a workshop with other youth councils and youth advisory groups.

This month's meeting is being completely organised and run by the Co-Chairs, so signals a movement from the team to start leading more in these spaces.

Neighbourhood Support (NS)

- **Women only Swim and Water Safety Project** – The sixth session took place for the full 10 days of the July School Holidays.

Twelve women and fourteen children participated. The programme is now open to all women who are novice swimmers living in Masterton. We welcomed two new former refugee families, one woman from New Zealand (Polish ancestry) and one from Turkey. The ethnic diversity of the participants who have registered for this programme now covers ten different nationalities from the following countries - Sri Lanka, Philippines, India, USA, Uganda, Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, New Zealand and Poland.



- **WEconnect Project** – This project was successful in gaining further funds from the National Neighbourhood Support New Zealand Membership fund, due to finish end of September 2024. Further funds will be applied for in September to continue through to December. Seven volunteers have been buddied up with ten participants, mainly to support and help with their 'Kiwi' English, technical support in online food ordering, local knowledge and acquiring driving licences. Many on the WEconnect programme have also registered for the women only swim programme, as they do not know how to swim. Unfortunately, one participant failed her driver's licence test, but has rescheduled and with the support of her volunteer mentor driver, is determined to succeed.
- **Former Refugee Men's swim and water safety** - Masterton NS was successful in gaining just over \$19,000.00 from Te Whatu Ora, to run this project for former Refugee men only. It is run during school term, every Saturday morning, and like the women only swim programme, the men are gifted swim wear and goggles. Eight men participated in Term 2 (local newspaper article attached). The project is in collaboration

with the Welcoming Communities Advisor and Belgravia Leisure at the Trust House Recreation centre.

Positive Ageing

With the confirmation of Masterton District Council's funding of the implementation of the Positive Ageing Strategy, the three Councils have been meeting with the Positive Ageing Strategy Co-ordinator to plan the year ahead and look at ways that the implementation can be maximised. The focus of the planning will be both internal and external opportunities and barriers.

The Positive Ageing Strategy Coordinator in conjunction with St Johns, Neighbourhood Support Carterton and Masterton, Featherston Community Centre and WREMO are progressing work on the Older Persons and Emergency project. The plan is trial the giveaway of 50 "Grab and Go" Bags to older persons that might experience barriers in being able to assemble the equipment needed. St Johns' local committee has recently donated 50 first aid kits. WREMO has also accessed 50 second Grab and Go bags (bags only) that can be used also. A funding/sponsorship will be put in place if required. The Positive Ageing Co-ordinator is liaising with the Community Development Activator that works with the Eastside community so that some of the 50 bags are donated to Masterton older persons.

Digital collaboration across the organisations providing digital support for older persons – The Positive Ageing Co-ordinator convened the quarterly meeting of this group. The agenda focussed on Digital Seniors' co-ordination of the [DORA \(Digital On-Road Access\)](#) bus across the three Councils' rohe in November. DORA will be in the Masterton area including rural areas from 8- 11 November 2024. The focus is on health services online. The Co-ordinator is supporting Digital Seniors to do this mahi.

Grants

Community Wellbeing Grant and Community Events Fund

The 2024 Community Wellbeing Grant opened on 1 July and when this report is read would have closed on 29 July 2024. Applications received will be processed and summarised for the Awards and Grants Committee, who will be hearing from presenters on 4 September.

Masterton Arts Fund

Applications will close on 23 August 2024 with funding available of \$14,334 for the year. The Assessment Committee will meet on 5 September to consider applications that have been received.

Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme

Applications will also close on 23 August with the Assessment Committee to meet on 5 September to consider applications that will have been received. The funding available for Round 1 will be advised by Creative New Zealand shortly when they do their funding allocations for the Scheme.

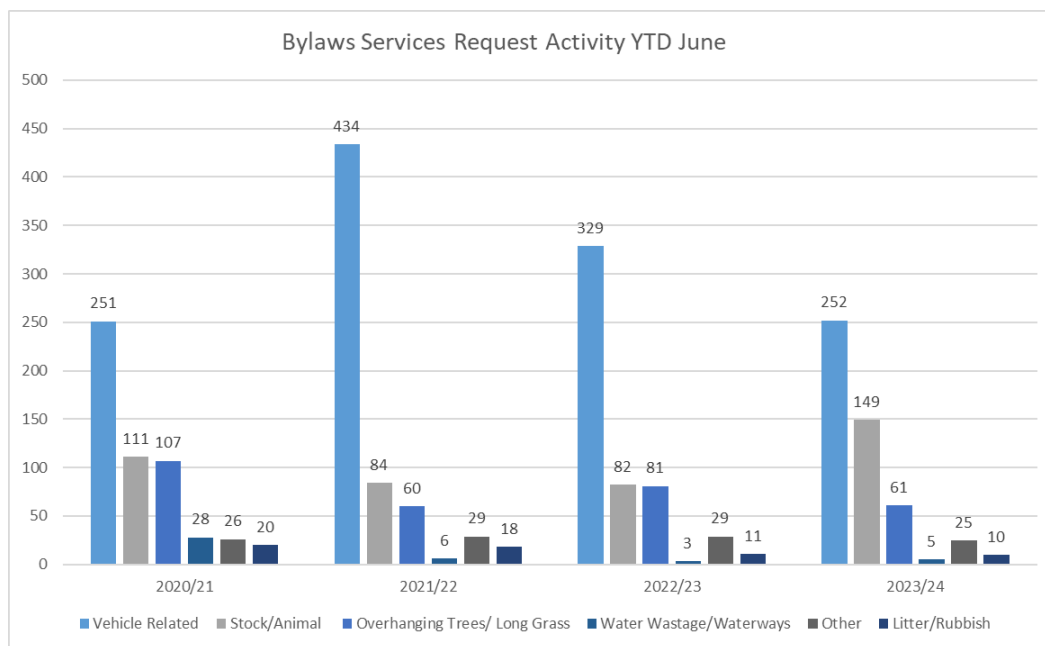
Matariki

A successful Matariki grant round was completed at the end of May. We received a total of 17 eligible applications, with 11 receiving funding (from the \$5,000 available) to run their community event. Events were held throughout the Masterton district including Riversdale Beach, Eastside Community, local schools, Oxford Street Community Gardens, Te Hauora o Runanga o Wairarapa and more between 26 June - 14 July 2024.

Environmental Services

Bylaws

- **Parking behaviour** - there have been concerns raised about the parking behaviour around schools. People who are dropping off and picking up children are reminded to please park legally, by doing this they are doing their part to ensure there is not a road related accidents putting children and road users in danger.



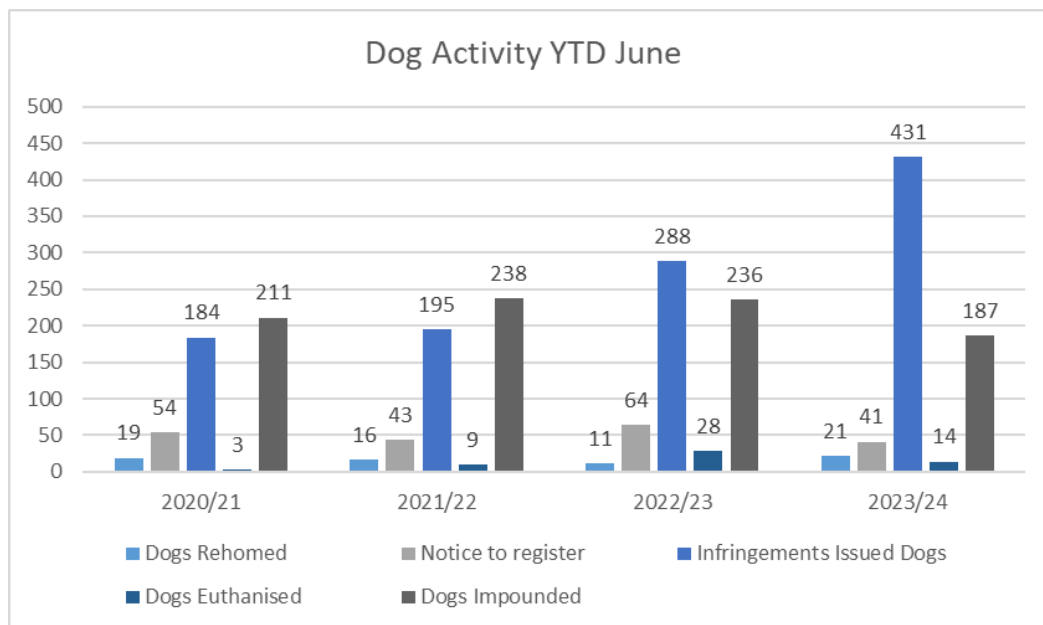
- **Livestock** - Service requests relating to wandering stock reduced in May, there were five stock related calls compared to April and May where there were 27 and 16 respectively.

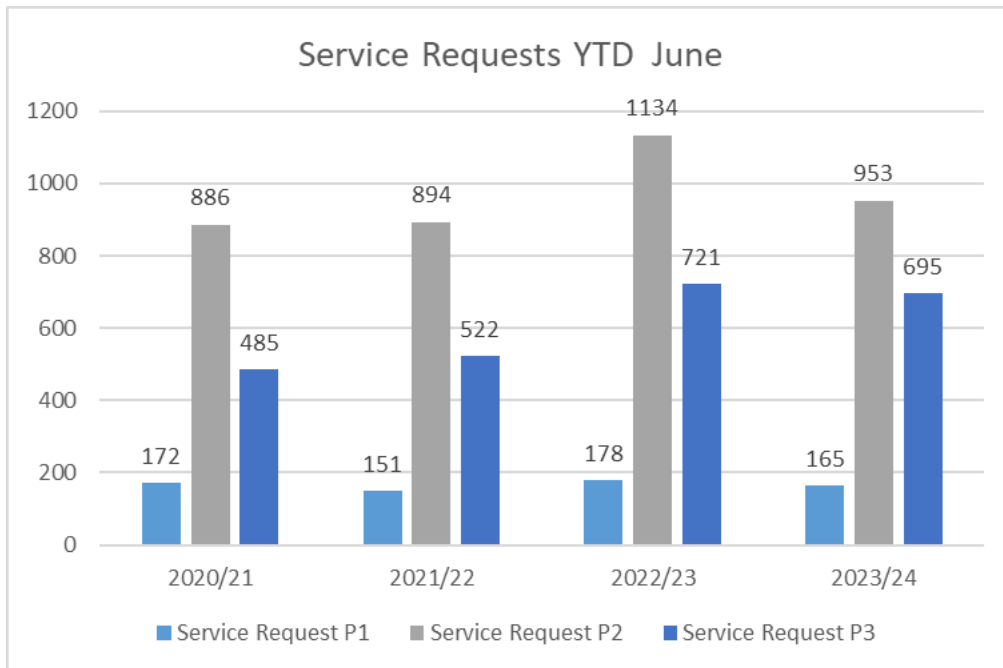
Animal Services

- **Poo Bin upgrade** - The final stage of replacing all the old plastic green dog poo bins around town and adding additional bins will be started next month. Staff will be putting new galvanized bins in 12 locations; Nikau Heights, Fifth Street, Manuka Reserve Cashmere Oaks, three in Henley Lake, Cockburn Street, Herbert Street, York Street, and Oak Street. This will be the final culmination in the plan to replace all the old plastic poo bins in town and the recreational spaces that were prone to being burnt down or

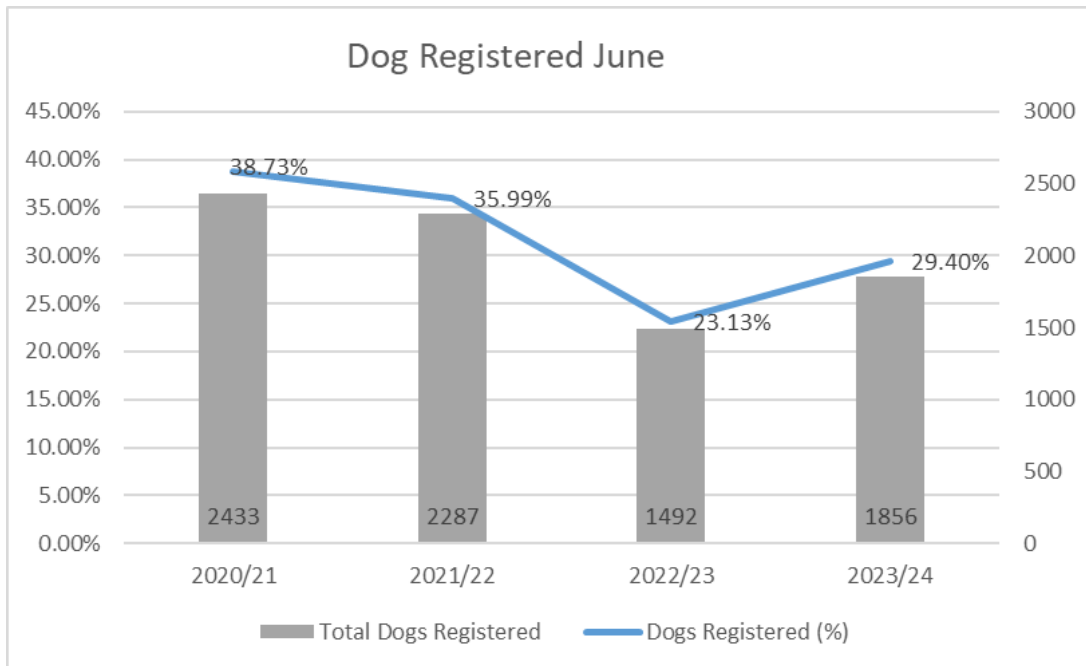
damaged. The new bins have stopped other rubbish being dumped in them due to the distinct opening feature. This has resulted in the bins being emptied less and a saving in time and money. There is still a small budget annually for one replacement or additional bin.

- **Impounded dogs** - There were nine puppies dumped on the urban rural boundary late-May. A few weeks later there was another litter of seven puppies found dumped in Percy's Reserve. This has stretched the resources of the Animal and Bylaws Team with at one point 23 dogs in our care at the animal shelter. Currently there are still five of the older puppies still looking for a place with a new family or foster carer. Ellies Canine Rescue have fostered the younger litter and the SPCA Masterton have found space for four of the puppies and 2 others have been adopted.
- **Surrendering dogs** - This time of year there are requests from people to surrender their dogs. More often than not the dogs are unregistered, and the person is unwilling to give details of the dogs' behaviour or history. While Masterton District Council is under no obligation to take on surrendered dogs, we do so on a case-by-case basis.





- Rushing** - There were 13 service requests logged in the month of June for dogs rushing out of properties at passers-by. This puts people in danger and can damage property. Dog owners have a responsibility to have their dogs under control even when on their own property, this includes the confinement of the dog to the property, so that it cannot freely leave and the dog cannot cause a nuisance or endanger others. If dogs are problematic owners may be directed to make additional measures to keep their dog restricted from the boundary of the property.
- Dog Registration** - 96.29% of all known dogs were registered at the end of May. Registrations for the 24/25 year were sent in June and by the end of June 29.40%. Registrations are on track; all owners must register their dogs by 31 July. Known dogs that are not registered will incur a 50% penalty on top of the registration fee. If an entire unregistered urban dog is picked up and impounded the dog owner must pay in full \$364.50 plus any daily care costs incurred before the dog will be released.



Environmental Health

- Recognised Agency Surveillance Assessment Report** - Surveillance assessment of the implementation of Masterton District Councils Quality Management System (QMS), to verify compliance with the requirements to be a Recognised Agency to conduct verification services under the Food Act 2014 has been completed. The Assessor noted the team are to be commended on the management of capacity and resources, with no overdue verifications or expired registrations. No findings were raised during this assessment.
- MPI Food levy – guidance** - Levies for domestic food businesses come into effect from 1 July 2025. For businesses registered through a territorial authority, the levy will be collected by the territorial authority on behalf of MPI according to MPI. MPI has advised a collection fee may be added by the territorial authority. For businesses registered with MPI, the levy will be collected by MPI.

Year	Rate (excl GST)* per year	Rate (incl GST)* per year
2025/26 (from 1 July 2025)	\$57.50	\$66.13
2026/27 (from 1 July 2026)	\$86.25	\$99.19
2027/28 and onwards (from 1 July 2027)	\$115	\$132.25

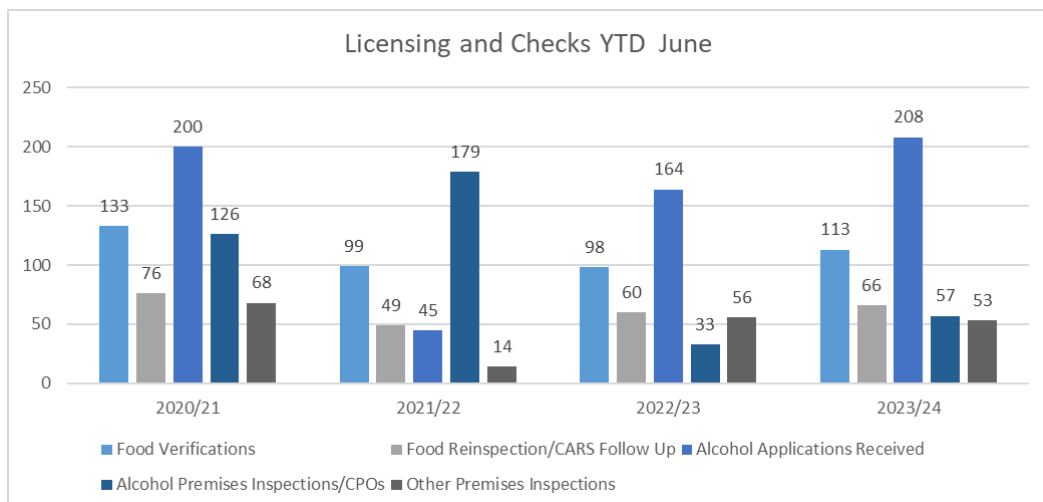
* Does not include any collection fee for levies collected by territorial authorities.

Masterton District Council submitted that they were opposed to the levy. They are also concerned about the impact this will have on small multi- site operators.

- **Increase in inspection workload/hearings for alcohol** - There have been amendments to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act. The objection period has been increased to 25 working days from 15 days, which has increased the processing time.

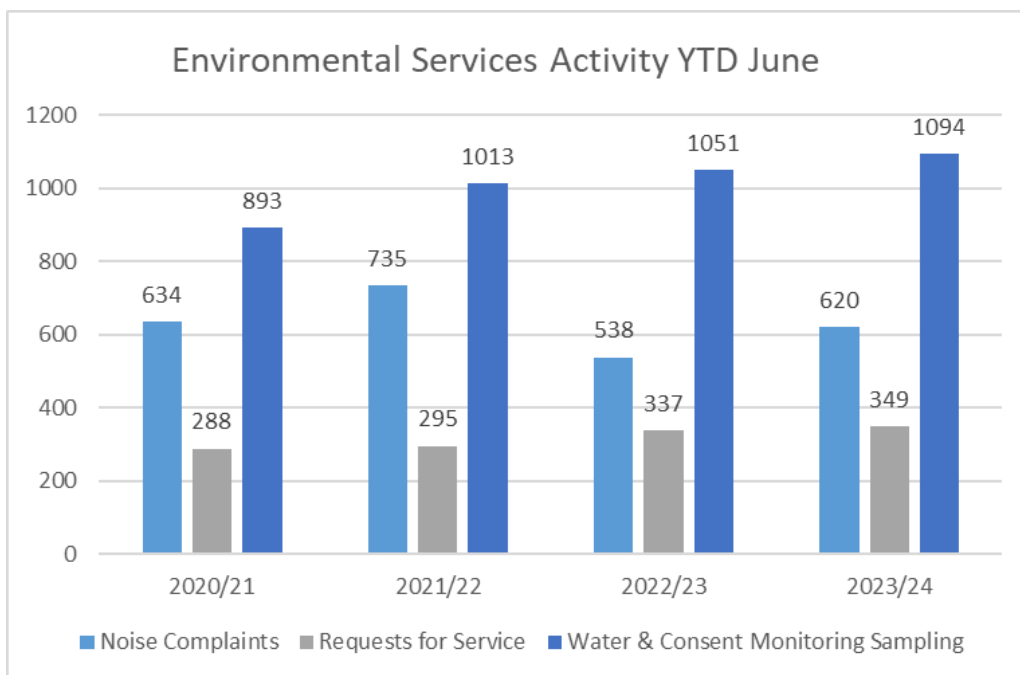
Partner agencies have increased the number of objections they have submitted. Media articles indicate the Police Commissioner advised the Police will be focusing on alcohol applications. <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2024/06/police-commissioner-andrew-coster-floats-tighter-alcohol-regulation-as-trade-off-to-reduce-estimated-7-8b-harm-from-booze.html>

- **Undertaking national inspector training for alcohol** - Inspectors have been undertaking webinar training provided at no cost by Health NZ. There were three 2-hour long webinars and there will be three in September.



- **New Applications Received** - There were a total of 146 applications received for the 23/24 business year. New application includes a change of operator or a whole new premises. The year prior there were 143 new applications.

2023/24 New applications received	TOTAL
Beauty Therapy	3
Camping Ground	0
Food Registration	29
Hairdresser	4
Hawkers	3
Offensive trade	2
Manager Certificate	58
Off-licence	4
On-licence	5
Special Licence	38



- **Service Requests** - are still growing annually. There were 97 food enquires and 55 alcohol related enquires. Most of these relate to opening or changing something in a business.
- **Water and Consent Sampling** – Continue to increase, and the trend is expected to continue with the changes to drinking water compliance.

8.3 POU AHUREA ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: Leanne Karauna, Pou Ahurea Maori

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Pou Ahurea Māori on key projects and activities (See Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Pou Ahurea Māori on key projects and activities

ATTACHMENTS

1. Pou Ahurea Maori Activity Report [↓](#)

POU AHUREA ACTIVITY REPORT
7 AUGUST 2024

Iwi Liaison Context

Priority: Iwi Consultation on Māori Ward and Constituencies Amendment Bill

Initial engagement has been conducted with governance representatives from the four local iwi entities: Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui ā Rua Treaty Settlement Trust, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust. Feedback from these iwi indicates strong opposition to the proposed amendments to the Act. The iwi collectively support the retention of a Māori ward.

Iwi Development

Ongoing engagements with Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGE), hapū, and marae to address various matters of significance to Māori, including:

Memorandum of Partnership Development: Discussions with Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui-a-Rua PSGE on the development of a Memorandum of Partnership (MOP) and representation for Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi.

Reserve Development: Collaboration on future developments and project implementation for Ngāti Te Korou and Solway Park.

Awa Names: Finalising the correct spelling of awa names for signage with Ngā Waipikopikorau o Whakaoriori.

Better Off Funding: Liaising with iwi on fish passage and climate change initiatives, including supporting the council climate change advisors in setting up cultural training.

Matariki Events: Facilitating council support of iwi events and advising of opportunities for Council engagement at the iwi Matariki celebrations.

Reviewing the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 12: Beauty Therapy Tattooing and Skin Piercing: Seeking input from local Māori on the District-wide bylaw regarding Tā moko.

Marae Development Grant: Processing and disbursement of four grant applications, with positive feedback received from the applicants.

Planning: Collaborating with iwi on the naming of a new road in the industrial development off Ngaumutawa Road.

Citizenship Statement of Commitment: Supporting the sign-off from Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Development, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc. for the Statement of Commitment.

District Wide Iwi Engagement

Wairarapa Combined District Plan Hearings: Providing advice on the Tangata Whenua chapter submissions, with further work anticipated on the Māori Purpose Zone and Sites of Significance chapters.

Wairarapa Recovery Board Sub-Committee: Contributing iwi feedback and sourcing information for proposed recovery pods. Promoting the psychological first aid training workshops with local Māori.

WREMO Collaboration: Engaging with iwi, hapū, marae, Te Puni Kōkiri, and WREMO to enhance marae capacity during emergencies.

Water Done Well: Supporting Council in engaging local Wairarapa iwi and keeping informed on relevant matters to iwi.

Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board: Attending and supporting the Board's meetings and wānanga. The Board, under the Rongokako Joint Redress Bill, oversees water management across the Ruamahanga Catchment from the northern mountains to the the moana that runs into the ocean.

Internal Support for Council

Cultural Competency Framework: Awaiting final edits and then approval from ELT. Current support for the improvement of Māori cultural competency includes improving pronunciation of local place names, coordinating professional development for Te Reo Māori speaking staff, and guiding staff representation at events held on Marae.

Policy Review: Reviewing the Te Reo me ngā Tikanga Policy and the Te Hiringa module with Council kaumatua.

Cultural Advice: Providing guidance on tikanga and koha within the Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Council Representation: Supporting district-wide Council attendance at kaupapa Māori events, such as the recent event at Papawai Marae where the Crown returned the Wairarapa Moana lake bed to mana whenua.

8.4 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: Maseina Koneferenisi, General Manager Infrastructure and Assets

Authoriser: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an update from the Infrastructure and Assets Team (see Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Infrastructure and Assets Team.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Infrastructure and Assets Activity Report [↓](#)

Infrastructure & Services Report:

On track/low impact

At risk/ medium impact

Behind plan/ high risk

Reporting Period: June - August 2024

1. General Update

The Infrastructure & Assets (I&A) Team are now through the change process and revised org design for the group. Following the expected adjustment of losing some long-standing colleagues the team is adjusting well. Focus has been on closing out year end whilst developing transition plans to ensure changes in work allocations do not create risk of work falling through the cracks.

This change has been a catalyst for encouraging staff to take a critical view of what they do and how they do it. It is creating opportunity for staff to take ownership for their own areas of work and being accountable for implementing improvements.

The key vacancy left with the change is the 3Water Operations & Transition position. This has now been filled. We have been fortunate enough to secure Steve Watt. Steve comes with 30 years' experience in GWRC and WWL in the 3waters space from catchment - treatment - bulk water through to the tap. His last 15 years have been in operational leadership roles incorporating planning through to contract management and delivery. He also has a strong background in asset management and health & safety. Steve will commence with MDC on 9 September 2024.

Steve's work will initially be focused on an improvement plan that has been developed with the utilities team which will help us get some fundamentals right, moving through to maturing this over time.

4. Top issues and risks	Impact	Mitigation / action plan
Health & Safety	Incidents & injuries	Review of procedures, development of an audit programme and H & S operational training
Failure of critical assets	Loss of service delivery	Asset Management System Condition Assessments Demand Management
Poor project delivery & contract management	Scope creep, poor quality & over budget	PM methodology and contract management process being reviewed

Roading:

Reporting Period: June – August 2024

On track/low impact

At risk/ medium impact

Behind plan/ high risk

PROJECTS

1. Roading Renewals

Overall Status:

- **Road resurfacing:** Finished for 2023/24. Three sealing sites have been deferred to the new financial year due to the risk of seal failure in colder weather conditions. Designs, programming, and pre-seal repairs are underway for the 2024/25 season.
- **Footpaths:** Planning is on hold until budgets are confirmed in late August with NZTA.
- **Drainage:** Improvements are being investigated at some high-risk rural sites, with a program to follow.

2. Pavement Rehabilitation

Overall Status:

- Contract 12_2021/2022 sites for 2022-2024 completed
- Planning and programming of rehab sites for the next three years underway. Pavement investigation and design works nearing completion. Looking at procurement options for this work.

3. Capital Improvements

Overall Status:

- 11_2023/24 Te Kanuka Curve Safety Improvements Project – completed
- 24_2023/24 Delineation improvements (signs and markings) for improved curve and nighttime visibility on major routes – Completed
- Kitchener St upgrade nearing completion – Road has been sealed, waiting on streetlights and other auxiliary works to be completed prior to vehicle access.
- 24/25 improvements are on hold until funding is confirmed
- Kiwirail is about to undertake level crossing safety improvements at Cornwall, Hillcrest, Ngamutawa Road, Renall Street, and Judds Road. The improvements are expected to be completed by 2026-27

4. Emergency Works

Overall Status:

- 15_22-23 Willow Brush Walls – Recovery Project – GoodRich - Completed
- 12_23-24 Blairlogie Langdale Retaining Walls (Sites 41,42,44)– 1Geo Limited – Completed
- 21-23/24 Masterton Castlepoint Retaining Walls (Site 14,15,RP50.9) – On track
- 29_2023/24 Tinui Large Slip at 5.7km, Road realignment - Underway
- 28_2023/24 Mataikona - Coastal Protection Works– Initial contract work completed, looking to vary contract with some additional high-risk sites.

Summary Update

- Higgins maintenance crews completed approximately 500 dispatches
- Fixed 138 potholes, 1188m2 of pavement renewals & 94 sign related services requests. (More than double the last reporting period)
- Total number of dispatches opened in June was 78. (8 were requests received from MDC or the public).
- 40 Corridor Access Requests received (no non-conformance notices issued)
- 29 TMPs approved during June (19 for excavation activities and 10 for non-excavation activities)

Year End - NZTA reporting and financial wrap up work has been completed. The NZTA reporting programme is tight and requires the team to be well organised to meet the deadlines.

Emergency Works: Planning and monitoring of areas identified as vulnerable for 2024/25 are underway. We have been continuously monitoring sites with significant cracks or movement in road sections over the last three months, as further remediation may potentially be required.

Maintenance –The contractual process of extending the current roading maintenance contract with Higgins, which has a possible term of 8 years with annual extensions from 2024 to June 2027. A Section 17a LGA review is about to begin to commence to determine the cost-effectiveness of the current arrangement for meeting community needs.

Priorities have included minor bridge repairs, drainage maintenance, and pavement repairs on summer sealing sites. Manawa Road, and Charles St. Road repairs will continue through winter to prepare for the summer construction season. Cyclic crews have been cleaning or replacing signs, conducting minor bridge repairs, filling potholes, and regularly clearing leaves etc. from drains and sumps.

NZ Biosecurity continued its biannual spray rounds, and Weed Warriors continued clearing overgrown vegetation on prioritized routes.

Top Issues and Risks	Impact details	Mitigations	Impact
Budget & Weather	Delays, reduced scope/quality, potential contractual dispute	Monitor & Report	
Disruption Public interest Resourcing	Increased community opposition Delays, higher costs, reduced output	Respond to complaints in timely manner. Communicate to stakeholders	
Further deterioration EW sites and ground movement /consenting delays	Cost, approvals, work programme scheduling , resourcing	Monitor & report. Seek Geotech expertise if significant	
Higgins Restructure	Potential loss of staff	Restructure complete. Minor staff changes	

Utilities:

Reporting Period: June - August 2024

On track/low impact	At risk/ medium impact	Behind plan/ high risk
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PROJECTS

Renewals	Overall Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled to Commence Sewer Renewal/Lining Taranaki Street - 640m x 150mm dia Contract Awarded Sewer Renewal Chapel Street - 145 m x 150mm dia Contract Awarded Sewer Renewal Renall Street - 35 m x 150mm dia The renewals programme for the new FY has been defined in preparation for GM sign off. Review of previous practise of replacing mains only (excluding laterals) is with GM. 	

Water Meters	Overall Status:
<p>Progress on this project has been slow during the past month. There remain approximately 500 properties to have meters installed. This is on services that feed more than one property. Before this can be completed an approach on how the costs for this work is distributed needs to be formed by the GM I&A and CFO. In conjunction with this, the following will occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing accuracy of meters and the system end to end – including inputs and requirements from the Finance Team. Establishing the water meter charging mechanism/policy Preparing for consultation in October 2024 Develop a marketing campaign/launch to communicate next years changes to consumers. 	

Upcoming work	Overall Status:
<p>In addition to the roll out of the capex programme and ongoing maintenance, time will be spent on addressing several improvements required in the utilities space. There are two action plans in place, one for the treatment plants and one for the networks. The key themes are:</p> <p>Data – Ensuring decisions are based on data and analytics. This is a big piece of work as the absence of an asset management system means most time is spent in the reactive space.</p> <p>Understanding network limitations – This also relates to data. There are no models in existence or easily accessible calculations to inform decision makers on network capacity. Actual water loss calculations have a high level of uncertainty due to poor data sets. More work is required on identifying critical assets and expanding on the work undertaken in developing the Asset Management Plans</p> <p>Use of resources - Network contracts will be reviewed to ensure contractors are providing the full service they are compensated for.</p> <p>Processes - To build resilience into the operating model, processes need to be reviewed, optimised and automated.</p>	

Summary Update

Water
 Non-Financial Mandatory Performance Measures report completed
 Completed 167 Service Requests; 139 SRs to City Care and 28 SRs to Utilities

Wastewater
 Completed High Street Pipe Renewal/Lining - 372m x 300mm diameter
 Completed Worksop Road Pipe Renewal/Lining - 821.47m x 300 mm diameter

Treatment Plants
 The Homebush primary pond 1B has now been drained ready for the removal of some 50-70m3 of sludge followed by an inspection and report on the 4m2 bulge in the liner. Performance of the other primary and secondary ponds is being monitored during this time.

The Compliance Management platform for Drinking Water Standards and Resource Consent management is in the final phases of implementation. Training occurs mid-August. Reporting from this tool will be used from 1 July 2024.

Work on the Health & Safety procedures and protocols at the plants is being shaped. This will be undertaken in conjunction with the Corporate Services Team. Commencement of this work is expected end of August 2024.

Solid Waste
 Work is underway to deliver on some of the initiatives in the waste management minimisation programme. The project team will start looking at going to market for the next contract engagement due next calendar year.

Top Issues and Risks	Impact Details	Mitigations	Impact
Health & Safety	Incidents & injuries	Review of procedures, development of an audit programme and H & S operational training	
Failure of critical assets	Loss of service delivery	Asset Management System Condition Assessments Demand Management	
Poor project delivery & contract management	Scope creep, poor quality & over budget	PM methodology and contract management process being reviewed	

Projects, Assets & Compliance:

Reporting Period: June - August 2024

On track/low impact	At risk/ medium impact	Behind plan/ high risk
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COMPLIANCE

Compliance	Update	Status:
Resource Consents	<p>Henley Lake Consent – Application lodged, working with GWRC on some additional information requested</p> <p>Opaki Water Race – Draft consent to extension has been shared with Council. Please see synopsis attached on further info relating to the race.</p> <p>Homebush WWTP – Review by GM required. This was placed on hold prior to reform</p>	
Drinking Water Standards	Changes to Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules in 2022 have resulted in a technical non-compliance. The change requires continuous monitoring of some parameters. This has required installation of new technology. Systems are now installed.	

Youth Hub	Overall Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prefabbed toilets are mid fabrication Physical work on the 3 waters services is near complete The coffee cart – Rad Pad has been relocated 	

Animal Shelter	Overall Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has now been fully executed with MB Brown Contractor now has possession of the site Physical works scheduled to commence end August 2024 with an estimated practical completion date of August 2025. 	

PROJECTS 2023 +

Hood Infrastructure	Overall Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting design has been awarded to Aecom and the work has commenced with a potential delivery date for design 23 August. Physical work on asphaltting runway recommences Sept/Oct 2024 (weather dependent). On budget. Engineering design for services is in progress 	

Hood Certification	Overall Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification application was submitted to Civil Aviation Authority for processing mid July 2024. The Runway End Safety Area (RESA) application has been submitted to CAA, with CAA providing a tentative turn around time of 3-6 months. Tentative response time is circa November 2024 CEO training occurs mid August 2024 	

Storm & Wastewater Strategy (Cockburn/Taranaki St Trial)	Overall Status:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project streams are actively delivering on various components of the programme, i.e.. Instrument installation in the field for data collection and analysis, preparation of a hydraulic model set up for a specified period to assess hot spots and network behaviours, further review of cross connections and categorization of potential cost and remedial work required etc. First roadmap workshop was on 8 July 2024 Repairs made to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 5 manholes in Taranaki Street have been replaced. - A further 2 manholes have been scheduled for replacement A project update has been issued to the impacted residents A project page for future comms has been set up on the MDC website Next workshop is scheduled for 26 August 2024. 	

Top Issues and Risks	Impact Details	Mitigations	Impact
Poor project delivery	Scope creep, poor quality & over budget	PM methodology processes are under review. Plan for implementation to commence early September is underway	
Resources	Delivery to programme	Project schedules will be reviewed frequently. All projects have now been allocated. Weekly reporting in place.	

Projects, Assets & Compliance:

Reporting Period: June – August 2024

On track/low impact

At risk/ medium impact

Behind plan/ high risk

PROJECTS 2024 +

Town Hall

Overall Status:

- Council have appointed an external planning consultant to submit Councils consent application for the demolition of the building on its behalf, thereby removing any conflict of interest
- A Heritage Architect/Planner has been engaged to complete a 'heritage report' as required under the combined operational district plan.
- Consent application will be submitted post receipt of the heritage report
- Tender documentation for the demolition will be drafted during the consent application phase

Waiata House Extension

Overall Status:

- The tender for a Lead Architect closes on 9 August. The tender evaluation will be complete within two weeks.
- Appointment is expected to be September 2024

Library

Overall Status:

- The tender for a Lead Architect closed on 24 July. A total of 14 tenders was received. Evaluation occurs over the next two weeks, with a projected start date for the successful tenderer of early September 2024. A detailed project plan is expected in September 2024.

Local Water Done Well

Overall Status:

- A small project team has been established to look at options for MDC, Carterton DC and South Wairarapa DC. These team members represent each of the Councils in the Wellington Regional Project which is working on what kind of model this new entity might operate under and the funding and funding mechanisms that can be deployed. The team is led by Robyn Wells (SWDC) with Johannes Ferreira (CDC) and Maseina Koneferenisi (MDC). Peter Wimsett (Tararua DC) is now part of the project team, representing Tararua DC.
- The team will workshop the process to date and next steps to each council before the combined council forum
- A Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) is being worked through by the project team at present
- The Wellington Regional Project team will present to the combined council forum on 28 August 2024
- The Wellington Regional Project team will provide the draft report encompassing the 10 councils (as per MOU) at the end of August for review and feedback
- The appropriate consultation steps are to be established

Facilities & Open Spaces:

Reporting Period: June – August 2024

On track/low impact

At risk/ medium impact

Behind plan/ high risk

PROJECTS

Douglas Villa Ramp	Overall Status:	
All construction work has been completed. A couple of issues have been identified with the quality of the new galvanised hand-rail, which have delayed the sign-off of the building consent, Officers are working with the Contractor to resolve, this has not affected Club access.		
Playground replacements	Overall Status:	
Henley Lake playground upgrade - The steering group, after reviewing four proposals have settled on the preferred design and work is being progressed to finalise the contract with Creo. Design plans will be released to the community when appropriate. Masterton Host Waipoua Lions and Lansdowne Residents Assn have committed financial support to provide play components for the upgrade. Henley Trust are also considering financial support.		
Trust House Rec Center	Overall Status:	
Officers are continuing to work through the Condition Report recommendations, the three areas of roof that require attention will be progressing to tender once designs for two areas are finalised. An updated structural engineering assessment of the stadium is underway. The Consultant engaged for the needs and feasibility study of the stadium has been meeting with users.		
Riverside Park Cemetery Upgrade	Overall Status:	
Balance of winter planting to be completed, local Hapu have expressed interest in the cleared area beside the Ruamahunga River where GWRC are working due to its historical relevance. Officers will have a Master Plan developed for the Cemetery before engaging in any further development. This will provide a lay-out design and guide how future expansion will be managed, ensuring it has the capacity to meet multi-cultural needs of the community.		
Motuwaireka Stream edge stabilisation	Overall Status:	
Work is progressing to procure engineering services to investigate the best approach to resolve the remaining Northern Reserve bank erosion, alongside the services of an Ecologist. Consultation with local Hapu, and Iwi has begun, wider community consultation will follow – this work is funded by Central Govt. to improve flood resilience. Project reporting to Crown Infrastructure has begun.		
Upcoming work	Overall Status:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Councils building and property portfolio to identify assets that could be considered for disposal Development and update to strategic plans Introduce asset management practices Lease policy and asset disposal policy 		

Summary Update

Facilities

- The re-designed Waiata House HVAC system procurement of Contractors to carry out installation of the design is a step closer. Consultant support is in place to review the design material and progress the Tender documentation.
- A recently vacated Chapel Street Senior Housing unit will be refurbished over several weeks before it will be made available to a person on the waiting list, which still sits at around 60 persons. All other units are occupied.
- Support will be provided to Wairarapa Netball to help safely address the bird presence above the artificial courts, which will have a flow on benefit of extending the life of the surfaces, with reduced cleaning required.
- A review of the Pioneer Sports Club Fire Safety system has identified the need for a new Fire Report, which will be commissioned for the B-Wof requirements.

Open Spaces

- Work to reinstate the Green Space in QEP is underway, the successful Matariki Light display was affected by heavy rain, the grass surfaces suffered from the public foot traffic viewing the displays but will recover.
- Winter planting programmes are continuing – phase two of the new southern roundabout planting will begin in August.
- The winter street tree maintenance programme is scheduled to start, significant work in Renall Street to address the serious root damage impact to the northern footpath, will see intensive pollarding and some tree removal if the Arborist recommends it. Members of the public have been injured from falls due to the state of the footpath, this work also triggers concerns from some over the loss of trees. The residents have been advised of the potential removal.
- Pedestrian access between Montgomery Crescent and Roberts Road is being improved with vegetation removal complete and a new concrete path being installed.

Top Issues and Risks	Impact details	Mitigations	Impact
Trust House Recreation Centre roofing issue	Water egress poses risk to electrics and hydraulics for the elevator. (Internal parapet panels form part of flashing system)	Design work in progress. Monitoring condition.	
Tinui Water Treatment Plant - land stability	Officers have reported a slip adjacent to the vehicle driveway access to the Water Treatment Plant. Subsequent site inspection also noted a crack across the land platform where water tanks are positioned. Future periods of heavy rain could further destabilise the site, placing water supply for Tinui at risk if site slipped.	Engineer engaged to carry out testing of the ground surface, and to provide recommendations on how to address any issues they uncover. Retaining wall installation for driveway has been priced, pending full site assessment.	

8.5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

File Number:

Author: Kym Fell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE

The purpose of the attached report is to provide Council with an update on Council operations (as at 2 August 2024).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Chief Executive's Report as at 2 August 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Chief Executive's Report [↓](#)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

7 AUGUST 2024

This report provides an update on key activities, progress on strategic priorities, and notable challenges since the last meeting. It reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and the pursuit of excellence in serving our district.

Engagements / Hui:

Castlepoint Residents & Ratepayers Association, NZ Police Acting Area Commander, WREMO (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office) Regional Manager, Local Business Owners, Property Developers, Department of Internal Affairs, Labour and National Members of Parliament, Chief Executives from Trust House, Masterton Trust Lands Trust, and neighbouring Territorial Authorities and the LWDW Chief Executive Steering Group.

Upcoming events: Local Government New Zealand (21 August), Taituara – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa (11 Sept), Water NZ (25 Sept)

Awards Finalist:

Masterton District Council has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 LGNZ (Local Government New Zealand) SuperLocal Awards. We are absolutely thrilled to be recognised in the SuperEngaged Award category, which celebrates fresh and creative ways councils encourage community participation in local government.

Our engagement efforts around *Your Place, Your Plan – the 2024/34 Long-Term Plan* is shining bright among the finalists, alongside Marlborough District Council's "Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study" and Porirua City Council's "How video submissions changed the face of Porirua City's LTP (Long Term Plan) consultation".

The winner will be announced at the Fulton Hogan Premier Gala Dinner and LGNZ SuperLocal Awards Night on Friday, 23rd August, in Wellington.

Assura Health & Safety Platform:

The end of June saw the rollout to all staff of the new health and safety reporting platform, Assura. This is a major step in the revitalisation of the health and safety culture here at Masterton District Council. The rollout programme required all staff to attend training workshops to understand the expectations of them, and to download and learn the new tool in situ. These workshops have been well received, and the focus on Health and safety has shifted within the organisation – moving from a compliance activity to a value-added solution-focused activity.

Technology:

We have started delivering several technology projects, including a major upgrade of our information management portal (SharePoint). We are also in the final stages of procuring an asset management software, improving the functionality of GIS, and introducing a new digitisation/process improvement tool called Flowingly. These systems move us towards our goal of implementing smarter digital solutions that will enable us to automate processes to

remove duplication, reduce the risk of systems failure, and to ensure we deliver a more seamless end-user experience.

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Representative

Council has received correspondence from Pikitia Tuuta, Pou Whakahaere (General Manager) of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust, advising that the board members of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust held a meeting on Monday 29th July 2024. A decision at that meeting was to appoint Robin Potangaroa as the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Representative to Masterton District Council.

We welcome Robin to this vital role and look forward to his contribution and insights on behalf of Ngāti Kahungunu.

Fundraising Trust

I have instructed staff to work with former Mayor Bob Francis in setting up a fundraising trust to support his commitment to raising money toward upcoming community facilities - primarily the Town Hall project adopted by council as part of the 2024/34 LTP.

We anticipate hosting The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Mr Francis, and his team of trustees next month to finalise the terms of the trust prior to this exciting community project kicking off.

Local Government New Zealand Membership

At the 26 June 2024 Council meeting, Council requested the Chief Executive report on the costs to Council of being a part of LGNZ and what benefits that brings to Council.

A full overview of the services LGNZ provide is available at their website here:

<https://www.lgnz.co.nz/>

Examples of where LGNZ provide value to MDC include:

- Their advocating for local government on issues with Central Government.
 - An example of our recently using this includes recent discussion on the Fast Track bill.
- Accessing research they have commissioned for local government purposes.
 - An example of our recently using this includes the recent public information campaign about rates increases and what rates pay for.
- Using them to amplify our local views as part of their ongoing relationship with the government ministers.
 - An example of our recently using this includes the meeting they run for elected members around local zones (e.g. Rural & Provincial / Wellington Zone 4)
- Using networking opportunities they provide us with other local authorities and with central government.
 - An example of our recently using this includes those meeting mentioned above, the LGNZ conference, and subject-specific webinars.

- The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, an initiative we have seen success with to help boost employment and training opportunities for young people across our district.
 - This is an annual programme, which saw us recently recognising the achievements of 58 local young people and 32 businesses in July.
- Accessing professional development programmes they have created for local government organisations.
 - An example of our recently using this includes the Good Governance Guide for newly elected members.
- Using LGNZ templates and guides.
 - An example of our recently using this includes their standing orders and code of conduct templates.

Last year's membership cost was \$42,686.

8.6 MEETING REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

File Number:

Authoriser: Gary Caffell, Mayor

PURPOSE

Councillors are appointed to a number of external groups and organisations as representatives of Masterton District Council. This agenda item allows Councillors to report back on meetings attended in that capacity.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the verbal meeting reports from Councillors.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.7 MAYOR'S REPORT

File Number:

Author: Gary Caffell, Mayor

PURPOSE

The Mayor will provide a verbal report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council receives the verbal report from the Mayor

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 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 for the passing of this resolution
<p>9.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of Council Meeting held on 26 June 2024</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest</p> <p>s7(2)(d) - the withholding of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public</p> <p>s7(2)(e) - the withholding of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures that</p>	<p>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</p>

	<p>prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	
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