

Rural and Coastal Advisory Group

Chair	TBC
Members	6-8 members made up of 4-6 rural/coastal members, 2 Councillors
Quorum	4 or 5 (<i>depending on final number of members</i>)
Frequency of meeting	Quarterly or as required

1. Purpose

The Rural and Coastal Advisory Group's purpose is to provide the Council with a perspective on issues associated with Council services affecting rural and coastal communities. The Group's advice will contribute to ensuring that the wellbeing of the district's rural and coastal communities is taken into account for Council policy decisions and planning for the district's future.

The purpose of a Rural and Coastal Advisory Group will be to allow advocacy for this community to Council and Committees of South Wairarapa. This will be a rural/coastal perspective on issues associated with council services affecting rural communities (e.g. roads and rates), with the potential to align and coordinate Wairarapa wide. It will ensure that the rural perspective is considered for Council policy decisions and planning, and supports the purpose of local government under the [Local Government Act 2002](#), to enable democratic local decision-making and actions by, and on behalf of, communities.

The Coastal & Rural Advisory Group will also enable section 14 (1b) of [The Local Government Act 2002](#): A local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of all of its communities.

2. Key responsibilities

To provide Council with advice on the following:

- the development of Council policies, plans and strategies as they relate to rural and coastal issues,
- Council engagement with the district's rural and coastal communities, and
- any matter of particular interest or concern to rural and coastal communities connected with the functions of the Council, including, but not limited to, rates, funding, rural roading, forestry, water resilience, water quality, the Wairarapa Combined District Plan, spatial planning, economic development, civil defence, climate change impacts, coastal issues, and bylaws.

3. Reporting

It is expected that the group will report back to Council on a quarterly basis, or as required if there is an urgent need for advice on a particular matter. The Chair will be responsible for ensuring that reports are written or delivered verbally within meeting timeframes as supplied by the Governance Team.

4. Membership

The Council Rural and Coastal Advisory Group will be made up of up to six to eight members including two elected members with the remaining community members appointed through an expression of interest process. Community members from any rural or coastal area that is not within the urban townships of Featherston, Greytown or Martinborough can apply.

5. Criteria for community members:

A selection panel will appoint the four to six community members. Membership will be considered based on:

- ability to provide advice on rural and coastal issues
- understanding of the South Wairarapa District rural and coastal communities living or working in a role serving the rural and coastal communities within the South Wairarapa District
- association with a rural/coastal sector group, organisation or rural/coastal community
- Their understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The time commitment will involve attending at least two formal meetings a year (2-4 hours) and meeting preparation (reading time for reports and other material provided prior to meetings), with additional forums or workshops as required. Further input may be requested through additional meetings, emails and/or surveys.

Once the Council Rural and Coastal Advisory Group is selected, the meeting times will be set, with consideration of times and locations that are as convenient as possible for Advisory Group members.