



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Kia Reretahi Tātau

AGENDA

Strategy Working Committee Meeting Wednesday, 30 July 2025

I hereby give notice that a Strategy Working Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 30 July 2025

Time: 10:00 am

**Location: Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street
Martinborough**

**Janice Smith
Chief Executive Officer**

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

Kia hora te marino
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tātou i ā tātou katoa
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!

May peace be widespread
May the seas be like greenstone
A pathway for us all this day
Let us show respect for each other
For one another
Bind us all together!

2 APOLOGIES**3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST****4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES****5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION****6 URGENT BUSINESS**

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2025

Author: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 2 July 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Minutes of the Strategy Working Committee Meeting held on 2 July 2025

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

- PRESENT:** Cr Martin Bosley (Chair), Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Aidan Ellims (via MS Teams from 10:17am), Cr Colin Olds , Cr Rebecca Gray (via Audio from 10:12; in person from 10:30am) and Ms Violet Edwards.
- APOLOGIES:** Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter, Cr Kaye McAulay, Mayor Martin Connelly and Cr Pip Maynard.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Russell O'Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), James O'Connor (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Charly Clarke (Chief Financial Officer), Tim Langley (Principal Advisor, Roding), Melissa Stockley (Manager, Community Operations), Peter Trafford (Principal Advisor – Three Waters), Sarah Pearson-Coats (Lead Advisor, Property Portfolio), and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees).
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was live-streamed is available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 10:12am to 11:36am except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/106

Moved: Ms V Edwards

Seconded: Cr A Woodcock

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept apologies from Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Kaye McAulay, Mayor Connelly and Cr Maynard; and late arrival for Cr Ellims.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Plimmer disclosed a non-financial interest in relation to item 13.4 (close relationship) and did not participate in discussion or vote on this item.

Ms Edwards disclosed a non-financial interest in relation to item 13.1 (close relationship) and did not participate in discussion or vote on this item.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES

There were no acknowledgements and tributes.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/107

Moved: Cr C Olds

Seconded: Ms V Edwards

1. That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 4 June 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.
2. That the public excluded minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 4 June 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

In Favour: Cr A Woodcock, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds, Cr R Gray and Ms V Edwards

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr A Plimmer

CARRIED

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising.

9 REPORT BACKS AND REQUESTS FROM MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

9.1 REPORT BACK AND UPDATES FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

There were no updates or report backs from the Community Boards

Cr Ellims arrived via MS Teams at 10:17am.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

10.1 ACTION ITEMS

Members queried item 321/322 – Officers clarified these actions will be completed under the Speed Management Plan which is currently being consulted on.

11 CHAIRPERSON REPORTS

11.1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cr Bosley spoke to matters included in the report on Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter's behalf. Members discussed their views in regard to progressing a letter of support to enable investigations by NZTA.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/108

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to write a letter of endorsement for the Remutaka Road Action Group supporting their aims of:

- a. An investigation into a new alternate highway over the Remutaka Hill.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds and Ms V Edwards

Against: Cr A Woodcock and Cr R Gray

CARRIED 5/2

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/109

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to write a letter of endorsement for the Remutaka Road Action Group supporting their aims of:

- b. Having the Remutaka Hill Road included in the government's list of Roads of National Significance.

In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Woodcock, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds and Ms V Edwards

Against: Cr R Gray

CARRIED 6/1

12 APPOINTMENT REPORTS

12.1 INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Cr Ellims, supported by Mr Corbett, spoke to matters included in the report.

Members congratulated the team on the dashboard reporting and presentation of the report. Members were positive to see savings as identified in the report, Mr Corbett stated that the savings will be transferred to renewals.

Cr Gray arrived in person at 10:30am.

Mr Corbett also noted the recent developments with regard to work underway on the Greytown Wheels Park, and noted the Featherston playground completion was on track for the end of August. There has also been progress noted on an asset management planning system.

12.2 MEMBERS FEEDBACK FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

Cr Woodcock provided the updates from Greytown Community Board on behalf of the Chair, Louise Brown: grants allocations, events held in June including the Volunteer Expo and the Volunteer Breakfast; plans for Arbor Day (including honouring of Six Lions for their efforts and keeping traditions alive).

Ms Brown also highlighted Greytown Community Board members for their hard work and efforts over the last few months to ensure events were a success.

13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/110

Moved: Cr R Gray

Seconded: Cr A Ellims

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	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
13.1 - Papawai Land Exchange	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	Withholding the information is necessary to enable South Wairarapa District Council to negotiate without prejudice or disadvantage.
13.2 - Waters Capital Contracts - Greytown Desludging & Tauwharenikau Pipeline	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	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	Relates to commercially sensitive information regarding contracts for water capital projects.
13.3 - Office Renovation - Financial Approval	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	Relates to the tender process for office renovations.
13.4 - Application for Partial Remission of Rates – Follow-Up Submission	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	This report is regarding ratepayers' application for remission and shouldn't be in public.

CARRIED

14 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11:36am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

9 REPORT BACKS AND REQUESTS FROM MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

9.1 REPORT BACK AND UPDATES FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

Author: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

File Number: N/A

PURPOSE

To inform members of any key reports and updates from the Māori Standing Committee and the Community Boards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members of the Māori Standing Committee and the Community Boards are invited to attend and present their report backs and updates to the Strategy Working Committee. This is a standing item on the Strategy Working Committee agenda.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the [Māori Standing Committee](#) is to advocate on behalf of and in the best interests of tāngata whenua in the District (including the descendants of hapū of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa) and to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its obligations to them.

The Māori Standing Committee is comprised of two representatives from each of the three South Wairarapa Marae, two representatives from Pae Tū Mokai o Taurira, one representative from each of the two Wairarapa Iwi, two Councillors, and the Mayor.

Community Boards represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of their community. Specifically, the Board's role is to:

- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community
- prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Council.

The Community Boards are made up of four elected community representatives plus two councillors who advocate for and represent the interests of their community. They play a key role in engaging with community groups. For more information, please visit the links below:

[Greytown Community Board](#)

[Featherston Community Board](#)

[Martinborough Community Board](#)

DISCUSSION

The following members have expressed an interest in providing updates to the Strategy Working Committee at this meeting:

-

APPENDICES

Nil

10 INFORMATION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF**10.1 LGNZ FOUR-MONTHLY REPORT, MARCH-JUNE 2025**

Author: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

PURPOSE

To provide information from LGNZ to members so they can review it and provide feedback.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises LGNZ's work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It's structured around LGNZ's purpose: to serve local government by championing, connecting and supporting members.

BACKGROUND

Please refer to the attached LGNZ Four Monthly report for March to June 2025.

DISCUSSION

Please refer to the attached LGNZ Four Monthly report for March to June 2025.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils, March-June 2025



LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// March - June 2025





Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It’s structured around LGNZ’s purpose: to serve local government by **championing**, **connecting** and **supporting** members.

Please consider putting this report on the agenda for your next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam, Susan or other National Council members are very happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it – just let us know.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

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Introduction

March to June has been intensely busy for LGNZ, as we advocated around reform and other issues like council metrics/profiles, engaged with the Government, and launched new products and services for members.

In early April, LGNZ launched our new *Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights*. This report is exclusive to member councils. It's designed to ensure elected members are the best-informed people on local government economic data. Developed in partnership with Infometrics, *Insights* will be released quarterly, with the second issue published in early July.

Our Ratepayers Assistance Scheme is advancing in leaps and bounds. The RAS would allow ratepayers to borrow cheaply for ratepayer charges like development contributions/levies and rates postponement, and could be used for specific property improvements (like solar panels). It leverages the high credit quality of local government rates to access capital market financing. Minister Watts has written to LGNZ expressing his support and confirming DIA will begin policy work on RAS in August. As well as successfully securing capital commitments from councils and third parties, we are seeing growing media interest in RAS.

Membership was top of mind during this period. Before Easter we sent out invoices alongside our [value of LGNZ membership report](#). This report provided a comprehensive summary of our advocacy wins over the last year, a specific list of how we save councils money, and a summary of all the other work we do for members. While Western Bay of Plenty voted to leave before invoicing started, all other members have since renewed, with the exception of Waikato Regional Council, which is voting again on membership in July.

Other highlights of these four months included:

- We launched pre-elected learning for anyone considering standing for council. This interactive course steps potential candidates through what it means to be an elected member. It's freely available without an Ākōna log-in and has proved very popular.
- Our well-attended 1 May All-of-local-government meeting, focused on delivering infrastructure for growth, featuring an engaging q+a with Minister Watts. Other speakers included Minister for Building and Construction Chris Penk and Simplicity's Sam Stubbs, as well as the Infrastructure Commission, S&P Global Ratings and the Treasury.
- In June we secured funding from councils to sustain Policy.nz, which otherwise would have ceased to exist. This platform allows candidates to upload their profiles and policies so that voters have easy access to this information.
- We have had strong media engagement on issues of the day – from electoral reform to rates capping and benchmarking and the safety of elected members, as well as facilitating the Candidates Corner pre-election series with the Sunday Star-Times.

We always welcome your comments and feedback.

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: March – June 2025 // 4



Champion

Government relations

Because our relationships with individual Ministers are now stronger and more mature, we're increasingly able to have robust and constructive discussions with them. For example, on resource management reform and potential implications for local government's functions/structure, rates capping, and ensuring that funding and financing tools announced as part of Pillar 2 of the Going for Housing Growth programme actually deliver the desired outcomes for councils and communities.

We've been staying closely in touch with Minister Watts on benchmarking (including DIA's metrics release) and rates capping through informal discussion and formal meetings, including in late June.

LGNZ met with the Prime Minister in early April and discussed our approach to the rates capping conversation. We all agree that no one wants high rates increases. We all agree that rates rises need to come down. However, we also set out rates capping's potential unintended consequences for councils and ratepayers (see more on rates capping below). We also note that recent rates increases have been driven by the need to fund essential infrastructure and services – and because of the increasing volume of unfunded mandates from central government.

We met again with the Prime Minister for another of regular meetings in early June. We raised cross-portfolio issues such as pressures on growth councils and low voter turnout in local elections.

Voter authorisation of major projects has been floated by several politicians. This refers to running public referenda to make key decisions, like large infrastructure purposes. We will explore with Ministers whether there is any real commitment to this approach from the Government. We'll also have conversations about this idea with members.

We've also begun quarterly meetings with other political parties, which currently in the policy development phase. We met with Labour's local government spokesperson Tangi Utikere and sought cross-party support for our electoral reform work. We also briefed him on LGNZ's funding and financing tools project, and received an update on Labour's "no unfunded mandates" policy work. We had a meeting with the Green Party in June and we are working to lock in dates with NZ First and ACT. We have a date secured with ACT's local government spokesperson for after SuperLocal.

We have requested to meet with the Justice Select Committee to brief them on our electoral reform work after it is launched at SuperLocal

Media

We have had significant engagement with the media on a range of topics – and are proactive or reactive in our approach depending on the issue at hand.

Late February saw Housing Minister Chris Bishop announce some of the new funding and financing tools we've been calling for, at our Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings. This resulted



in stories appearing on [1News](#), [ThreeNews](#), [RNZ](#), [Stuff](#), [NZ Herald](#), [Gisborne Herald](#), [The Press](#), [The Post](#) and the [Waikato Times](#).

The All-of-local-government meeting also saw media cover topics LGNZ has been championing, from talking about alternatives to rates capping and four-year terms to a new stalking bill and housing growth. Local Government Minister Simon Watt's speech and [rates capping](#) took centre stage, with stories on [Newsroom](#), [NBR](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [RNZ](#), [The Press](#) and [The Post](#).

[Four-year terms](#) for local government has been a popular discussion point. Sam appeared on [Mike Hosking breakfast](#) on [Newstalk ZB](#) to discuss the issue, with his comments included in [The Post](#) and [Waikato Times](#). Mayors Alex Walker and Hon Dr Nick Smith also publicly addressed the issue via the [NZ Herald](#), [1News](#) and [95bFM](#).

Then in March the release of LGNZ's Electoral Reform Working Group's (ERWG) [draft position paper](#) swiftly become one of local government's biggest stories this year. Media were intrigued by the proposed move to booth voting, with stories appearing in the [Post](#), the [Press](#), [Waikato Times](#), [ODT](#) and [NZ Herald](#), and Mayor Nick speaking with [RNZ](#), [Newstalk ZB](#) (also [here](#)) and on [95bFM](#). The announcement continued to spark debate across [Newstalk ZB](#), the [Post](#) and the [Press](#).

[Rates capping](#) continued to be a topic of discussion, with LGNZ President Sam Broughton speaking to [RNZ](#) and [Newstalk ZB](#) on the recent S&P downgrading decision for 18 councils. Rates capping articles also appeared in the [Press](#), the [Post](#) and [Waikato Times](#), with Mayor Neil Holdom appearing on the [Platform](#).

The stalking and harassment of elected members remains in the spotlight. In February LGNZ Chief Executive Susan Freeman-Greene and Invercargill councillor Alex Crackett spoke with [Stuff/ThreeNews](#) and [Newstalk ZB](#) about the Government's proposed [stalking legislation](#), with [RNZ](#) also running a story on this issue. In recent weeks LGNZ's position has carried in stories on [1News](#) and [Stuff](#). LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene spoke alongside multiple councillors and Mayors on [TVNZ Breakfast](#) about the impact this has on members. There have been a large number of follow-up stories in April, driven by [a University of Otago study](#), setting out disturbing behaviour experienced by elected members.

LGNZ also weighed in on the [RMA reforms](#), expressing cautious support while signalling to the Government it needs to ensure that communities have a voice and regional councils play a key role in the changes going forward.

In other funding and financing coverage, LGNZ President Sam Broughton spoke with [the Press](#) about LGNZ's position on a bed tax, while also covering how [GST sharing on new builds](#) could help bring rates down.

[Stuff news](#) and [RNZ](#) covered the Te Maruata hui in April.

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: March – June 2025 // 6



We sent out a media toolkit to Mayors, Chairs and CEs when we released our new Infometrics' quarterly economic insights, with ideas on how councils can use this data to encourage local discussion.

Electoral reform has been a hot topic, with Wellington City Council calling for a [lowering of the voting age](#), Invercargill City Council supporting the report's call for improved [civics education](#), and Ashburton District Council [supporting a shift to four-year terms](#) for local and central government. LGNZ partnered with Infrastructure New Zealand to [urge the Government](#) to include a move to four-year terms for local and central government in the referendum.

Susan's announcement about [moving on from LGNZ](#) in August was covered by [the Post](#), [the Press](#) and [NBR](#).

Ex-Grey Power Vice-President Peter Matcham wrote an [opinion piece](#) in April on why a rates cap should be opposed at all costs. Elected member abuse and harassment also continued to dominate the headlines, with stories appearing on [TVNZ](#), [RNZ](#), the [Press](#) and [ODT](#).

LGNZ waded into the truancy debate, with LGNZ President Sam Broughton saying that the Government asking mayors to help lift school attendance doesn't align with its "back to basics" direction for councils. This was a lead story in the [Post](#), [Press](#) and the [Waikato Times](#). Sam also spoke to [ThreeNews](#) about the Government's new scheme to allow self-assessment for some trade work.

[Elected member safety was in the spotlight](#) following our All-of-local-government meeting in May, where we shared [a new guide for members on how to stay safe](#). This media advocacy led to the Remuneration Authority asking us for the guide, to aid their work towards considering an allowance to support elected members' home safety.

LGNZ's oral submission on congestion charging, led by Transport Forum Chair Mayor Neil Holdom, also resulted in a number of stories across various outlets [calling for more local input](#).

Following the Budget, LGNZ spoke out in support of the Government's [Rates Rebate Scheme](#) expansion to cover all SuperGold card holders, and how increased support for [local journalism](#) will positively impact elections later this year.

We've been working closely with the Sunday Star Times on a "Candidates Corner" series detailing key issues ahead of elections. Recent articles covered [rates capping](#) along with the case for and against [council mergers](#), with Mayor Neil Holdom and Mayor Nick Smith sharing their thoughts.

Rates – and the lack of other revenue-raising options for local government – were the focus of [an article by LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry](#).

LGNZ's [How to stay safe' guide](#) continued to receive positive press in the [Otago Daily Times](#), [Stuff](#), [The Press](#) and [1News](#), while our submission on congestion charging appeared in the [Herald](#) and [RNZ](#). Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs was also in the spotlight, thanks to an article in the [Otago Daily Times](#).

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: March – June 2025 // 7



Local government funding and financing

Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)

On 21 March, Minister Watts wrote to LGNZ expressing his support for the RAS and confirming DIA will begin policy work on the initiative in August. The Minister has asked LGNZ to update the RAS business case to help the work progress quickly. We are working on this with project partners as well as seeking the necessary council capital commitments. With RM reform meaning a move away from development contributions (more on this below), the RAS could support financing of development levies as an alternative to other structures for this purpose (such as the IFFA). The RAS would be cheaper, more efficient and more flexible than the IFFA.

Since then significant progress has been made towards making a decision to establish the RAS. The RAS Steering group has been meeting with local authorities to affirm support for the RAS and secure establishment funding for the scheme. At the request of the Minister for Local Government, the group has also been meeting with developers to test the scheme's design with them. We have secured preliminary equity pledges from councils, and developers are supportive of the scheme.

We have secured a \$400k repayable grant from the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority. We have raised the \$2.5 million to progress to a stop/go decision – and with several councils taking decisions in the next few weeks, we may be a little oversubscribed. This demonstrates the high level of support for the RAS.

DIA continues to engage on the scheme: their substantive policy work is set to begin in August.

Infrastructure funding and financing

The Infrastructure Minister announced changes to New Zealand's infrastructure funding and financing settings at our late February All-of-local-government meeting. The Government will replace development contributions with a development levy system, allowing councils to charge developers a share of long-term infrastructure costs. There will be regulatory oversight of these development levies to ensure charges are fair and appropriate. Councils will also have more flexibility to set targeted rates based on the date of subdivision, allowing them to apply to new developments. Finally, the Infrastructure Funding and Financing (IFF) Act will be improved for developer-led projects and expanded to support major transport projects like those led by NZTA.

LGNZ welcomed these changes, which were in our funding and financing toolkit. We will work with officials to ensure these reforms make sense on the ground for councils.

This legislation likely to be introduced in September. DIA is unlikely to issue a substantive consultation on the changes, although they have engaged with technical experts from high-growth councils, and an early draft may be circulated to some individuals for feedback. While DIA is open to input from councils, given the Government's direction there may be limited scope for changes.

We will continue to engage on the development levy regulation when introduced, and with the regulatory regime. We understand this is likely to be in two stages: initial information disclosure requirements, followed by the creation of a regulator (or empowering an existing regulator with oversight of development levies).

We have raised with Under-secretary Simon Court the importance of balancing local democracy and the needs of communities with changes to the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act. Potential

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changes include limiting councils' ability to withhold endorsements of developer-led special purpose vehicles. We also discussed the need to disentangle the proposed new functions of the IFFA with the RAS, thresholds and legal frameworks for regulatory takings under the forthcoming RMA, and our support for ACT's proposed GST-sharing policy.

Budget 2025

LGNZ was in the Budget lock up so we could [analyse the impact of the Budget on local government](#). There were no significant new local government funding initiatives launched or changes to funding and financing tools. Points of note included the Government:

- Raising the threshold for the rates rebate scheme and increasing the maximum rebate.
- Introducing regionally specific transport funding boosts.
- Announcing new funding for the 2023 North Island weather events recovery.
- Cutting public transport and transport resilience funds.

The Government's accelerated depreciation policy and increases to employer contribution for KiwiSaver will also have impacts for councils.

Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights

On 7 April, LGNZ launched our new Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights report. This report, developed in partnership with Infometrics, will be produced quarterly and provides insights into the economy with specific relevance to local government. The report is exclusive to LGNZ members and is intended to make sure they are the best-informed people on local government economic data. It will also support LGNZ's policy and advocacy work.

The first edition was well received. There were high levels of engagement in the associated zoom, and we received positive and constructive feedback from members. We then worked with Infometrics on the briefing schedule and the next issue, which was released in early July. We are keen to respond to member feedback, and have identified rates capping, contextualising rates against utilities and other charges, and regional sector specific topics as areas to explore in future editions.

DIA metrics release ("council profiles")

These profiles, based on a range of metrics taken from LTPs and annual reports, were originally scheduled to be released on 30 June, although this was later delayed. National Council discussed the profiles and associated issues at a special meeting on 30 May.

In May, LGNZ proactively sought changes from DIA based on a range of concerns. As a result of this advocacy:

- DIA shared group medians and the data of other councils within that council's group.
- Each council profile will now link to that council's website (for example, a page with LTP or other plan data) and councils will be able to specify what page.
- The government metrics website and guide will provide specific context about why some councils might be different from the median; for example, being high growth, high tourism, or recovering from a natural disaster.

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While we are pleased that DIA agreed to these changes as a result of our advocacy, we recognise members will remain concerned that there's not enough information about their specific context, including the specific pressures on your council and how you are dealing with them, or what your community gets for this investment.

On 11 June, we released a guide to support councils' communication planning for the launch, which is now expected to be in mid July. We've received positive feedback on the guide from members.

Regional deals

Cabinet announced that the first Regional Deal Memorandum of Understanding will be decided before July (and announcements of the regions selected were subsequently made in early July). These regions will negotiate a final deal, which may require enabling actions to take place. The end of 2025 is the target for signing the deal.

Rates capping

In March, we submitted on a petition before Parliament seeking to limit local authority rates increases to a maximum of the annual inflation rate. We do not expect this petition to progress through Parliament due to its overlap with the Government's local government work programme. However, submitting on the petition was a good opportunity to set out the clear evidence against rates capping and highlight the pressures facing councils to Parliament.

We understand that rates capping was discussed at the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee in the week of 31 March. To support these discussions, LGNZ sent letters to Ministers on this committee highlighting the likely impacts of rates capping on their portfolios and objectives. LGNZ also reiterated concerns about rates capping to the Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government during our regular meetings as discussed above.

In line with direction from the May National Council meeting, we developed a paper on our approach to rates capping, including that a stronger public campaign may be needed, and shared that with members for discussion at this year's AGM. We also held a zoom to help members prepare for the AGM discussion. If the AGM agrees the direction of travel, then we will develop a plan for this campaign and hold an AGM in 2026 to gain a member mandate before launching that campaign.

We have also supported member advocacy against rates capping by developing and distributing a set of messages and a letter template that can be used by elected members.

As part of our advocacy, there needs to be an acknowledgement of the public mood around rates. We also need to clearly set out other approaches to achieving the Government's aims. To take the next step in our advocacy, we want to engage with members on exactly what this response could look like.

Water services reform

During this period, councils were consulting on aspects of their Water Service Delivery Plans with communities. This has included decision making about the future water services delivery model. For many, this has put these reforms (and their implications for councils) in the spotlight. Plans need to be finalised and submitted to the Secretary for Local Government by 3 September 2025. The

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Minister has called for councils to consider including other councils in their delivery model – and has made it clear that extensions of time are unlikely to be granted.

LGNZ made its oral submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee in March on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill. This submission sought a range of improvements to the legislation to provide greater clarity and certainty for councils. The committee reported back to Parliament on 3 July 2025 and adopted several of our suggested changes. These include: adding supporting growth as an objective for water service providers; clarifying the development contribution provisions to ensure a smoother transition of these for councils who set up water organisations; and clarifying the accountability framework to give water organisations greater separation from shareholding councils (as is the case for other CCOs).

Resource management reform

RMA replacement

The Government announced further details of its plan to replace the Resource Management Act, following the reporting back of the Expert Advisory Group tasked with designing a “blueprint” for replacement legislation. This has significant implications for local government in a variety of areas. The current RMA will be replaced with a Planning Act and a Natural Environment Act. Both will be enabling of development.

While there is plenty to support in the reforms, there is a significant move towards standardisation and narrowing of the scope of the resource management, which could mean limiting local input into planning and environmental management decisions.

We developed and shared [an explainer](#) identifying key issues for councils, and held an Ako Hour webinar with Buddle Finlay on 16 May. We’ve recently shared an analysis of [what we think councils need from the new system](#) and are seeking member feedback.

Another particular area of note is the implications for regional councils if the proposal to remove compliance, monitoring, and enforcement functions and shift them to a centralised body goes ahead. The Government has noted that this raises questions about the structure and functions of the local government system as a whole, and it will consider this and what should be done to address it later this year.

We have raised the issues flagged above in our regular meetings with Under Secretary Simon Court and Minister Chris Bishop, and are approaching the Ministry for the Environment on how we can work more closely with them as further policy decisions are made.

We’re also working closely with Taituarā, Te Uru Kahika, and the New Zealand Planning Institute on our response to the reforms, particularly on how we can collaborate together to input constructively into the new spatial planning system.

National direction changes

The Ministry for the Environment has opened consultation on [16 new or changed pieces](#) of National Direction under the RMA. These are in three packages:

- [Package one](#) – infrastructure and development changes (covering electricity generation and network changes, housing changes, and natural hazards)

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- [Package two](#) – primary sector changes (covering marine aquaculture, highly productive land, commercial forestry, stock exclusion, and mining and quarrying)
- [Package three](#) – proposals to amend the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020. Further consultation will be undertaken later this year through an exposure draft process, which will have more detail.

Consultation for the first three packages is open until 11.59pm, Sunday 27 July. We expect a fourth package looking at how the first pillar of the Going for Housing Growth programme could fit into the new resource management system to be consulted on in early June. We're currently reviewing what all this means for councils and will submit on aspects of these proposals.

Transport

We submitted on the Government's legislation to enable time of use (congestion) charging. While we are highly supportive of time of use charging, we have concerns about the highly centralised model that the Government is proposing, which would see councils having little control of the design or operation of the schemes, and how any revenue from them is spent.

Our Transport Forum met virtually on 12 May. They covered a range of topics: potentially proposing alternatives now that NZTA has halted its proposed emergency works changes; transport perspectives on resource management reform; and an update from the Road Efficiency Group.

Looking ahead, the Government has indicated it will be taking Cabinet decisions on transitioning to Road User Charges for all vehicles this quarter, and we'll be looking closely at the details given the implications it will have for asset management and funding and financing in the transport space.

In April, NZTA announced it would no longer be going ahead with changes to its emergency works funding. These changes would have seen a significant reduction in the additional funding made available to councils to repair transport networks following a natural disaster.

The proposed cuts would have significantly affected local transport networks, particularly in rural areas and other isolated communities, and came at a time where many councils were grappling with the cost of repairing damage caused by the severe weather events of early 2023.

LGNZ advocated strongly on this issue, including through speaking directly with the Minister of Transport and NZTA, submitting on the consultation document, and raising our concerns in the media. NZTA has signalled they will now work on alternative reform options, and we will engage constructively to ensure they land on an option that works for councils.

Climate change

We engaged with the Climate Change Commission on the second National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA). The assessment will look at all the climate risks the country faces and identify priorities to focus on. This risk assessment is due to be delivered to the Minister of Climate Change by August 2026 and will inform the Government's National Adaptation Plan.

With the Government's climate adaptation framework set to be released later this year, we are planning member engagement to inform our submission. This legislation is expected to have



significant impacts for local government and the topic is politically sensitive. Collating and mediating divergent member views will require care.

Other policy issues

Seismic strengthening

With the work of the Government's review into the seismic strengthening regime progressing at pace, our reference group chaired by Manawātū District deputy mayor Michael Ford met to get an update from the local government representatives on the MBIE steering group, and to start considering LGNZ's submission on the eventual legislation.

Electoral Reform Working Group

We consulted on the Electoral Reform Working Group's draft position paper, with this closing on Monday 28 April. Engagement included all zone meetings, the Local Government Business Forum, and with members of Auckland Council's local boards.

The Electoral Reform Working Group presented its final recommendations for endorsement by National Council at its May meeting. After National Council agreed to the working group's recommendations, we finalised the position paper. This will be launched at SuperLocal by working group chair Mayor Nick Smith. As well as this plenary session, the working group will host a breakout that explores the final recommendations in depth.

We are now planning post-launch actions, in terms of government relations and concepts like a local government week.

In June we secured funding from councils to sustain Policy.nz, which otherwise would have ceased to exist. The Electoral Reform Working Group's recommendations reinforce the importance of voters being able to access information about candidates and their policies.



Connect

Member visits and zone engagement

We continued our member visits, visiting, Waipa District, Waikato Regional, Waitomo District, Tauranga City, Whanganui District, and Manawatu District during this period as well as connecting with a range of Mayors and CEs.

Sam or Campbell and at least one LT member attended in-person all zone meetings between March and June.

Women in Local Government

In late February we emailed all women elected members with an update on our work, including a link to a Whatsapp group where they can chat with each other, our advocacy on the anti-stalking legislation and a link to Australian research. More recently we have facilitated media around the threats some women are experiencing, with Susan also providing comment as discussed in the media section above. Minister for Women Nicola Grigg launched a toolkit targeted at women leaders at our 1 May All-of-local-government meeting, which has been positively received.

We are planning a breakfast event ahead of SuperLocal, which has strong registrations. The keynote speaker will be former Minister Tracey Martin.

All-of-local-government meetings

The 1 May All-of-local-government meeting was the last before the elections. Before the main programme, we held a session on abuse and harassment that elected members are facing. Minister Nicola Grigg will launch her toolkit, and a guest speaker from Reliance Risk covered practical tools and strategies any elected member can use when you're faced with this behaviour in the community. We also launched a toolkit that pulled together all the work we have done on elected member safety and security in the past 18 months, so that it's easy for members to access and use.

The main programme for that meeting focused on delivering infrastructure for growth. Highlights included Minister Watts participating in an engaging q+a with attendees, speakers including Minister for Building and Construction Chris Penk, industry thought leaders such as Infrastructure Commission and Simplicity's Sam Stubbs, as well as speakers from S&P Global Ratings, the Treasury, and the Opposition – alongside a number of high-quality case studies.

We are having early conversations with current sector chairs to plan for the November sector meetings. These sector meetings will be an opportunity to connect as a sector for the first time in the new triennium and vote on sector chairs. There will be time set aside for priority setting, which will feed into subsequent National Council strategy sessions.

The theme for the first All-of-local-government meeting of the new triennium in February will be "Making an impact in our communities – the role of data, collaboration and innovation". We are currently working to secure Sir Brian Roche as our keynote speaker.

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SuperLocal25

We launched promotion and registration for SuperLocal 2025 on 10 April. We have a stellar line up of speakers One NZ's Chief Executive Jason Paris, who will provide his reflections on the value of a strong local government sector to the business community; Google Cloud New Zealand's Natalie de Boursac who heads the local government team and will focus on technology's role in driving efficiencies and high performance; and our final key note speaker Mark Di Somma – a strategist behind LGNZ's first localism campaign. Key political speakers include Deputy Prime Minister David Seymour, Minister Chris Bishop, Minister Simon Watts and Minister James Meager (with Minister Louise Upston speaking to MTFJ), along with the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister will be providing a video.

The programme was finalised in June, with speaker briefings and panel meetings underway. We have a comprehensive breakout programme this year to complement a tightened plenary, with a wide range of topics covering current issues and reforms, driving change, tools for success and benchmarking.

Our three key pieces of LGNZ work launching at Superlocal are an economic data piece which quantifies the contribution of local government's investment to the country's economy; the final recommendations from the Electoral Reform Working Group Chaired by Mayor Nick Smith; and a guide spearheaded by CBEC on improving relationships between councils and community boards.

Sponsorship has been strong despite a difficult economic environment. Similarly, exhibitors have been strong, with booths sold out. We have successfully used all our channels to promote attendance and we are also keeping a close eye on conference costs.

Finalists for the SuperLocal Awards have been announced. We saw an excellent quantity and calibre of entries this year, with the largest category receiving over 20 entries. Winners will be announced at the Awards Night, again sponsored this year by Fulton Hogan. Our judges have been very generous with their time – it has not been a small task to review, score and comment on every entry.

2026 events calendar and forward planning

We have developed a draft events calendar for 2026 that has received National Council feedback and will be circulated to members in July.

Vote25

We updated the Candidates Guide and other material on the Taituarā-hosted VoteLocal website – this has launched with the Ākōna pre-elected learning for candidates (discussed further below).

We are rolling out a social media campaign designed to support people to register, stand and vote. This includes a focus on what councils do and why this matters to communities.

We have been engaging with policy.nz, which has struggled to secure funding for its web platform for candidates. We are pleased to report that in June LGNZ coordinated between councils to raise the funding needed to keep the platform in place for the 2025 elections. Policy.nz is the only comprehensive, nationwide source of candidate information that's hosted by a neutral third party. Being able to easily find out information about candidates is an important part of the local



democratic process and policy.nz was identified as a useful tool for voters by our Electoral Reform Working Group.

Regional Sector

The President briefed Chairs, Mayors, and CEs of the Regional Sector in April on his conversation with the PM around potential impacts on local government of RM reform. There was a discussion on the best approach to this issue at the regular LGNZ meeting with Minister Bishop.

The May Regional Sector Meeting focused on the future resource management system, with Secretary for the Environment James Palmer speaking. The meeting also included engagement with the Minister of Conservation, Māori Crown Relations and Māori Development Tama Potaka.

LGNZ has supported planning for Te Uru Kahika's plenary session, which brings together CEs, Chairs and Mayors, and the leaders of the Te Uru Kahika's special interest groups. This will be held on 11 September 2025.

We have been working with the new Chair and co-deputy Chair to help establish them in their new roles. The next Regional Sector meeting will be online on the morning of 8 August. This is likely to focus on the wide range of reforms currently affecting the Regional Sector, including resource management and water.

LGNZ Acting Policy Director Simon Randall will accompany the Regional Sector on their annual pre-conference tour, which will visit the West Coast.

Te Maruata

Te Maruata whānui held an in-person hui in Taupō from 3-4 April with the theme Ngā Maunga Koutuutu. This acknowledges the three tipuna maunga in the rohe and the role they hold in terms of kaitiakitanga. It also references bringing people together to wānanga and share kōrerō and insights to support each other. Over 60 Te Maruata members from across the motu attended the event. Speakers included Tina Porou (Poipoia), Sharon Te Rangi (Tainui Live) and Lauren Fletcher (Tūrangitukua Chair) covering kaupapa such as Taiao, Partnership and Elections. Members visited key locations in Taupō including He Whare Hono o Tūwharetoa – a building owned by Tūwharetoa that brings together the Iwi, council and other key agencies under one roof; and Pūkawa Marae, a significant landmark in the connection between Tūwharetoa and the Kiingitanga. The final evening was a celebration of all the great mahi the network has seen over the last triennium, with Trevor Maxwell and Peter Moeahu being inducted into the Te Maruata Hall of Fame.

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere met in April and are working on several key kaupapa, including supporting the development of a plan that spans Vote25, elections and induction, to support Te Maruata members and councils holding referendum. Also top of mind is Te Maruata involvement in the development and delivery of SuperLocal.

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere met again at the end of May for an in-person hui. Several key kaupapa were discussed, including preparations for SuperLocal 25. The Te Maruata pre-conference hui will be held on 15 July at the Christchurch Town Hall, with the theme being Te ngana o Tū te pou o Rongo – which speaks to the balance of all things and how this intersects the roles and responsibilities of Māori elected members.

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Te Maruata rōpū whakahaere will be supporting several aspects of the SuperLocal programme including the whakatau, poroporoaki, awards and breakout sessions.

Also discussed at the hui were opportunities to guide RM reform submissions, the ongoing workplan and the mahi around support heading into elections (specifically around Māori wards referenda), and induction.

Young Elected Members Network

We are producing an induction document for YEM that includes its history, the purpose of the committee, the programme of events and key achievements so far. We are working with the YEM Committee on a plan to release it.

The Young Elected Member Network committee met in early June to sign off the programme for their pre-Conference hui. Former National Minister Paula Bennett and Former Labour Minister Kelvin Davis will be guest speakers.

The committee agreed a fee would apply for all in-person events in the next triennium, apart from the pre-conference hui for member councils. The committee noted that, to stay true to the network's roots, YEM events need to strike the right balance between a structured agenda with time to network and leveraging the safe space YEM has created over the years.

Community Boards

CBEC met in May to discuss a range of issues including their forthcoming guide launch at SuperLocal. CBEC will have a booth in the exhibition space so that this work has maximum visibility and we are working with them on what that will look like.



Support

Ākona and Induction 2025

The pre-election learning was launched on 14 April. This interactive course steps potential candidates through what it means to be an elected member. It offers three videos, two e-modules and a range of downloadable resources designed to educate potential candidates and offer insight to the general public on the reality of being an elected member. The three animated videos look at: 'Structure of Local Government', 'Roles within a council' and 'How councils are funded'. The two e-modules cover: 'Stepping into Local Leadership: The role of an elected member' and 'Stepping into Local Leadership: The life of an elected member'.

As of mid-June, since the launch of the pre-election learning, the site had received 1,028 views, with 453 people actively accessing the learning. These are very good numbers, especially given registration to run for office did not open until 1 July and interest in elections is only just ramping up. Feedback from councils has been all positive, with those spoken to confirming that they are sharing the links and promoting the learning on their websites.

We have decided to allow non-members to attend Mayors' and Chairs' Schools and elected members induction at a premium rate. We believe this is appropriate from the principle of supporting councils setting themselves up for success at the start of the triennium. Attending helps non-members understand the full breadth of LGNZ's work and makes rejoining more likely. The price differential will be sufficient to avoid disincentivising membership.

Logistics for the Mayor Induction, Chair Induction and EM Induction hui are almost in place with agenda construction nearly finalised.

In other work, development of the Team Builder Toolkit is going well and it's on track for release in August. Development of the 2026 workshop schedule and Ako Hour Academy schedule is also going well, with both due for release in July. Construction of the updated Ākona site and conversion of the Emodules is nearing completion. The Ākona team continues to work with councils to ascertain what local content they want added to the Ākona site.

Te Korowai – CouncilMARK

In April, we launched the new Te Korowai webpage and digital prospectus, making it easier than ever for councils to explore what the new programme offers and how it can support their improvement journey.

We have already completed three assessments under the new programme,:

- Waikato Regional Council
- Otago Regional Council
- Ōtorohanga District Council

In May, we were on the ground with Central Hawke's Bay District Council for their on-site assessment. Next up, we're excited to launch the Integrity Survey with Marlborough District Council



ahead of their July assessment. This will be our first unitary authority to participate under the refreshed Te Korowai banner. Central Otago District Council is also preparing for its assessment in August.

Undertaking an assessment during an election year provides multiple benefits: it supports operational continuity, offers valuable insights for incoming elected members, and gives councils a clear, independent view of how they're tracking—like a 'warrant of fitness' for local government.

For councils not ready to commit to a full assessment, Te Korowai also offers staged entry options. A great starting point is the Integrity Survey. This tool goes beyond traditional engagement surveys by assessing how well strategy and values are aligned across the organisation, including with elected members. It's also an effective early intervention tool for identifying issues before they escalate.

Other staged options allow councils to focus on specific areas—for example, a targeted assessment of financial health.

Te Korowai is presenting at SuperLocal as part of two breakout sessions.

Roading Efficiency Group

The Road Efficiency Group (REG) programme is now in its 10th year of LGNZ involvement, and is coming to the end of this financial year's work plan. We are proud to be a Roothing Efficiency Group (REG) partner and will continue to support the 2024-2027 programme.

We have worked hard to further develop the REG relationship and ensure alignment with our Transport Forum and add value where we can.

Our involvement provides increased support for the sector, and over the past five months we have seen significant increased activity in the REG programme. We are planning to develop an online platform for REG, which involves developing an online learning solution for REG and migrating all the historical content over the course of the next two years to Ākōna.

REG is presenting at Conference as part of two breakout sessions.

Governance support

We are currently supporting several councils to navigate sensitive issues, albeit on the sidelines given we have not formally been asked by the council to intervene. Alongside this work are the numerous calls we receive for general advice and support.

Work continues on updating LGNZ's suite of governance guides. The first products of the shelf were the Standing Orders' templates and the Standing Orders' Guide. The templates and Guide were updated to reflect legislative changes made over the last three years and to incorporate additional guidance where this has been requested, for example, information on workshops following advice from the Ombudsman and clarity on the new quorum rules.

Other guides to be updated include:

- Guidance for new mayors and chairs;



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- The community boards' governance guide (this will also include the council/community board relationship guide when complete);
 - The tax guide for elected members; and
 - The CE Recruiting Guide.

LGNZ has received a number of queries from councils about whether our Code of Conduct template will be updated. We have plans to streamline the Code of Conduct template, based on feedback from users. However, the Local Government Commission has been charged with developing a model Code of Conduct, and there may be further changes as a result of the LGA amendment bill due to be introduced in the middle of the year. So our template update is on hold until the picture is clearer.

Work is also underway on a Guide to help councils determine governance and decision-making structures. This Guide is intended to assist councils to look at the pros and cons of different governing arrangements, such as the pros and cons of establishing committees, whether committees should have delegated responsibilities, or simply be advisory, and whether they should be committees of the whole, or not.

10.2 ACTION ITEMS

Author: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

Authoriser: Matt Vins, Manager, Corporate Support

File Number: Not applicable

PURPOSE

To present the Committee with updates on actions and resolutions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Action items from recent meetings are presented to the Committee for information.

BACKGROUND

The Chair may ask the Chief Executive for comment and all members may ask the Chief Executive for clarification and information through the Chair.

If the action has been completed between meetings it will be shown as 'actioned' for one meeting and then will remain in a master register but no longer reported on. Procedural resolutions are not reported on.

DISCUSSION

Please refer to the report appendix.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 **Action items update, 30 July 2025**

Resolution /Action Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Status	Notes
321	16 Aug 23	J O'Connor	Originally tasked by Hearings Committee: To request Māori Standing Committee representatives to communicate proposals regarding signage near marae and report back to Council Officers prior to further recommendations to Council.	Open	12/03/25: Original action from Hearings Committee 16 August 2023, transferred to Strategy Working Committee on 12 March 2025. 04/06/25: Officer's update requested. 19/06/25: This is being addressed in the Speed Management Plan.
322	16 Aug 23	J O'Connor	Originally tasked by Hearings Committee: To request Council Officers to report back to Council on options to make areas outside the Featherston sports grounds safer.	Open	12/03/25: Original action from Hearings Committee 16 August 2023, transferred to Strategy Working Committee on 12 March 2025. 04/06/25: Officer's update requested. 19/06/25: This is being addressed in the Speed Management Plan.
126	27 Mar 24	J Smith	<p>COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/22) to:</p> <p>1.Receive the Pain Farm History, Legality and Consultation for Treated Effluent Disposal Site Report. (Moved Cr Ellims/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried</p> <p>2.Continue to seek legal advice on the nature of the Trust and Council's role as Trustees of the land at Pain Farm, to be reported back to a future meeting of the Strategy Working Committee. (Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Olds) Carried</p> <p>Abstained: Cr McAulay, Cr Woodcock</p>	Open	<p>05/04/24: Date for next report to Strategy Working Committee yet to be confirmed. Awaiting advice from CE.</p> <p>11/06/24: Transferred from Council to SWC at request of CE.</p> <p>03/07/24: Action remains open.</p> <p>17/09/24: No new updates.</p> <p>02/10/24: Legal advice has been received on Pain Farm. Action to remain open until the report is submitted to a future agenda of the Strategy Working Committee.</p> <p>1/11/24: The Martinborough Community Board and South Wairarapa District Councillors were recently invited to attend a workshop to discuss the Pain Estate. Legal representatives from Simpson Grierson provided an overview of the legal status and potential implications relating to future use of the farmland, and this information remains Legally Privileged for the time being.</p> <p>Further information has been sought, ensuring we have sufficient details and understanding of potential outcomes prior to engaging with the community.</p> <p>A public forum will be one of our preferred options for community engagement, but the final options on future engagement remain with Council to develop once the information sought is available.</p> <p>12/03/25: CE confirmed no new updates at SWC meeting.</p> <p>19/06/25: Council is negotiating to acquire alternate land for purposes of treated wastewater disposal.</p>

Resolution /Action Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Status	Notes
SWC 2024/137	13 Nov 24	S Corbett	COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2024/137 Moved: Cr A Ellims Seconded: Cr A Woodcock The Strategy Working Committee resolved to: 1. Receive the Rural & Coastal Advisory Group Report. 2. Agree to establish a Coastal & Rural Advisory Group and direct the CE to finalise Terms of Reference and bring it back to Strategy Working Committee for approval. [Items 1-2 read together] CARRIED	Open	04/02/25: Report back date to be confirmed after Representation Review Hearings held by LGC in February 2025. 04/06/25: Noted that the Coastal & Rural Advisory Group Terms of Reference is in progress, however, this must go to the Local Government Commission prior to adoption, to ensure the intent and purpose is correct and in line with the recent Representation Review; the timing for completion of the action is expected to be in the new triennium.
SWC2025/108-109	2 Jul 25	Chair	COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/108 Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr C Olds The Strategy Working Committee resolved to write a letter of endorsement for the Remutaka Road Action Group supporting their aims of: a. An investigation into a new alternate highway over the Remutaka Hill. In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds and Ms V Edwards Against: Cr A Woodcock and Cr R Gray Carried <hr/> COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/109 Moved: Cr A Plimmer Seconded: Cr C Olds The Strategy Working Committee resolved to write a letter of endorsement for the Remutaka Road Action Group supporting their aims of: b. Having the Remutaka Hill Road included in the government's list of Roads of National Significance. In Favour: Cr A Plimmer, Cr A Woodcock, Cr A Ellims, Cr M Bosley, Cr C Olds and Ms V Edwards Against: Cr R Gray Carried	Actioned	04/07/25: Letter completed.

11 APPOINTMENT REPORTS

11.1 PLANNING AND REGULATORY PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Author: Colin Olds, Councillor

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

PURPOSE

To inform and update members of Strategy Working Committee matters within the planning and regulatory space.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Portfolio Holders report to the Strategy Working Committee on portfolio matters, regarding the current matters underway in their portfolio area and outstanding issues we believe need to be brought to Council's attention.
- This report has been developed through engagement and information sharing with the Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory.

BACKGROUND

The report provides statistical data and commentary on various regulatory and planning activities for the period 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025.

DISCUSSION

Please refer to the information below and attached reporting from the Planning and Regulatory Group below:

District Plan Review

The review of the Wairarapa Combined District Plan (WCDP) has continued to progress well. District Plan hearings continued through to late May 2025 with thorough review work being undertaken by the review panel, including independent chair David McMahon and the reporting officers.

The work has covered the review of the whole of the Operative District Plan as is legislatively required every 10 years. The review has provided opportunity to make the plan more strategic and relevant to the needs of the district, and to be in line with the National Planning Standards. The key parts of the plan have included provision of future urban zones for residential growth provision, the review of heritage and sites, rural subdivision rules to protect versatile soils, provisions on natural hazards, plus natural features and landscapes of the district.

The last hearings topics involved submitters and consideration of potential rezoning of individual land, designations and a tidy up of miscellaneous matters. The last hearing session was held on 26th May 2025.

Following on from the above work, the combined panel has recently been involved in careful deliberations related to the various chapter topics. For the new District Plan, decisions are anticipated to be notified in September, before the Council election at the latest.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) Reform

The Government has announced that it is replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with two new Acts that clearly distinguish between land-use planning and natural resource management, while putting a priority on the enjoyment of private property rights:

- a Natural Environment Act - to establish a framework for the use, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
- a Planning Act to establish a framework for planning and regulating the use, development and enjoyment of land.

As part of the proposed reform there will be one set of national policy direction under each Act which will

- simplify, streamline and direct local government plans and decision making.

The Natural Environment Act will include within its focus the matters of land, air, freshwater, coastal and marine water, other natural resources.

The Planning Act will focus on land-use planning and regulation. It will enable the urban and infrastructure development New Zealand needs and will align with the Government's Going for Housing Growth plan and the 30-year National Infrastructure Plan. It will create well-functioning urban and rural areas, including by separating incompatible land uses.

The dual act approach aims to reduce duplication and overlap between different laws and regulations, providing a clearer framework for managing effects on the natural environment. The new system will set environmental limits to protect natural resources and will provide more certainty around where development can and should be enabled.

The New System

Introducing nationally standardised land-use zones will shift the focus of policy setting to a national level, enabling local decision making over things that matter.

Under the new resource management system there will be one combined plan per region. Each combined plan will include a spatial planning chapter, an environment chapter and planning chapters (one per territorial authority district).

Spatial plans will provide long-term, strategic direction to simplify and streamline the system. The purpose of the environment chapter is to regulate natural resource use, and for the planning chapters it is to regulate land use and utilise standard zones.

As part of the reform this will result in a smaller number of plans overall, that will be simpler to use, and consistent across the country.

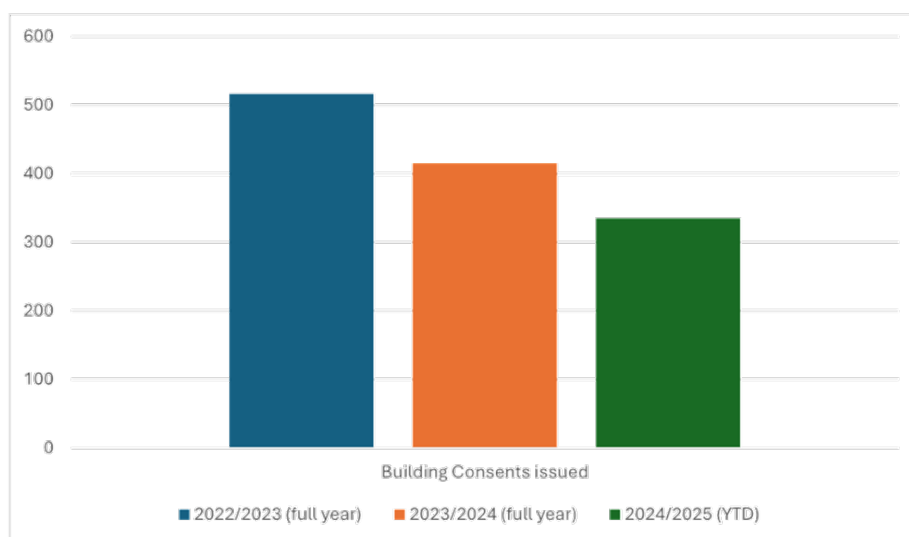
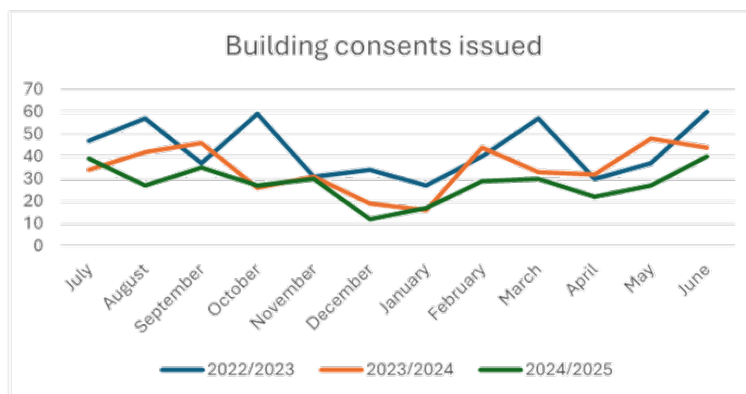
At the LGNZ conference 16 July, Minister Bishop outlined his requirements for Councils to stop work on plan changes and plan reviews due to the changes that are planned to the RMA. Within this process, any proposed plans that have already commenced or concluded hearings will not be subject to the STOP notice.

As the Wairarapa Combined District Plan has concluded the hearings phase and is anticipated to be adopted August/September this year, it will proceed as planned.

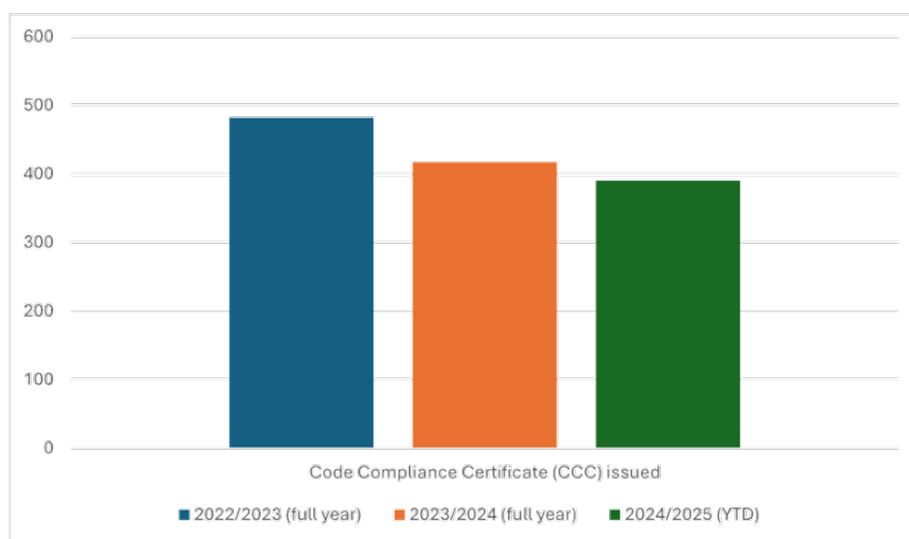
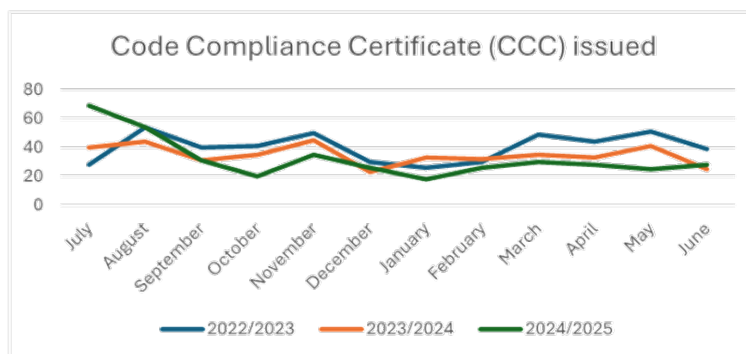
APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Planning and Regulatory Statistics - 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025

Planning and Regulatory Statistics - 1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025

Building

Building consent	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	47	57	37	59	31	34	27	40	57	30	37	60	516
2023/2024	34	42	46	26	31	19	16	44	33	32	48	44	415
2024/2025	39	27	35	27	30	12	17	29	30	22	27	40	335

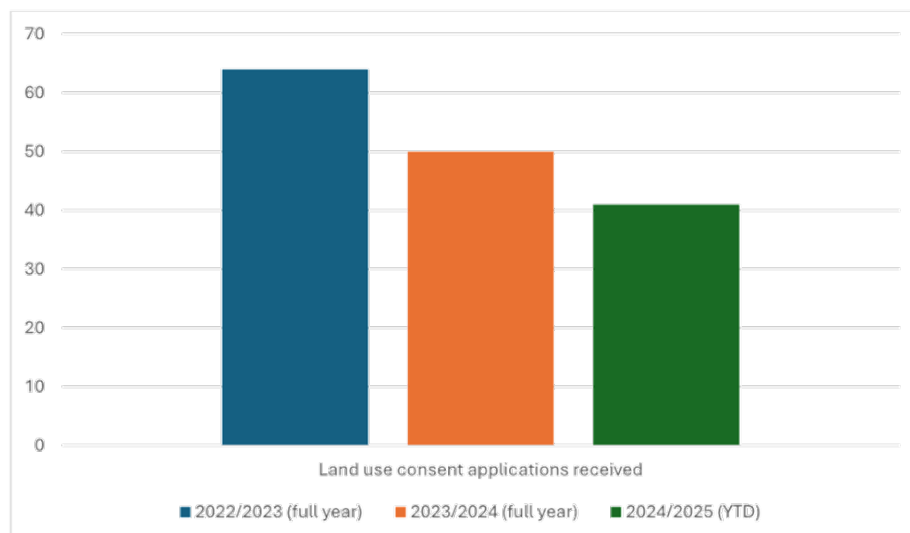
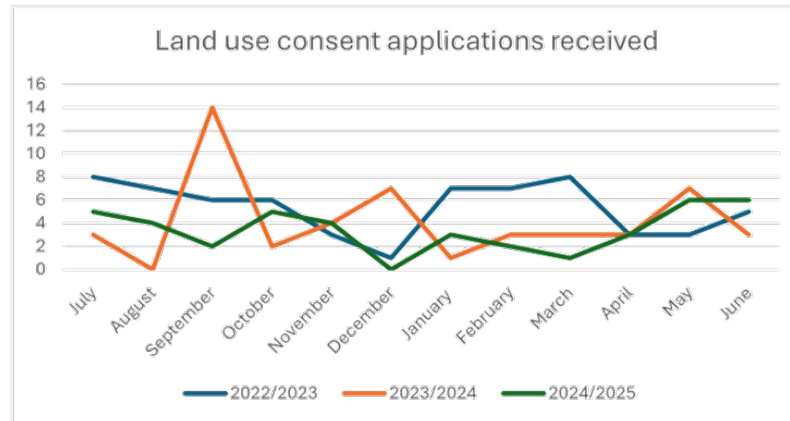


CCC	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2022/2023	28	54	40	41	50	30	26	30	49	44	51	39	482
2023/2024	40	44	31	35	45	23	33	32	35	33	41	25	417
2024/2025	69	54	31	20	35	26	18	26	30	28	25	28	390

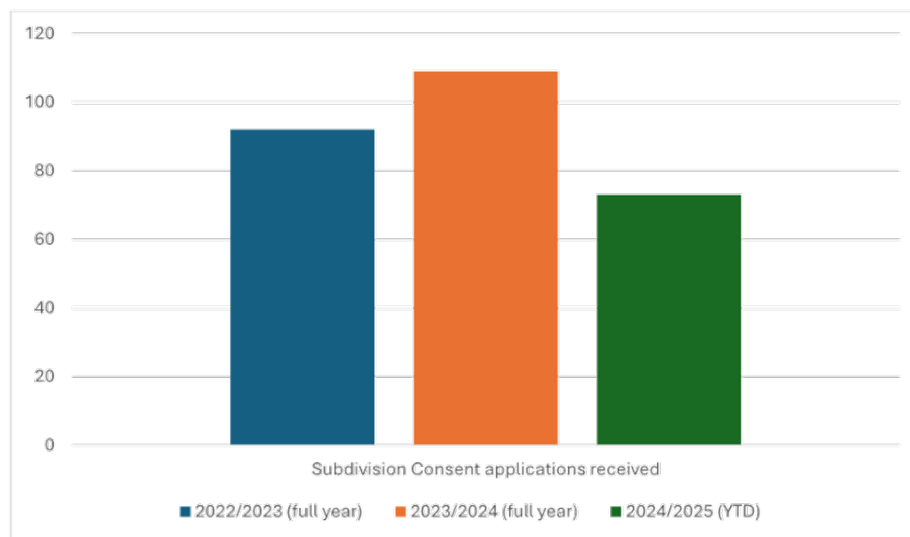
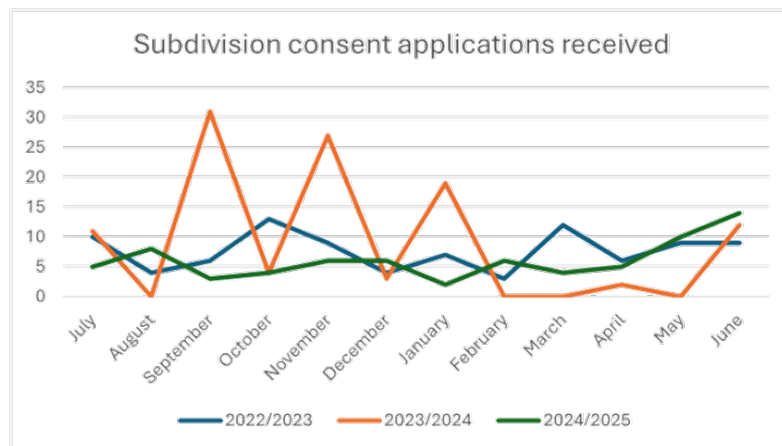
Building Commentary:

The trend for building consents issued remains consistent, although it is down on previous years. Governments continuous announcements of proposed changes are having an impact on the number of consents we are currently receiving, with some people choosing to wait and see.

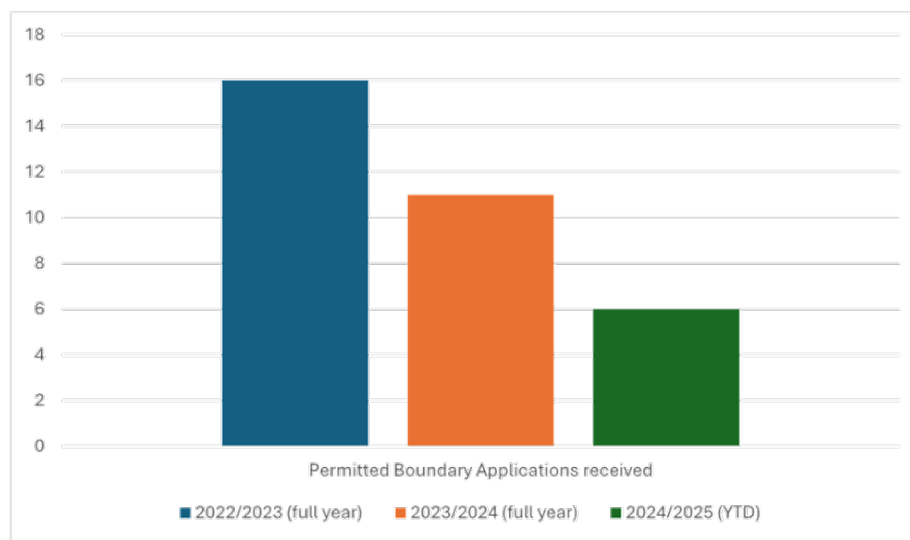
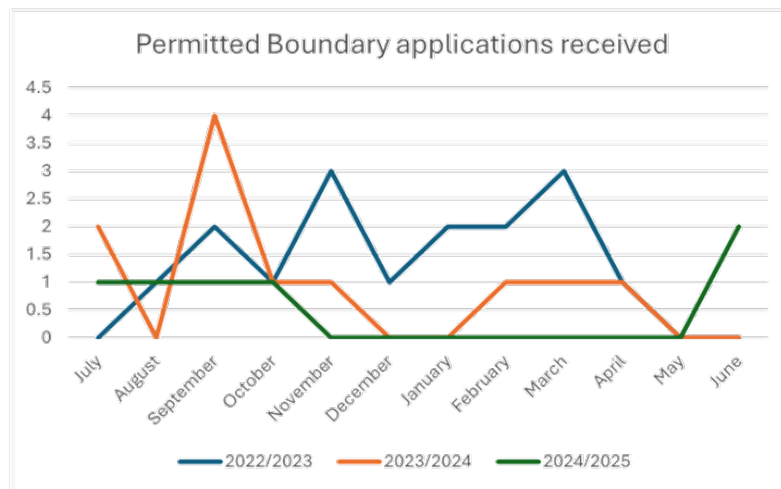
Planning



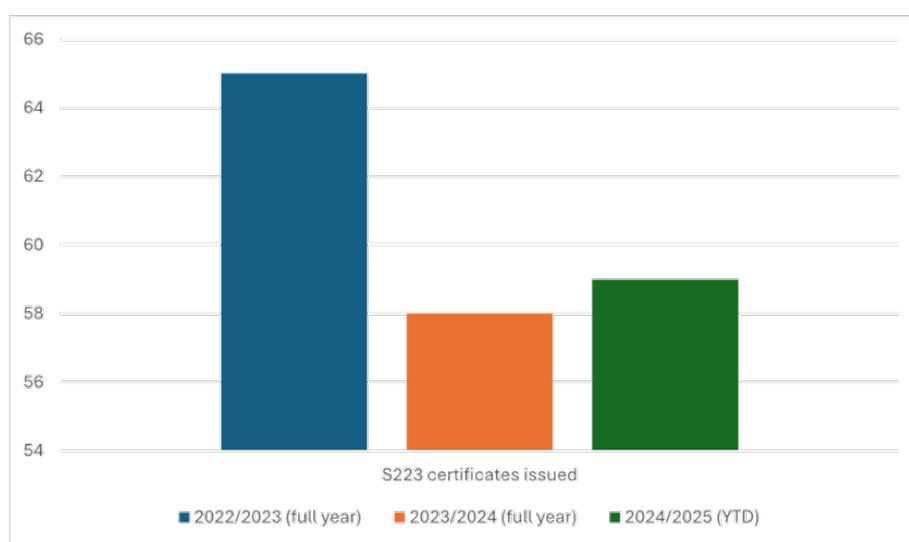
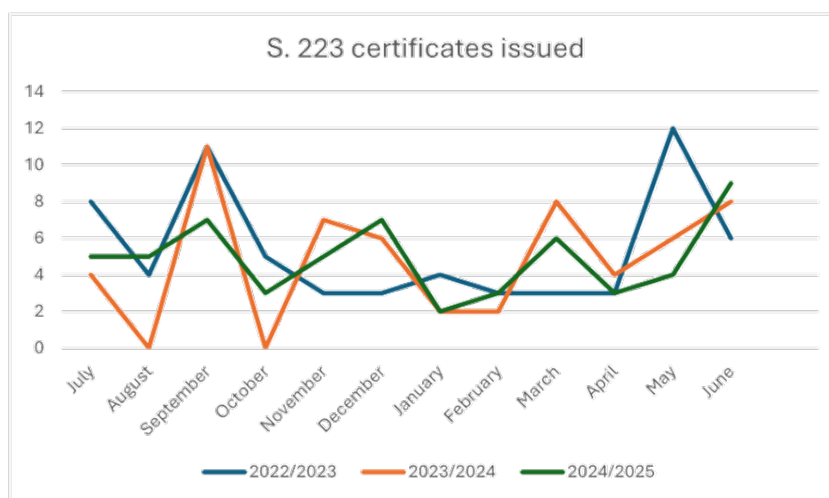
Land Use	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	8	7	6	6	3	1	7	7	8	3	3	5	64
2023/2024	3	0	14	2	4	7	1	3	3	3	7	3	50
2024/2025	5	4	2	5	4	0	3	2	1	3	6	6	41



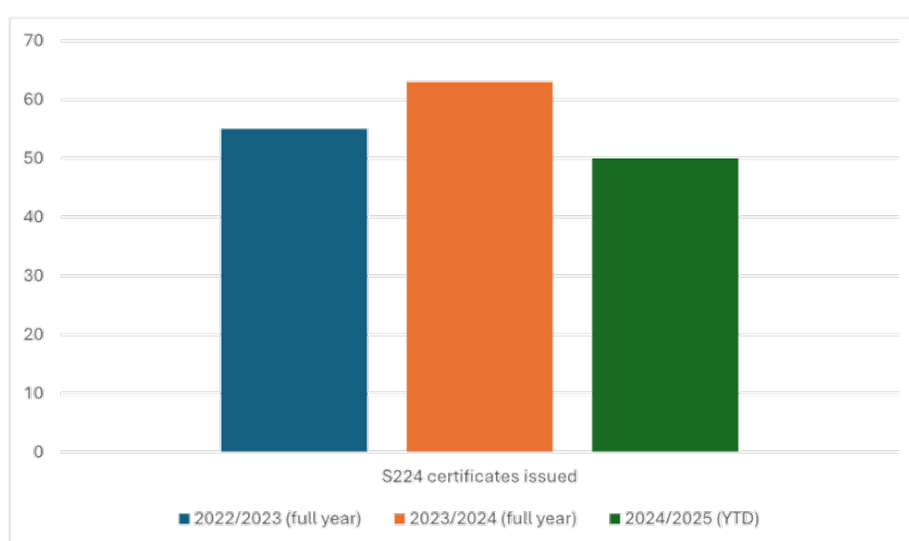
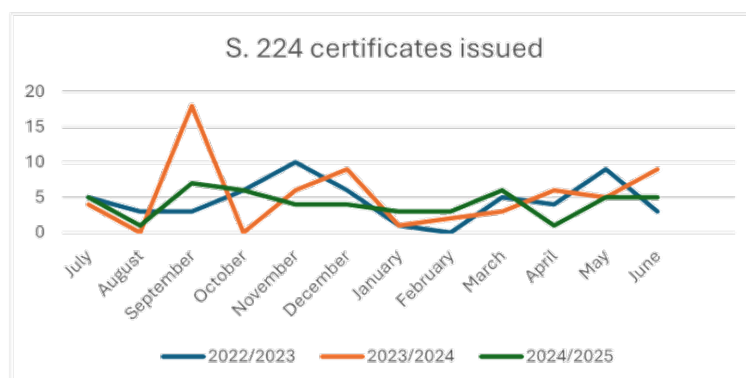
Sub - division	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	10	4	6	13	9	4	7	3	12	6	9	9	92
2023/2024	11	0	31	4	27	3	19	0	0	2	0	12	109
2024/2025	5	8	3	4	6	6	2	6	4	5	10	14	73



Permitted Boundary	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	0	1	2	1	3	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	16
2023/2024	2	0	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	11
2024/2025	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6



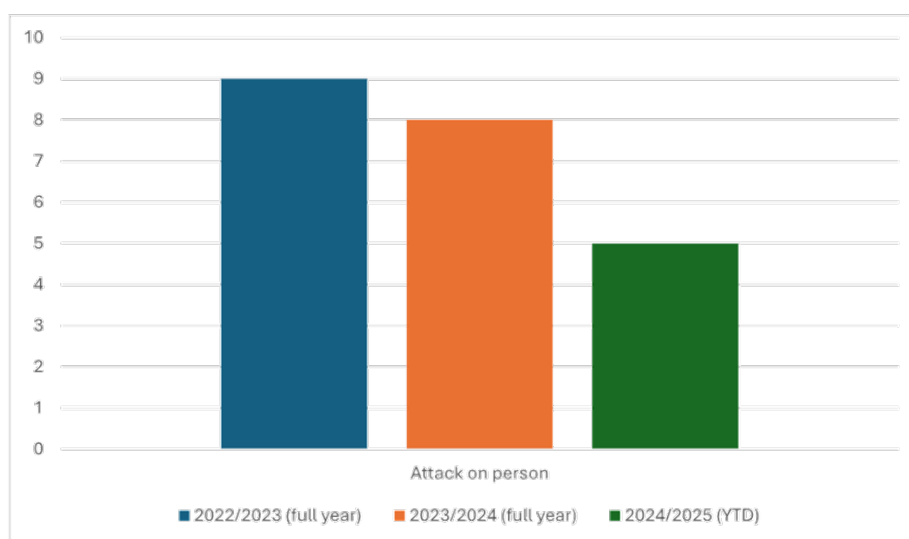
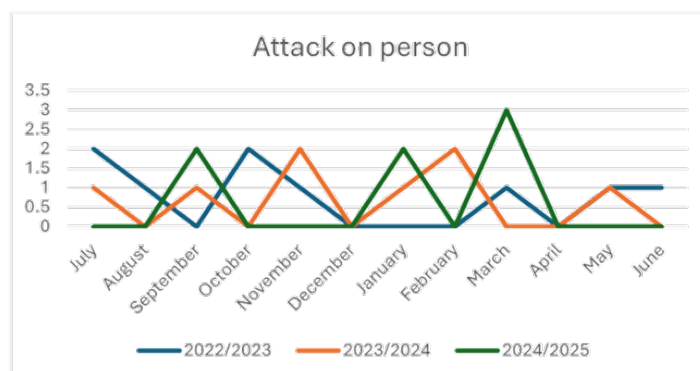
S223	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	8	4	11	5	3	3	4	3	3	3	12	6	65
2023/2024	4	0	11	0	7	6	2	2	8	4	6	8	58
2024/2025	5	5	7	3	5	7	2	3	6	3	4	9	59



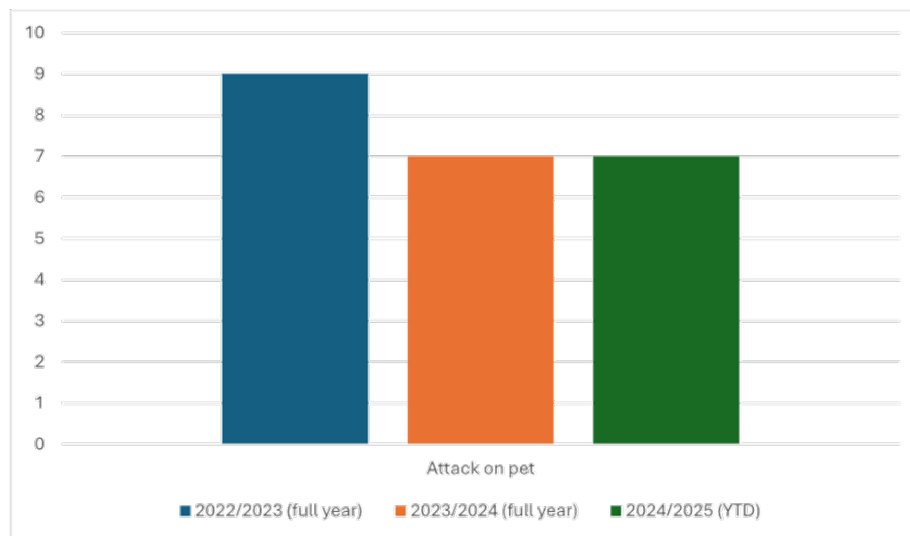
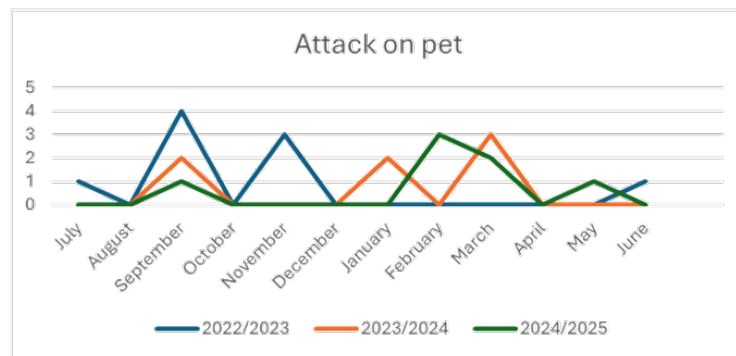
S224	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	5	3	3	6	10	6	1	0	5	4	9	3	55
2023/2024	4	0	18	0	6	9	1	2	3	6	5	9	63
2024/2025	5	1	7	6	4	4	3	3	6	1	5	5	50

Planning Commentary:

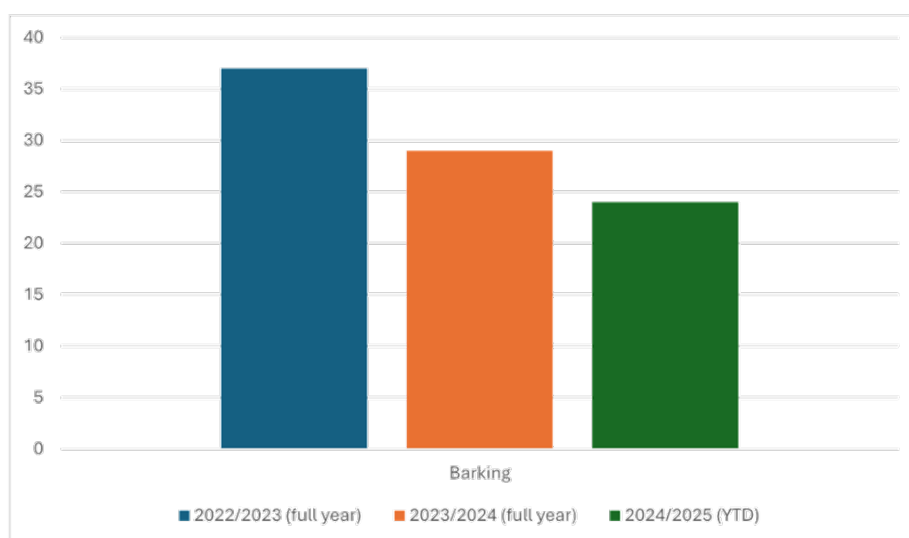
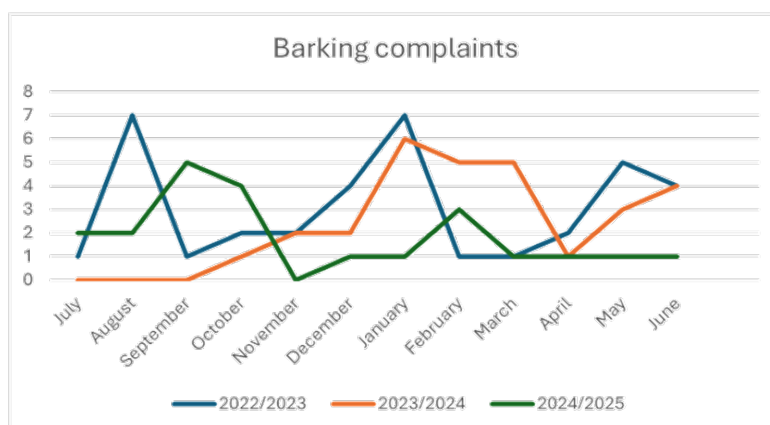
The numbers are down from the previous year largely due to the hold on subdivisions in Martinborough and Greytown. However, the application and assessments are more complex due to the transition between the operative and proposed district plans.

Dog Control

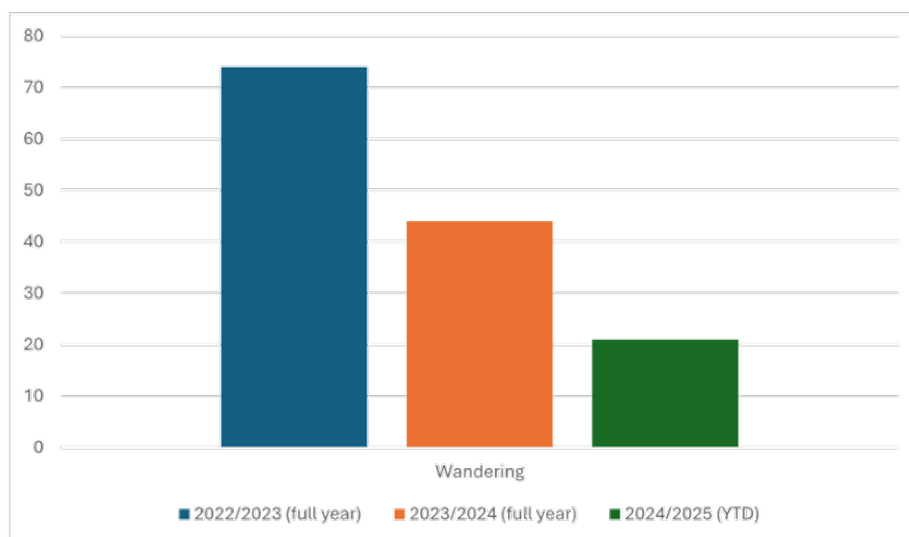
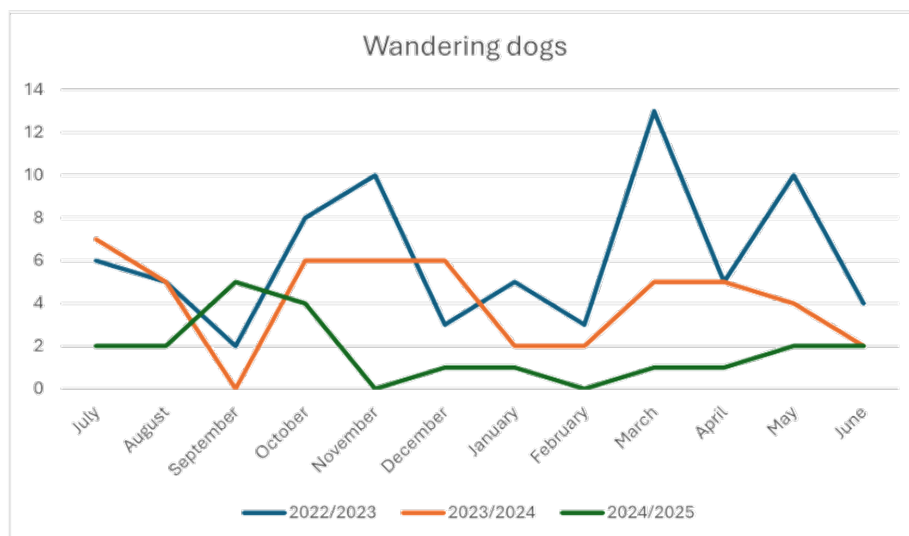
Attack on Person	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	9
2023/2024	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	8
2024/2025	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	5



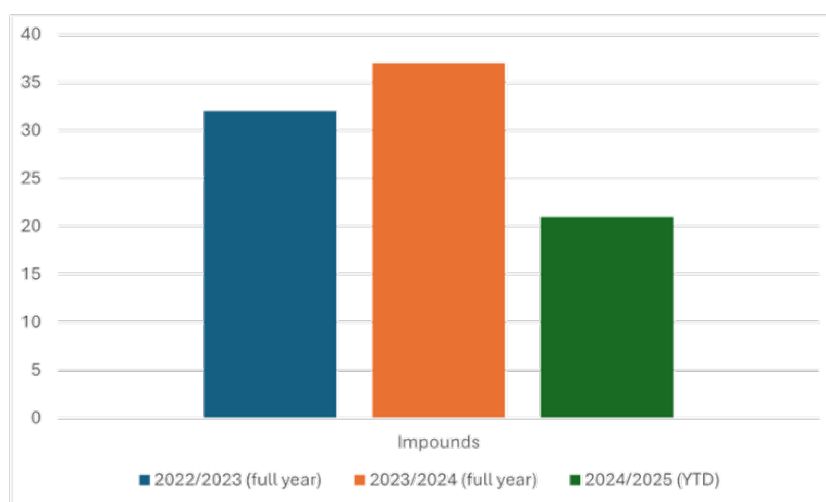
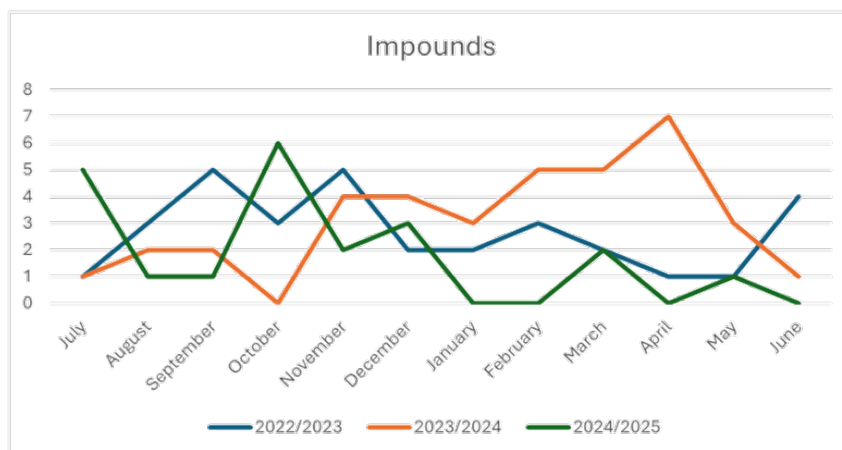
Attack on Pet	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2022/2023	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
2023/2024	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	7
2024/2025	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	7



Barking	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	1	7	1	2	2	4	7	1	1	2	5	4	37
2023/2024	0	0	0	1	2	2	6	5	5	1	3	4	29
2024/2025	2	3	3	2	0	2	5	3	1	1	1	1	24



Wandering	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	6	5	2	8	10	3	5	3	13	5	10	4	74
2023/2024	7	5	0	6	6	6	2	2	5	5	4	2	44
2024/2025	2	2	5	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	21



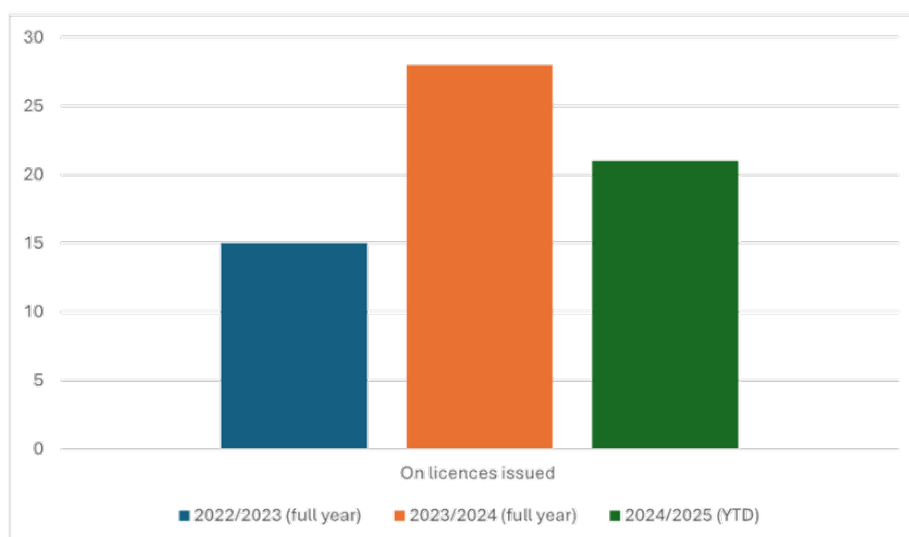
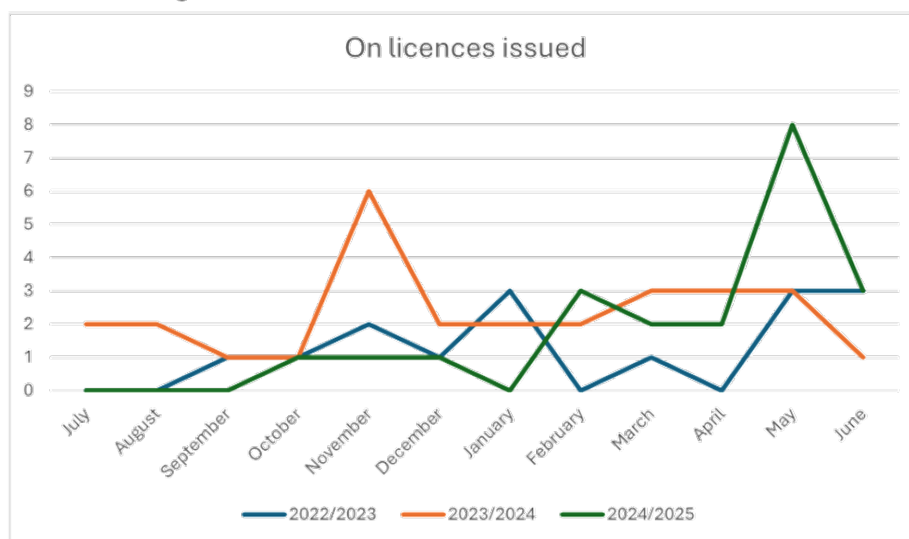
Impounds	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	1	3	5	3	5	2	2	3	2	1	1	4	32
2023/2024	1	2	2	0	4	4	3	5	5	7	3	1	37
2024/2025	5	1	1	6	2	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	21

Animal Control trend:

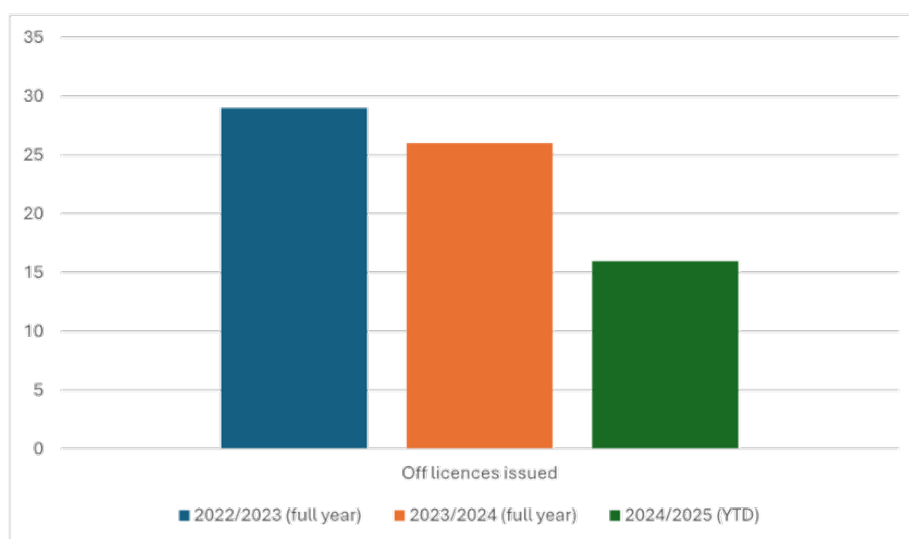
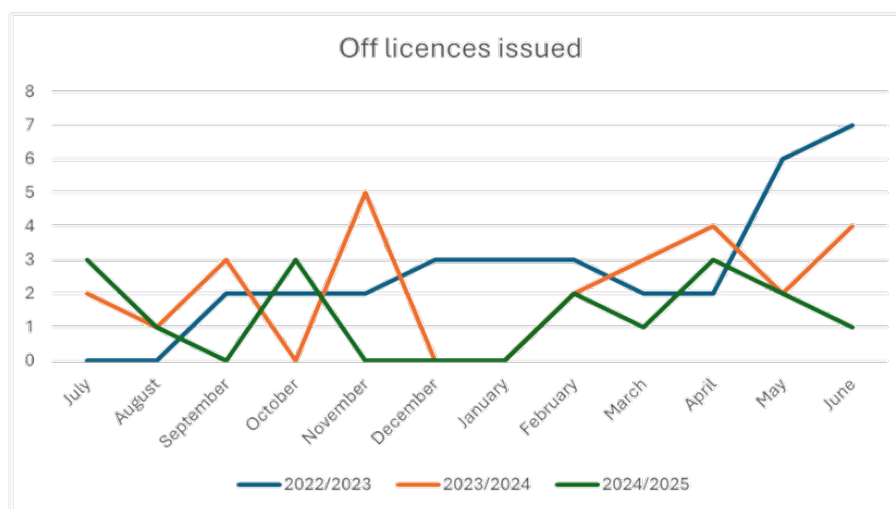
Whilst figures relating to attacks on people and pets remain low, they are consistent with the previous two years. It is difficult to identify a specific trend in the reduced figures due to the low numbers recorded.

Barking dog figures are low, with no specific factors identified as contributing to this. However, Animal Control Officers increased their community engagement and education activities in 2025, which may have contributed to the decrease.

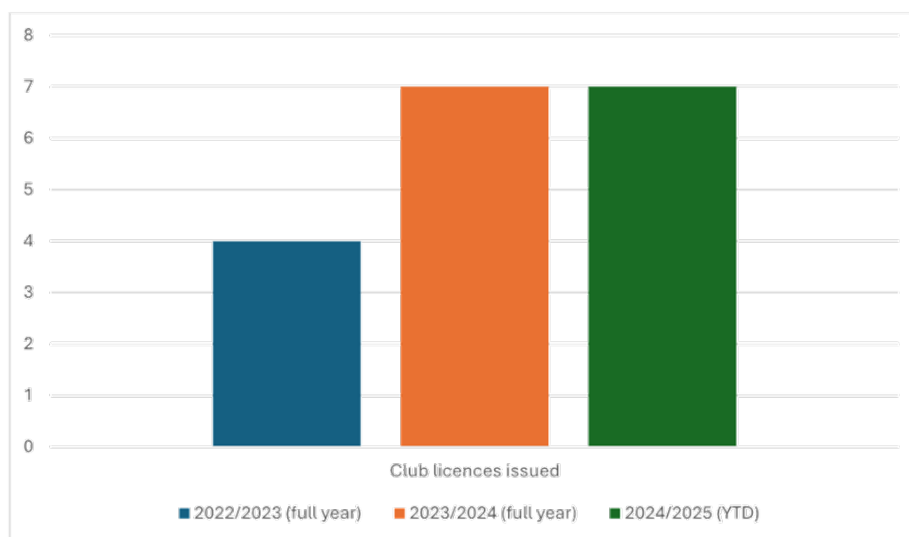
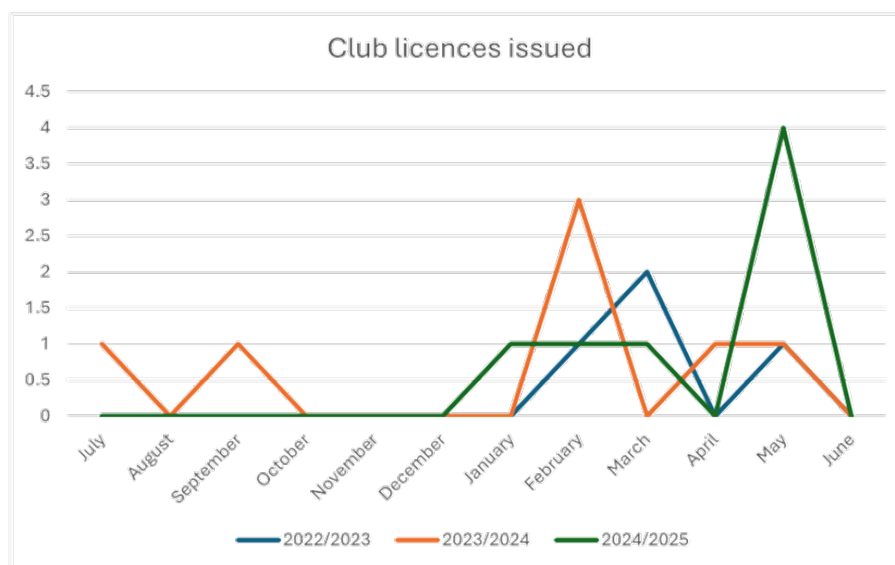
Reports relating to wandering dogs are significantly lower than previous years with a noted increase in use of social media by the public to share information relating to wandering dogs. This has likely contributed to the decrease in wandering dog reports and impound figures.

Alcohol Licensing

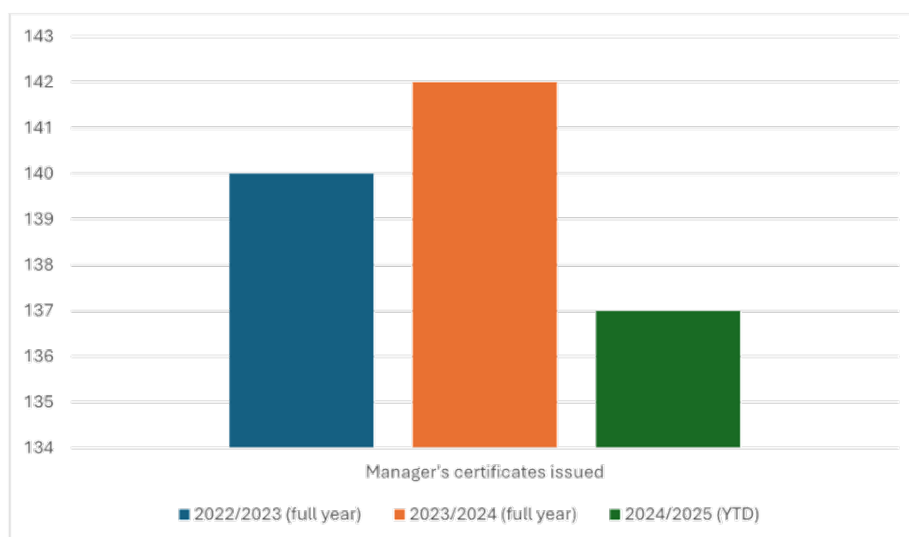
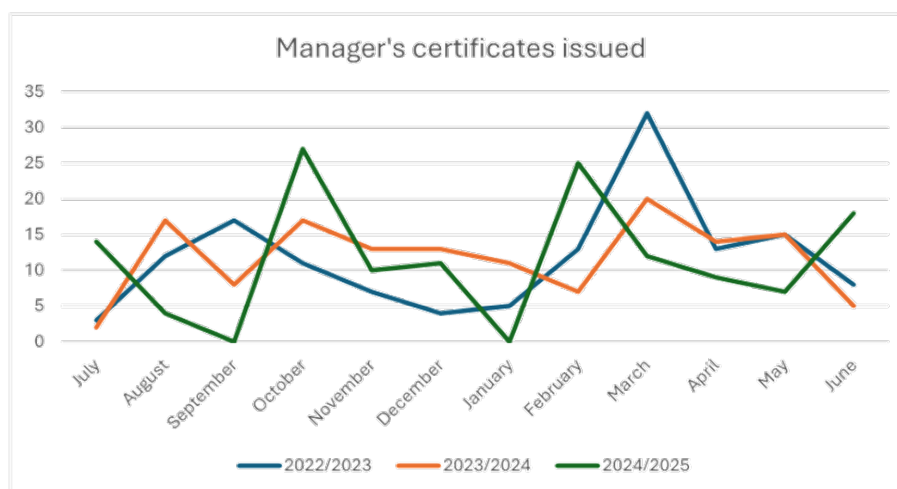
On licences	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	3	3	15
2023/2024	2	2	1	1	6	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	28
2024/2025	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	2	2	8	3	21



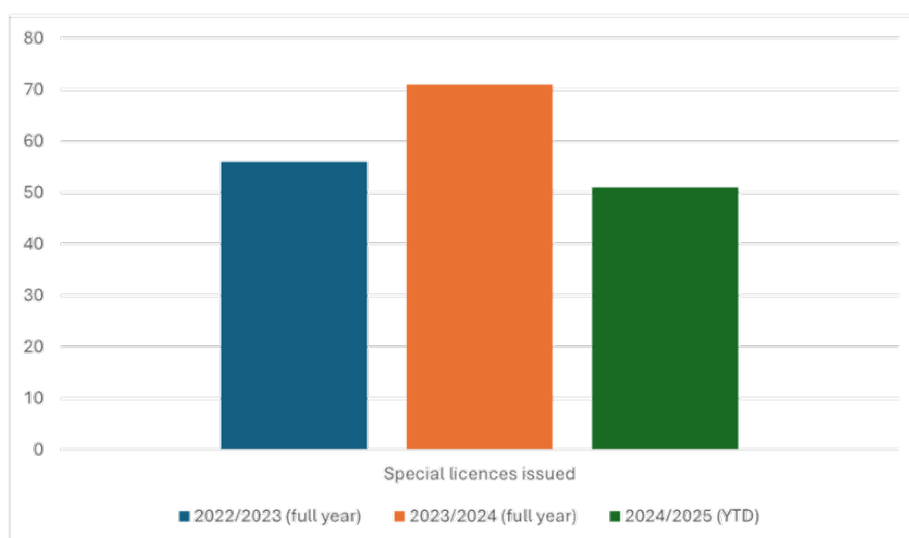
Off licences	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	0	0	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	6	7	29
2023/2024	2	1	3	0	5	0	0	2	3	4	2	4	26
2024/2025	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	16



Club licences	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	4
2023/2024	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	7
2024/2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	0	7



Manager's certificates	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	3	12	17	11	7	4	5	13	32	13	15	8	140
2023/2024	2	17	8	17	13	13	11	7	20	14	15	5	142
2024/2025	14	4	0	27	10	11	0	25	12	9	7	18	137



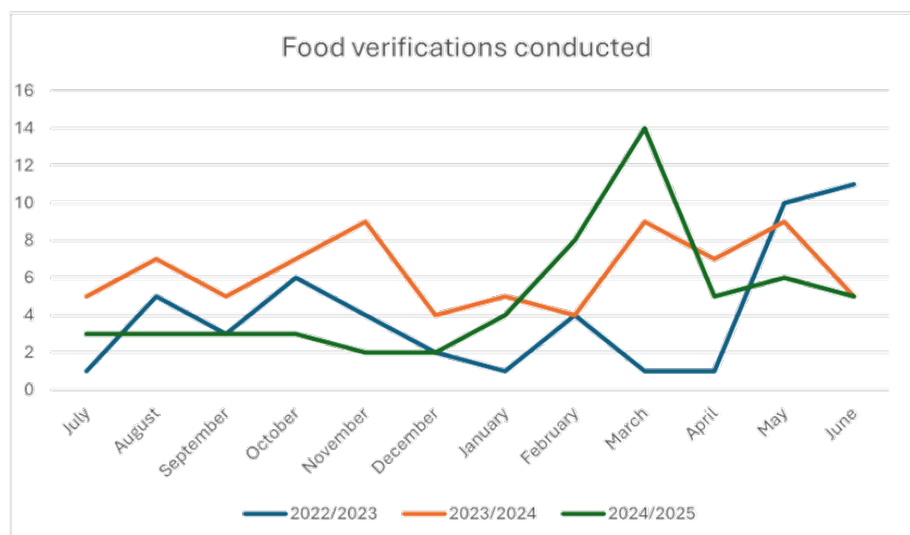
Special licences	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	1	2	1	6	15	6	0	0	6	4	4	11	56
2023/2024	4	2	2	12	9	7	0	13	10	2	3	7	71
2024/2025	1	5	2	5	9	11	0	4	5	3	2	4	51

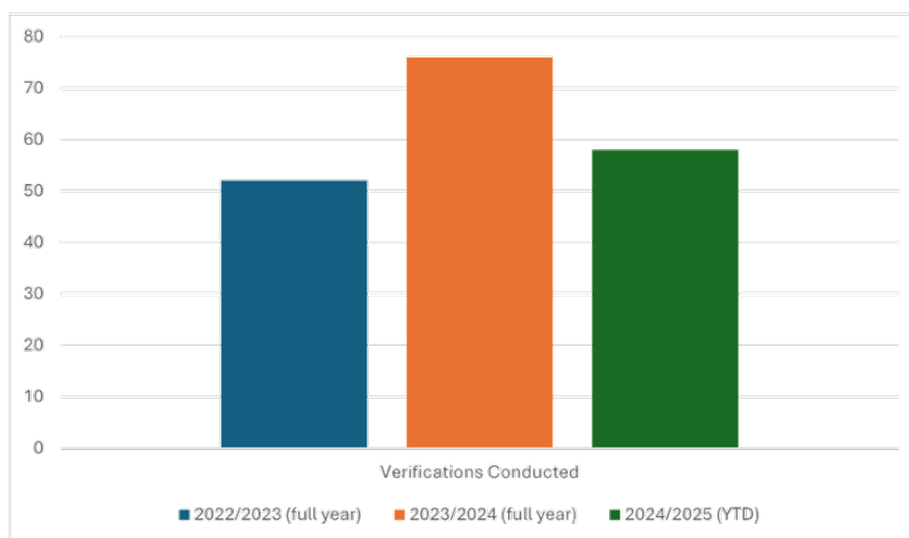
Alcohol Licensing trends:

On and off licence figures are lower than the previous year. These figures include both new and renewed licences. The expiry or renewal of licences varies, and this period is set in legislation. Renewals vary between one year for a first-time renewal to three years. There are no other factors identified as impacting these lower numbers.

Figures remain consistent for club licences issued. The trend does not show an increase in club premises. Factors that have contributed to these figures are premises that have undertaken alterations or replacement clubrooms being built, variations required to licence conditions and changes within the premises to the licensed area layout, all of which require a new licence to be issued.

Special licences processed this year are lower than the previous year. Several factors can contribute to this, including the ability for applicants to hold several similar events under one licence.

Food verifications



Food verifications	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
2022/2023	1	5	3	6	4	2	1	4	1	4	10	11	52
2023/2024	5	7	5	7	9	4	5	4	9	7	9	5	76
2024/2025	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	8	14	5	6	5	58

Health Act – Safe Food trends

- Verifications are dependent on several factors including the due date of the premises and different verification periods which can range from 3 to 18 months. There is no identifiable trend. Verifications processed remain consistent and are completed as per legislative requirements.

11.2 MEMBERS FEEDBACK FROM THE MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BOARDS

Author: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

File Number: N/A

PURPOSE

An opportunity for members to provide updates and feedback from the Māori Standing Committee and the Community Boards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Committee members who are appointed to Community Boards and the Māori Standing Committee are allocated five minutes per individual to provide a verbal report.
- This is a standing item on the Strategy Working Committee agenda.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the **Māori Standing Committee** is to advocate on behalf of and in the best interests of tāngata whenua in the District (including the descendants of hapū of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa) and to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its obligations to them.

The Māori Standing Committee is comprised of two representatives from each of the three South Wairarapa Marae, two representatives from Pae Tū Mokai o Tauria, one representative from each of the two Wairarapa Iwi, two Councillors, and the Mayor.

Community Boards represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of their community. Specifically, the Board's role is to:

- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community
- prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Council.

The Community Boards are made up of four elected community representatives plus two councillors who advocate for and represent the interests of their community. They play a key role in engaging with community groups.

DISCUSSION

The following members will be offered the opportunity to provide feedback:

[Māori Standing Committee](#) (Violet Edwards)

[Greytown Community Board](#) (Councillors Martin Bosely and Aaron Woodcock)

[Featherston Community Board](#) (Councillor Rebecca Gray and Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter)

[Martinborough Community Board](#) (Councillors Aidan Ellims and Pip Maynard).

APPENDICES

Nil

12 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC****RECOMMENDATIONS**

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	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
12.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Strategy Working Committee Meeting held on 2 July 2025	<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)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</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>	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	Relates to the following reports and discussions: Papawai Land Exchange; Waters Capital Contracts - Greytown Desludging & Tauwharenikau Pipeline; Office Renovation - Financial Approval; and Application for Partial Remission of Rates – Follow-Up Submission
12.2 - 2026 ANZAC Commemoration Traffic Management Plan (TMP) Funding	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including	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	It is important to withhold the amount allocated to the TMPs to assist in negotiations when

	commercial and industrial negotiations)	good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7	contacting the providers.

13 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

Kua mutu ā mātou mahi
Mō tēnei wā
Manaakitia mai matou katoa
O mātou hoa
O mātou whānau
Aio ki te Aorangi

Our work is finished
For the moment
Blessing upon us all
Our friends
Our families
Peace to the Universe