



Strategy Working Committee Meeting Agenda – 31 July 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING

This meeting will be held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference, commencing at 10.00am. The meeting will be held in public and will be live-streamed where possible and will be available to view on our [YouTube channel](#).

All SWDC meeting minutes and agendas are available on our website: <https://swdc.govt.nz/meetings/>

Membership: Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Mayor Martin Connelly, Councillors Aidan Ellims, Colin Olds, Alistair Plimmer, Rebecca Gray, Martin Bosley, Pip Maynard, Aaron Woodcock and Kaye McAulay, and Violet Edwards (Māori Standing Committee representative).

A. Open Section

A1. Karakia Timatanga – opening

Kia hora te marino

May peace be widespread.

Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana

May the sea be like greenstone; a
pathway for all of us this day.

Hei huarahi mā tatou i te rangi nei

Aroha atu, aroha mai

Let us show respect for each other, for
one another.

Tātou i a tātou katoa.

Bind us all together.

A2. Apologies

A3. Conflicts of interest

A4. Acknowledgements and tributes

A5. Public participation

As per standing order 14.17 no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda.

A6. Extraordinary business

A7. Confirmation of minutes

Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 3 July 2024 are a true and accurate record.

Pages 1-8

A8. Matters arising from previous meetings

- B. Decision Reports from the Chief Executive and Staff**
- B1.** Representation Review: Initial Proposal Pages 9-32
- B2.** Local Government NZ Remit 2024 Pages 33-86
- C. Information Reports from the Chief Executive and Staff**
- C1.** Dublin Street Heavy Traffic Bypass Pages 87-91
- C2.** Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent Update Pages 92-105
- C3.** Wellington Water Limited Expectations and Performance Pages 106-112
- C4.** Action Items Pages 113-125
- D. Chairperson Reports**
- D1.** Chairperson's Report Pages 126-139
- E. Members Reports**
- E1.** Councillor feedback from Community Boards – Featherston, Verbal
Greytown, Martinborough
- F. Appointment Reports**
- F1.** Wairarapa Road Safety Council – Councillor Plimmer Pages 140-144
- F2.** Safer Communities – Councillor McAulay Verbal
- G. Public Excluded Section**
- G1.** Confirmation of public excluded minutes (distributed separately)
- Proposed Resolution:** *That the public excluded minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 3 July 2024 are a true and correct record.*

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

Report/General Subject Matter	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
Public excluded minutes 5 June 2024 (Greytown Wheels Park- design and build options; Appointment of members to the District Licensing Committee Combined List)	Good reason to withhold exists under sections 7(2)(h) and 7(2)(a) respectively.	Section 48(1)(a)

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

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	section 7(2)(a)
The withholding of information is necessary to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	section 7(2)(h)

H. Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing

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



Strategy Working Committee Minutes from 3 July 2024

Present:	Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Councillors Colin Olds, Kaye McAulay, Rebecca Gray, Martin Bosley, Aidan Ellims, Alistair Plimmer (from 1:23pm to 2:07pm) and Violet Edwards (Māori Standing Committee Representative).
Apologies:	Mayor Martin Connelly, Councillors Pip Maynard, and Aaron Woodcock
In Attendance:	Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Stefan Corbett (Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations), Russell O’Leary (Group Manager, Planning and Regulatory), Paul Gardner (Group Manager, Corporate Services), Rob Thomas (Manager, Stakeholder Relationships), James O’Connor (Manager, Community Operations), Mia Wilton (Manager, Environmental Services), Nicki Ansell (Lead Advisor Policy & Projects), Robyn Wells (Principal Advisor - Waters) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor Democracy and Committees).
	Via audio-visual conferencing: Stephanie Frischknecht (Masterton District Council) and Matt Carrere (WellingtonNZ).
Conduct of Business:	This meeting Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, 62 Texas Street, Martinborough, and was livestreamed on the Council’s YouTube Channel. The meeting was held in public provisions where noted from 10:01am to 2:13pm.

A Open Section

A1. Karakia Timatanga - Opening

Cr Gray opened the meeting.

A2. Apologies

STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/63) to accept apologies from Mayor Connelly, Cr Maynard, Cr Plimmer and Cr Woodcock.

(Moved Cr Ellims/Seconded Cr Bosley)

Carried

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A3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

A4. Acknowledgements and tributes

Cr Ellims acknowledged the passing of Jim Harper, a longtime resident of Martinborough and member of the Martinborough fire brigade, and expressed his condolences to Mr Harper's family.

A5. Public participation

There was no public participation.

A5. Actions from public participation

There was no public participation.

A6. Extraordinary business

There was no extraordinary business.

A7. Confirmation of minutes

STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/64) to accept that the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meetings held on 5 June 2024 are a true and accurate record.

(Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Gray)

Carried

A8. Matters arising from previous meetings

There were no matters arising.

B Decision Reports from the Chief Executive and Staff

B1. Representation Review

Ms Ansell, supported by Mr Thomas, spoke to matters included in the report.

Appendix 1 was tabled and can be viewed on our website: <https://swdc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/B1-Appendix-1-Representation-Options-tabled.pdf>

Members queries included: the Representation Review process, next steps and decisions required to progress the proposal and consultation; and whether the options from the open workshop held on 19 June have been captured in the appendix tabled; Ms Ansell noted they have been captured.

Members adjourned to read through the tabled item.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13am.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:30am.

Members discussed the merits of the tabled options to move forward, including issues relating to At Large, Community Boards, representation across the district, and the potential benefits of a Rural Advisory Group.

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Officers responded to queries from members including: whether the candidates need to reside in South Wairarapa in order to be eligible to stand for election (candidates must be nominated by residents of South Wairarapa) and providing clear explanations of the proposal to the community.

STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/65) to:

1. receives the *Representation Review* report.
(*Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Ellims*) Carried
2. agree to move forward on Option A for the development of the initial proposal and consultation document.
(*Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Olds*) Carried
3. note that the initial proposal and consultation documentation will be presented at the next Strategy Working Committee meeting on 31 July 2024 for approval; and
4. acknowledge the timeframe required to meet the statutory timeframe as noted in the report.

[Items 3 & 4 read together]

(*Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Edwards*)

Carried

B2. Adoption of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy

Ms Ansell spoke to matters included in the report. Ms Frischknecht provided further information in respect to Masterton District Council in terms of the policy and the process which has taken place to date.

STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/66) to:

1. receive the Adoption of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy report.
2. agrees to the WPWG recommended option for the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy (Option 1).
3. adopts the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy (Attachment 1), including any changes to the attached policy by Carterton District Council, to reflect an amended venue relocation policy for their respective council.
4. delegate authority to the Strategy Working Committee Chairperson and Chief Executive to approve minor edits that don't change the intent of the content prior to publication of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy.

[Items 1-4 read together]

(*Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Ellims*)

Carried

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B3. Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) Work Programme for FY 24/25, Operating Model and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for FY 24-27

Mr Carrere of WellingtonNZ spoke to matters included in report, highlighted the priorities for the WEDS work programme and responded to queries in relation to the MOU timeframes in relation to funding and the Long Term Plan 2025-2034.

Cr Ellims left the meeting at 11:18am.

Cr Ellims returned to the meeting at 11:20am.

STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/67) to:

1. Receive the *Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) Work Programme for FY 24/25, Operating Model and Memorandum of Understanding for FY 24-27* Report.
2. Note the WEDS Forum (including Council Mayors and CEOs) ran a Lessons Learnt exercise in November 2023 and a prioritisation workshop in April 2024.
3. Note the lessons learnt and the outcomes of the prioritisation workshop have been utilised to focus WEDS activity in the Work Programme for FY24/25.
4. Note the Work Programme for FY24/25 and process to determine initiatives has been endorsed by the WEDS Forum and the three Wairarapa District Councils Mayors and CEOs.
5. Agree the Work Programme for FY24/25, focused on Water Resilience, Food & Fibre, and Workforce.
6. Note other strategic priorities include Transport resilience, Māori Economic Development and Tourism/Dark Skies, which are best addressed through existing channels.
7. Note the lessons learnt, work programme complexity and budget have been considered to “right size” the WEDS operating model.
8. Note the WEDS Operating Model for FY24/25 has been endorsed by the three Wairarapa District Councils Mayors and CEOs on 28 May.
9. Agree the WEDS operating model for FY24/25 and beyond, with oversight provided by a small WEDS Steering Group consisting of place-based and skilled economic development representatives.
10. Note the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expires on 30 June 2024.
11. Agree the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027, including funding provision.

Amendment

- 11 a) Agree the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2024 –30 June 2025.

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11 b. Agree in principle, the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2027.

(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Bosley)

Carried

The Amendment became a part of the substantive motion.

12. Note that operational improvements will continue to be made by the WellingtonNZ Programme Management Office for WEDS (PMO) to deliver the Work Programme effectively, with visibility to the Steering Group.
13. Note that quarterly and annual reporting will be provided to Council, including work programme delivery and financial reporting.
14. Agree the existing MoU to 30 June 2024 will remain in force until a new agreement is signed and any unspent budget allocation under the current MoU will be carried over to FY24/25.

Items 1-14 read together

(Moved Cr McAulay/Seconded Edwards)

Carried

C Information Reports from the Chief Executive and Staff

C1. Action Items

Updates:

- 407 – This will be raised as part of the next Combined Council Forum in August 2024.
- 134 – A workshop will be scheduled as soon as possible, members queried where this fit in terms of the work programme and LTP.
- 126 – Remains open.

Closed:

- 516 – Ms Smith requested the action be closed as this is not currently in the work programme for next 12 months.
- 118 – Ms Smith confirmed that Council are treating this as actioned.
- 123 – Ms Smith confirmed funding has been approved in the next financial year, work is in progress.
- 190 – Ms Smith requested the action be closed, noting that money allocated to Water Services Plan, may need to be used to prepare the Infrastructure Strategy due to secondment of key staff to LWDW. A report to the Committee will be completed as and when required.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34am.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:15pm.

D Reports from the Chairperson

D1. Chairperson's Report

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Cr Olds, supported by Ms Wells, provided an update on the Advisory Oversight Group on Water Services, noting that South Wairarapa, Masterton and Carterton District Councils are working closely together alongside Tararua District Council, and touched on recent submissions to the Select Committee.

Ms Wells provided further updates including: a factsheet will be prepared and loaded to the Council's website; the formulation of a project team and the workplan; the current MOU, milestones, next steps and decisions required with respect to a joint arrangement and there will be choices to take forward at a later date (Council's decision will be sought in October 2024).

Members queried Tararua District Council's involvement with the Wairarapa Council's group and how closely the local councils are working. It was noted that the Terms of Reference have not yet been signed, but have been formulated with Tararua District Council in mind. Members also queried proposed costs and whether central government funding will be available to cover these costs.

The Deputy Mayor vacated the Chair and left the meeting at 12:28pm.

Cr Olds assumed the Chair.

The Deputy Mayor resumed the Chair at 12:29pm.

Ms Well spoke about the submission made to the Select Committee, that it the complexity of the work required to implement changes and questioned the costs (e.g. would central government consider zero rating of water services?).

Regarding Standing Orders, members queried flexibility of Chairs in relation to speaking timeframes. Members shared concerns about limiting public participation and proposed a workshop before the next Strategy Working Committee.

It was noted that LGNZ remits will be discussed at the 31 July Committee meeting.

STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/68) to:

1. Receive the *Chairperson's Report*.
2. Receive a verbal update from Councillors Olds on the Advisory Oversight Group on Water services delivery planning for Wellington Region and Horowhenua.
[Items 1 & 2 read together]
(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter /Seconded Cr Gray) Carried
3. Note that the date of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act quoted in the Report from the Acting Mayor to Council dated 5 April 2023 should read as 2012 rather than 1996.
4. Note the update on the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw.
5. Note the update to the Terms of Reference for Council and Committees as per Appendix 1.
[Items 3-5 read together]
(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Bosley) Carried
6. Approve the amended Standing Orders as per Appendix 2.
(Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Gray)
For: Cr Gray, Cr Bosley, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter
Against: Edwards, Cr Ellims, Cr McAulay, Cr Olds Not Carried

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Action 320: Schedule a workshop before 31 July with SWC members to discuss amendments to Standing Orders – section 15 Public Forum (public participation).

R Thomas

E Members Reports

E1. Councillor feedback from Community Boards – Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough

Cr Gray provided updates for Featherston Community Board, including: the Matariki Festival, noting that Warren Maxwell played a key role in the organisation of this; working with a graphic designer for community flags and the funding this; grant allocations including Pai Tu Mokai for a nursery and restoration of moana; and looking at strategies for spending money from previous asset sale. Cr Gray noted the Featherston Community Board forum was scheduled for that evening.

Cr Ellims provided updates for Martinborough Community Board, including: South Wairarapa Community Festival; resilience planning for Martinborough and the rural area; updating flags around Martinborough; Christmas parade planning; involvement in lighting project; recent allocation of \$50k in grants from the Pain Estate fund and attendance at Matariki ceremonies and festivities at Papawai and Hau Ariki Marae.

Cr Bosley provided updates for Greytown Community Board including: work on street flags, noting the ANZAC flags were designed by a Greytown artist; volunteer open day; Arbor Day – trees going in the reserve, Jo has done a colouring sheet for schools; Matariki work with Papawai and event at Neil Morison's property; festival of Christmas – small amount given to support this; work with Age Concern to obtain a disabled parking space in town. Cr Bosley relayed a concern regarding support from Council to engage in a stakeholders public meeting for use of parks and reserves (formal forum).

F Appointments Reports

F1. Wairarapa Road Safety Council Appointment Report

Item to be resubmitted to Strategy Working Committee meeting agenda for 31 July 2024, along with Cr Old's report from Wairarapa Trails Action Group.

G Public Excluded Section

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

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Report/General Subject Matter	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
Public excluded minutes 5 June 2024 (Greytown Water Options – Final Report / Greytown Old Building Lease - EOI Applications and Assessment)	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7(2)(h)	Section 48(1)(a)
Greytown Wheels Park – design and build options	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7(2)(h)	Section 48(1)(a)
Appointment of members to the District Licensing Committee Combined List	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7(2)(a)	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution (SWC2024/69) is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	Section 7(2)(a)
The withholding of information is necessary to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	section 7(2)(h)

(Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Olds)

Carried

Cr Plimmer arrived to the meeting at 1:23pm (via Zoom).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.
The meeting was reconvened at 2:00pm.

Cr Plimmer left the meeting at 2:07pm.

The meeting closed at 2:13pm.

G Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing
Cr Gray closed the meeting.

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Chair)

.....(Chief Executive)

.....(Date)

.....(Date)

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Representation Review: Initial Proposal

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Strategy Working Committee to adopt its initial proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 and 2028 elections, for public notification and consultation.

2. Executive Summary

The [Local Electoral Act 2001 \(LEA\)](#) requires local authorities to undertake a review of their representation arrangements at least once every six years.

The [last representation review was done in 2018](#), for the 2019 local body elections. Therefore 2024 requires a Representation Review to look at representation arrangements (number of councillors, ward boundaries, names and community boards) for the next two triennial (October 2025, and the following 2028 local elections).

Representation reviews give the community an opportunity to consider if the existing representation arrangements are efficient and effective or if another arrangement provides great advocacy.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the *Council/Community Board/Committee*:

1. **Receive** the '*Representation Review: Initial Proposal*' Report.
2. **Adopt** the initial proposal for representation arrangement, including the Statement of Proposal and Consultation Document in Appendix 1.
3. **Note** the Strategy Working Committee will hear submissions received, if any, on this initial proposal.

4. Background

The Council last reviewed its representation arrangements prior to the 2019 elections and no change was made at that time to the representation arrangements. Council is now being asked to review its representation arrangements for the 2025 and 2028 local elections. The review will determine the detailed arrangements for:

- the number of electoral subdivisions known as wards (if any), and
- their boundaries, names, and number of members and

- basis of election (at large, by wards or a mix of both) and
- community boards.

The review process is subject to a statutory timeline and process. The Council must adopt for consultation its Initial Proposal no later than **31 July 2024** and must notify its Final Proposal no later than **3 November 2024**. The final proposal is subject to rights of appeal and/or objection to the Local Government Commission.

Guidelines for undertaking a review

The Local Electoral Act identifies three key factors that must be carefully considered by local authorities when determining their representation proposals, namely:

- communities of interest
- effective representation of communities of interest
- fair representation of electors

The term “Communities of Interest” is not defined in legislation but may include factors such as a community’s sense of belonging and identity, similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of a community, distinct local history, the rohe or takiwā of mana whenua, and dependence on shared facilities in an area.

South Wairarapa District has some distinct communities that have been considered as part of the Representation Review process.

- Greytown
- Martinborough
- Featherston
- Our rural community
- Our Māori history and mana whenua

Effective representation of communities of interest includes consideration of the number of elected members to represent each community, and whether members are elected by wards, at large (by district) or a mix of both.

The district’s population has grown by 13.8% since 2018, with growth distributed relatively evenly across the three wards.

Council process

Council has progressed its representation review through a series of workshops and meetings including:

Date	Activity
28 June 2023	High-level report to Council on Representation Review.
18 July 2023	High-level report to Māori Standing Committee on the Representation Review

2 August 2023	Report to Council on voting options for Representation Review. Council decided to continue with status quo of first past the post
9 August 2023	High-level report to Featherston Community Board on the Representation Review
7 September 2023	High-level report to the Martinborough Community Board on the representation review.
27 September 2023	Report to Council on legislative changes to the Representation Review
10 October 2023	Report to Māori Standing Committee on Māori wards.
18 October 2023	High-level report to Greytown Community Board on the Representation Review
7 November 2023	Report to Māori Standing Committee on Māori Wards. Māori Standing Committee resolved unanimous support for a Māori ward and put forward a recommendation to Council to establish Māori representation.
15 November 2023	Workshop with elected members on Māori Wards.
22 November 2023	Report to Council on Māori Wards Council resolved to establish Māori wards for the 2025 and 2028 local elections.
28 Feb 2024	High-level workshop with elected members on work ahead for Representation Review
1 May 2024	Workshop with elected members on Representation Review
8 May 2024	Report to Featherston Community Board on the Representation Review
22 May 2024	Report to the Greytown Community Board on the Representation Review
30 May 2024	Report to the Martinborough Community Board on the Representation Review
26 June 2024	Workshop with elected members on Representation Review
3 July 2024	Report to Strategy Working Committee outlining options for Representation
31 July 2024	Report to Strategy Working Committee to adopt initial proposal for the Representation Review

Pre-engagement took place with our community.

For August 2023 for Māori Wards:

- Drop-in sessions for Martinborough and Featherston.
- Hui at the Marae for Martinborough and Greytown.
- Multiple Facebook posts to pushout notification of Māori Wards.
- Mailout to all those on the Māori 2018 electoral role.

Māori Standing Committee consultation with marae, whanau, hapū and iwi following engagement from each of the represented iwi groups letters of support for the establishment of Māori wards came from:

- Kohunui Marae

- Hau Ariki Marae
- Papawai Marae
- Pae Tū Mokai o Tauira
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- Rangitāne o Wairarapa

Full details of the engagement from 2023 can be found in the Representation Review – [Māori Wards report to Council on 22 November 23](#).

The result of the Council’s decision on 22 November was to establish Māori representation for the 2025 and 2028 elections. This review will include a Māori ward and does not revisit the decision to establish Māori Wards.

For April 2024 for Representation Review:

- Flyers and handouts were included in 11 community workshops that took place for the Enhanced Annual Plan.

For May 2024 for Representation Review:

- an information engagement survey was pushed out through social media, asking the community for their initial thoughts on representation. Around 60 people responded to this survey.

Full feedback from the 2024 engagement can be found in the Representation Review report to Strategy Working Committee 3 July 24.

5. Discussion

Current representation arrangements

Under the current representation arrangements, determined in the 2018 representation review, South Wairarapa District Council comprises currently of a mayor and nine councillors, elected from three wards:

- Greytown Ward (3 councillors)
- Featherston Ward (3 councillors)
- Martinborough Ward (3 councillors)

There are also three Community Boards supporting representation in each ward. Community Boards are unincorporated bodies which are neither local authorities nor committees. They give a voice to specific communities and act as representatives, advocates and connectors of those communities.

A board’s purpose is to engage with that community and advocate for it in council. Councils can delegate responsibilities and decision-making powers to community boards if they wish.

The current representation for community boards is:

- Greytown Community Board (4 elected members + 2 Greytown ward councillors)
- Featherston Community Board (4 elected members + 2 Featherston ward councillors)
- Martinborough Community Board (4 elected members + 2 Martinborough ward councillors)

A total of seven elected members currently represents each ward under the current representation and then everyone votes for the Mayor.

Council consideration

Council held a workshop on 26 June 2024 to discuss the feedback received through early engagement, and to give direction on what might be included in the Initial Proposal.

Full details of that workshop can be found online or as part of the report that went to [Strategy Working Committee 3 July 24](#).

Proposed changes to current representation arrangements

There are a few proposed changes to the current representation arrangements that are included as part of this initial proposal. This includes:

- reducing the number of councillors per ward to two (instead of three),
- including two at large councillors,
- disestablish community boards per ward, and
- establishing an advisory group to represent more of our rural community.

The areas of representation arrangements where the status quo is proposed to continue are our ward boundary lines and names. The status quo acknowledges the unique character and needs of each ward and considers fair representation is provided for population equality per member.

In the areas where no changes have been made to our representation arrangements as part of the initial proposal, it is considered that the status quo arrangements are appropriate for the 2025 and 2028 local elections.

Effective representation

The current number of councillors is considered appropriate to enable residents to access their representatives, and for elected members to effectively manage and share their workload. The establishment of a Māori ward will add to the scope and complexity of representation, provide for diversity of thought and representation to enable good governance.

Council also reviewed the basis of election and propose to include two members elected at large, that is, by all electors across the entire district. At large elections are

considered appropriate in cases where a district has a shared common community of interest at the district level, and/or communities of interest that are spread across the district rather than being geographically distinct. With increased complexity and work taking place across the Wairarapa region, representation across the district of South Wairarapa enables future focus and greater representation for our district as a whole.

A mixed basis of election can also have the effect of balancing out the number of votes available to electors in general and Māori wards. For example, where general roll electors may have multiple votes within their ward, Māori roll electors may have only one ward vote.

Māori representation

[The Local Government \(Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies\) Amendment Bill](#) was introduced on 20 May 2024, reintroducing provision for binding polls on the establishment of Māori wards/constituencies and providing transitional arrangements for councils that have resolved to establish Māori wards/constituencies since March 2021 without holding a poll.

For SWDC, transitional arrangements proposed in the Bill would require the Council to either rescind the decision to establish Māori wards; or hold a binding poll alongside the 2025 local elections to decide whether Māori wards should continue for 2028.

At the workshop on 1 May 24 an informal indication from Council was sought and councillors indicated their preference to hold a binding poll, should the legislation require it.

Fair representation

For the current review, StatsNZ population data shows that the population per member ratios for the three general wards remain fully compliant with the +/- 10% requirement for the population per member ratio:

Ward	Population	Members	Pop per member	Difference from quota	% diff from quota
Greytown General Ward	3,880	2	1,940	110	6.01
Featherston General Ward	3,320	2	1,660	-170	-9.29
Martinborough General Ward	3,780	2	1,890	60	3.28
Total General Wards	10,980	6	1,830		
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	900	1	900		
At Large	11,880	2			
Total	11,880	9			

The above calculation is set out in Schedule 19(V) of the Local Electoral Act 2001

“... the population of each ward or constituency or subdivision, divided by the number of members to be elected by that ward or constituency or subdivision, produces a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district or ... community divided by the total number of elected members (other than members elected by the electors of a territorial authority as a whole, if any, and the mayor, if any).”

The population per member ratio does not apply between General and Māori wards (as they are calculated separately), and does not apply to members elected at large, so you do not need to list the ratio for those.

LGC publishes a spreadsheet of the calculations for every council, based on the last election. This is available at: <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Resources-Representation-Review/Representation-tables-2023-boundaries-2023-estimates-2018-census-base.xlsx>.

[Schedule 1A s2 of the Local Electoral Act 2001](#) provides a formula for calculating the number of members to be elected by the electors of one or more Māori wards of the district of a territorial authority.

Naming Wards

The term “General” needs to be included in the ward names for Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough as the LGC advises this is part of the legal title of the electoral areas and is also the format used by StatsNZ, LINZ and other statutory agencies.

All wards are required to be named Schedule 19(H) of the Local Electoral Act 2021.

As part of the consultation, we will be engaging with the Council’s Māori Standing Committee on an appropriate process and name for the South Wairarapa Māori Ward.

Community Boards

As part of reviewing representation arrangements, all territorial authorities must consider whether community boards are required, regardless of whether they currently exist within the district.

Community feedback to date has supported Community Boards. However, the council is split due to their effectiveness and may support Community Boards for the next triennium should their role be enhanced. General discussion at the workshop on 26 June included a lack of individuals standing for these roles, with Featherston being the only Community Board that had more than four people standing at the last local election, the cost of running Community Boards, and if that representation can be seen elsewhere. As Community Boards are a topic for discussion, the initial proposal will consider changes to this representation and encourage feedback to councillors on this area of representation through the consultation process.

Rural Advisory Group

The Council has indicated that rural representation is important to consider as part of the representation arrangements for 2025 and 2028. We are consulting on establishing a Rural Advisory Group Comprising of appointed representatives from the rural community who can advocate at Council. However, this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but that the Council is signalling it would like feedback on establishing this group.

Communities of interest

As part of the Representation Review the following communities of interest have been considered.

Ward	Communities of Interest
Greytown General Ward	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of Greytown
Featherston General Ward	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of Featherston
Martinborough General Ward	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of Martinborough
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	Comprising of one elected member who can advocate for our Māori community, our Māori history and mana whenua
At Large (South Wairarapa District Wide)	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of the South Wairarapa District.

6. Representation Review Timeline

The following table shows the steps and dates for this representation review. The timeline for this representation review has been developed to comply with legislation.

Date	Activity
31 July 24	Strategy Working Committee adopts Initial Proposal, SOP, Consultation Document and public notice
5 August 24	Consultation Opens
8 September 24	Consultation closes
18 September 24	Evening Hearings
19 September 24	Daytime Hearings
2 October 24	Deliberations and adoption of final proposal for representation arrangement
1 November 24	Public notification of final proposal for representation arrangement
3 December 24	Last date for appeals and objections
20 December 24	Last date for forwarding any appeals and objects to the Commission
11 February 25	Tentative date for any hearings by the Commission
10 April 25	Last legislative date for the Commission to make determinations

7. Options Considered

7.1 Considered options

At the Strategic Working Committee on 3 July 24, Council considered the following options.

To stay the same:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown General Ward	3 Councillors	3,880	1,293
Featherston General Ward	3 Councillors	3,320	1,107
Martinborough General Ward	3 Councillors	3,780	1,260
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
Total	10 Councillors	11,880	
Martinborough Community Board		4 elected members	
Greytown Community Board		4 elected members	
Featherston Community Board		4 elected members	

To include a rural ward:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown General Ward (change to boundary lines)	2 Councillors	unknown	unknown
Featherston General Ward (change to boundary lines)	2 Councillors	unknown	unknown
Martinborough General Ward (change to boundary lines)	2 Councillors	unknown	unknown
Greytown rural general ward	1 Councillor	unknown	unknown
Martinborough rural general ward	1 Councillor	unknown	unknown
Featherston rural general ward	1 Councillor	unknown	unknown
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
Total	9 Councillors	11,880	
Consult on no Community Boards			

To include at large representation:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown General Ward	2 Councillors	3,880	1,940
Featherston General Ward	2 Councillors	3,320	1,660
Martinborough General Ward	2 Councillors	3,780	1,890
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
At Large (South Wairarapa District Wide)	2 Councillors		
Total	9 Councillors	11,880	
Consult on no Community Boards		Rural Advisory Group established	

During that meeting councillors discussed the merits of the options and moved to support at large representation for the initial proposal on representation.

7.2 Initial Proposal

Therefore, at the 31 July 24 Strategy Working Committee meeting councillors will need to adopt their Initial Proposal for representation arrangements for the local government elections in October 2025.

These are described below:

1. Reduction in the number of councillors elected through General Wards

SWDC is proposing to reduce the number of councillors for Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards. The initial proposal has two councillors elected from each ward, rather than three.

2. Introduction of two councillors at large, across the district

SWDC is proposing that two councillors are elected at large (by everyone) across the district.

3. Disestablishing community boards for the three general wards; Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough

SWDC is proposing not to have community boards for the 2025 and 2028 local elections.

The changes proposed would look like this:

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown General Ward	2 Councillors	3,880	1,940
Featherston General Ward	2 Councillors	3,320	1,660
Martinborough General Ward	2 Councillors	3,780	1,890
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
At Large (South Wairarapa District Wide)	2 Councillors	11,800	
Total	9 Councillors	11,880	
Consult on no Community Boards		Rural Advisory Group established	

8. Strategic Drivers and Legislative Requirements

The Representation Review process is governed by the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) (the Act) with the Local Government Commission acting as the authority charged with making the final decision on arrangements. Statutory requirements are extensive and are provided for in the Act, with the review process set out in section 19H to 19Z of the Act. The Act prescribes the dates by which the various steps in the review process must occur

In accordance with the [Council's Significance and Engagement Policy](#), this matter has been assessed as being of significance, and Council undertook a period of preliminary engagement with the public between 25 March 2024 and 28 April 2024 on this subject. The results of that engagement have been considered by the Council as part of their workshop on 26 June 24 and Strategy Working Committee 3 July 24.

[Section 19M of the LEA](#) outlines the Council is required to undertake one-month formal consultation. The legislation requires that:

- Council must, within 14 days after making the resolution (not later than 8 August), give public notice of the proposal contained in the resolution.
- The public notice must:
 - Include a statement about how persons interested in the proposal may inspect the full proposals and
 - Specify the communities of interest considered by Council

- Specify the ratio of population to proposed members for each proposed ward and the reason for these wards.
- Specify a period of not less than one month from the date of the first or only public notice within which persons interested in the resolution may make submissions on the resolution to the council.

Further statutory requirements are provided for under the [Local Government Act 2002](#), in particular s.14 which requires councils to make itself aware of, and have regard to, the views of all its communities take account of the diversity of the community's interests and provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes.

The representation review is part of the strategic drivers of local government.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Having suitable representation arrangements will contribute to all four well-beings for the community, including enabling democratic representation and decision making.
Environmental	✓	
Cultural	✓	
Social	✓	

8.1 Significant risk register

Significant risk for the Representation Review includes the following:

- ☒ Relationship with iwi, hapū, Māori
- ☐ Climate Change
- ☐ Emergency Management
- ☐ IT architecture, information system, information management, and security
- ☐ Financial management, sustainability, fraud, and corruption
- ☒ Legislative and regulative reforms
- ☒ Social licence to operate and reputation
- ☐ Asset management
- ☐ Economic conditions
- ☐ Health and Safety

9. Consultation

9.1 Communications and engagement

The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter include:

- Community Boards.
- Rural communities.
- Coastal communities.
- Māori, iwi, hapū and marae.
- All South Wairarapa residents.

This is our proposed plan engagement activities and timeframe:

Considerations / Activity	Examples	Key Dates	Officer(s) Responsible
Key messages (TBC)	<p>We are undertaking a representation review to consider fair and effective representation across South Wairarapa.</p> <p>This is an important process because we want our elected members to reflect who we are. A review of how we are represented will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enable the community to be involved in the discussion around how we are represented - ensure that the number of elected members suits our population and communities of interest; and - promote confidence in local democracy and the electoral process. <p>Our initial proposal is:</p>		
Key stakeholders	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elected and appointed members ○ Library staff and customer services <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residents ○ Rural communities ○ Coastal communities ○ Community groups and individuals e.g. those who receive grants from CBs ○ Māori, iwi, hapū and marae 	During consultation	Policy Advisor Comms team Stakeholder Manager Governance team SLT
Planned engagement activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District wide consultation ○ Media updates 	During consultation	Policy Advisor Comms team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Digital engagement via website, social media & antenno ○ Printed consultation material at libraries ○ Drop-in/information sessions ○ Radio advertising 		Stakeholder Manager Governance team SLT
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10. Financial Considerations

There is no financial impact, The Representation Review has been budgeted for in the 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan.

11. Climate Change Considerations

There are no positive or negative effects on climate change from this decision.

12. Health and Safety Considerations

Council officers note the high level of interest in this Representation Review and acknowledge there may be strong feedback from some parts of the community.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statement of Proposal and Consultation Document.

Contact Officer: Nicki Ansell, Lead Advisor Projects and Policy

Reviewed By: Rob Thomas, Manager Stakeholder Relationships

Appendix 1 – Statement of Proposal, Consultation Document.



South Wairarapa District Council Representation Review

Council is required to review the representation arrangements for SWDC once every six years, and the last time we did this review was in 2018 under the [Local Electoral Act 2001 \(LEA\)](#).

Representation Reviews give the community an opportunity to consider if the existing representation arrangements are efficient and effective now and for the future. This means looking at the number of councillors and how they are elected, the existence of wards and their boundaries and community boards. Council is required to develop an Initial Proposal of what representation could look like for 2025 and 2028 local government elections.

On 31 July 24 Council adopted their Initial Proposal for representation arrangements for the local government elections in October 2025. We are now seeking formal feedback on this proposal.

Full details of the Initial Proposal are on pages 3 and 4, we need you to let us know if this proposal will provide efficient and effective representation for South Wairarapa today and in the future.

So, what's proposed to change?

There are three changes to the status quo included in the Initial Proposal:

Reduction in the number of councillors elected through General Wards

There would be a reduction in the number of councillors for Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards. The initial proposal has two councillors elected from each General Ward, rather than three.

The proposal also includes a Māori Ward with one councillor. The Council has already decided to establish a Māori Ward and will not revisit the decision as part of this consultation.

Introduction of at large representation

This would see two councillors elected at large (by everyone) across the district.

Disestablishing community boards

Each of the three General Wards (Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough) would not have a community board.

Current representation arrangement

Currently at SWDC we have nine councillors elected by the ward system, and a Mayor elected to represent the whole district. The three General Wards are Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough. We also have a Community Board for each ward. These arrangements have been in place since the constitution of South Wairarapa District in 1989, with no change during the last two Representation Review in 2012, and 2018.



What do we have to think about?

When undertaking a Representation Review, we are required to consider fair and effective representation. We need to review our electoral arrangements in respect to:

- the number of elected members
- whether those members are to be elected at large, or by ward, or by a combination of both
- ward boundaries, ward names and the number of elected members for each ward
- whether there should be community board(s) and if so, the nature and structure of the community board(s)

Fair representation

When reviewing representation, we have to take into account the number of residents each councillor represents. This is called a “population member ratio” or the +/- 10% rule and helps us to consider whether our proposed representation arrangements provides for fair representation.

To calculate this ratio, we take the total population and divide it by the number of Councillors (excluding the Mayor). We then work out a ratio which 10% higher or lower than the overall ratio. The number of Councillors per ward must not exceed the higher or lower limits of the ratio. The initial proposal for representation complies with the population member ratio.

Effective representation

Effective representation considers the number of councillors in relation to things like the size and geography of the area and the diversity of its people. This includes the ease of access to your elected members and how well those elected members are able to represent the diverse range of people and interests in their area.

Identifying Communities of Interest

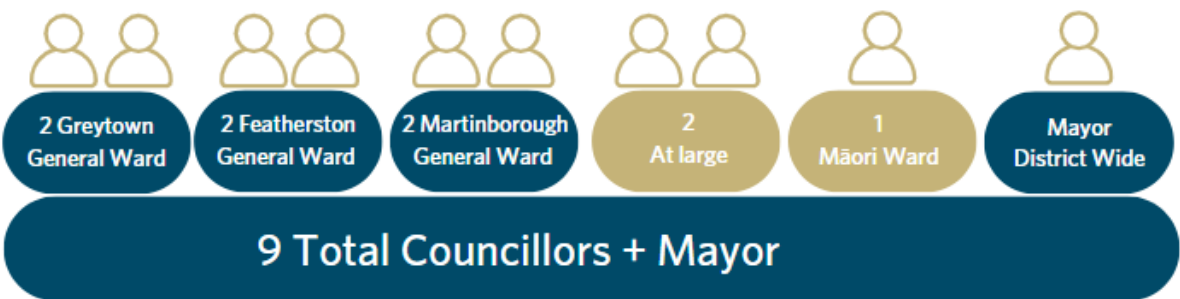
One of the goals of a representation review is to achieve effective representation, which means that wards should be based on communities of interest that is areas that people identify with and relate to. Legislation does not define what a community of interest is, but the concept includes things like people feeling a collective sense of identity and belonging to the area; people using the same services, like schools, pools, libraries, roading networks; councillors being able to effectively represent the interests of the area.

Our initial proposal

The council’s initial proposal contains some changes to the status quo to ensure we continue to provide effective representation for our community today and in the future. Your thoughts on the proposal are important to us and we need to hear from you, whether you agree or disagree. Your feedback will be important in arriving at a final proposal.

Initial proposal for representation arrangements for the 2025 and 2028 local elections

On 31 July 2024 the South Wairarapa District Council reviewed its representation arrangements, and resolved that the following proposal apply for the Council and its community boards for the elections to be held on 11 October 2025.



Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise nine members elected from three General Wards, a Māori ward, at large, and the Mayor.

Wards are designed to reflect communities of interest. South Wairarapa’s communities of interest are identified by the following wards:

Ward	Community of Interest
Greytown General Ward	The Greytown ward includes commercial and urban residential, as well as rural communities. Those in the urban center share amenities, roading and schools and face common issues related to services and water supply. The Greytown ward has a strong identify with heritage and has its own celebrations.
Featherston General Ward	The Featherston ward includes commercial and urban residential, as well as rural communities. Those in the urban center share amenities, roading and schools and face common issues related to services and water supply. The Featherston has its own Masterplan for growth over the next 30 years and into the future.
Martinborough General Ward	The Martinborough ward includes commercial and urban residential, as well as rural communities. Those in the urban center share amenities, roading and schools and face common issues related to services and water supply. The Martinborough ward also contains a

	large geographical area with its own rural communities and coastal communities.
Māori Ward	Our mana whenua has shared interests, history and amenities (marae). Our community has told us they have a sense of belonging, identity, demographic, and socio-economic.

Why did we decide on this proposal?

Following a workshop on 26 June 2024 and the Strategy Working Committee meeting 3 July 2024 elected members discussed and debated our communities of interest and the best way to provide representation to them going forward over the next six years.

We think what we are proposing is necessary to ensure representation continues to be effective and efficient now and into the future. We are deeply aware of the challenges our communities face and the importance of providing diversity of thought and representation to enable good governance.

- **The number of Councillors:** The number of Councillors will remain the same in the initial proposal (9) as we think this number is working well given the workload and complexity ahead for South Wairarapa. We believe this number of elected members also enables residents to access their representatives.
- **General Wards for Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough:** The boundary lines and names remain unchanged as we believe the existing wards of Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough help to provide effective representation for each unique area.
- **At large (district wide) representation:** We looked at whether councillors should be elected by ward (the status quo), at-large (where all members are elected by all voters district wide) or a combination of the two systems. We are proposing to change to a combination of both wards and introduce at large representation across the district to help with future planning and greater representation for our district as a whole, in the years ahead. This change reflects our growth and changing population as a region and the need for district wide representation. Everyone will be able to vote for candidates that stand at large, across the district.
- **Removal of community boards:** The initial proposal includes no community boards. The Council is currently unsure of the effectiveness and level of representation that the Community Boards have, noting that elected members from each ward also provide representation. General discussion included:
 - a lack of individuals standing for these roles, with Featherston being the only Community Board that had more than four people standing at the last local election
 - The purpose of Community Boards going forward
 - The cost of running Community Boards as a small council

Council is signaling it would like to consider removing Community Boards for the 2025 local election and would like your feedback on this change.

- **Rural advisory group:** the initial proposal includes a rural advisory group as this will allow representation from a governing structure that works best for our rural communities. Not only does this community have shared roading concerns they are also facing increased complexity and isolation through climate change. Masterton currently has a rural advisory board, so this option also aligns with our wider region.

Although a rural advisory board is not formally part of the Representation Review, the Council is signaling

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it would like your feedback on establishing this group.

How did we get here?

- August '23: Council decision on First Past the Post voting options
- November '23: Māori Standing Committee unanimously support Māori Wards on behalf of South Wairarapa iwi
- Workshop November '23: Elected members workshop on Māori Wards
- November '23: Resolution to establish Māori Wards
- Workshop Feb and May '24: Overview of presentation review and recent population data
- Workshop June '24: Early engagement was included in this workshop for consideration of preferred options
- July '24: Strategy Working Committee direct to council officers on preferred options
- July '24: Strategy Working Committee Initial Proposal adopted

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a submission?

Our Initial Proposal is now open for submissions meaning you can have your say on whether you agree or do not agree with what we are proposing. The easiest way to do that is to fill in the feedback form here and, if you would like to, come in to present in person.

Why are you proposing to disestablish community boards?

Community Boards represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of their community. South Wairarapa community boards currently meet bi-monthly to discuss issues that have been brought to their attention by the local community. They advocate on behalf of the community to the Council. They are delegated to provide community grants to support local initiatives and approving local place names.

Community feedback to date has supported Community Boards. However, at the Council Workshop on 26 June 2024 there was a wide range of views which included:

- concerns over the effectiveness of Community Boards
- the possibility of provided greater enhanced delegations
- a lack of individuals standing for these roles, with Featherston being the only Community Board that had more than four people standing at the last local election
- the cost of running Community Boards
- whether representation can be seen elsewhere

Why are you proposing to establish a rural advisory board?

The Council discussed the introduction of one or more rural wards for 2025. The rural community has been identified as a community of interest that the Council is proposing representation for, given their shared interests. Following discussions at the Representation Review Workshop on 26 June 24, a rural advisory group was raised as an option and received greater support from councillors than an introduction of a rural ward at this time.

What are other options for local representation?

Local representation can take many forms, with council, community or business led options being a positive way to advocate for their communities and local areas.

- Resident Advisory Committee: A group established by Council to provide feedback on council plans and in some circumstances provide direction on local targeted rates.
- Resident Associations: Established by the community (e.g. Registered Association with limited liability) with voluntary annual membership. Advocate on behalf of local residents to Council, they often put on community events and run local initiatives. They often get annual grant funding from councils to pay for administration and running local initiatives.
- Business Improvement Districts (BIDs): Established by businesses voting in a particular area and ratified through a business association AGM. This creates a targeted rate for the business association to enable larger long-term business lead projects.
- Business Associations: Established by the business community with voluntary annual membership subscriptions. Advocate on behalf of local businesses and put on local events.
- Enhanced Community Boards: Establishing an annual local plan and provided oversight of local parks, footpaths and libraries.

What are the options for electing our councillors?

The Local Electoral Act provides different options for councils to elect their councillors. These include the following:

1. Wards (our current system) where you only vote for candidates standing in your ward
2. At large (district wide) meaning councillors are elected across the district, you are able to vote for all candidates and are not restricted to the candidates representing a ward.
3. A mixed system where some councillors are elected at large and others through the ward system.

This initial proposal is for option three, a mix of General Wards and at large (district wide).

Which Councillor represents who?

Each councillor is sworn into office to represent the best interests of the entire district. Wards are a way of splitting up the district into smaller areas what have their own unique identify and shared services. By electing councillors from General Wards, those councillors are able to advocate and represent the needs of that ward in Council.

How do we elect the mayor?

The Mayor is always elected through a district wide vote.

What happens following the hearing?

This is the process:

- Once the proposal has been reviewed and finalised (if required) then it will be publicly notified as a Final Proposal.
- If the final proposal does not change, those who submitted it can appeal.
- If Council changes the final proposal, anyone can object.
- These appeals or objections are forwarded to the Local Government Commission.
- Local Government Commission makes the final decision around April 2025.
- The changes to representation arrangements will come into effect for the local body elections next year.

If we reduce the number of elected members, will that decrease my rates?

Remuneration for elected members (Mayor, councillors and community board members) is funded from district rates. However, these amounts are set by a government agency, the Remuneration Authority (RA).

In the case of Councillors, the RA set a fixed pool of funds which is divided between the number of elected members, according to a Council decision. This means if we had a greater number of councillors each would be paid less, and vice versa, but the total remuneration would not change.

What kind of electoral system will be used for the 2025 local body elections?

In 2023, Council decided to retain the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the 2025 local election, the candidate with the most votes, wins.

What is a South Wairarapa General Māori Ward?

On 22 November 2023 Council resolved to establish Māori Wards for the 2025 and 2028 local elections. Anyone can stand to be a candidate on the Māori Ward, you just need to be nominated by two people who are on the Māori electoral role.

Only those on the Māori electoral role can vote for a Māori ward candidate.

In the Initial Proposal, how many people are represented per elected member?

Ward	Population	Members	Population per member	Difference from quota	% diff from quota
Greytown General Ward	3,880	2	1,940	110	6.01
Featherston General Ward	3,320	2	1,660	-170	-9.29
Martinborough General Ward	3,780	2	1,890	60	3.28
Total General Wards	10,980	6	1,830		
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	900	1	900		
At large	11,880	2			
Total	11,880	9			

Consultation Questions

Privacy statement

Your name and feedback will be in public documents. All other personal details will remain private.

The Privacy Act 2020 applies when we collect personal details. Any details that are collected will only be used for the purposes stated. You have the right to access and correct any personal information we hold.

Your name*	Open text field
Your email address*	Open text field
Your phone number	Open text field
Which ward do you live in?	Greytown Ward Featherston Ward Martinborough Ward On the Māori electoral role Outside of the District
Are you enrolled on the General Electoral Roll or the Māori Electoral Roll?*	General Electoral Roll Māori Electoral Roll
Are you making a submission on behalf of an organisation?	Yes / No If yes > which organisation?
Do you wish to speak to your submission? You'll be presenting your submission to the Elected Council and the meeting will be livestreamed. If you select yes, please also ensure you provide your phone number at the start of this form so we can contact you.	Yes / No
Do you support the initial proposal in full?	Yes / No If no > do you support the current arrangement?
Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards? This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).	Yes / No Why?
Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.	Yes / No Why?
Do you support the proposal to disestablish community	Yes / No

boards? Meaning the three community boards would be disestablished, with representation to be provided elsewhere through other elected members or advisory group.	Why?
Do you support establishing a rural advisory group? Note: the rural advisory board is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback on establishing this group.	Yes / No Why?
Do you have other comments or feedback?	Open text field

How you can have your say

Tell us what you think before 8 September 2024 by:

- filling out the online feedback form on our website www.swdc.govt.nz/representation-review/
- emailing your feedback to submissions@swdc.govt.nz
- dropping your feedback form at the Council Office at 19 Kitchener Street Martinborough or any of the district libraries
- posting your submission to: Policy and Governance Team, South Wairarapa District Council, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741

This consultation is a Special Consultative Process (SCP) and will require hearings or deliberations to take place. The feedback given will be provided to the Council as background information to aid decision making in relation to the decision.

Local Government NZ Remit 2024

1. Purpose

This paper seeks a resolution for the presiding delegate from South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) at the upcoming Local Government NZ (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting (AGM) taking place 21 August 2024.

This paper also includes the remits for 2024 to endorse and prioritise for the AGM.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- a) **Receives** the Local Government NZ Remit 2024 report.
- b) **Authorises** the primary nominee to endorse the remits with the following vote:

Proposed Remit		Vote – Yes, No or Abstain
1	Representation Review	
2	Community Services Cards	
3	Local government constituencies and wards should not be subject to referendum	
4	Entrenchment of Māori wards seats for local government	
5	Graduated driver licensing systems	
6	Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings	
7	Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives	
8	Goods and services tax (GST) revenue sharing with local government	

- c) **Authorises** the primary nominee to prioritise the remits as follows:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

8. _____

3. Background

Local Government New Zealand's 36th AGM will be held at 1pm on Wednesday 21 August 2024 at Tākina in Wellington.

Every year, LGNZ adopts new remits at their AGM. Remits enable LGNZ members to directly inform advocacy and build ground-up policy that allows local people to deliver their own local initiatives.

All local authorities who are full financial members of LGNZ as of 20 August 2024 are entitled to be represented at the AGM. South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) can be represented by elected members and/or staff, and under LGNZ's constitution is entitled to three votes at the AGM.

LGNZ's National Council decided at its June meeting to also ask the AGM to prioritise the remits, to make it clearer where most resource should be directed.

Therefore, at this year's LGNZ Annual Meeting there will be a two-step process for remits:

1. At the AGM, delegates will vote on remits as usual.
2. Then, in a separate vote, they will rank successful remits in order of priority. This vote will be carried out electronically and result in a prioritised list of remits.

National Council will look at this prioritised list and allocate resource accordingly. This will include determining where on the list the cut off lies between a 'maximalist' and 'minimalist' approach.

Depending on the nature of the remit, a 'maximalist' approach could include commissioning advice or research, or in-depth policy or advocacy work. A 'minimalist' approach could involve less resource, such as writing a letter to the relevant minister or agency.

The National Council will share its decision with councils, along with proposed actions. Progress made against remits will continue to be reported in the four-monthly update to members.

4. Proposed Remits

The proposed remits for the 2024 LGNZ Conference are:

Proposed Remit	
1	Representation Review
2	Community Services Cards
3	Local government constituencies and wards should not be subject to referendum
4	Entrenchment of Māori wards seats for local government
5	Graduated driver licensing systems
6	Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings
7	Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives
8	Goods and services tax (GST) revenue sharing with local government

Full details of each remit can be found in Appendix 1.

5. Consideration

Council officers are requesting that the Strategy Working Committee nominate the remit they will endorse and priorities the remits for the presiding delegate.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2024 LGNZ Annual General Meeting Remits

Contact Officer: Nicki Ansell, Lead Advisor, Policy & Projects.

Reviewed by: Rob Thomas, Manager Stakeholder Relationships

Appendix 1 – 2024 LGNZ Annual General Meeting Remits



2024 Annual General Meeting

REMITTS



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



Prioritising remits

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

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

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

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

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



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



// 01

Representation reviews

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

Proposed by: Waikato Regional Council

Supported by: Zone 2

Why is this remit important?

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

Background and Context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



// 02

Community Services Card

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

Proposed by: Palmerston North City Council

Supported by: Zone 3

Why is this remit important?

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

Background and Context

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



// 03

Local government constituencies & wards should not be subject to referendum

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

Proposed by: Palmerston North City Council

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

Why is this remit important?

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

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

Background and Context

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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29 May 2024

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

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

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

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

Palmerston North is home to:

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

We proudly display:

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

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

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

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

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

and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rushed legislation is not good legislation.

We agree.

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

We agree.

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

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

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

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

We agree.

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

Ngā mihi nui

Grant Smith JP
MAYOR
Palmerston North City Council

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Grant Smith, Mayor of Palmerston North City Council. The signature is written over the printed name and title.

29 May 2024

Submission of Te Pae Tāwhiti Rōpū

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Māori Wards Contribution to Local Government

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi

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

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

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

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

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

Poll Provisions – not compatible with complex constitutional matters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We agree with this statement from Department of Internal Affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cost to Ratepayers

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

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

Timing of Poll Should it Proceed

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

Summary and Recommendation

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

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

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

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

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

Parties to the submission:

Roly Fitzgerald

Te Pūao Māori Ward Councillor, Palmerston North City Council

Korty Wilson

Ruapehu Māori Ward Councillor, Ruapehu District Council

Justin Tamihana

Horowhenua Māori Ward Councillor, Horowhenua District Council

Nina Hori Te Pa

Horowhenua Māori Ward Councillor, Horowhenua District Council

Coral Raukawa

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

Piki Te Ora Hiroa

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

Bridget Bell

Ngā Tapuae o Matangi Māori Ward Councillor, Manawatū District Council

Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase

Ruapehu Māori Ward Councillor, Ruapehu District Council

Channey Iwikau

Ruapehu Māori Ward Councillor, Ruapehu District Council

Naioma Chase

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

Te Kenehi Teira

Tonga Māori Councillor, Horizons Regional Council

Turuhia (Jim) Edmonds

Raki Māori Councillor, Horizons Regional Council

And from Horizons Regional Council:

Wiremu Te Awe Awe

Councillor, Horizons Regional Council.



// 04

Entrenchment of Māori wards seats for local government

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

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

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

Why is this remit important?

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

Zone 1 views are summarised below:

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

Background and Context

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

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

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

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

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

This proposal aligns with LGNZ's policy that states:

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



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

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

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

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



// 05

Graduated driver licensing system

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

Proposed by: Ashburton District Council

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

Why is this remit important?

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

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

Background and Context

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

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

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



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

Relevant legislation, policy or practice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Hon Simeon Brown

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



James Meager MP
Member of Parliament for Rangitata
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

24 MAY 2024

Dear James

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport



// 06

Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to Government:*

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

Proposed by: Gisborne District Council

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

Why is this remit important?

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

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

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

Background and Context

Existing building legislation is too late to mitigate decaying buildings

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Gisborne District Council will:

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

2 May 2024

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



GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Office of the Mayor

Email: christopher.penk@parliament.govt.nz, Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz,
Tama.Potaka@parliament.govt.nz, Simeon.Brown@parliament.govt.nz

Cc: Dana.Kirkpatrick@parliament.govt.nz, cushla.tangaere-manuel@parliament.govt.nz

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

Good morning Ministers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Stoltz', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rehette Stoltz

Mayor Gisborne District Council

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Gisborne's Deteriorating Buildings

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

Attachment 3 – Ten Years of the National Problem

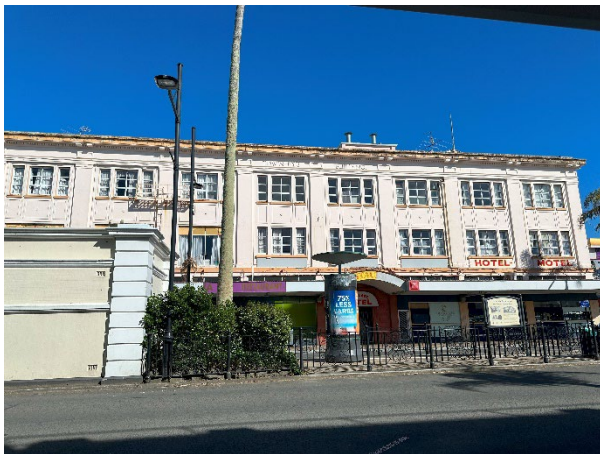
Attachment 4 – Seized buildings in Gisborne

Attachment 1 – Gisborne's Deteriorating Buildings

Main Street retail space. Corner Gladstone Rd and Peel St



Former Westlake Hotel. Corner Gladstone Rd and Peel St



Premium retail space. Peel St



Deteriorating building. Lowe St



Main Street retail space. Gladstone Rd



Deteriorating building. Childers Rd



Masonic Hotel decaying façade. Lowe St



Masonic Hotel frontage. Gladstone Rd



Abandoned detritus. Adjacent to Masonic Hotel



Main Street building decay. Gladstone Rd



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Problem in Gisborne

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Problem nationwide

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

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

Legislative Inadequacies Prevent a Proactive Approach

1. Building Maintenance Responsibility

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

2. The Building Act 2004 Does Not Adequately Consider Remediation

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

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

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

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

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

Solution needed: Legislative Change

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

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

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

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

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

United Kingdom's Town and Country Planning Act 1990

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Republic of Ireland Derelict Sites Act 1990

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

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

Under the legislation, local authorities can mitigate problems by:

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

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

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

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

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

Alignment with improving housing availability

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Attachment 3 – Ten Years of the National Problem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attachment 4 - Seized buildings in Gisborne

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Seized building (left). 200 Gladstone Road.





// 07

Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives

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

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

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

Why is this remit important?

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

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

Background and Context

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

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

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

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

This proposal aligns with LGNZ's policy that states:

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

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



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

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



// 08

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

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

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

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

Why is this remit important?

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

Background and Context

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

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

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

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

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

This proposal aligns with LGNZ's policy that states:

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

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



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

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

Dublin Street Heavy Traffic Bypass

1. Purpose

To provide Councillors with more information on the Dublin Street Heavy Traffic Bypass in Martinborough as background to LTP discussions in 2025.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. Receive the *'Dublin Street Heavy Traffic Bypass'* report.

3. Background

Following submissions from various community groups the Classification of Dublin Street as a heavy traffic bypass has been investigated.

The Heavy Traffic Bypass classification was designated to alleviate and redirect heavy through traffic away from the business district of Martinborough and the Martinborough Square. Although the bypass is for heavy traffic we note that Dublin Street along with all roads and streets within the South Wairarapa District are primarily classified as Low Volume.

All planned or programmed works both maintenance and renewals are budgeted in the annual operational budgets and attract the NZTA subsidy of 51%.

A copy of the report will be provided to the Martinborough Community Board at their next scheduled meeting.

4. Prioritisation

4.1 Te Tiriti obligations

Engagement considered not required in this case.

4.2 Long Term Plan alignment

How does this align with strategic outcomes?

☒ Spatial Plan

☒ Long Term Plan

☐ Annual Plan

5. Discussion

5.1 Dublin Street Road Classification

As defined under the Waka Kotahi (NZTA) framework all roads within the district fall under 2 classifications.

1. One Network Road Classification (ONRC), Dublin Street is a Primary Collector based on Traffic Volumes. The classification was lifted from being a Secondary Collector in 2015.
2. One Network Framework Classification (ONF), Dublin Street has an Activity Street Category Classification. The Category rankings supporting Dublin Street classification.

Movement Ranking M3

Movement of people and/or goods around a city, town or region

Place Ranking P3

Medium to high on-street activity
Some people spending time in the location
Some movement across the carriageway.

These categorisations are important when considering differential levels of service because a higher standard on higher volume roads.

5.2 Dublin Street Carriageway Level of Service

The carriageway width of Dublin Street from Vinters Lane to Jellicoe Street ranges between 11.0 and 13.8 metres. An 11.0 metre width allows for a movement lane in each direction and parking on each side of the road. The 13.8 metre width is outside the school and accommodates school bus parking.

This is wider than most if not all our other urban streets and reflects the level of service required for the bypass.

We have been conducting our maintenance of the Bypass according to the current Asset Management Plan. The current surface was resealed in April 2008 giving the surface an age of 16 years. It falls within the Annual Plan Surfacing Key Performance Indicator of 20 years. Prior reseals were carried out in 1981 and 1995.

There is no recorded pavement data in RAMM, which has inhibited our ability to understand how the road was constructed and what materials were used. We could undertake a physical test to determine this if that was useful.

In July 2023, following community submissions, surface repairs were carried out within the carriageway to smooth the ride and reduce traffic noise. These repairs were generally done over past water and sewer faults and connections to provide an improved ride and reinstate waterproofness. These repairs did not address any deep-

seated failures. The repairs to the surface of Dublin Street have been successful although a few deep failures are observed.

As part of the community submission Officers have looked at the cost of changing the surface level from chipseal to high performance asphalt. The variation in surface would be more than \$1,000,000. That level of service falls outside the confirmed budget levels outlined in the Asset Management Plan. \$1.1m is our total district-wide reseal budget for 12 months.

5.3 Traffic Counts

Traffic counts have historically been taken on roads within the district. Historic and current data held in the South Wairarapa RAMM data base show the following:

Road	Year	Annual average daily count	% heavy Vehicles
Dublin Street	2007	953	6
Dublin Street	2014	708	13.2
Dublin Street	2022	1056	11.8

The counts show an increase over time but no higher-than-expected District growth predictions and demands.

5.4 Heavy Traffic By-Pass

Historically Dublin Street has been designated as a heavy traffic bypass under various Bylaws. The first evidence we can find of this is a 1975 Bylaw, and importantly we cannot see any evidence that the 1975 Bylaw has ever been revoked.

The Bylaw states that:

3. EVERY heavy motor vehicle which is driven through the Borough in the course of an unbroken journey from a point outside the Borough to another point outside the borough shall be restricted to these portions of roads described in the schedule hereto. AN "unbroken journey" means a journey which originates and terminates outside the Borough of Martinborough other than a journey in the course of which goods carried in the course of business of the owner of the heavy motor-vehicle are picked up or delivered within the Borough of Martinborough at a point other than on those portions of roads described in the schedule hereto.

4. NOTHING in this By-law shall apply to any heavy motor vehicle whose journey originates or terminates within the Borough.

The SCHEDULE mentioned above outlines to designated routes below

- Regent Street between the eastern Borough boundary and Dublin Street.
- New York Street between the southern Borough boundary and Princess Street.
- New York Street between the southern Borough boundary and Princess Street.
- Princess Street between the junction of that street with New York Street and Dublin Streets.
- Dublin Street between the southern Borough boundary and Princess Street.
- Sackville street between the junction of that street with Dublin and Venice Streets.
- Venice Street between the junction of that street with Sackville and Regent Streets.
- Kitchener street from Borough boundary to Princess Street.
- Princess Street from Borough boundary to Kitchner Street.
- Cambridge Road from Borough boundary to New York Street.
- Oxford Street from Borough boundary to Regent Street.
- Jellicoe Street from Borough boundary to Dublin Street.

The regulations pertaining to the heavy traffic bypass from the 1975 Bylaw are carried forward to the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019, where in Part Ten it states:

Clause 14. Heavy Traffic Prohibitions

14.1.No person shall drive, or permit to be driven, or park, any heavy motor vehicle or any specified class of heavy motor vehicle during such hours or exceeding such period as may be specified for the roads or public places listed in Schedule C of this Part of the Bylaw.

Any change to future designation for heavy traffic bypass must be done through an amendment of the Bylaw. The Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw 2019 is currently being reviewed for future consultation. There may be a need to schedule all designated heavy traffic bypass roads in the Bylaw.

Speed Management Review

The Speed Management Plan has been submitted to the Director of Land Transport under the current Land Transport Rule: Setting of speed limits 2022. Included in the plan is a proposal to have a permanent speed outside the Martinborough School of 30kmph. It must be noted the current government new rule proposal is to have variable speed of 30kmph during pick up and drop off, with the speed outside these times being permanent 50kmph.

Less speed on the road will reduce road noise to some extent, and improve safety on the Bypass.

6. Consultation

6.1 Partnerships

Have you completed a communications plan for the work described/project to engage/communicate with partners/key stakeholders e.g. Waka Kotahi, Kainga Ora, community groups, particular individuals etc?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If no, is a communications plan required?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Financial Considerations

There is no financial impact at this stage.

8. Health and Safety Considerations

There are no health and safety considerations.

Contact Officer: Tim Langley, Principal Advisor - Roding

Reviewed By: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager Infrastructure and Community Operations

Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent Update Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the status of the application for a consent to operate the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant and present opportunities for council officers and elected members to support the public notification process expected to occur in August or September this year.

2. Executive Summary

The Featherston Wastewater Treatment Consenting project has now reached a point where there will be a public notification of the application for a new resource consent.

The attached report from Wellington Water gives a summary of the proposal and outlines the next steps in the process now being led by Greater Wellington Regional Council. SWDC and WWL will support the official notification process and there are opportunities for council officers and elected members to participate in this support, which are outlined in the attached paper. However, it is noted that the timing of the consultation conflicts with other planned consultations and is not optimal.

Senior WWL staff will attend to talk to the report.

Note: a copy of this report will be submitted to the Featherston Community Board for their information at their next scheduled meeting.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the *Committee*:

1. Receive the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent – Update Report; and
2. Note the opportunities to support the notification process.

4. Discussion

Although there is an existing and agreed Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the consultation for this project is to be run out of WWL, SWDC staff wish it to be noted that council officers and elected members will have diminished capability to support the consultation process due to other consultation activities planned for the same period. The timing may also be problematic for optimal community participation. These two factors need to be weighed up against the flow on effects to the project about deferring consultation, and the impact on the relationship with GWRC.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent – Update Report

Contact Officer: Robyn Wells, Principal Advisor – 3Waters

Reviewed By: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager Infrastructure and Community
Operations

Appendix 1 – Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent – Update Report

Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent – Update

18 July 2024

Author – Linda Fairbrother, Project Lead, Major Projects, Wellington Water

Approver – Stefan Corbett, Group Manager Partnerships and Operations, South Wairarapa District Council

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the council:
 - I. **Receive** this paper; and
 - II. **Note** the opportunities to support the notification process.

Summary

2. The Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) needs upgrades to improve environmental outcomes and to get a new resource consent.
3. A new resource consent application was lodged with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) in May 2023 and will soon be publicly notified.
4. Since the application was lodged we have been working through the section 92 request for information process, our final response was provided to GWRC on 4 June 2024.
5. The next step in the consenting process is the public notification of the application, this is expected in August or September this year.
6. There are opportunities for council officers and elected members to support the public notification process.

Background

7. The Featherston wastewater treatment plant has been operating under an historic consent since 2012. Two consent applications were lodged since then and in 2020, the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) engaged Wellington Water to identify a solution for the treatment and management of Featherston's wastewater.
8. In 2021 Wellington Water presented a short list of options for a 30 year solution for treating Featherston's wastewater, however SWDC advised none of the options were affordable for the community.
9. Following this, SWDC and Wellington Water developed an affordable and pragmatic proposal that will allow time to trial and implement innovative treatment systems and new disposal systems. The monitoring and testing of these new systems will help inform the long-term investment requirements and support the transition to land-based disposal over time.
10. In May 2023 a new 10 year resource consent application was lodged by Wellington Water, on behalf of South Wairarapa District Council, to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) for the discharge of treated wastewater.
11. On 11 July 2023, GWRC issued a further information request under section 92 of the Resource Management Act. Following discussions and engagement with GWRC, further work was undertaken over the 23/24 summer period to inform the responses to remaining questions within s92. This additional work included further water quality monitoring, data analysis and modelling.
12. A trial of a pilot Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) unit was also undertaken during January to March 2024, providing valuable data regarding the effectiveness of this treatment technology for the Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant conditions. This data enabled further refinement of the technical assessments and assumptions made around wastewater quality.
13. The final response to the s.92, updated AEE and supplementary technical reports were submitted to GWRC on 4th June 2024.

The proposal

14. The proposed upgrades and duration of the consent application balance improving environmental outcomes in the short term and gathering information to support a long term solution within a defined budget.
15. The proposed upgrades include:
 - a. improving the performance of the oxidation ponds,
 - b. a new treatment process to improve clarity – likely a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF),
 - c. a trial of land irrigation on part of the council owned Hodder Farm, and
 - d. introducing a wetland to filter and diffuse treated effluent prior to being discharged into Donalds Creek.
16. A diagram of the proposed improvements can be found on the [project website](#) and in Appendix A

Oxidation pond improvements.

17. New screening will be installed at the outlet into the ponds, this will reduce the level of rubbish, sanitary products and other material entering the oxidation ponds.
18. Baffles and aeration will be installed in the existing oxidation ponds to prevent wastewater short-circuiting and to reduce Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) of wastewater leaving the ponds.

New clarification process

19. A new treatment process (likely a DAF unit) to reduce suspended solids and solids-bound contaminants in the pond effluent will be constructed.
20. This new treatment will also improve UV performance as the clarity of the wastewater will be improved.
21. A trial of a DAF plant was undertaken over summer 2024 which demonstrated the improvements that can be achieved.

22. In conjunction with the clarification process, allowance has also been made for sludge dewatering / treatment, sludge is a by-product of the clarification process.

Land irrigation trial

23. A trial of land irrigation will be undertaken on 3.5ha – 7ha on the council owned Hodder Farm.
24. Irrigation will be through **surface** or **sub-surface** means, there will be no risk of spray drift which was a significant concern with a previous consent application.
25. The land irrigation trial area will be planted, there will not be grass for grazing or harvesting like Greytown and Martinborough land treatment. We are working with iwi to agree what plants should be used.
26. The trial will start with a 3.5ha area, this can be increased up to 7ha as the trial progresses and we increase our understanding of the opportunities and limitations of this process.
27. This is an important step to show long-term suitability and viability of treated effluent land application in Featherston.

New wetlands

28. New constructed wetlands will be installed for further treatment of wastewater that cannot be applied to the land treatment trial.
29. These are designed to reduce suspended solids, nitrogen, and phosphorus through plant uptake.
30. The existing discharge channel to Donald's Creek will also be re-formed and revegetated to provide additional land and plant contact before the treated wastewater enters Donald's Creek.

The resource consent process

31. The new resource consent application was lodged with Greater Wellington Regional Council in May 2023.

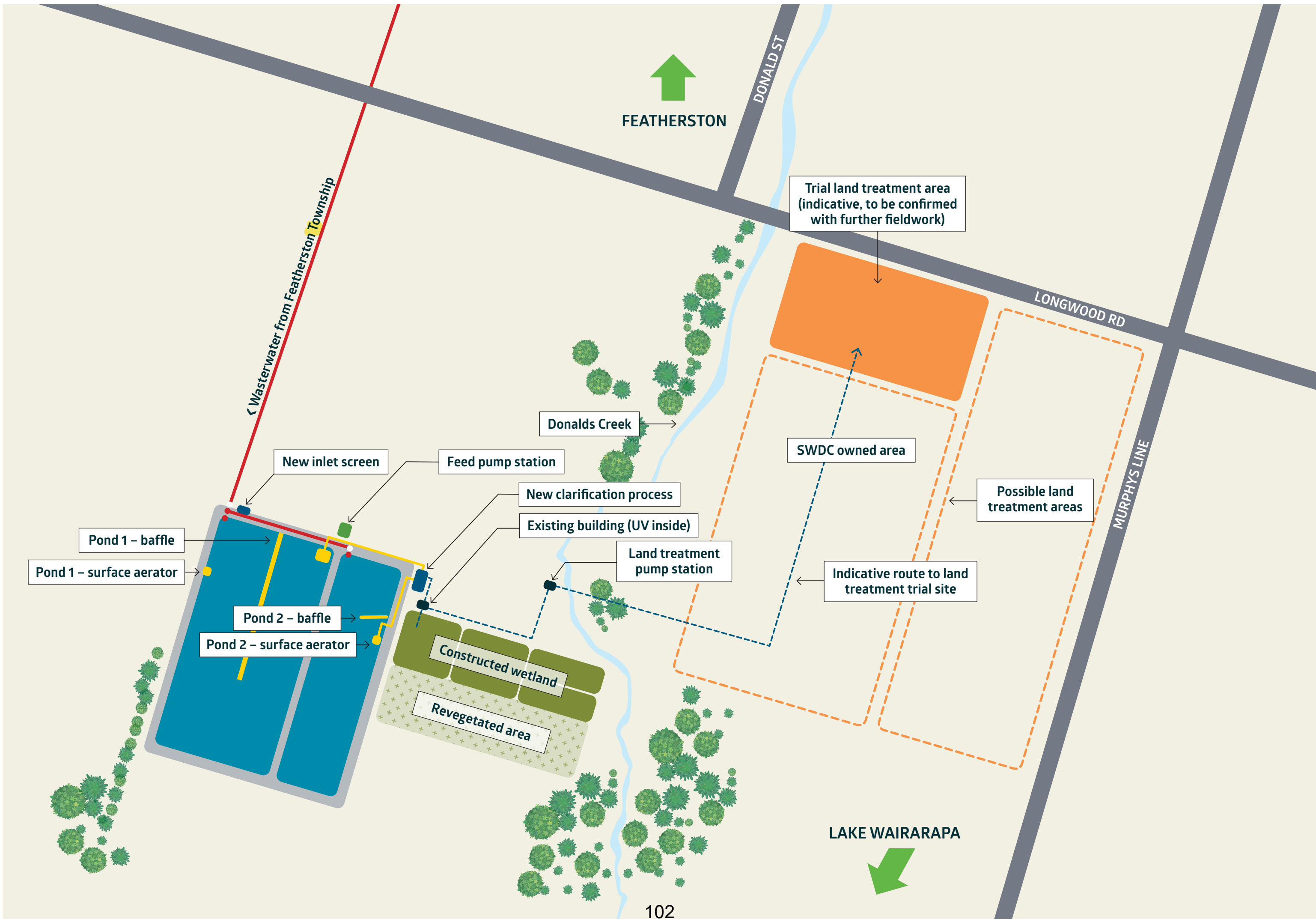
32. Following lodgement of the application GWRC issued a section.92 (s.92) request for information.
33. The information and clarifications requested required additional work and summer low flow environmental monitoring (water quality and ecology) to be undertaken.
34. The final response to the s.92, together with an updated Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) and supplementary water quality and ecology reports was provided to GWRC on 4 June 2024.
35. Once GWRC confirm they are satisfied that the s.92 has been fully resolved the next step in the process is to publicly notify the consent application.
36. GWRC manage the official notification process, Wellington Water and SWDC will support it.
37. The notification submission period is 20 working days, in this time any member of the public can make a submission to share their views on the consent application.
38. Once the 20 working day submission period is complete there is an opportunity to engage with submitters to better understand, and discuss any concerns raised in their submissions.
39. Following the submission period the next step is a hearing where a panel of commissioners (appointed by GWRC) will hear from submitters, the applicant and experts to make a decision on the consent application.
40. A summary of this process can be found on the [project website](#) and in Appendix B

Engagement plan for the notification stage

41. The project team are working to finalise a communications and engagement plan for the notification stage of the project. This will be agreed with the SWDC Communications Advisor and the Group Manager, Partnerships and Operations.

42. The key objectives of this plan are to ensure the community is well informed about the consent application, the proposed improvements for the wastewater treatment plant and are fully informed about the notification process.
43. There will be community drop-in sessions where the project team will be available to discuss the project, the consent application and the submission process.
44. There are opportunities for council officers and elected members to support the engagement through the notification process by:
- a. Sharing and promoting information before the notification period begins;
 - b. Sharing and promoting information about community drop in sessions;
 - c. Participating in community drop in sessions; and
 - d. Supporting community members to make a submission or referring them to the project team for assistance.
45. Separate briefings will be held with council officers and elected members before community drop in sessions to ensure that those attending are fully informed about the application and the submission process.

Appendix A – Upgrades diagram



Appendix B – Consenting Process Summary



Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant Consenting Process

Wellington Water, on behalf of South Wairarapa District Council (the applicant), has applied to Greater Wellington Regional Council for new resource consents for the Featherston wastewater treatment plant.

Resource consents can take a long time to process and involve many steps. Here's an overview of the process we expect to go through for this resource consent application.



More information can be found here –
www.environment.govt.nz/publications/resource-consent-process-for-notifiedlimited-notified-applications

Steps we've taken since 2020:

- Consulting with the community and our mana whenua iwi partners – this remains ongoing
- Prepared the resource consent application and supporting Assessment of Effects on the Environment (AEE)
- Submitted the application to Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

Where we're at (August 2023):

- GWRC accepted the application as complete
- GWRC requested further information (referred to as a Section 92 (1) request)
- We are currently collating the information that GWRC requested.

www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/featherston-wastewater-project

Next steps

Application publicly notified – This process is where the community may submit their views on the application.

Once the Section 92 (1) process is complete, GWRC will publicly notify the application. This will include public notices in local newspapers. The application will be available on the GWRC website and hard copies will also be available at the Featherston library and the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) office.



Have your say

Submission period – The community can make submissions on the application to GWRC and indicate whether they would like their submission heard at a hearing. The submission period lasts a minimum 20 working days.

SWDC, supported by Wellington Water, will undertake community engagement during the submission period to help people understand the application and the consent process.



Submissions close – At the end of the submission period, submissions close and GWRC will review the submissions.

This may lead to another request for further information or additional reports being commissioned. SWDC may also want to engage with submitters to better understand and discuss any concerns raised in their submission.



Hearing – This is where a panel of commissioners will hear from SWDC submitters and experts to make a decision on the consent application.

If a hearing is required – and we expect it will be – GWRC will appoint a panel of independent commissioners and give them authority to make a decision on the application. Submitters who indicated that they would like their submission to be heard will have the opportunity to present to the hearing panel. The hearing panel may request SWDC, GWRC, submitters and experts undertake pre-hearing meetings or mediation to narrow down the matters of concern prior to the hearing.



Decision – Once the hearing is completed the panel of commissioners will issue a decision on the application.



Appeal period – After the decision is made and following its release, the applicant and submitters have a 15 working day period where they can appeal the decision to the Environment Court.



Final decision – If there are no appeals, the commissioners' decision is final.

Wellington Water Limited Expectations and Performance Report

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline how expectations have been reset with Wellington Water Limited to ensure their internal processes support Council's forecasting and budgeting processes and, as far as possible and with the exception of unexpected events requests for additional funds do not occur within the Financial Year.

This report was requested by the Strategy Working Committee in response to a request to increase the Three Waters Capital Delivery Budget at the 8 May 2024 meeting [SWC-Minutes-8May24-v2.pdf \(swdc.govt.nz\)](#). The councillors asked Wellington Water Limited to outline how they will reset expectations and ensure they have the correct internal processes for supporting forecasting and budgeting.

2. Executive Summary

Significant efforts have been made by SWDC and WWL to put mechanisms in place to reset expectations with WWL on their budgeting and forecasting performance over the last two years. It was disappointing, however, to learn of the omission to include appropriate management charges for our EAP24/25.

The mechanisms that SWDC and WWL staff have used to reset expectations can be characterised as:

1. Enhanced pre-work
2. Improved financial controls
3. Lessons learned and less siloed thinking
4. Drive for local value

In addition to the actions SWDC has taken alongside WWL as a single shareholding council, there are two further reviews and projects in train through the Wellington Water Committee, being:

- a. Development of an agreed performance framework to:
 - Improve efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and oversight.
 - Produce a single integrated performance framework for the region. and
 - Have a single regional performance framework in place for reporting from 1 July 2025, with some things introduced earlier where possible.

- b. Initiation of a review of the circumstances surrounding the estimation error that affected the LTP budgeting process in 2024 for WWL shareholding councils by the Wellington Water Limited Board.

Finally, WWL have been asked to review how they will update their project close-out processes to ensure we do not have spill over expenditure as happened in the case of the Donald Street PS and Rising Main project again. However, we do not have an update on this at this time.

Previously, WWL and SWDC have worked on a CE-led joint review that led to a series of recommendations and observations on how we work together that have for the most part been implemented, however, it would be useful to continue to address the deeper cultural issues and hold the workshop to build understanding as recommended in that report¹.

SWDC also acknowledges that there have been demonstrable improvements in WWL's approach and we are encouraged by WWL's recent actions to initiate annual capex deliverability assessments, to understand and involve local thinking in optioneering, and to consider local delivery of local projects.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- a) Receive the *Wellington Water Limited Expectations and Performance Report*.

4. Background

Through the annual Letter of Expectations and Statement of Intent process between the Wellington Water Committee and WWL the issue of performance monitoring has been highlighted.

Provisions were made in the Management Services Agreement for performance monitoring on a 'best endeavours' basis, however, a concerted joint effort to agree, implement and monitor key performance indicators over and above those that are mandatory has not been a priority despite the relationship issues.

The Wellington Water Committee, through the Letter of Expectations 2024/25 has now asked WWL to:

- Improve efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and oversight.
- Lead work with shareholding councils to produce a single integrated performance framework for the region. and
- Have a single regional performance framework in place for reporting from 1 July 2025, with some things introduced earlier where possible.

¹ [ICSAGendaPack-20Sep23-Final.pdf \(swdc.govt.nz\)](#)

The work to develop this framework is currently underway with a workshop scheduled for 18 July involving all six council representatives to agree a Terms of Reference and next steps.

In addition, since the Strategy Working Committee requested this report the Board of Directors of Wellington Water Limited (WWL) appointed Roy Baker and Kevin Jenkins to undertake a review of the circumstances surrounding the estimation error that affected the LTP budgeting process in 2024 for WWL shareholding councils.

A draft report is to be delivered to the WWL Board on 4 July, the final report will be delivered to WWL on 22 July and the Reviewers will speak to that report at a meeting of the Wellington Water Committee on 26 July.

This report, therefore, is focussed on the actions SWDC has taken alongside WWL to individually reset expectations with WWL over the last 18-24 months. The report was initiated as a result of the request for additional funds in May 2024 to deliver on the FY23/24 capital programme.

5. Discussion

Significant efforts have been made to put mechanisms in place to reset expectations with WWL on their budgeting and forecasting performance.

The mechanisms that SWDC and WWL staff have used to reset expectations can be characterised as:

1. Enhanced pre-work
2. Improved financial controls
3. Lessons learned and less siloed thinking
4. Drive for local value

5.1 Enhanced Pre-work

In preparation for the EAP24/25 significant pre-work was implemented between SWDC and WWL teams to ensure elected members were aware of the risks and costs associated with the operational and capital budgets presented as options by WWL so that a measured decision could be made. In addition, two other initiatives have been implemented:

- a. To try and ensure that the very best information was included in the final budgets presented for approval, a process of identifying and quantifying anything that required adjustment (either over or under) was introduced this year. WWL staff had the opportunity to reflect and adjust their recommendations right up to the point of the Deliberations Report through this process, making the estimation error for capital projects even more troubling from SWDC's perspective. This new process was designed to encourage transparency around anything forgotten in the lead-up to deliberations, yet it failed to identify this significant failing. We look forward to reviewing the results of the independent review and any recommendations around avoidance of a similar issue in the future but decline to speculate what those failures may have been for the purposes of this report.

- b. This year WWL have initiated a Capex Deliverability memo providing council-specific programme analysis of risks and challenges. This new memo is intended to provide South Wairarapa District Council with an assessment of Wellington Water's confidence in the delivery of SWDC's capital works programme for the FY24/25, and our proposed strategy for de-risking that programme delivery. This is a welcome new initiative that should improve understanding of both parties and set appropriate expectations.

5.2 Improved Financial Controls

Once budgets have been agreed and locked into the financial system for the upcoming financial year, the primary process for setting expectations around reporting against budget and forecasting sits in a monthly Capex and Opex meeting attended by WWL and SWDC staff.

Prior to the meeting, WWL issues several reports that have been prepared on the basis of actuals and estimates of future expenditure and the progress of planned work. SWDC rely on these reports to ensure our financial arrangements are appropriate, that is, when we will require loan funds for capital works and that we have sufficient funding available for the year.

WWL internally does an in-depth review of projects and operational expenditure on a quarterly basis, and based on this review, updates the forecast.

Several actions have been taken over the last two years to reset expectations around WWL's internal processes that impact on expenditure to budget. These are summarised below:

- a) After the Fitzherbert Street flooding events that required significant out of budget expenditure to pump overflows in FY22/23, a process for notifying council of Unexpected Events to ensure transparency of the expected impacts and costs to be accepted and approved² has been initiated successfully. Unexpected events are reported 'below the line' in monthly reports to distinguish them from budget, as is appropriate as they are not known and therefore not budgeted. Any request is closely scrutinised before approval.
- b) SWDC had made its expectations clear that capital funds are not to be moved between waters once the budgets are set and have ring fenced funds as appropriate for specific projects. This has meant that WWL must request a change to the approved capital programme, and Council must approve a change in a transparent manner before any programme changes are initiated as happened previously. An example of this in action is a recent request to make a change to the FY24/25 capital programme because of the failure of the wastewater line under the railway line in Brandon Street Featherston. Together, we agreed to reprioritise the reactive renewal budgets (Networks and Treatment Plants) to allow for this unexpected work to occur, and not move funds between waters as would previously been instigated in the past.
- c) It is now an established process that carry-over from one FY to the other FY be clearly foreshadowed and allowed for in the next year's Annual Plan and funds will therefore not go into a general 'pool' to be spent.

² Both capital and operational

- d) We now receive further details on projects, including associated risks, issues, and mitigation/comments, on the PMO Programme Dashboard and the Major Projects Monthly Report, which are new reports provided separately and discussed through the monthly meetings.
- e) Governance structures for significant projects have been initiated so that budget is managed transparently, and any changes must be justified through the governance group before approval.

5.3 Lessons Learned and Less Siloed Thinking

SWDC's observation has been that in the past there has been less than optimal communications between different units within WWL that has not resulted in a 'no surprises' working relationship between SWDC and WWL. The following enhancements by both SWDC and WWL have been made to try and mitigate the risk of siloed thinking and to improve transparency:

- a) A CE-led Joint Review of the Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant – Connection Suspension identified several recommendations and observations that have mostly been implemented. The review identified a deeper cultural issue that needed to be addressed and the recommendation to complete a workshop to build a deeper understanding of the perspective and challenges each face and how that can be supported by the other party should be initiated, noting that on a staff-to-staff level many such discussions have already been had.
- b) An action log is included as part of the monthly reports issued so that questions and suggestions are actioned and not forgotten by the team. This is reviewed at every meeting. The action log makes it easier for those attending the meetings to ensure that key learnings are carried over year-to-year and appropriately accommodated in annual budgets if required. For example, before the end of this financial year WWL proactively reached out to GWRC to request invoices for monitoring so that they did not come in late as they did in previous years causing a surprising overspend for the year.
- c) The members attending the monthly meetings has expanded to include operational and capital planning personnel so that a link has been established between those who count the money, those that do the work when forecasts are made and subsequently presented to council, and those actually implementing. The visibility of the numbers allows the delivering personnel to make good decisions to manage their expenditure to budgets. An example that this is working is that when we had the failure of the wastewater line at Brandon Street this year, we had sufficient underspend heading into the final month of the financial year to absorb the costs, rather than request more funds as the operations team were managing to land budgets 'on-a-dime'.
- d) SWDC were surprised to learn that the Donald Street Pump Station and Rising Main project continued to eat into funds well past when it was understood to have been completed. The reasoning behind this from WWL related to unknown costs for commissioning, close out and requirements from the Road Control Authority (in this case SWDC). SWDC do not accept WWL's reasoning

and have asked for a separate update on how WWL will update their project close-out processes to ensure we do not have spill over expenditure as happened in the case of the Donald Street PS and Rising Main project again.

5.4 Drive for local value

WWL procurement processes preclude local contractors from directly tendering for SWDC capital works unless they are part of an approved consortium.

From July 2019, as part of WWL's Service Delivery Strategy they established a Contractor Panel to deliver physical works to sit alongside their consultant panel who provide professional services for delivery of their client council's projects. Three consortia, each of three members, comprise the contractor panel, and they were selected through an open tender process.

The contractor panel is guided through a Panel Framework Agreement, presumably agreed in 2019 and coming up for renewal in June 2026 (with rights of renewal embedded).

Once a panel has been established through an open process under the Rules (which WWL did), WWL does not need to advertise individual contract opportunities. It may purchase directly from the Panel in a process called secondary procurement. The secondary processes in both their consultant and contractor panels is by allocation, based on *capability, capacity, experience, and equity*.

Pricing is established through a gateway process where costings are completed and checked in the concept design and detailed design stages by WWL and engineers. Through an Early Contractor Involvement process (ECI) the Contractor then independently prices the design. The price is then analysed and negotiated by the Project Manager and WWL against previous engineer's and quantity surveyor estimates.

The upshot of this is that, up until this year, local contractors such as Pope and Gray, Southern Cross Consulting and Stewart Electrical can only be brought in by the group that is delivering a project under a Physical Works Project Agreement as a sub-consultant, and not through direct local tender³. The exception to the use of allocation to the Panel with WWL is if the project is defined as a Major Project, as defined on size of \$ and complexity. Major projects go to open tender.

To reset expectations on capital delivery and give SWDC confidence we are achieving best value in delivering local projects, we have asked WWL to release specific projects from their allocation methodology. This has been agreed for the desludging work at Martinborough and Greytown and this is now being tendered. We also expect local contractors to be included in the Tauwharenikau pipeline replacement project, at a minimum as a sub-contractor.

³ WWL utilised the MBIE Government Procurement Rulebook to ensure their methodology was compliant. Rule 57 contains an explanation of when it is appropriate to establish a panel of suppliers, and how allocation of contract opportunities can occur.

WWL have also recently shown they are incorporating the use of local knowledge and input in the assessment of options as can be seen in the analysis for the replacement of the wastewater line that failed in Featherston. WWL reached out to local contractors when WWL's initial estimates and methodology exceeded cost expectations and together the local and WWL team came up with a cost-effective solution.

5.5 Conclusion

SWDC and WWL staff have been working in many directions to try and improve outcomes in capital and operational delivery by WWL so that requests for additional funding, such as that received on 8 May, do not occur, or at a minimum, are well signalled due to unexpected or extraordinary events.

There have been some improvements and we are encouraged by WWL's recent actions by initiating annual capex deliverability assessments, to understand and involve local thinking in optioneering, and to consider local delivery of local projects. However, it was disappointing to be faced with the estimation issue impacting on the EAP24/25 and unacceptable to be faced with ongoing close-out costs on a major project, Donald Street, when we had publicly celebrated it being delivered on-time and on-budget.

From here, we expect that any process improvements in project close-out recommended by WWL, when received, will be implemented. We look forward to receiving the recommendations of the WWL board's independent review of the estimation error, and we will actively participate in the performance framework project alongside the other shareholding councils to be implemented by 1 July 2025, if not sooner for specific measures.

Contact Officer: Robyn Wells, Principal Advisor 3 Waters

Reviewed By: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager, Partnerships and Operations

Action Items Report

1. Purpose

To present the Committee with updates on actions and resolutions.

2. Executive Summary

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

3. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Action Items to 31 July 2024

Contact Officer: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

Reviewed By: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 1 – Action Items to 31 July 2024

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
516	27 Oct 21	S Corbett	Work on a health and safety action plan with the Wairarapa Trails Action Group to ensure network safety of the proposed trails and continue discussions on cyclist safety on Underhill Road leading to the Tauherenikau Cycle Bridge. (ICS)	Actioned	<p>8 Nov 21: WTAG chairman Greg Lang, Carterton Mayor is having discussions with SWDC Mayor on a way forward to resolve this problem on both sides of Underhill Road</p> <p>20/12/21: Bridge construction delayed 12-14 weeks (subject to weather).</p> <p>27/1/22: Underhill Road will be included as part of the speed review, other initiatives will be investigated prior to the bridge opening in September.</p> <p>9/3/21: Action amended to include advance changing of speed limit on Underhill Road.</p> <p>20/4/22: Amended - action above deleted.</p> <p>06/05/2022: Officers working to make Underhill Road safe before opening of bridge. Funding applied for. Request to close action.</p> <p>Check with Stefan</p> <p>11/01/22: Action reassigned from A&S to ICS following implementation of new committee structure.</p> <p>25/01/23: Committee Chair requested update required on project, costs for work to be completed, (quote from Pope and Gray), how will this be funded; PGF/Ratepayers or other funding source.</p> <p>1/02/23: Ongoing work to be completed– remains open</p> <p>18/07/23: The share the road with cyclists signs have been put in on Underhill Road (Greytown and Featherston sides). The Underhill Road road edges have been flattened to allow cyclists to more easily get off the road if needed.</p> <p>20/09/23: Request to examine alternative funding measures, but not a priority.</p> <p>30/01/24: no change to priority (ie low).</p> <p>03/07/24: Ms Smith requested the action be closed as this is not currently in the work programme for next 12 months.</p>
407	8 Nov 23	P Gardner	For the Committee to look at options for a District Joint Committee on Climate Change (CCE)	Open	<p>Noted Cr Gray will follow up initially.</p> <p>14/02/24: Cr Gray provided update. No response to date from other elected members. Mayor/Deputy to support in promoting message. Action remains open.</p>

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
					03/07/24: This will be raised as part of the next Combined Council Forum in August 2024.
409	8 Nov 23	S Corbett	Request further information from Council Officers relating to the development of a No-Mow Policy, including implications, for the South Wairarapa District Council by the next meeting of the Committee.	Open	30/01/24: no new developments (low priority). 14/02/24: Cr Gray queried creative ways to progress the no-mow policy (e.g. community working group). Noted – bylaw restrictions and need a review if changes are proposed. Officers suggested a trial on one street. Officers suggested would be included in LTP work. Further information required. 10/04/24: Cr Bosley to discuss next steps with Mr Corbett.
461	22 Nov 23	R Thomas	COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2023/177) to: 1.Receive the Greytown Sport and Leisure Funding report. (Moved Cr Woodcock/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried 2. Agrees to approve up to a maximum of \$60,000 of funding for 12 months for Greytown Sports and Leisure from 1 July 2024, and request Council Officers to prepare a report outlining long term options for expanding Greytown Sports and Leisure across the region. (Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Bosley) Carried	Open	7/02/24: Handover of work due to changes in the Democracy and Engagement Team. Early planning for exploring options underway. 29/02/24: Additional funding of \$60k will be allocated to an appropriate budget line (yet to be determined) in the AP. 11/06/24: Transferred from Council to SWC at request of CE. 21/06/24: Point 2 remains open for long term options report.
32	14 Feb 24	J Smith	Chief Executive to clarify what is currently included in the Speed Review for Dublin Street, Martinborough. Members would need to consider any further actions and how that would fit within the current roading work programme.	Open	
38	14 Feb 24	J Smith	STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/07): 1.To receive the Pain Estate Update Report. (Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Cr McAulay) Carried Foreshadowed amendment: 2.That the Strategic Working Committee instruct the Chief Executive to action the items identified in the Memorandum of Agreement for Pain Farm and report back to the Martinborough Community Board. (Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Cr McAulay) Carried <i>The mover and seconder agreed that the amendment become part of the substantive motion.</i> 3.That the Strategic Working Committee instruct the Chief Executive to action the items identified in the Memorandum	Actioned	26/02/24: Still in progress. 22/03/24: Due to a later request around the disposal of treated wastewater to Pain Farm, this will now be reported to the MCB in May 2024. 05/06/24: Confirmed Ms Smith will be reporting to the Community Board/Committee in July 2024, not May 2024 as stated in the previous update. 19/07/24: Report back to MCB completed 11 July; all actions now complete. Action closed.

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			of Agreement for Pain Farm and report back to the Martinborough Community Board. (Moved Cr Maynard/Seconded Cr McAulay) Carried		
58	21 Feb 24	S Corbett	Members requested a report on Mr O'Leary's position on the current Spatial Plan, in respect to the history and status of the heavy bypass on Dublin Street.	Actioned	05/03/24: A future heavy traffic bypass on Dublin St was not captured as a matter within the South Wairarapa Spatial Plan 2021. Request action be closed and any further investigation or actions in relation to Mr MacGibbon's public participation on 21 February 2024 be assigned to Roothing team. 27/03/24: Information Report being prepared on Dublin Street to come to future SWC meeting, including how it landed there and issues with current state of the road. Reassigned to roading team. 11/06/24: Transferred from Council to SWC at request of CE. 19/07/24: Report to SWC completed for meeting scheduled on 31 July.
123	27 Mar 24	S Corbett	COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2024/19) to: 1) a. receive the 'Freedom Camping Bylaw Deliberations' Report. b. amend the Clifford Square Reserve Management Plan to allow for freedom camping to occur subject to the restrictions within the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024. c. adopt the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, as per Appendix 1. d. authorise the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial changes to the above documents if required prior to adoption. e. Support the trial of Freedom Camping Ambassadors (\$47k grant from MBIE) for the 2024/5 camping season, and if successful, to consider ongoing funding in the next Long Term Plan. [Items 1a-e read together] (Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Ellims) Carried 2) approve the effective date of 1 July 2024 for the Freedom Camping Bylaw, to allow time for signage. (Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried For: Acting Mayor Sadler-Futter, Cr Olds, Cr Gray, Cr Maynard, Cr McAulay, Cr Ellims. Against: Cr Woodcock	Actioned	2/04/24: Amenities team meeting with Nicki and Andrew to confirm next steps, signage etc. 11/06/24: Transferred from Council to SWC at request of CE. 21/06/24: Accruing funds for signage to next year. 03/07/24: Ms Smith confirmed funding has been approved in the next financial year, work is in progress.

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			Abstained: Cr Plimmer		
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: Remains open.</p>
134	10 Apr 24	S Corbett	Request information report to a future meeting of the Strategy Working Committee regarding flooding issues on Brandon Street (refer to Marieke Soeter's public participation presentation to the Committee on 10/04/2024).	Open	<p>29/04/24: SLT will be meeting with a WWL stormwater specialist; plans to hold an open workshop will be circulated once this has occurred.</p> <p>03/07/24: A workshop will be scheduled as soon as possible, members queried where this fit in terms of the work programme and LTP.</p>
135	10 Apr 24	S Corbett	Request clarification of the levels of service with Wellington Water and other relevant contractors in relation to drainage/clearing of water ways across the district.	Open	29/04/24: Officers are currently mapping the assets and confirming responsibilities.
188	8 May 24	S Corbett	<p>STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/39) to:</p> <p>1.receive the Updated Three Waters Capital Delivery Plan for FY23/24 Report. (Moved Cr Ellims / Seconded Cr Plimmer) Carried</p> <p>2.agree to increase the FY2023/24 capital investment budget to match the forecast in Option 2, an increase of \$0.53M bringing the total forecast expenditure for FY2023/24 to \$4.69M (excluding the actual forecast spend of \$0.29m against the Greytown Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project). (Moved Mayor Connelly/Cr Maynard) Not carried</p> <p>For: Cr Maynard, Mayor Connelly, Cr McAulay, Cr Olds</p>	Open	<p>Refer to point 5 for open action.</p> <p>16/07/24: TBC – update report to 31 July 2024</p>

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			<p>Against: Cr Gray, Edwards, Cr Plimmer, Cr Ellims, Cr Woodcock, Cr Bosley</p> <p>Amendment: agree to increase the FY2023/24 capital investment budget to match the forecast in option 3, an increase of \$1.01M bringing the total forecast expenditure for FY2023/24 to \$5.17M (excluding the actual forecast spend of \$0.29m against the Greytown Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project).</p> <p>3.agree to increase the FY2023/24 capital investment budget to match the forecast in option 3, an increase of \$1.01M bringing the total forecast expenditure for FY2023/24 to \$5.17M (excluding the actual forecast spend of \$0.29m against the Greytown Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project). (Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried For: Cr Gray, Edwards, Cr McAulay, Cr Bosley, Cr Plimmer, Cr Ellims Against: Mayor Connelly, Cr Maynard, Cr Olds, Cr Woodcock</p> <p>4. note that Wellington Water have committed to improve their processes to better deliver the capital programme within Council approved budget. (Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Plimmer) Not carried For: Cr McAulay, Cr Bosely, Cr Plimmer, Cr Gray Against: Cr Olds, Cr Woodcock, Cr Ellims, Cr Maynard, Edwards Abstained: Mayor Connelly.</p> <p>Amendment: request that Wellington Water will commit to improve their processes to better deliver the capital programme within Council approved budget, and by the end of July a report to be prepared and tabled that outlines how we will reset expectations and ensure Wellington Watter internal processes for supporting forecasting and budgeting.</p>		

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			5.request that Wellington Water will commit to improve their processes to better deliver the capital programme within Council approved budget, and by the end of July a report to be prepared and tabled that outlines how we will reset expectations and ensure Wellington Watter internal processes for supporting forecasting and budgeting. (Moved Cr Ellims/Seconded Cr Bosley) Carried		
190	8 May 24	P Gardner	STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/41) to: 1.receive the Community Wellbeing Fund Amendment report. 2.approve the ringfencing of \$500,000 of Better Off Funding to the Community Wellbeing Fund to enable community led projects across the South Wairarapa to be considered and approved if appropriate. 3.acknowledge that the remaining funds of circa. \$800,000 will be held to fund the potential costs arising from the development of the Water Services Plan and transition to a Local Waters Done Well solution only and any unspent funds will be returned to the Community Wellbeing Fund. 4.delegate approval to the Chief Executive to approve the allocation of the funding to ensure that the Council's legal objectives under Local Waters Done Well are met, including the consideration of a Wairarapa water solution. 5.request that the Chief Executive report back to the Committee on the use of the funds in due course. [Items 1-5 read together] (Moved Cr Plimmer/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried For: Cr Olds, Cr McAulay, Cr Maynard, Edwards, Cr Gray, Cr Plimmer, Cr Bosley Against: Mayor Connelly, Cr Ellims, Cr Woodcock.	Actioned	03/07/24: Ms Smith requested the action be closed, noting that money allocated to Water Services Plan, may need to be used to prepare the Infrastructure Strategy due to secondment of key staff to LWDW. A report to the Committee will be completed as and when required.
294	5 Jun 24	R O'Leary	STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/55) to:	Open	Refer to Point 3 for open action.

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			<p>1.Receive the Adoption of the Featherston Masterplan and Implementation Plan Report. (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried</p> <p>2.Adopt the Featherston Masterplan. (Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried Foreshadowed amendments which became part of substantive motion:</p> <p>3.Agree that the Implementation Plan will be considered as part of future LTP cycles. (Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Olds) Carried</p> <p>4.Delegate minor tweaks of the Featherston Masterplan to the Chief Executive. (Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Maynard) Carried</p> <p>5.Provide a maximum capital budget in 2024/25 of \$132,000 to investigate and construct an access way from Featherston Community Centre to Fitzherbert Street and car parking capacity. (Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Edwards) Carried</p> <p>6.Approve that Kiwirail proceed with the closure of the Bell Street level crossing and continue with upgrade work on the Fox Street level crossing. (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Gray) Carried</p>		
316	3 Jul 24	R Thomas	<p>STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/65) to:</p> <p>1. receives the Representation Review report. (Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Cr Ellims) Carried</p> <p>2. agree to move forward on Option A for the development of</p>	Actioned	16/07/24: Initial proposal paper has been drafted for the 31 July SWC meeting.

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			<p>the initial proposal and consultation document. (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Olds) Carried</p> <p>3. note that the initial proposal and consultation documentation will be presented at the next Strategy Working Committee meeting on 31 July 2024 for approval; and</p> <p>4. acknowledge the timeframe required to meet the statutory timeframe as noted in the report.</p> <p>[Items 3 & 4 read together] (Moved Cr Gray/Seconded Edwards) Carried</p>		
317	3 Jul 24	J Smith	<p>STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/66) to:</p> <p>1. receive the Adoption of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy report.</p> <p>2. agrees to the WPWG recommended option for the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy (Option 1).</p> <p>3. adopts the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Venues Policy (Attachment 1), including any changes to the attached policy by Carterton District Council, to reflect an amended venue relocation policy for their respective council.</p> <p>4. delegate authority to the Strategy Working Committee Chairperson and Chief Executive to approve minor edits that don't change the intent of the content prior to publication of the Wairarapa Class 4 Gambling and Standalone TAB Policy.</p>	Actioned	

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			[Items 1-4 read together] (Moved Cr Olds/Seconded Cr Ellims) Carried		
318	3 Jul 24	J Smith	<p>STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/67) to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) Work Programme for FY 24/25, Operating Model and Memorandum of Understanding for FY 24-27 Report. 2. Note the WEDS Forum (including Council Mayors and CEOs) ran a Lessons Learnt exercise in November 2023 and a prioritisation workshop in April 2024. 3. Note the lessons learnt and the outcomes of the prioritisation workshop have been utilised to focus WEDS activity in the Work Programme for FY24/25. 4. Note the Work Programme for FY24/25 and process to determine initiatives has been endorsed by the WEDS Forum and the three Wairarapa District Councils Mayors and CEOs. 5. Agree the Work Programme for FY24/25, focused on Water Resilience, Food & Fibre, and Workforce. 6. Note other strategic priorities include Transport resilience, Māori Economic Development and Tourism/Dark Skies, which are best addressed through existing channels. 7. Note the lessons learnt, work programme complexity and budget have been considered to “right size” the WEDS operating model. 8. Note the WEDS Operating Model for FY24/25 has been endorsed by the three Wairarapa District Councils Mayors and CEOs on 28 May. 	Actioned	

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			<p>9. Agree the WEDS operating model for FY24/25 and beyond, with oversight provided by a small WEDS Steering Group consisting of place-based and skilled economic development representatives.</p> <p>10. Note the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expires on 30 June 2024.</p> <p>11. Agree the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027, including funding provision.</p> <p><u>Amendment</u></p> <p>11 a) Agree the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2024 –30 June 2025.</p> <p>11 b. Agree in principle, the Memorandum of Understanding for 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2027. (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Bosley) Carried</p> <p><u>The Amendment became a part of the substantive motion.</u></p> <p>12. Note that operational improvements will continue to be made by the WellingtonNZ Programme Management Office for WEDS (PMO) to deliver the Work Programme effectively, with visibility to the Steering Group.</p> <p>13. Note that quarterly and annual reporting will be provided to Council, including work programme delivery and financial reporting.</p> <p>14. Agree the existing MoU to 30 June 2024 will remain in force until a new agreement is signed and any unspent budget allocation under the current MoU will be carried over to FY24/25.</p>		

Number	Raised Date	Responsible Manager	Action or Task details	Open	Notes
			Items 1-14 read together (Moved Cr McAulay/Seconded Edwards) Carried		
319	3 Jul 24	R Thomas	<p>STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLVED (SWC2024/68) to:</p> <p>1. Receive the Chairperson's Report.</p> <p>2.Receive a verbal update from Councillors Olds on the Advisory Oversight Group on Water services delivery planning for Wellington Region and Horowhenua. [Items 1 & 2 read together] (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter /Seconded Cr Gray) Carried</p> <p>3.Note that the date of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act quoted in the Report from the Acting Mayor to Council dated 5 April 2023 should read as 2012 rather than 1996.</p> <p>4.Note the update on the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw.</p> <p>5.Note the update to the Terms of Reference for Council and Committees as per Appendix 1. [Items 3-5 read together] (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Bosley) Carried</p> <p>6.Approve the amended Standing Orders as per Appendix 2. (Moved Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter/Seconded Cr Gray) For: Cr Gray, Cr Bosley, Deputy Mayor Sadler-Futter Against: Edwards, Cr Ellims, Cr McAulay, Cr Olds Not Carried</p>	Actioned	11/07/24: website updated with amended ToR
320	3 Jul 24	P Gardner	Schedule a workshop before 31 July with SWC members to discuss amendments to Standing Orders – section 15 Public Forum (public participation).	Actioned	16/07/24: Workshop scheduled for 17 July.

Chairperson's Report

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on activities and issues; and to seek the Committee's approval for items as outlined in this report.

2. Recommendations

The Chairperson recommends that the *Committee*:

1. Receive the *Chairperson's Report*.
2. Approve the amended Standing Orders as per Appendix 1.
3. Notes the update on the development of a work programme to implement the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.
4. Notes that the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme takes a holistic approach across five workstreams involving natural attenuation, water allocation, water storage, water use efficiency and land use adaptation.
5. Notes the content and breadth of the work proposed in the work programme.
6. Notes the resource commitment needed to progress the work to implement the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme.
7. Endorses the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme .
8. Endorses the intention that councils and iwi work together to implement projects to increase water resilience, which will in some cases include work already underway.
9. Nominates elected members and council officers to become members of the governance group and senior leaders group.
10. Identify work streams or projects for your teams to lead or be part of.

3. Discussion

3.1 Amendments to Standing Orders

At the SWC meeting held on 3 July, members discussed proposed amendments to the Standing Orders (Section 15 – Public Forums). This was initially recommended to address repetitive topics during public participation and the need for some public speaking to be redirected to other committees or Community Boards. Before adopting any changes, members requested a workshop on Standing Orders to review and discuss this matter further. An open workshop was held on 17 July 2024 with

members of the committee; the Chairpersons of the Community Boards were also invited to participate.

The proposed amendments have been updated and are included as Appendix 1.

3.2 Water resilience update

Please refer to the Appendix 2.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Amended Standing Orders (Section 15 – Public forum)

Appendix 2 – Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme for Endorsement

Prepared By: Deputy Mayor, Melissa Sadler-Futter

Appendix 1 – Amended Standing Orders (Section 15 – Public forum)

15. Public Forums/Ngā Matapakinga a te Marea

Public forums are a defined period of time, usually at the start of an ordinary meeting, which, at the discretion of a meeting, is put aside for the purpose of public input. Public forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority.

The chairperson may direct the speaker to a different committee, if the proposed subject matter falls within its terms of reference.

15.1 Time limits/Ngā tepenga wā

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, will be available for the public forum at each scheduled local authority meeting. Requests must be made to the chief executive (or their delegate) at least two clear days before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

Speakers will be allowed up to five minutes to speak and respond to questions. Questions must be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker/s. Questions over the time limit are at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Where the number of speakers presenting in the public forum exceeds six in total, the Chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters or limit people speaking in support of or in opposition to the same matter.

15.2 Restrictions/Ngā Herenga

The chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker or to terminate a presentation at any time where:

- A speaker's request does not comply with these standing orders
- A speaker's request is not appropriate
- It is necessary to reduce public forum time to deal with business on the agenda.
- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public forum;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, vexatious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

Appendix 2 – Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme for Endorsement

For Review and Endorsement

WAIRARAPA WATER RESILIENCE WORK PROGRAMME FOR ENDORSEMENT

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the work progressed by the Interim Governance Group, including a proposed work programme for the 24/25 year to collectively commence the implementation of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (2021).
2. Your endorsement of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme is sought as it requires allocation of team contributions across the four Wairarapa Councils and iwi, as well as subsequent policy and planning decisions.

He tūtohu

Recommendation/s

That the *Strategy Working Committee*:

- 1 **Notes** this update on the development of a work programme to implement the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy
- 2 **Notes** that the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme takes a holistic approach across five workstreams involving natural attenuation, water allocation, water storage, water use efficiency and land use adaptation.
- 3 **Notes** the content and breadth of the work proposed in the work programme
- 4 **Notes** the resource commitment needed to progress the work to implement the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme
- 5 **Endorses** the Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme
- 6 **Endorses** the intention that councils and iwi work together to implement projects to increase water resilience, which will in some cases include work already underway
- 7 **Nominate** elected members and council officers to become members of the governance group and senior leaders group
- 8 **Identify** work streams or projects for your teams to lead or be part of.

He whakarāpopototanga Executive Summary

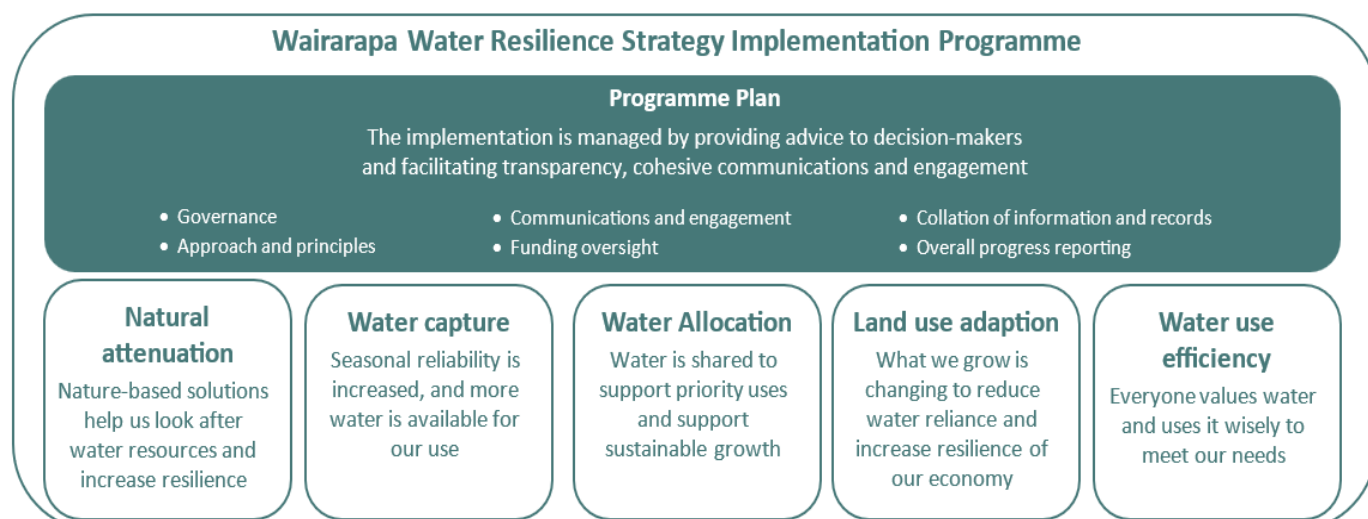
Improving water resilience in the Wairarapa has been identified as a priority across strategic and planning documents to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability and improvement for the region.

The Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy was developed as part of a collaborative process in 2021. It sets out an integrated approach covering the management of demand and enhancing the supply of water resources. Since then, no concerted effort to implement it had been made.

An Interim Governance Group consisting of the four Wairarapa Councils and iwi was set up to oversee the development and ratification of a work programme to implement the Strategy for the benefit of the community and the environment.

The proposed Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme (Attachment 1) was reviewed and endorsed by the interim Governance Group on 2 July, with the direction to set up the governance and management structure and commence more detailed planning to develop the projects within work streams.

The overview of the proposed work programme structure is this:



Endorsement by all member agencies and the membership for the governance and membership structure is now sought.

Te tāhū kōrero/Te horopaki

Background/Context

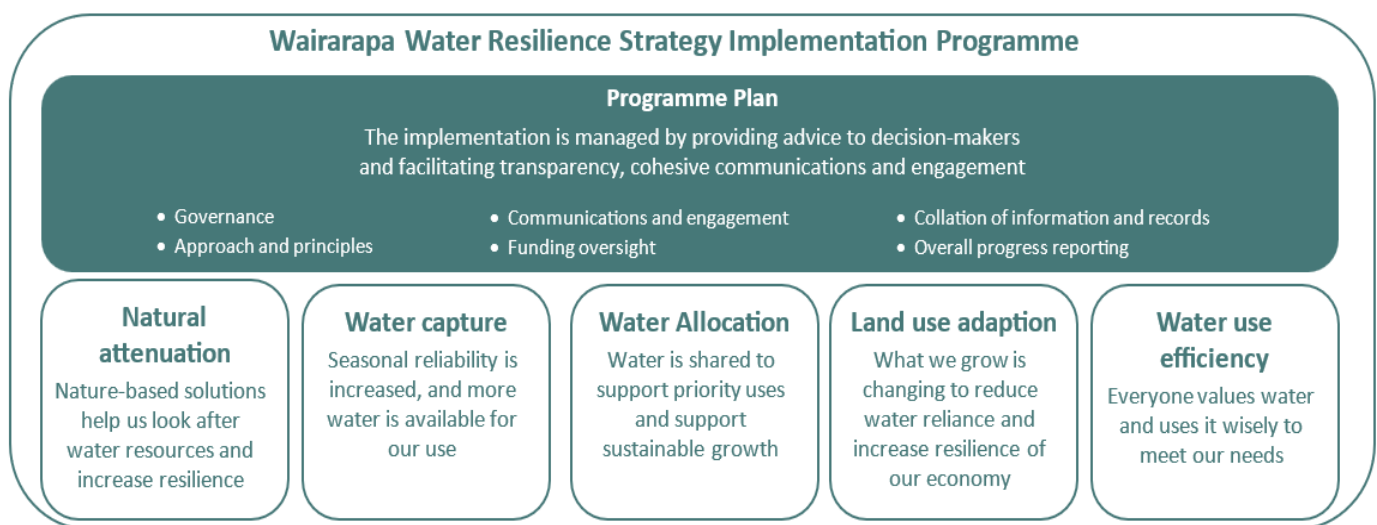
1. Improving water resilience in the Wairarapa has been identified as a priority across strategic and planning documents to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability and improvement for the region.
2. Increasing demand coupled with expected climatic changes leading to more droughts and degradation of water resources provides particular challenges for the Wairarapa region.
3. The Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (the Strategy) was developed as part of a collaborative process in 2021. It sets out an integrated approach covering the management of demand and enhancing the supply of water resources. This is in light of predictions that demand for water will grow, while climate change is driving extended periods of drought interspersed with severe weather events.
4. Its outcome statement is: “Secure, efficient and resilient supplies of freshwater for all people of Wairarapa, in a way acceptable to tangata whenua and within acceptable environmental standards.”
5. The Strategy has since been endorsed by leadership across the region and identified as a key priority under both the Wairarapa and Wellington Region Economic Development Plans.
6. In November 2023, the group of Wairarapa Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council CEOs met and agreed to provide interim governance and oversight to oversee the development and ratification of a work programme to implement the Strategy.
7. The group is united in its commitment to the successful implementation of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy for the benefit of the community and the environment.
8. As the organisations are collectively responsible for ensuring the well-being of our environment and communities, for whom water is a critical resource, it is understood that collaboration lies at the heart of the success of the strategy. By bringing together the four councils and mana whenua, collective strength, expertise, and resources can be harnessed to make a meaningful impact on water resilience in Wairarapa.
9. In parallel, the Wairarapa Water Users Group, IrrigationNZ and other stakeholders have been engaged locally and with central government to reinvigorate plans for a large water storage facility, including the exploration of proposed mechanisms in the Fast-track Approvals Bill currently considered by the Government. Also, the new government direction under the Local Water Done Well initiatives, requires collective approaches to fundamental infrastructure.
10. To manage implementation of the work programme and provide the necessary intellectual and organisational advice, facilitation and support, all four Wairarapa councils have co-funded establishment of Programme Director role, in line with the Shared Services Policy. Taking the form of a 12-month fixed term 0.5FTE, this role will be “housed” by Greater Wellington and is expected to be recruited by the end of July 2024. GWRC will also provide a level of administrative support and oversight.

Te tātaritanga Analysis

11. Since its formation, the Interim Governance Group has endorsed a Terms of Reference, Communication protocols and the structure for a work programme that involves governance and management (Appendices to Attachment 1). This enables progress to be made while information and connection to organisations and decision-makers is maintained.
12. The proposed Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme (Attachment 1) was reviewed and endorsed by the interim Governance Group on 2 July, with the direction to set up the governance and management structure and commence more detailed planning to develop the projects within work streams.

The proposed work programme

13. At its last meeting on 2 July 2024, the Interim Governance Group endorsed the proposed Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme and the projects therein.
14. The proposed Work Programme is provided as Attachment 1.
15. The structure in proposed Work Programme is summarised in Figure 1 at a high level.
16. *Figure 1. Proposed summary of the work programme structure*



17. For each of the workstreams, the interim Governance Group identified what it would like to work on together and some priority projects to develop and progress in the 2024/25 year.
18. The details for the workstreams are:
19. **Natural attenuation**, including restoring wetlands, riparian sites, and afforestation. The proposed projects for the 2024/25 year are:
 - Identify opportunities for natural attenuation, including through engagement with the “Before the Deluge” Project for flood protection in the Ruamāhanga catchment. This could include partnerships and funding to extend space for freshwater environments and to widen available river channels and increase vegetation in suitable areas

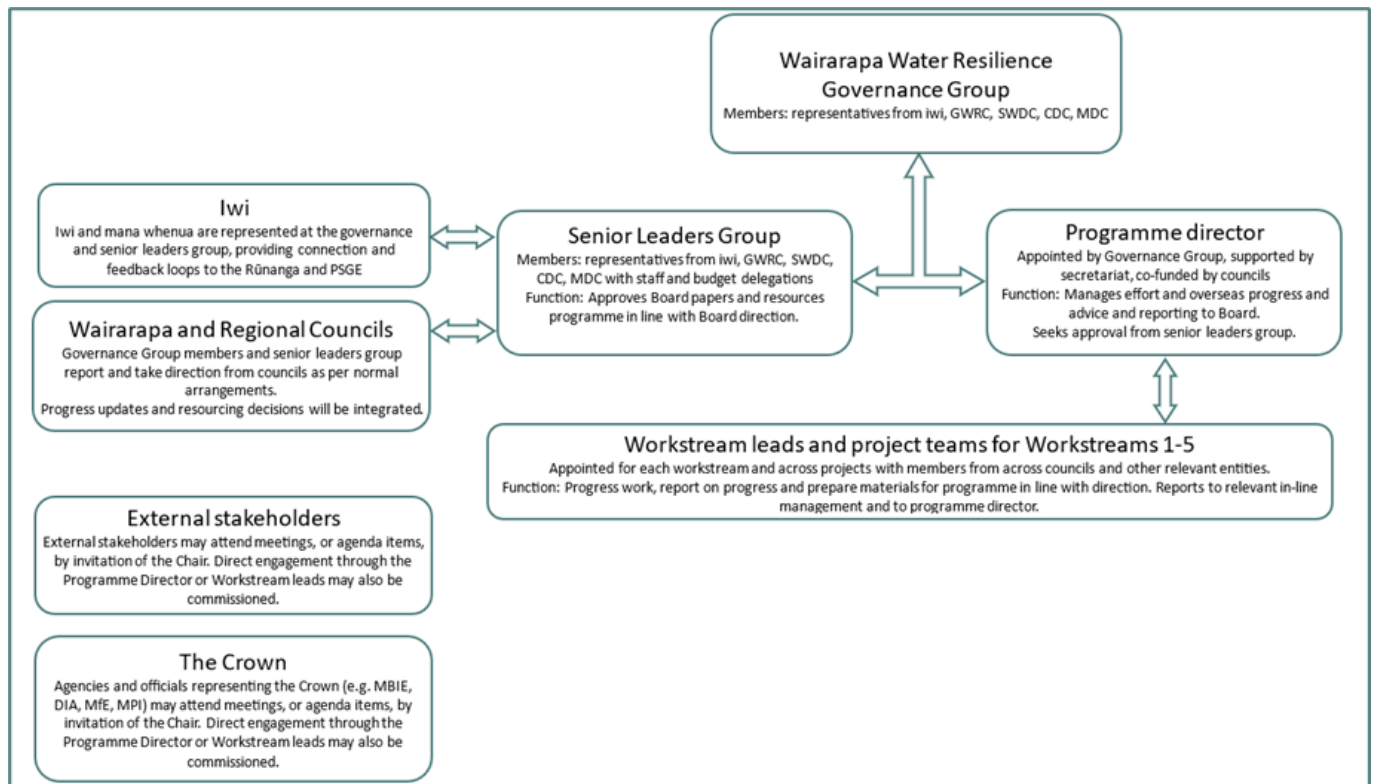
- Policy and planning for increased urban capacity for attenuation, including exploration of the development of an urban project such as demonstrating a flood-resistant street design in Featherston
 - Work with Masterton District Council on realising the concept of a sponge catchment in the Waipoua.
20. **Water capture**, which could include managed retention, constructed storage with a dam, and micro-storage to capture hill country attenuation. Some of these interventions would be experimental but the Strategy provides a set of principles to evaluate storage proposals. The proposed projects for the 2024/25 year are to
- Work with MBIE and GWRC to establish mechanisms to obtain and collate all relevant files of previous work done in a way that ensures public-interest oversight.
 - Determine the potential of bulk water storage to solve for municipal supply and commercial activity. This would include the undertaking of a feasibility report covering governance and cost share arrangements, estimated costs, risks and benefits to enable a decision to be made on any preferred options
 - Assess options that would enable small-medium sized water storage to support land use change (including any lessons learnt for other water storage initiatives e.g. Northland).
21. **Water Allocation**, which would involve moving water allocation to maximise beneficial use, improving proactive planning and the allocation system rather than working with individual consents. The proposed projects for the 2024/25 year are to
- Conduct targeted community engagement about the progress of Sky-Tem and the potential implications for water allocation in the future. This includes explaining the interaction between surface and groundwater and links between allocation and quality
 - Commence policy review and analysis for future water rights and allocation in line with Whaitua Implementation Programme and beyond.
22. **Landuse Adaptation** - Land use adaptation through the introduction of crops that use less water and encouraging mixed farming. The proposed projects for the 2024/25 year are to
- Work with WellingtonNZ (Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy), MPI and other potential partners to identify pathways to promoting or otherwise supporting alternative land use opportunities and projects
 - Support the development of water-resilient land use advice as part of GWRC/MPI land management extension, including an education campaign for landowners.

23. **Water use efficiency** - Working across water users to encourage and incentivise water conservation and more efficient uses. The proposed projects for the 2024/25 year are to
- Develop and launch a targeted educational campaign on water efficiency and usage targeted for rural, commercial and urban users across the Wairarapa.
 - Develop policy and incentive package consistent for all Wairarapa Councils that covers meters, charging and rain tanks and promulgate this for urban and rural users.
24. The programme management function will oversee the implementation of the work programme overall, and provide advice to decision-makers, and facilitate transparency, as well as support cohesive communication and engagement. This includes:
- Provision of the secretariat
 - Facilitation and organisation of project leads as part of workstreams,
 - Management of overarching funding and budget oversight,
 - Identification and management of any overarching research requirements and initiatives
 - Working with key stakeholders, including MBIE, MPI and WellingtonNZ.
25. The overall success of the programme delivery depends on ongoing, constructive collaboration between iwi and the four councils, as well as the ability to leverage resources from the organisations.
26. Any additional funding to support project implementation is yet to be secured.
27. This means, at this stage the main immediate investment will be through officer time and the approved funding for programme management.
28. It is anticipated that some initiatives will require statutory decision-making that will be brought to councils for deliberation. This is why endorsement by [insert name of the organisation] will be required to progress this work.

The proposed governance and management structure

29. The Interim Governance Group has developed a governance and management structure to ensure collaborative implementation of projects, while providing for decisions by lead organisations with statutory mandates. Figure 2 shows the governance structure in simplified form.

30. *Figure 2. Proposed governance structure for the implementation of the work programme*



31. Mana whenua representation at all levels is understood to be critical, both from Rūnanga and Post-Settlement Governance Entities.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

32. Implementing the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy will take concerted effort across the council and Iwi. This will have implication for the direction of existing work and require some funding.
33. A total of \$150k was allocated through the Targeted Economic Development Rate in the 23/24 financial year to engage an independent coordinator to deliver the function of Programme Director reporting directly to the Interim Governance Group and ensuring connection back onto partner organisation.
34. For the 24/25 year, the funding for the Programme Director was agreed and split across councils in line with the Shared Service Policy¹, with the resulting investment being
- a GWRC 30% - \$45,000
 - b MDC 36.4% - \$54,600
 - c CDC 14% - \$21,000
 - d SWDC 19.6% - \$29,400.

¹ The Shared Service Policy provides for funding splits for scoping potential shared services/collaborations and joint external service contracts and identifies funding shares for each council.

35. Additional funding will be sought through external providers for individual initiatives as well as in kind through existing teams of the four Wairarapa Councils and iwi.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori – Implications for Māori

36. The complexity of the issues and range of solutions has already brought several organisations together, including regional and local councils, Wellington Water, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy, WellingtonNZ, central government and other local interest groups.
37. Iwi and mana whenua have strong rights and interests in the outcomes of freshwater management and are engaged and encouraged to contribute at every level of this work.
38. Mana whenua have had a constant presence in the Wairarapa, from the early settlement of the coastline through to the modern-day operation of commercial farming and forestry enterprises. Local iwi Ngāti Kahungunu and Rāngitane o Wairarapa have recently completed historic Tiriti o Waitangi settlements with the Crown. Their leadership is likely to drive sustainable land management and the principles of kaitiakitanga. This will see a greater focus on sustainable and renewable farming practices, investment in skills and education, and exploring alternative land use strategies.
39. The Interim Governance Group is seeking representation of mana whenua at all levels of the governance and management structure, including on any day-to-day project work, if desired. There may be some projects of greater interest (see list paragraphs 20-25).

Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi – Consideration of climate change

40. The main sectors that contribute to the Wairarapa economy and major employers, like hospitality, primary industries, food and fibre and manufacturing are all heavily reliant on access to a good, secure water supply.
41. The collective impacts of climate change and tighter rules and regulations for water management will, and already are, impacting on the existence of established business, inhibiting new businesses and constraining population growth in Wairarapa.
42. This is in light of predictions that demand for water will grow, while climate change is driving extended periods of drought interspersed with severe weather events.
43. The Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy takes a holistic approach which includes consideration of any climate change-related risks and actively seeks to soften impacts through supporting adaptation and ensure water can be held in the environment for longer to help ameliorate impacts of drought and flooding.

Te whakatūtakitaki – Engagement

44. It is planned that the Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group will make its work, papers and decisions publicly available and engage with the media collectively as appropriate.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei – Next steps

45. Endorsement for this proposed work programme is sought from all Wairarapa Councils and the two iwi.
46. The immediate next step is to confirm the membership for the governance and management structures, as well as project teams.
47. Then the more detailed development of the projects will follow.
48. Regular reporting to councils and iwi is expected.

Ngā āpitihanga**Attachment/s**

Number	Title
1	Proposed Wairarapa Water Resilience Work Programme

Ngā kaiwaitohu**Signatory/Signatories**

Writer/s	Jennie Marks – Wairarapa Water Resilience Programme Director (Consultant)
Approver/s	[As per requirements of the agency]

Appointment Report –Wairarapa Road Safety Council

Appointee Name	Councillor Alistair Plimmer
Meeting – Date and Venue	Thursday 13th June 2024 Rangitumau Room, REAP House
Key issues from the meeting	
General	Refer to Appendix 1 for further updates.

Appendix 1 – Wairarapa Road Safety Council, Meeting minutes from 13 June 2024



Minutes of the Wairarapa Road Safety Council Meeting held in the Rangitumau Room, REAP House, on Thursday 13th June 2024 commencing at 1.00pm

Present: Frazer Mailman (MDC - Chairperson), Holly Hullena (WRSC), Joe Harwood (ACC), Craig Bowyer (AA), Grant Detheridge-Davies (FENZ), , Cheryl Watson (WFA), Alistair Plimmer (SWDC), Karanbir Singh (Police), Steve Laurence, Paula Weston (Principals South Wairarapa), Mark Bridges (Principals)

Apologies: Bruce Pauling (WRSC), (CDC), Sandra Burles (Regional Cycling Coordinator), Esme Laird (Age Concern)

Moved by: Frazer Seconded by: CARRIED

Health & Safety: Holly spoke of the Evacuation procedure.

Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Road Safety Manager Report:

Bruce: Frazer spoke in Bruce's absence. Fraser mentioned an email regarding the NLTP programme. Our programme will not be approved until August.

Frazer questions what we do in the meantime between 1st July to and August. Alistair and Steve share concerns of suspended operation of business until funding is secured. Executive to hold a meeting prior to end of June. Craig suggests a proposal to be made to the Mayor's and CEO's request politely in writing whether interim funding can be brought forward to end of August. Needs to be done prior to end of June.

- Moved: Frazer Room agreed. CARRIED

Cheryl: Aged concern have funding issues with staying safe. They will not be holding these workshops until funding is known.

Holly:

- Pedal ready funding in question. Explained the ratio of delegation of sessions throughout the TA.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

RSM & RSC reports and previous minutes tabled. Grant moved, Craig seconded true and accurate record.

Matters Arising:

- Alistair says that Mike Butterick has not responded to his letter regarding the wire rope barrier.

Financial Reports:

Financials were spoken to and tabled. Executive met prior to go over financials up to 30th May 2024. CDMP Budget surplus is due to come out in June. The future of funding for the programme is in question.

Moved: Frazer Seconded: Alistair CARRIED

General Business:

Frazer: spoke of the speed limit reduction press release that came through Bruce's email. Holly printed and gave copies to the board. Frazer has requested that each member send responses to Bruce once they have read through and Bruce will collate before making a response. Craig said AA is making a submission of their own.

Alistair: The licensing issues. Learners have to physically travel to Masterton to get a booking. Second issue is that a student cannot book a licence 6 months out from the date they get their learners licence. They have to wait 6 months after gaining their licence to book online and then there are no slots available for another 6 months. Making it twice as long to get their licence.

Funding letters came out to SWDC. Had a good result.

Frazer has suggested an action to this is that WRSC puts together a letter to Waka Kotahi and Simeon Brown. Letter out next week. List members and associations.

Joe: ACC finds out 26th June as to how the staff layout looks like. Media campaigns only until funding approved in September.

Paula: Greytown child bike v car. Driver took off (local) in the morning going out of the driveway. Location East Street.

Craig: Spoke of raised pedestrian crossings. Changes afoot due to the speed approaching them and the impending blanket speed changes.

Mark: Pedal Ready happening at school. Great to have marked cars and speed cameras out.

Cheryl: Roadworks impacting call outs and lack of consultation to emergency services. Fundraising updates on new site to come soon.

Karanbir: Next 3 months. Operation Better Together. Wairarapa end of every month police out in force.

Grant: FENZ Lost some funding. BAU

Steve: LTP has some additional funding for roading.

Sandra Burles:

- Change of role. CDC, SWDC still funding hours of a cycling coordinator but MDC no longer have this role.

Esme (via email): Final Staying Safe for this financial year is Thursday 27th of June will be in Masterton. We really need more numbers if the RSC members can advertise it too would be great. Ring Deanne ACW if so or see our website.

We are still waiting confirmation that the funding for Staying Safe will continue next year

Next Meeting: Thursday 19th September 2024 at 12.30pm, Rangitumau Room, REAP House. AGM followed by ordinary meeting.

Meeting Closed: 1.45pm

Chairperson Signature: _____ Dated: _____