

I hereby give notice that a meeting of Horizons Regional Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 25 August 2026
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Tararua Room Horizons Regional Council
11-15 Victoria Avenue
Palmerston North

REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Cr NM Riley
Deputy Chair	Cr FJT Gordon
Councillors	Cr SL Dryland
	Cr HC Easton
	Cr BG Fraser
	Cr EB Gordon
	Cr LL Jansen
	Cr GM McKellar
	Cr JM Naylor
	Cr ETJ Pue
	Cr AR Taylor
	Cr WK Te Awe Awe
	Cr T Teira
	Cr PF Wells

Michael McCartney
Chief Executive

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Full Agendas are available on Horizons Regional Council website
www.horizons.govt.nz

for further information regarding this agenda, please contact:
Julie Kennedy, 06 9522 800

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REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue	Whanganui 181 Guyton Street		
DEPOTS	Levin 120-122 Hokio Beach Rd	Taihape 243 Wairanu Rd		
POSTAL ADDRESS	Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatū Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442			

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PX4	Council to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain, and define the extent of the release.	

AGENDA

1 WELCOME / KARAKIA

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

At the close of the Agenda no apologies had been received.

3 PUBLIC FORUMS: Are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters, not on that meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority.

DEPUTATIONS: Are designed to enable a person, group or organisation to speak to an item on the agenda of a particular meeting.

Requests for Public Forums / Deputations must be made to the meeting secretary by 12 noon on the working day before the meeting. The person applying for a Public Forum or a Deputation must provide a clear explanation for the request which is subsequently approved by the Chairperson.

PETITIONS: Can be presented to the local authority or any of its committees, so long as the subject matter falls within the terms of reference of the council or committee meeting being presented to.

Written notice to the Chief Executive is required at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting. Petitions must contain at least 20 signatures and consist of fewer than 150 words (not including signatories).

Further information is available by phoning 0508 800 800.

4 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Committee/Council to consider any further items relating to items following below which do not appear on the Order Paper of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.

Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended), and the Chairperson must advise:

- (i) The reason why the item was not on the Order Paper, and
- (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

5 MEMBER'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

Minutes of the tenth meeting of the thirteenth triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 9.32am on Tuesday 30 June 2026, in the Tararua Room Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

Tuesday, 30 June 2026

PRESENT Crs NM Riley (Chair), SL Dryland, HC Easton, BG Fraser, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon (from 9.52am), LL Jansen, GM McKellar, JM Naylor, ETJ Pue, AR Taylor, WK Te Awe Awe, T Teira and PF Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager	
Governance, Engagement and Transformation	Mrs C Hesselin
Governance Team Leader	Mrs T Bishop
Committee Secretaries	Mrs R De Souza
	Mrs JA Kennedy (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:

Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations), Dr E Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate Services), Mr A Smith (Chief Financial Officer), Mrs N Dodd (Finance Business Partner), Ms L Shirley (Policy Manager), Mrs L Goode (Senior Policy Planner), Mr J Galuszka (Manager Media & Communications), Mrs R Bell (Project Manager), Mr C Brown (Iwi Advisor), Mr N Portegys (Senior Policy), Mr B Rush (People & Capability), and Mrs G Larkins-Taneha (ROMST), and Mrs D Te Puni (Rangitāne o Manawātū).

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Pue to open with a Karakia.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

As noted in the Agenda the following items were supplementary to the agenda and distributed separately via the Hub to Councillors:

- Report No. 26-101, Adoption of the 2026-27 Annual Plan;
- Report No. 26-102, Rates Setting and Administrative Charges Confirmation for 2026-27; and
- Annex A to Report No. 26-104, Summary of 24 June Workshop

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As a trustee of Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi, Cr Elijah Pue declared a conflict in relation to a recommendations l. and m. to Item 8.3, Report No. 26-105, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe. He noted a pecuniary interest in relation to resourcing iwi participation which could result in resourcing being allocated to the Trust. Cr Pue did not participate in the discussion or decision surrounding

resourcing iwi participation (but for the avoidance of doubt, he did participate and vote on the remainder of the recommendations).

In the public excluded part of the meeting, Cr Wells declared a potential conflict of interest in the item PX6, Report No. 26-115 - River Management Capital Programme Government Co-funding update. Cr Wells did not participate in the discussion or decision for that item.

During discussion of Report No. 26-105, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, continued 1 July 2026, Cr Jansen declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from voting on the recommendations.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive presented his report and clarified Members' questions.

Cr F Gordon joined the meeting at 9.52am.

26-164 **Moved** **Teira/Te Awe Awe**
That the Chief Executive's report be received.
CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

26-165 **Moved** **Teira/Naylor**
That the minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on 26 May 2026 as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.
CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE 2026-27 ANNUAL PLAN

Report No 26-101

Mr Smith (Chief Financial Officer) introduced the item that outlined the procedures for the approval and adoption of the 2026-27 Annual Plan, highlighting that the 2026-27 Annual Plan was based on Year 3 of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan, following workshops and Council-approved changes adopted on 26 May 2026. Members provided their views on the changes adopted, and sought clarity around the total regional rates increase of 5.9%. The Chair then put the recommendations.

26-166 **Moved** **Pue/Teira**
It is recommended that Council:
a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-101.
b. notes that officers have assessed the effect of the proposed changes against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and assessed the proposed changes as being of low significance.
c. agrees that the appropriate level of engagement for the proposed changes is to inform the community following Council's decision.
d. confirms the following proposed additions to the 2026-27 Annual Plan:
i. addition of \$100,000 for Regional Spatial Planning, to be funded via the General Rate;

- ii. addition of \$550,000 for Plan Change 2 implementation, to be funded via a combination of user fees and charges and the General Rate;
- iii. new Senior River Management Officer role in the River Management team, to be funded the Pohangina-Oroua Scheme funding policy, being 80% targeted rate and 20% via the General Rate;
- iv. new Senior River Management Officer role in the River Management team, to be funded via the General Rate;
- e. adopts the 2026-27 Annual Plan;
- f. requests the Chief Executive to prepare the final 2026-27 Annual Plan for publication, including minor proofing changes.

Against: Cr McKellar .

Abstain: Cr Dryland

CARRIED

RATES SETTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES CONFIRMATION FOR 2026-27

Report No 26-102

Mr Smith (Chief Financial Officer) introduced the report which recommended the rates to be set for the 2026-27 year, including the confirmation of the administrative charges for the same period.

26-167

Moved

B Gordon/Wells

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-102 and Annex.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is to inform.
- c. notes that it has had regard to the matters set out in section 100T of the Biosecurity Act 1993 in the development of the 2017-37 Regional Pest Management Plan, the supporting documentation Horizons Amended Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan 2017-37 and the 2024-34 Long-term Plan, as is reflected in the content of those documents, and no significant changes have been made.
- d. sets the following rates for the financial year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (all amounts are GST inclusive):
 - i. a general rate set on a differential basis on equalised capital value using projected values of each of the region's territorial authority areas, differentiated based on the location as determined by the relevant local authority boundary as follows:

District/City	All Properties
	\$ per \$ of Capital Value
	2026-27
Horowhenua DC	0.0004048
Manawatū DC	0.0004058

Palmerston North CC	0.0004017
Part Stratford DC	0.0004006
Part Taupō DC	0.0004445
Part Waitomo DC	0.0004161
Rangitikei DC	0.0003722
Ruapehu DC	0.0004169
Tararua DC	0.0004060
Whanganui DC	0.0004010

- ii. a Uniform Annual General Charge of \$53.74 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit on all rateable rating units in the region; and
- iii. a Public Transport Rate set on a differential basis on capital value on urban rating units in constituent districts as follows:

District/City	All Properties \$ per \$ of Capital Value 2026-27
Horowhenua DC	0.0000729
Manawatū DC	0.0001326
Palmerston North CC	0.0003135
Rangitikei DC	0.0000275
Ruapehu DC	0.0000096
Tararua DC	0.0000125
Whanganui DC	0.0002721

- iv. a Sustainable Land Use Initiative rate of \$39.95 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit on all rateable rating units in the region; and
- v. an Environmental Initiatives rate of \$38.75 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit on all rateable rating units in the region; and
- vi. a Biosecurity and Biodiversity Protection (per ha) rate of \$1.22 per hectare on all rateable rating units larger than 4 hectares in the region; and
- vii. a Regional Park rate on every rateable rating unit within the Manawatū District and Palmerston North City, of \$0.18 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit; and
- viii. a Rangitikei Environment Group rate on every rateable rating unit within the Rangitikei District per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, differentiated by the area of rating unit, as follows:

Property Type	Dollars per SUIP 2026-27
Rating units less than 4 Ha	\$9.74
Rating units greater than 4Ha	\$37.53

- ix. a Waitarere Community Biodiversity rate on every rateable rating unit within the Waitarere Beach Community of an amount of \$0.0000350 per dollar of capital value; and
- x. a Manawatū River Accord rate on every rateable rating unit within the Manawatū River Catchment of \$8.44 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit; and
- xi. a Horowhenua Water Quality Improvement rate on every rateable rating unit within the Horowhenua District, of \$47.65 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit; and
- xii. River and Drainage Scheme rates set in each of the rating areas identified in the first column, on the classes and differential categories identified in the second column, on the factors shown in the third column and values/amounts shown in the fourth;

River and Drainage Schemes	Class/Diff	Rating Basis	Unit Rate
<i>River Schemes</i>			
Ashhurst Stream	AC	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000157
	AL	\$ Per Hectare	68.78
	AN	\$ Per SUIP	9.85
	AU	\$ Per Hectare	18.31
Kahuterawa	KM	\$ Per Hectare	122.13
Lower Kiwitea Stream	CN	\$ Per Hectare	1.56
	MK	\$ Per Hectare	370.99
Lower Manawatu	CE	\$ Per Hectare	0.64
	CL	\$ Per Hectare	2.18
	CW	\$ Per Hectare	1.09
	DR	\$ Per Hectare	168.74
	F1	\$ per \$ of Land Value	0.0019602
	F2	\$ per \$ of Land Value	0.0015682
	F3	\$ per \$ of Land Value	0.0011761
	F4	\$ per \$ of Land Value	0.0007841
	F5	\$ per \$ of Land Value	0.0001960
	FB	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000915
	FG	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0001456
	HF	\$ Per SUIP	675.56
	IC	\$ Per SUIP	14.30
	IE	\$ Per SUIP	7.15
	IF	\$ Per SUIP	4.72
	IS	\$ Per SUIP	7.15
	IW	\$ Per SUIP	4.72
	PN	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000572
	R1	\$ Per Hectare	91.50
	R2	\$ Per Hectare	18.30
	SA	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0016662

	SB	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0014702
	SC	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0009801
	SD	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0004901
Lower Manawatu Special	AH	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000016
	SP (On specified	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000076
	TU (Turitea)	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0009057
Lower Whanganui River	N1	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000222
	N2	\$ Per SUIP	29.36
	W1	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0001299
	W2	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000650
Makirikiri	A	\$ Per Hectare	50.34
	A1	\$ Per Hectare	125.26
	B	\$ Per Hectare	35.24
	B1	\$ Per Hectare	87.68
	C	\$ Per Hectare	25.17
	C1	\$ Per Hectare	62.63
	CN	\$ Per Hectare	1.77
	F	\$ Per Hectare	5.03
	F1	\$ Per Hectare	12.53
	GF	\$ Per SUIP	759.00
	LF	\$ Per SUIP	1457.28
	T1	\$ Per SUIP	819.72
Mangatainoka	CK	\$ Per Hectare	0.72
	CM	\$ Per Hectare	0.10
	CU	\$ Per Hectare	2.79
	DR	\$ Per Hectare	108.13
	F1	\$ Per Hectare	64.15
	F2	\$ Per Hectare	38.49
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	0.98
	KL	\$ Per Hectare	167.73
	LH	\$ Per Hectare	17.16
	LL	\$ Per Hectare	3.43
	LM	\$ Per Hectare	10.30
	MH	\$ Per Hectare	53.16
	ML	\$ Per Hectare	10.63
	MM	\$ Per Hectare	31.90
	MR	\$ Per Hectare	9.62
	PU	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0002634
	R1	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0003868
	R2	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0003504
	UH	\$ Per Hectare	167.80
	UL	\$ Per Hectare	33.56
	UM	\$ Per Hectare	100.68
Matarawa	CM	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000027
	CN	\$ Per Hectare	2.07
	IN	\$ Per SUIP	20.51
	L1	\$ Per Hectare	11.14
	L2	\$ Per Hectare	11.14
	L3	\$ Per Hectare	44.57
	M1	\$ Per Hectare	74.28
	M3	\$ Per Hectare	14.86
	M4	\$ Per Hectare	14.86

<i>Ohakune</i>	<i>UR</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0000900</i>
<i>Ohau-Manakau</i>	<i>AD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>35.53</i>
	<i>CD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>22.94</i>
	<i>CH</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>26.00</i>
	<i>CL</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>1.95</i>
	<i>FH</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>131.54</i>
	<i>FL</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>9.87</i>
	<i>HD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>19.01</i>
	<i>IN</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>8.28</i>
	<i>KD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>40.22</i>
	<i>L2</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>33.31</i>
	<i>LD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>66.62</i>
	<i>MC</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>4.05</i>
	<i>ML</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>127.09</i>
	<i>MU</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>301.49</i>
	<i>OL</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>77.78</i>
	<i>OM</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>234.10</i>
	<i>OT</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>933.05</i>
	<i>OU</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>418.60</i>
	<i>PD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>34.21</i>
	<i>SD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>11.80</i>
	<i>TD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>51.56</i>
	<i>UM</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0000835</i>
	<i>UO</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0000584</i>
	<i>UW</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0001538</i>
	<i>WD</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>23.68</i>
	<i>WL</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>97.47</i>
	<i>WU</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>259.97</i>
<i>Pakihi Valley</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>148.42</i>
<i>Pohangina - Oroua</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>271.18</i>
	<i>EZ</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>0.18</i>
	<i>IA</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0000212</i>
	<i>IN</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>4.11</i>
	<i>O1</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>129.74</i>
	<i>O2</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>164.22</i>
	<i>O3</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>103.79</i>
	<i>O4</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>131.38</i>
	<i>P1</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>295.53</i>
	<i>P2</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>177.32</i>
	<i>P3</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>47.82</i>
	<i>P4</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>236.43</i>
	<i>P5</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>141.86</i>
	<i>P6</i>	<i>\$ Per Hectare</i>	<i>38.25</i>
<i>Porewa Valley</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0039491</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0022905</i>
	<i>C</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0011057</i>
	<i>D</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0001975</i>
	<i>E</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0001185</i>
	<i>F</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0000395</i>
	<i>U1</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0003159</i>
	<i>U2</i>	<i>\$ per \$ of Capital Value</i>	<i>0.0000790</i>

Rangitikei River	CD	\$ Per Hectare	0.45
	CN	\$ Per Hectare	0.89
	CU	\$ Per Hectare	0.45
	DR	\$ Per Hectare	228.76
	E1	\$ Per Hectare	98.53
	E2	\$ Per Hectare	39.41
	E3	\$ Per Hectare	178.95
	E4	\$ Per Hectare	152.23
	F1	\$ Per Hectare	90.95
	F2	\$ Per Hectare	54.57
	F3	\$ Per Hectare	18.64
	F4	\$ Per Hectare	30.34
	F5	\$ Per Hectare	85.37
	F6	\$ Per Hectare	51.22
	GF	\$ Per SUIP	536.13
	GT	\$ Per SUIP	130.98
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	0.76
	RF	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0069786
	RH	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0029443
	RO	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0005432
	UF	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0012387
	UL	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000277
	UT	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0003815
	UU	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000248
Ruapehu DC	CN	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000428
South East Ruahines	CN	\$ Per Hectare	1.57
	DK (Dannevirke)	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000822
	DR	\$ Per Hectare	59.42
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	1.29
	M1	\$ Per Hectare	49.25
	M2	\$ Per Hectare	89.52
	M3	\$ Per Hectare	96.08
	M4	\$ Per Hectare	100.48
	M5	\$ Per Hectare	15.66
	RZ	\$ Per Hectare	0.03
	SZ	\$ Per Hectare	0.02
	W1	\$ Per Hectare	11.70
	W2	\$ Per Hectare	21.51
	W3	\$ Per Hectare	14.79
	WO (Woodville)	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000861
Tararua	CN	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000406
Tawataia - Mangaone	B	\$ Per Hectare	86.72
	C	\$ Per Hectare	28.91
	D	\$ Per Hectare	14.45
Turakina	CN	\$ Per Hectare	0.14
	T1	\$ Per Hectare	39.75
	T2	\$ Per Hectare	35.62
	T3	\$ Per Hectare	24.48
	T4	\$ Per Hectare	15.93
	T5	\$ Per Hectare	7.04
Tutaenui	CN	\$ Per Hectare	1.06

	IN	\$ Per Hectare	1.04
	TL	\$ Per Hectare	27.11
	TW	\$ Per Hectare	58.06
	UB (Bulls)	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000475
	UM (Marton)	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000613
Upper Manawatu	CN	\$ Per Hectare	0.34
	D1	\$ Per Hectare	16.12
	D2	\$ Per Hectare	11.92
	D3	\$ Per Hectare	12.41
	D4	\$ Per Hectare	26.74
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	1.30
	M1	\$ Per Hectare	95.40
	M2	\$ Per Hectare	305.70
	U1	\$ Per Hectare	150.16
	U2	\$ Per Hectare	111.21
	U3	\$ Per Hectare	190.52
	U4	\$ Per Hectare	80.33
Upper Whanganui	IN	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000158
	R1	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0012971
	R2	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0006485
	R3	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0007446
	R4	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0003723
	U1	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0001781
	U2	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000712
Whangaehu - Mangawhero	CN	\$ Per Hectare	0.18
	IN	\$ Per SUIP	15.50
	LW	\$ Per Hectare	3.08
	MW	\$ Per Hectare	10.70
	UM	\$ Per Hectare	48.95
	UW	\$ Per Hectare	24.23
DRAINAGE SCHEMES			
Forest Road	A	\$ Per Hectare	59.39
	B	\$ Per Hectare	44.54
	C	\$ Per Hectare	29.70
	D	\$ Per Hectare	14.85
	E	\$ Per Hectare	7.72
	F	\$ Per Hectare	4.16
Foxton East	CN	\$ Per Hectare	9.97
	UB	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000575
Haunui	A	\$ per \$ of Land Value	0.0012734
Himatangi	A	\$ Per Hectare	24.18
	B	\$ Per Hectare	16.93
	C	\$ Per Hectare	8.46
	D	\$ Per Hectare	4.35
	E	\$ Per Hectare	1.69
	F	\$ Per Hectare	1.21
Hokio	AC	\$ Per SUIP	138.56
	DA	\$ Per Hectare	35.91
	DH	\$ Per Hectare	23.91

	DL	\$ Per Hectare	5.39
	DM	\$ Per Hectare	19.02
	DP	\$ Per Hectare	49.44
	DS	\$ Per Hectare	37.19
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	5.39
	UH	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000240
	UL	\$ per \$ of Capital Value	0.0000074
Koputaroa	A1	\$ Per Hectare	68.37
	A2	\$ Per Hectare	34.19
	D1	\$ Per Hectare	50.38
	D2	\$ Per Hectare	25.19
	D3	\$ Per Hectare	31.53
	D4	\$ Per Hectare	15.76
	D5	\$ Per Hectare	32.83
	D6	\$ Per Hectare	16.41
	D7	\$ Per Hectare	57.01
	D8	\$ Per Hectare	28.50
	F1	\$ Per Hectare	13.90
	F2	\$ Per Hectare	8.34
	F3	\$ Per Hectare	4.17
	F4	\$ Per Hectare	1.39
	F5	\$ Per Hectare	46.42
	F6	\$ Per Hectare	18.57
	I1	\$ Per Hectare	5.14
	I2	\$ Per Hectare	10.50
	I3	\$ Per Hectare	8.43
	I4	\$ Per Hectare	11.25
	IA	\$ Per Hectare	1.82
	IK	\$ Per Hectare	1.97
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	32.90
	K1	\$ Per Hectare	130.46
	K2	\$ Per Hectare	65.23
	P1	\$ Per Hectare	145.89
	P2	\$ Per Hectare	96.29
	P3	\$ Per Hectare	210.02
	P4	\$ Per Hectare	138.61
	P5	\$ Per Hectare	246.29
	P6	\$ Per Hectare	162.55
	P7	\$ Per Hectare	81.27
	P8	\$ Per Hectare	267.24
	P9	\$ Per Hectare	176.38
Makerua	B1	\$ Per Hectare	36.04
	B2	\$ Per Hectare	14.42
	C1	\$ Per Hectare	60.53
	C2	\$ Per Hectare	24.21
	EC	\$ Per Hectare	2.28
	G1	\$ Per Hectare	11.08
	K1	\$ Per Hectare	88.67
	L1	\$ Per Hectare	28.75
	L2	\$ Per Hectare	11.50
	M1	\$ Per Hectare	40.23
	M2	\$ Per Hectare	16.09
	O1	\$ Per Hectare	56.61
	O2	\$ Per Hectare	22.64
	OC	\$ Per Hectare	6.51

	PB	\$ Per Hectare	274.73
	PK	\$ Per Hectare	171.57
	PM	\$ Per Hectare	193.04
	PO	\$ Per Hectare	64.31
	R1	\$ Per Hectare	55.04
	T1	\$ Per Hectare	47.58
Manawatu	CL	\$ Per Hectare	163.57
	CN	\$ Per Hectare	9.37
	DR	\$ Per Hectare	32.30
	DU	\$ Per SUIP	118.58
	F1	\$ Per Hectare	60.75
	F2	\$ Per Hectare	30.37
	F3	\$ Per Hectare	6.07
	P1	\$ Per Hectare	158.72
	P2	\$ Per Hectare	79.36
	P3	\$ Per Hectare	39.68
	P4	\$ Per Hectare	7.94
Moutoa	D1	\$ Per Hectare	41.75
	D2	\$ Per Hectare	23.97
	D3	\$ Per Hectare	9.59
	D4	\$ Per Hectare	10.90
	D5	\$ Per Hectare	4.36
	MC	\$ Per Hectare	26.10
	P1	\$ Per Hectare	152.04
	P2	\$ Per Hectare	121.64
	P3	\$ Per Hectare	45.61
	P4	\$ Per Hectare	119.63
	P5	\$ Per Hectare	95.71
	P6	\$ Per Hectare	35.89
Te Kawanu	AC	\$ Per SUIP	108.13
	C1	\$ Per Hectare	18.36
	C2	\$ Per Hectare	0.64
	CF	\$ Per Hectare	1.97
	CR	\$ Per Hectare	4.45
	CU	\$ Per Hectare	56.33
	DA	\$ Per Hectare	2.89
	DO	\$ Per Hectare	8.92
	DR	\$ Per Hectare	16.07
	DS	\$ Per Hectare	18.88
	FK	\$ Per Hectare	15.96
	FM	\$ Per Hectare	59.03
	P1	\$ Per Hectare	63.06
	P2	\$ Per Hectare	15.77
	PR	\$ Per Hectare	20.67
Whirokino	D1	\$ Per Hectare	79.60
	D2	\$ Per Hectare	52.53
	D3	\$ Per Hectare	7.96
	D4	\$ Per Hectare	177.94
	D5	\$ Per Hectare	71.18
	F1	\$ Per Hectare	60.46
	F2	\$ Per Hectare	36.27
	F3	\$ Per Hectare	6.05
	IN	\$ Per Hectare	5.64

P1	\$ Per Hectare	381.26
P2	\$ Per Hectare	152.50
P3	\$ Per Hectare	38.13

- e. resolves that the due date for all rates for the 2026-27 rating year is 25 September 2026.
- f. resolves that:
- a penalty of 10% will be added to the amount of any rates for the 2026-27 rating year that remain unpaid on 02 October 2026.
 - a penalty of 10% will be added to the amount of any rates assessed in previous financial years that remain unpaid on 03 July 2026.
 - a further penalty of 10% will be added to any amounts to which a penalty has been added under 3(e)(ii) which remain unpaid, on 08 January 2027.

It is recommended for the setting of Annual Administration Charges, that the Council:

- g. adopts the administrative charges for 2026-27 as set in Annex A pursuant to section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Abstain: Cr Dryland.

CARRIED

SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT AS AT 31 MAY 2026

Report No 26-103

Mr Rush (Senior Safety & Wellbeing Advisor) presented the report which provided Council with a summary of safety and wellbeing related activities and performance for the financial year to date. Mr Rush advised that the 'Review of Health & Safety Manual' as noted under paragraph 6, Biennial Plan Progress for 2025/25 had now been completed. Mr Rush answered Members' questions.

26-168 Moved Fraser/Jansen

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-103 and Annex.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10.38am.

The meeting reconvened at 10.56am.

MANA WHAKAHONO Ā ROHE

Report No 26-105

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) introduced the report which provided an overview of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and sought Council decisions on process, delegation, and funding arrangements. Dr Daly explained that the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe were statutory agreements under the Resource management Act 1991 and that decisions made by Council would guide how Council met those statutory obligations, managed resourcing implications, and

supported relationships with iwi authorities. A new recommendation b. was introduced for consideration and Members debated the significance status of the matters in the report in regard to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Further debate ensued around Council's overall approach to the proposed process for development of agreements, and resourcing and funding arrangements. Dr Daly and the Chief Executive provided clarification to Members' questions.

The Chair put recommendation a.

26-169 Moved B Gordon/Easton

It is recommended that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-105 and Annexes.

CARRIED

Members provided their views, debated the foreshadowed recommendation b. and suggested amendments.

The meeting adjourned at 12.38pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.30pm.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

26-170 Moved Easton/Fraser

THAT the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. 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 follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 and 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, as follows:

CARRIED

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
PX1 Report of Audit, Risk & Investment Committee Meeting - Receive and Adopt Resolutions and Recommendations – 27 May 2026	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX2 IT Infrastructure Replacement	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. Contains commercial	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists

	information and costings.	under section 7.
PX3 Horizons Regional Council 2026 LiDAR Acquisition	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. Contains commercial information and costings in response to the FTP.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX4 Te Pūwaha Procurement	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. The information is commercially sensitive.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX5 Wilding Conifer Programme	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX6 River Management Capital Programme Government Co-funding update	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. This Item contains information that relates to negotiations with central government around central government co-funding that is confidential and subject to central government decision making and ministerial announcements. Further the Item contains information on estimated costs for projects that are confidential so as to not have these estimates influence tender price submissions if the work is to proceed. s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.

	disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). This Item contains information that relates to negotiations with central government around central government co-funding that is confidential and subject to central government decision making and ministerial announcements. Further the Item contains information on estimated costs for projects that are confidential so as to not have these estimates influence tender price submissions if the work is to proceed.	
PX7 Local Government New Zealand visit	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7
PX8 Audit New Zealand visit	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 1.31pm and resumed at 5.01pm.

A motion to continue beyond the 6 hour limit and to adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, 1 July 2026 was put by the Chair.

MOTION TO CONTINUE FOR MORE THAN 6 HOURS INCLUDING ADJOURNMENTS

26-171

Moved

Riley/Teira

That the council:

- a. *agrees that the meeting will continue beyond the 6-hour limit (Including adjournments), Standing Order 4.2 Meeting Duration.*
- b. *agrees that the meeting will adjourn at 5.05pm Tuesday, 30 June and reconvene on Wednesday, 01 July 2026 at 09:30am.*

Against: Crs McKellar, Jansen

Abstain: Cr Fraser

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5.07pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9.36am on Wednesday, 01 July 2026.

Wednesday, 01 July 2026

PRESENT Crs NM Riley (Chair), HC Easton (to 11.08am), EB Gordon, FJT Gordon, AR Taylor, WK Te Awe Awe (from 9.50am), T Teira and PF Wells.

Via Zoom:

Crs JM Naylor (various times), ETJ Pue, LL Jansen (various times), BG Fraser, GM McKellar (various times), SL Dryland (from 9.51am)

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager	
Governance, Engagement and Transformation	Mrs C Hesselin
Governance Team Leader	Mrs T Bishop
Committee Secretaries	Mrs R De Souza
	Mrs JA Kennedy (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:

Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations), Dr E Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr C Grant (Group Manager Corporate Services), Mr A Smith (Chief Financial Officer), Ms L Shirley (Policy Manager), Mr J Galuszka (Manager Media & Communications), Mrs R Bell (Project Manager), Mr C Brown (Iwi Advisor), and Mr N Portegys (Senior Policy).

The Chair welcomed everyone to day two of the meeting and invited Cr Teira to say a Karakia.

RUAPEHU FLOOD RESILIENCE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Report No 26-108

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) introduced the item which updated Council on the Ruapehu Flood Resilience Collaboration Agreement (joint work programme) established by Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) and Ruapehu District Council (RuDC) in November 2025. Dr Roygard summarised progress with delivery of the work programme and associated budgets, outlined the next steps, and responded to Members' questions.

26-164

Moved

Pue/Easton

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-108 and Annex.*
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.*
- c. directs the Chief Executive to:*
 - i. continue to implement the Ruapehu Flood Resilience Collaboration Agreement for a further year, incorporating changes to align with the resolutions of this item and reporting on progress to Council via the Integrated Catchment Committee.*

- ii. undertake flood modelling, design and investigations (including data collection) to prepare options for future flood mitigation for Taumarunui and to report back to Council on this by 30 June 2027. Approves this work to be funded via the operational budget and reserves from the Upper Whanganui Scheme in accordance with the Upper Whanganui Scheme funding policy i.e. 80% targeted rate (including targeted rate reserves) and 20% general rate (including general rate reserves);
- iii. investigate and consent upgrades for increased flood resilience in Ohakune via culvert upgrades (noting these are not Horizons' assets) and to present a work programme as an option for Long-term Plan Infrastructure Strategy capital programme. Approves this work to be funded via the operational budget and reserves from the Ohakune Scheme in accordance with the Ohakune Scheme funding policy i.e. 80% targeted rate (including targeted rate reserves) and 20% general rate (including general rate reserves);
- iv. work with Ruapehu District Council to support and fund Ruapehu District Council to clear siltation of culverts and sumps in Ohakune's stormwater network in the 2026-27 financial year and future years. Approves, this work to be funded via the operational budget and reserves from the Ohakune Scheme in accordance with the Ohakune Scheme funding policy i.e. 80% targeted rate (including targeted rate reserves) and 20% general rate (including general rate reserves) (80% targeted rate, 20 general rate).

CARRIED

Cr Te Awe Awe joined the meeting at 9.50am.

Cr Dryland joined the meeting at 9.51am (via Zoom).

PALMERSTON NORTH FLOOD RESILIENCE

Report No 26-106

This item updated Council on Palmerston North Flood resilience investigations and works and the proposed programme for the 2026-27 financial year and beyond. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) spoke to the item and responded to Members' questions.

26-165

Moved

F Gordon/Taylor

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-106.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: Inform.

CARRIED

INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Report No 26-107

This report sought Council direction on two related but distinct work programmes: the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Programme and the preparation of the Infrastructure Strategy (IS) 2027-57. Specifically, it sought to: Reconfirm the general direction of the ICM Programme to enable work to proceed with the next stage of programme planning and engagement; Endorse the proposed IS Key Issues to be used for drafting the IS (2027-57); and Confirm Councils direction on the level of review of River and Drainage Scheme form, function and funding as part of the LTP development process prior to consultation on the LTP early in 2027. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) introduced the item and invited Ms Hunt (Integrated Catchment Management – Programme Lead) to expand further on the work programmes. Members debated the recommendations, provided their views and sought clarification as required.

26-166 **Moved** **F Gordon/Wells**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.*
- b. *For the Integrated Catchment Management Programme:*
 - i. *notes feedback from Councillors at the April 2026 workshop, the proposed general direction of the programme, and the high-level phasing outlined in section 11.4 of this report.*
 - ii. *endorses the general direction of the Integrated Catchment Management Programme to enable further programme development and progression of priority work.*
- c. *notes the interconnections between the Infrastructure Strategy and Integrated Catchment Management Programme and supports continued coordination between the programmes, where appropriate, recognising that both programmes may need to adapt in response to future reforms.*
- d. *endorses the Infrastructure Strategy (2027-2057) key issues to be:*
 - i. *ensuring delivery*
 - ii. *enhancing communication*
 - iii. *enabling emergency management response and recovery*
 - iv. *transitioning river management to a new delivery model.*
- e. *approves the Infrastructure Strategy (2027-2057) being developed based on the current form, function and funding models for schemes. Approves the current differential rate funding mechanisms being retained as the basis for the collection of the target rate component of scheme rate funding for the Long-term Plan 2027-2037. Notes that Council will review the funding policies of the River Management and Flood Protection Activity as part of the Long-term Plan 2027-2037 process and may change the funding policy percentages of targeted and general rate for some schemes.*

CARRIED

LONG-TERM PLAN 2027-37 - EARLY BUDGET PLANNING

Report No 26-104

Mrs Hesselin (Group Manager Governance, Engagement and Transformation) introduced the item which identified at the outset of the budget process for the Long-term Plan 2027-37 (LTP): the budget parameters, and budget proposals from elected members that required further analysis by staff. Members debated the contents of supplementary Annex A, provided their views and sought clarification. Recommendations a.b.& c. were put with the inclusion of the word 'primarily' in recommendation c.

26-167

Moved

F Gordon/Pue

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-104 and Annex.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are significant, and that the appropriate level of engagement is: consultation on the Long-term Plan using the special consultative process.*
- c. *takes a fiscally prudent, consolidatory approach to the budget for the Long-term Plan 2027-37 in which additional spending is limited primarily to the following:*
 - i. *Where government legislation requires increased resourcing. This includes:*
 - *Emergency management,*
 - *Regional spatial planning,*
 - *Natural environment plans,*
 - *Implementation of regulatory plans,*
 - *Flood management,*
 - *Biosecurity,*
 - *Plan Change 2, and*
 - *Treaty obligations and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements.*
 - ii. *Budget adjustments required for existing contracts with third party providers (i.e. public transport),*
 - iii. *Costs related to the transition required by central government's Simplifying Local Government programme,*
 - iv. *Staff salary budgets including KiwiSaver requirements,*
 - v. *IRIS Implementation, and*
 - vi. *Areas that pose substantive risk to Council.*

CARRIED

Recommendations d & e. were then debated and put by the Chair. An updated table to recommendation d. was introduced and included.

26-168

Moved

B Gordon/Taylor

c. in relation to the updated Annex A budget proposals put forward by elected members at the workshop on 24 June 2026, approves the following proposals for options analysis by officers and further consideration by Council at a future workshop:

Area of Council	Proposal	Proposed wording for 30 June
Public Transport	Passenger Transport for Foxton	That Council directs the Chief Executive to consider options for service design, demand, costs, infrastructure requirements, and funding opportunities within the wider Horowhenua and regional services review that have been postponed to the LTP.
Public Transport Team	Road Safety	That Council directs the Chief Executive to explore some alternative delivery and funding models for further consideration by Council.
Catchment Operations	Resilience of River Drainage Schemes	Council notes a paper will come to the July ICC meeting regarding ICM within the 2027-37 LTP and these matters will be captured within that. That paper will build on the item at the 30 June meeting that highlights where we are at with ICM and the Infrastructure Strategy, which includes a potential key issue around transitioning river management and flood protection activity to a new delivery model in the context of local government reform and nature based solutions, including room for river concepts.
	Catchment Climate & Flood Resilience Programme	
	Biodiversity and Biosecurity	
	Wetland Funding	
	Tōtara Reserve Climate Adaption Project	
Governance	Climate Action Joint Committee	Council notes that the Chair will discuss matters related to this proposal with members in the coming months and with the Climate Action Joint Committee as a whole at its next meeting in September 2026.
Information Services/Regulatory Team	Use of technology to drive efficiency in regulation	Council notes the support of initiatives to modernise service delivery, strengthen organisational readiness for future local government reforms, and promote better use of existing resources through the use of modern technology and systems.
Revenue and Financing Policy	Change to Public Transport Rating (Whanganui)	Council notes these proposals will be dealt with through the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy.
	Use of the UAGC	

- e. *notes the budget process for the LTP is an iterative one and today's decisions help provide clarity to officers about Council's approach to enable work to be completed within statutory timeframes.*

Abstain: Cr Dryland.

CARRIED

AFFIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

Report No 26-109

This paper reported on a document to which Horizons Regional Council's Common Seal had been affixed.

26-169

Moved

B Gordon/Teira

That the Council:

- a. *acknowledges the affixing of the Common Seal to the below mentioned document.*
- *Lease Transfer*
Assignee: Killymoon Farming Co Ltd
Assignor: Hopkins Farming Group Ltd
Area: 40.7078 ha
Rangitane Rd, Opiki
Lease Period: 3/6/26 – 30/6/2030

CARRIED

COUNCILLORS' WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE - 19 MAY 2026 TO 22 JUNE 2026

Report No 26-110

This item noted the Councillors' Workshop attendance from 19 May to 22 June 2026.

26-170

Moved

B Gordon/Pue

It is recommended that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-110 and Annex.*

CARRIED

RECEIPT AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT OF AUDIT, RISK & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE - RECEIVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - 27 MAY 2026

26-171

Moved

B Gordon/Teira

That the Council receives and adopts the resolutions and recommendations of the Audit, Risk and Investment Committee meeting held on 27 May 2026.

CARRIED

REPORT OF REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - RECEIVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - 2 JUNE 2026

- 26-172** **Moved** **B Gordon/Teira**
That the Council receives and adopts the resolutions and recommendations of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 02 June 2026.
CARRIED

REPORT OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - RECEIVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - 16 JUNE 2026

- 26-173** **Moved** **B Gordon/Teira**
That the Council receives and adopts the resolutions and recommendations of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 16 June 2026, with the following amendment:
• *Amend the seconder to resolution PT 26-12 b. - P Taylor to P Naylor.*
CARRIED

It was agreed that the public excluded minutes of the Audit, Risk & Investment Committee meeting held on 27 May 2026 could be confirmed in the public part of the meeting.

REPORT OF AUDIT, RISK & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - RECEIVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - 27 MAY 2026

- 26-174** **Moved** **B Gordon/Teira**
That the minutes of the confidential part of the Council meeting held on 27 May 2026, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.08am.

Cr Easton left the meeting at 11.08am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.24am.

MANA WHAKAHONO Ā ROHE

Report No 26-105 (Continued)

A series of new recommendations were introduced and debated by Members with clarification as required provided by Dr Daly and the Chief Executive.

The recommendations were separated out with the Chair calling for a mover/seconder. Cr Jansen declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from voting on the recommendations.

- 26-175** **Moved** **Teira/Te Awe Awe**
It is recommended that Council:
b. *notes the statutory framework and requirements for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe as outlined in sections 58L-U of the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA).*
Abstain: Cr Jansen
CARRIED

Recommendations c. and d. were debated and put with a division.

26-176 Moved Pue/Teira

- c. *notes that the negotiation and approval of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are of high strategic and relationship importance to Council.*
- d. *notes that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy:*
 - i. *the matters and decisions in this report are significant, as the matter is likely to generate considerable public interest and is likely to be of high interest to Māori, and involves entering into legal agreements that are of a permanent nature.*
 - ii. *the appropriate level of engagement is: inform, as the decision is necessary to comply with the law, and the matters are operational and do not materially reduce a level of service.*

For: Crs Pue, Naylor, Riley, Wells, B Gordon, Te Awe Awe, F Gordon, Teira, and Taylor.

Against: Crs McKellar and Fraser.

Abstain: Crs Dryland and Jansen

CARRIED

Recommendations e. – j. were then debated and put by the Chair with deletion of the words “remove any” in recommendation e, with updated wording to recommendation i.

26-177 Moved B Gordon/Pue

- e. *amends existing officer delegations under sections 58L-U of the RMA to impose a condition that the final decision to approve or sign any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements remains solely with Council, with immediate effect;*
- f. *directs the Chief Executive to update the Delegations Manual (August 2024) to record the delegations to officers under section 58L-U are subject to this condition and to report back to Council confirming the update has been made at the next council meeting on 25 August 2026;*
- g. *confirms that the authority to approve and sign all Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements is reserved to the full governing body of Horizons Regional Council and is to be exercised by resolution at a duly constituted Regional Council meeting;*
- h. *notes that staff continue to lead negotiations, facilitate the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process, and attend hui on Council's behalf with elected members invited, as per the agreed scoping and design;*
- i. *draft agreements shall be workshopped with all elected members before formal endorsement, to allow for their feedback to be considered as part of the iterative process; and*

- j. the negotiation process shall at all times be conducted in a manner that reflects the mana of both parties to the agreements.*

Abstain: Cr Jansen

CARRIED

Recommendation k. was debated and put by the Chair.

26-178 Moved Fraser/Naylor

- k. notes the estimated internal costs associated with developing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, and that these will managed through reprioritisation of existing resources and budgets.*

Abstain: Cr Jansen

CARRIED

Recommendation l. was debated and put with the addition of 'up to'.

26-179 Moved Fraser/Naylor

- l. agrees to fund iwi participation in the development of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements by way of a one-off contribution up to \$10,000 per iwi entity, provided commitment beyond initiation hui is confirmed by that iwi entity.*

Against: Crs Dryland, Teira and Taylor

Abstain: Crs Pue and Jansen

CARRIED

Recommendation m. was debated and put by the Chair.

26-180 Moved Fraser/Naylor

- m. supports implementation funding being signalled in agreements, subject to budget being provided through Long-term Plan processes.*

Abstain: Crs Pue and Jansen

CARRIED

Recommendations n. & o. were debated and put by the Chair.

26-181 Moved Pue/Teira

- n. notes Council's ongoing obligations in relation to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and*

- o. directs the Chief Executive to proceed in accordance with Council's decisions.*

Abstain: Cr Jansen

CARRIED

The meeting closed with a karakia from Cr Teira at 12.48pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO COUNCIL
26 May – 30 June 2026
Michael McCartney – Chief Executive

INTRODUCTION

1. This report updates members on key organisational activities across 26 May – 30 June 2026.
2. There is also an opportunity to ask questions related to the May 2026 CE Report that was placed on the Hub ahead of the June Council meeting.
3. Members are asked to view the upcoming activities towards the end of the report and advise us of any meetings/events that may be of interest.

SUBMISSIONS

4. Below is a table of the recent consultations relevant to Horizons, and Horizons' response or intended response:

Submission	Description	Due	Horizons' response
PNCC Proposed Plan Change E: Roxburgh Crescent	Rezoning industrial land around Roxburgh Crescent to residential to enable new homes to be built.	Ongoing	This plan change has been appealed to the Environment Court. Horizons has joined the proceedings as an interested party and participated in Court directed mediation on 24 March.
Rangitikei District Council Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth	Further submissions on Proposed Plan Change 3 have been called for.	12 June 2026	Horizons did not further submit.
Manawātū District Council - Draft Plan Change E - Feilding Town Centre	Further submissions on Proposed Plan Change E have been called for.	22 May 2026	Horizons did not further submit.
Palmerston North City Council - Manderson Bush Private Plan Change request	Manderson Bush is an area of rural land in Cloverlea, to the northern edge of Palmerston North. This land is included in the city's 2024 Future Development Strategy as an area that is considered suitable for housing growth.	15 May 2026	Horizons made a submission.
Response to the PCE LUC report on LUC	A direct request for CE's to provide regional context and response to the PCE LUC report	18 May 2026	Horizons made a submission.
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Amendment Bill	This bill proposes to amend the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 to streamline and improve application processes and pathways, support risk-proportionate decision-making and public participation, and enhance compliance, monitoring, and enforcement under the Act.	15 June 2026	Will not submit.
Conservation Amendment Bill	This bill amends the Conservation Act 1987 to streamline the	2 July 2026	Will not submit. However we note that there will be

Submission	Description	Due	Horizons' response
	management of land, better enable appropriate use of conservation land, and support more effective administration of conservation land.		submission made by Te Uru Kahikia
Proposals for new national direction for conservation	Proposals for the proposed content of the first NCPS, including proposed policies, area plan content and pre-approved and exempt activities	9 July 2026	Will not submit.

STRATEGY, REGULATION & SCIENCE

Policy

5. **Resource Management reform:** The Select Committee report on the proposed new planning framework in the two Bills is due on 26 June 2026. Officers continue to participate in a group of planning leads from Councils in the region. The group met on 9 June during this reporting period and are meeting again in early July. This group has prepared advice on a potential process and work that can be undertaken ahead of the legislation being confirmed. The work that can be started now includes identifying key issues for the Regional Spatial Plan, any cross-boundary issues and getting agreement from the district councils in dual regions about if and how they wish to participate, developing a plan for early engagement with Māori, discussing options for a preferred operational and governance structure and possibly interim membership of the Spatial Plan Committee.

The CEs and Mayoral forum have supported, in principle, the approach recommended by officers, and progress is underway to confirm collective funding for a programme coordinator to lead the administrative arm of the workstream.

6. **Regional Pest Management Plan:** Public submissions on “Protecting our region together – Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document” to support the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan closed on Friday 15 May. 176 submissions were received. Engagement with iwi/hapū is ongoing. Submissions analysis is underway and will be presented to Council in September following an August workshop. Policy and technical workstreams continue to support the development of Council’s proposal document to initiate the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan.
7. **District Planning:** A number of district plan changes and private plan changes have been notified recently. This follows Council’s receiving Plan Stop exemptions from the Minister. Officers are working through each of the plan changes to confirm submission points. These plan changes are outlined in the submissions table above. In addition to the plan changes currently notified, officers are providing advice via District Advice on a private plan change for Bunnythorpe Business Park adjacent to the Te Utanganui industrial area. This private plan change has been lodged with PNCC but is yet to be publicly notified.
8. **Future Development Strategy:** Following direction from the Joint Steering Group in May, progress and notification of the Future Development Strategy has been delayed pending completion of the Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (which informs the Future Development Strategy) and release of the Select Committee’s report on the resource management reform in late June. These two pieces of information are key to establishing whether the Future Development Strategy requires updating and progresses to

notification. An update will be provided at the August Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

9. **Plan Change 2:** The Environment Court decision on Plan Change 2 was received on 10 June. Implementation of Plan Change 2 will be managed through the regulatory team, with the Policy Team providing support as required.

Te Pae Kōuka: Iwi and Hapū Relationships

10. **Mana Whakahono ā Rohe:**
- a. Number initiated: 12 initiations covering 15 iwi authorities
 - b. Number of initial hui held: six hui covering nine iwi
 - c. Officers presented a proposed process to council via a workshop on 27 May. A paper will be coming to Council seeking decisions on process for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement at the end of June.
11. The following meetings/events have been or will be attended by the team during this reporting period:

Date	Meetings/Event
29 May	MWāR initial hui with Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua
3 June	MWāR pre-initiation hui with Muaūpoko
4 June	MWāR initial hui with Ngā Iwi o Mōkai Pātea
11 June	MWāR follow-up hui with Ngāti Maru
12 June	MWāR initial hui with Ngāti Rangi
16 June	MWāR follow-up hui with Ngāti Raukawa
17 June	MWāR follow-up hui with Rangitāne o Manawatū (ROMST)
19 June	MWāR follow-up hui with Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua
24 June	Oranga Wai hui

12. **Treaty Settlements:**
- Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River) - officers met with members of Ngā Tangata Tiaki (Gerrard Albert and Hoani Ponga) in late May to discuss options for progressing the Te Awa Tupua Action Plan. Informal Te Kōpuka hui were held in June to discuss key matters ahead of the formal Te Kōpuka hui in July.
13. Ngati Rangi - A Ngā Wai Tōtā hui scheduled for 29 May was postponed, with a new date yet to be confirmed. Legal advice on holding settlement funds on behalf of Ngā Wai Tōtā has been shared with Chair Che, and with representatives from Ngāti Rangi (Te Waihua o Paerangi Trust) who currently hold the funds.

Rural Advice

14. The Rural Advice team's focus has been on providing advice to the rural sector and industry professionals. With receipt of the Plan Change 2 decision on 10 June, the focus for this team will be on supporting implementation of Plan Change 2 through advice to the rural sector and technical support to the regulatory team.
15. The following meetings/events have been attended by the team:

Date	Meetings/Event
26 May	Moving the Middle Research Symposium
15 June	Primary Industry Catch-up
17 June	Rural Family Support Trust Rural Professionals Breakfast
24-25 June	SFFF-Plantain Potency and Practice All Team Conference

Climate Action

16. A project to downscale climate projections across the region kicked off in early May. Tonkin and Taylor are contracted to develop and deliver a digital tool that portrays downscaled climate variables to inform rural resilience planning and action. This tool will be aimed at a lay audience and will use risk stories and personas to portray projections in a meaningful way for farmers, tangata whenua and rural communities. An innovative aspect is that future climatic conditions will be linked to areas where those conditions currently exist. The digital tool is expected to be completed and available for use by the last quarter of the year.
17. Horizons and Manawātū District Council staff took part in a pilot offered by the Natural Hazards Commission to test guidance on pre-event land use planning and risk tolerance methodology.

Date	Meetings/Event
29 May	Natural Hazards Commission Evaluation Workshop

Science

18. Horizons Regional Council commissioned Prof. Ian Fuller and Bryn Quilter of Tonkin + Taylor to review a proposed gravel extraction methodology known as 'bar-edge scalping'. The methodology was developed to enable gravel extraction while minimising impacts on river habitats and geomorphic features. The review assessed the practicality of the proposed consent conditions and provided recommendations for their refinement prior to implementation.
19. Dr. Szabolcs Kosik, Environmental Scientist- Fluvial, HRC facilitated a workshop on 2nd June 2026 where Professor Fuller (reviewer of the methodology) presented the scientific basis for bar-edge scalping and discussed the geomorphic processes that underpin gravel bar formation, sediment transport, channel adjustment, and habitat creation. This workshop included members of the Catchment Operations Group, who are regularly involved in overseeing gravel extraction operations.
20. Key focus of the presentation was that gravel extraction should be regarded as a geomorphic intervention rather than simply an operational activity. Consequently, extraction methods should be designed to work with natural river processes and dynamics, rather than simplifying channel morphology.
21. On 15th June, members of the science and policy team meet with staff from Department of Conservation, Manawātū District Council, Fish and Game, and Iwi partners representing Ngāti Raukawa, Rangitāne o Manawātū Settlement Trust, and Ngāti Apa, to discuss events leading up to the drying of Pukepuke Lagoon in April 2026, and future management options.
22. On 15th and 16th of June, staff from the science team attending an Inanga spawning workshop in Foxton. This focused on learning about restoration of Inanga habitat and

identification of spawning habitat. Inanga are one of the five species of fish, whose juvenile form make up whitebait. They also make up the largest proportion of the whitebait take in our region.

23. A workshop on the Flow Naturalisation work in the Manawatū and Rangitikei catchments that was completed in the 2024/2025 financial year was held on the 18/06/2026. This workshop was to provide Horizons Staff with an overview of the work and findings and workshop the next steps for this work.
24. A recent research project at Massey University included analysis of fish from the Makowhai stream near Ohakea base, which was supplied by local iwi for this project. The results indicate high levels of PFAS in fish tissue; however, we are unsure of the age, and size of the fish provided for this project, and exact location of sampling for this study. During the reporting period, and with Iwi approval, additional sampling will be conducted to further investigate and determine levels of contamination, particularly in relation to human health thresholds. This matter is likely to have significant public interest.
25. A revised long-term PFAS monitoring programme has been agreed for the region, focusing on surface water and groundwater in the vicinity of Ohakea Air Base. Under this arrangement, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will be responsible for sampling and reporting on sites within its estate, while Horizons Regional Council (HRC) will undertake monitoring on private and public land. A document setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of both organisations will be finalised during this period.
26. During this period in late June, members of the science team are providing a set of challenges to the Mathematics in Industry New Zealand (MINZ) workshop. In essence, we provide experts in mathematics and statistics with real world challenges, including the effects of climate change on water temperature, and modelling contact recreation (swimability) based on large environmental datasets. This is an opportunity for us to have students and experts in mathematics to turn their mind to everyday issues we face, with the possibility of identifying novel or workable approaches to these issues.

Regulatory

27. The team continue to provide feedback to the EPA in relation to Fast Track Applications. The most recent been substantive comments on the Foxton Solar Park proposal.
28. The Team have been ensuring our requirements under the consent duration extension amendment has been met. Approximately 1000 consents have had their expiry dates extended per the amendment, which has required documents and systems to be updated, and consent holders advised of the extension. This has been a significant piece of unplanned work that has resulted in 580 hours of staff time at a cost of over \$58k, being imposed on the team over the last 3-4 months.
29. Staff have been meeting with PNCC to discuss the pending Fast Track referral application associated with the proposed Bunnythorpe business park development with flood risk being a key issue of interest.
30. The Environment Court released its final decision in relation to Plan Change 2. Whilst staff have been actively working on implementation (to the extent possible without a final decision), staff are now focussed on standing up our consent processing team and meeting with key sector and iwi groups.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Passenger Transport

31. A number of public transport service improvements are scheduled across the region in early July, with the updated Feilding to Palmerston North service commencing on 4 July 2026. This will introduce a fully electric bus fleet and enhanced service levels, including improved weekend coverage and new Sunday services. This will be followed by the commencement of the new Ashhurst school bus services from the start of Term 3 on 20 July 2026, supporting a smooth transition for students into the public transport network.
32. Funding allocations from Government have been confirmed for 2025/26 and 2026/27 to support Total Mobility funding shortfalls, with Horizons receiving an uplift. These allocations from Government, were provided alongside the reduction of the Total Mobility subsidy from 75% to 65%. This additional funding will be claimed from NZTA in June and will be reflected in end of year financial reporting. From 1 July 2026, changes to the Total Mobility scheme will come into effect in line with Government direction, with the fare subsidy reducing.
33. Progress continues on negotiations for the Capital Connection rail service contract, with discussions underway to secure the future operation and funding of the service beyond the current agreement. Work is being progressed in partnership with key stakeholders Greater Wellington Regional Council and KiwiRail. The Capital Connection service will run through to the introduction of new Tūhono trains in 2029/30.

Emergency Management

34. Across this period, the regional emergency management system has continued to consolidate core capability while progressing key elements of the 2026-27 work programme.
35. A major milestone was the approval of the Horizons CDEM Group Plan on 2 June 2026, providing a clear five-year strategic direction for the region. Work has also advanced on National Exercise Pacific Wave 2026, with early planning underway to support coordinated regional participation.
36. Operationally, the GECC remains well positioned heading into winter, with consistent readiness supported by strong inter-agency relationships and an increasingly embedded coordination model. Daily use of D4H by the Duty Officer function is improving situational awareness, early intelligence capture, and escalation across the region. Uptake continues to grow, with multiple councils now operating within the shared platform and regional training supporting more consistent use.
37. Capability development has progressed across several areas. The community needs assessment pilot has been completed, providing a practical foundation for a regionally consistent welfare assessment approach, with implementation now the next step pending approval. A community hub pilot in Ruapehu is also underway, testing local welfare delivery and community-level coordination.
38. At the same time, a number of key frameworks and plans are being progressed in scoping or development phases, including recovery, welfare, and initial response plans. This reflects a deliberate focus on strengthening system foundations, aligning with emerging national direction, and ensuring future readiness.
39. A significant portion of current work remains in “prepare and enable” phases, reflecting dependency on national reform (including the Emergency Management Bill), which may impact timing and delivery.
40. Overall, the system is performing effectively and remains fit for purpose, with readiness maintained and capability improving. However, it continues to operate with limited headroom, and ongoing focus is required to strengthen workforce depth, system integration, and scalability over time.

41. Key next steps include progressing the rollout of the needs assessment framework, strengthening D4H governance and uptake, advancing GIS capability, and continuing targeted workforce development.

Emergency Response Activity

42. **Earthquake** = Tsunami (8 June event) **No impact on NZ coast:** NEMA confirmed no tsunami threat following the M7.8 Philippines earthquake. GECC activated enhanced monitoring and communication across the region until stood down.
43. **Waiohuru Water Issue:** 11 June, Do not drink notice issued, 12 June notice stayed in place while testing, flushing and response actions continued.
44. Water safety event: Power outage caused treatment failure, leading to aluminum levels ~4x above standards and a "Do Not Drink" notice issued.
45. Managed response: EMA issued by MWCDEM Group, alternate water supplied to the community via bottled water, and system flushed with low short-term health risk under precautionary controls.

District Advice

46. In response to Councillor enquiry into the legal definition of detention dams the team have undertaken further analysis. In summary, Flood detention dams are included within the scope of the **Building Act 2004** and the **Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022**, as the Act explicitly defines a dam to include flood control dams. This inclusion is intentional and longstanding, supported by legislative history and confirmed by MBIE guidance and sector understanding.
47. The team continued working with PNCC and proprietors on the proposed private plan change for Bunnythorpe Business Park which is adjacent to the KiwiRail Regional Freight Hub. This private plan change has been lodged with PNCC but is yet to be publicly notified. Concurrently the proprietors have given notice that they will be applying for a Fast-track referral. The Team Leader has been working closely with PNCC and Horizons Regulatory team on the Fast-track response.
48. The team has started working with PNCC on their proposed Te Utanganui, North East Industrial Zone Areas A & B (PNCC Proposed Plan Change N). This is in the early stages and initial comments and considerations have been provided.

Information Services

49. Work continues to progress through the Digital Transformation Programme, with a focus on strengthening core foundations while enabling future improvement. This includes the planned replacement of core server and storage infrastructure, which is an important step in lifting organisational resilience, maintaining secure and supported systems, and reducing the risk of service disruption from ageing infrastructure. This work will support continuity of critical systems and provide a stronger platform for future business continuity and disaster recovery planning.
50. A staff survey was recently completed to better understand current levels of AI use, confidence and literacy across the organisation. The survey confirmed that AI is already being used in different ways, but that understanding, confidence and consistency vary. We are planning the rollout of an AI literacy tool to help lift baseline capability, support safe and practical use, and build a more consistent understanding of both the opportunities and risks associated with AI. The broader work being progressed through the Digital Transformation Programme, including end-to-end process review, clearer governance, better data and system foundations, and more consistent ways of working, is also an important part of building future AI readiness. These building blocks will help ensure the organisation is better placed to identify practical AI opportunities, manage risk, and adopt AI in a more deliberate, secure and value-focused way over time.

CATCHMENT OPERATIONS

51. Council received an update on activity by the Catchment Operations group through the regional summary report of the Integrated Catchment Committee on 13 May 2026.

Biodiversity

52. The biodiversity team are working through year end processes to complete priority habitat jobs such as fencing and pest control contracts; closing out contestable fund projects; winterising Tōtara Reserve campground and finishing off the last of the capital works for enhanced education and interpretation experiences at Tōtara Reserve.
53. A further round of the contestable biodiversity fund has been through the Councillor decision making panel. The fund was open for six weeks, receiving 30 applications requesting over \$557,000, with \$316,000 available. Applications were assessed by staff and reviewed by a community panel, which made final funding decisions. Twenty two of 30 applications were funded, with allocations spread across districts, mainly from Horowhenua, Manawatū, Rangitīkei, and Ruapehu.
54. Local government reform is recognised as a large uncertainty across many of our programmes and a recent workshop with the Te Āpiti Governance Group and wider representation talked through options to ensure Te Āpiti could be supported independent of reform. There was a strong sentiment expressed by participants of the need to establish an enduring framework and to think longer term than ‘just’ the next 10 years.
55. The following meetings/events have been or will be attended by the team:

Date	Meetings/Event
5 June	Te Āpiti Governance Group workshop – 10-100 year planning discussion. Future of governance group structure with local government reform and priority projects.
18 June	Pureora project meeting; partners working to plan stakeholder hui to engage with iwi and wider community of interest to talk initiation, aspirations and structure.
19 June	Manawatū Estuary Management team quarterly meeting; updating on financial and progress reporting of year's projects and deliverables.
22 June	Southern Ruahine Kiwi Governance meeting.

Biosecurity

56. Work across the region is focused on closing out field work against operational plans. This includes the last monitors of possum control operations, the last fills of bait stations and refills in hot spots, and late season work on pest plants able to be treated or found due to good winter surveillance conditions and planned control for next season.
57. The Regional Pest Management Plan project is progressing post consultation with our community on a pest management focussed Discussion Document. Staff are engaging with other regions via the Biosecurity Special Interest Group as a number of other councils are also reviewing plans. A strong theme in this regard is a push for alignment on plan tools to ensure consistency.
58. On 24 May 2026, central government announced a \$79 million funding increase to the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, as part of Budget 2026. The funding targets nine high-priority regions including sites in Queenstown and the Whakatipu Basin, the

Mackenzie Basin, Molesworth in South Marlborough, and the Central Plateau of the North Island. Alongside the budget boost, Biosecurity New Zealand announced a refresh of the National Wilding Conifer Management Strategy (2015–2030). Staff have been working through the opportunity that this provides for the region. In summary, the budget may be approximately two to three times larger for control in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region. A public excluded item is being presented to Council on 30 June in relation to procurement for the additional work.

59. The biosecurity animals team have held their annual work planning session focussing primarily on the operational plan for the possum programme.

60. The following meetings/events have been attended by the team:

Date	Meetings/Event
2 June	Central North Island Regional Coordination Group for National Wilding Conifer Control Programme partners – secondary funding planning meeting.
9 June	National Wilding Conifer Control Programme Governance Group meeting to agree to preliminary funding round decisions and other matters.
10 June	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza preparedness meeting with Palmerston North City Council.
18 June	North Island Regional Council corbicula programme workshop; alignment and gaps with a focus on prioritised next steps to take best intervention actions.
25-26 June	BioManagers Group meeting, CHCH. Project updates, alignment and strategic positioning.

Land Management

61. The land team are finalising SLUI claims before the end of the financial year. This coincides with the pole planting season. Harvest began in Bulls in late May and Woodville in early June (two harvest crews this year), and our commercial supplier from Shannon. Poles look to be of a very good quality. Pole delivery started on 8 June 2026. We have an excess in supply of some poplar poles so advertising for sales will begin in late June.

62. The land team have been working with Rangitiākei and Manawatū Catchment Collectives, giving support and funding for on farm demonstration sites, one in the Kawhatau Valley and one near Halcombe.

63. The following meetings/events have been or will be attended by the team:

Date	Meetings/Event
May	Meeting with Whanganui River Catchment Collective – discuss their application for funding to WRET.
2 June	Land Managers SIG – online meeting.
3 June	Land Manager online catch up with MPI HCEF manager to discuss end of year invoicing.
9 June	BFEA (Environment Awards) local organising committee meeting in Feilding.
18 June	Eastern staff attended Local Government Excellence Awards with Tararua District Council, nomination for Tararua Land Stability Project.

Freshwater and Projects

64. The freshwater implementation team are busy visiting landowners who have undertaken stream fencing as part of the programme, these visits enable the completion of the claims paperwork for the works to be counted against the Long-term Plan targets. In addition, the planting season is well undertaken for the riparian planting programme. Planting will continue through to late September.
65. The Regional and Manawatū Freshwater Community Grants opened during the reporting period. Applications close on the 24 July 2026 at 4:00 pm.
66. The Arawhata Wetland work continues to progress, the recent wet weather has significantly slowed down the ability to undertake works, especially those that require compaction of materials. In addition, the wet ground conditions have meant that planting has needed to be delayed due to ground conditions being too wet to undertake planting. Staff are considering an extension to the contract with MfE.
67. The retrospective consent application for the removal of the cables from the historic Opiki Bridge has been processed and granted by Manawatū District Council. No further work is required as a result of consent conditions related to the removal of the cables. Staff will now work to provide sections of the cable to interested parties.
68. The Catchment Operations group has recently submitted on a limited notified resource consent application in relation to a proposed quarry expansion in close proximity to the Manawatū River stopbank and one of our drainage networks. The submission was neutral seeking a range of conditions to protect the flood infrastructure. This may require staff to participate in a pre-hearing meeting or hearing later in the year.
69. Horizons' Catchment Operations had recently sought modifications to the designation we hold within the Palmerston North City boundaries. This was a result of the "Proposed Plan Change Tahiri: Review of Palmerston North designations" that PNCC was undertaking. Submissions on the plan review have now closed, early indications are that there are no submissions, specifically on the modifications that Horizons sought. A hearing on the proposed plan changes may be held later in the year.
70. Council received a report in May on the forward capital programme for river management and flood protection and resolved to progress a range of capital projects over the 2026-27 year.
71. A procurement process for the Te Pūwaha South Spit construction works has been through the tender evaluation process and a paper seeking Council's decisions on this process will be presented on 30 June 2026.
72. A Council tour and Council item on Palmerston North Flood Resilience have been scheduled for late June 2026.
73. Staff have been working through potential government co-funding for a range of river management capital projects and an item on this is being prepared for 30 June 2026.
74. The following meetings/events have been attended by the team:

Date	Meetings/Event
3 June	Minister visit to the Te Pūwaha project.

River Management

Operations

75. The river management team are busy finishing off the scheme works program. Focus has been on progress flood repairs in several of the scheme impacted by the weather event earlier this year.
76. Over the winter period the team are undertaking a modular based training programme covering a range of regulatory management topics with modules being run every two weeks each covering a different topic.
77. The river management team are responding to various consenting and district advice enquires including O2NL, land development proposals around Palmerston North, Marton, and Ashhurst.
78. Planning is underway for the maintenance and repair programmes in the 2026-27 year. A new tracking system is being developed to merge the maintenance-based programme reporting with other requirements of the team eg, consenting and enquiries.
79. The assets team are busy finalising end of year reports including the revaluation of assets.
80. A significant recruitment process is underway to replace four team leaders, four engineering officers and two skilled labours.
81. An item has been prepared for Council on the Ruapehu joint work programme around flood resilience and will seek Councils guidance on next steps for this on 30 June 2026.
82. Work on the Infrastructure Strategy for the Long-term Plan 2027-2057 has continued. A Council item is being presented on 30 June 2026 seeking Council's view on the proposed key issues for the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy and direction on the form, function and funding of schemes.
83. Staff and some Councillors have met with Richard Redmayne to discuss next steps following the Makirikiri Scheme item to Council in May. The discussion included a tour of parts of the scheme to view the issues first hand.
84. Staff continued the ongoing engagement with the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme sub-committee including a meeting on 12 June 2026. The June meeting focused on repair work for the 2026-27 year and resulted in the scheme seeking additional staff resource and approval of the remainder of the 1-million-dollar loan that they had requested following the damage in the February event.
85. The following meetings/events have been or will be attended by the team:

Date	Meetings/Event
12 June	Pohangina-Ōroua scheme meeting.

CORPORATE & GOVERNANCE GROUP

Business Services

86. The Assets and Facilities team continue to provide BAU support to MWRCH with a focus on managing tenant lease renewals and liaising closely with the new governance group. Asset Management Plans are being revised, and the team is also up-skilling two new staff members who have recently been recruited as a result of vacancies. Annual insurance renewals are being coordinated, and a summary paper will be presented to Audit and Risk in August.
87. A key project being conducted at present is establishment of staff carparking on the vacant fields adjacent to Palmerston North Regional House. The corporate project coordinator is also scoping a potential legislative reporting compliance tool for council. Support is also being provided to the organisational contacts project, led by Information Services. It is also planned that Business Services will be the future Business Owner of organisational contacts once council adopts the new Datascape Contacts Module.
88. Corporate Information continue focussing efforts on improvements to the new Kaka Enterprise Content Management System and resourcing the new Microsoft SharePoint Platform.
89. Customer Services are currently supporting finance in preparation for the annual rates activity.
90. The Business Services Manager is currently upskilling in Risk Management with a view to contributing to the new Risk Management Business Ownership responsibilities once the current Risk Register Project transitions to BAU. Bi-annual reporting on, and applications for, engagement of consultants is also being facilitated.
91. Business Services continue to upskill staff in regards to contributing to the council Emergency Management output.

Palmerston North Regional House - New Build

92. Given the recent Government announcement around Local Government reform, all staff accommodation planning is on hold. The vacant site adjacent to Regional House will be utilised for staff vehicle parking for the foreseeable future.

People and Capability

93. Collective Bargaining has recently been initiated by the Unions which will be a focus for the People and Capability team in the coming weeks. This year's performance and pay review process has commenced with leaders and staff engaging in the performance review process currently. Horizons has now moved from its Vault safety and wellbeing software to a new system called DoneSafe. This new system provides better reporting and monitoring functionality than the current system.
94. **Number of FTEs**

The total number of FTEs is: **313.81** Headcount: **328** Annual Staff Turnover **13.72%**.

We continue to monitor our turnover, especially in the light of the government announcements so we can be proactive in any response that is required. Turnover often indicates where there are specific hot spots for skill competition. Our turnover rate has increased slightly.

Staff numbers are usually explained in two ways, full-time equivalent (FTE) or Headcount (Actual Staff Count).

The FTE figure is determined by taking the total core hours worked by all staff and dividing this by 40 hours (1 FTE).

The Headcount is the total count of all staff employed at a given time. The FTE figure is always less than the Headcount. The difference will depend on the overall number of part-time staff and the number of hours they typically work per week.

Integrated Catchment Management Programme

95. Following feedback from elected members at the April workshop, work has focused on developing a practical work programme that can be progressed in the current reform environment. This has included developing a series of Quick Strategic Wins focused on improving access to catchment information, increasing visibility of Council investment, strengthening knowledge sharing, and supporting more integrated catchment management across Council activities.
96. A report seeking Council endorsement of the general direction of the ICM Programme, and connections with the Infrastructure Strategy, is being prepared for Council consideration on June 30. Engagement with catchment groups, internal teams, external stakeholders and expert advisors has continued throughout this reporting period and is helping to shape programme priorities, identify opportunities for collaboration, and inform the development of pilot projects and other practical initiatives.
97. A detailed paper will be presented at the August meeting to define scope of the ICM work and the specific actions/deliverables to be included in the Long Term Plan.

Region/Sector

98. There have been no Regional Sector meetings during the period. More locally the regions TA Chief Executives met. On the 8 July the Mayoral Forum will meet to receive and update on the work surrounding the Simplification of Local Government and in particular the progress in either the Head Start or Backstop processes. Copies of the Regional Functions analysis for each district will be completed ahead of that meeting. When those reports are available, I will provide them to Councillors. This work is quite comprehensive and detailed so the reports will be supported by a one-page summary for ease of read.

GOVERNANCE, ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

Media and Communications

99. Project Kōrero - the websites replacement and refinement project – is nearing its most significant milestones, with the new Connect – Horizons Regional Transport website and new Horizons Regional Council website both due to launch in July. Final content updates are being made and technical testing carried out to try to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. The Communications team will soon turn its focus to ensuring the community is aware of key changes and making refinements based on user feedback.
100. Transport promotional activity continues to keep the team busy in 2026, with the improved Feilding services and the Ashhurst school bus services launching in July. The strong relationship with the Transport team, and lessons learned via other network promotions (e.g. Palmerston North, Whanganui) are being utilised to ensure people are aware of these new services.
101. The Communications team recently collaborated with science staff, along with a member of the regulatory team, to create collateral related to natural phenomena in our region. These phenomena are things which are generally harmless but can look alarming, such as azolla and foam on beaches. This collateral includes a flyer to hand out, as well as videos made in collaboration with local artists. These videos, at the time of writing, were being scheduled to be posted to our social media channels in the last week of June.

Transformation

102. Teams from across the organisation have contributed to packages for each territorial authority regarding regional council work undertaken in their district. These are in the final stages of drafting and are planned for delivery to regional mayors at the July Mayoral Forum. Following that they will be publicly available.

Long-term Plan (LTP) 2027-37

103. June has seen a lot of ground covered for the LTP as per workshops listed in the table below. Key milestones throughout this process has been providing an overview of Council activities and how they're funded, and discussing a starting point for the LTP budget. The budget approach is coming to June's Council meeting to provide direction for further work in this space to take place in July.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Governance

Date	Event
26 May	Council meeting
27 May	Audit, Risk and Investment Committee meeting
27 May	Workshop - Mana-Whakahonō-a-rohe - Long-term Plan in the second half of 2026 - Crs only session

Date	Event
02 June	Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee meeting
02 June	Regional Transport Committee meeting
03 June	Workshop - Long-term Plan Financial Strategies (1) - Long-term Plan Policies (2)
08 June	Mayoral Forum
09 June	Agendas meeting
09 June	Workshop - Long-term Plan Activity Overviews
10 June	Workshop - Long-term Plan Activity Overviews
16 June	Passenger Transport Committee meeting
17 June	Workshop - Plan Change 2 - Annual Plan - Long-term Plan Revenue & Financing Policy (3)
23 June	MWRCH Board meeting
23 June	Workshop - Long-term Plan Revenue & Financing Policy (4)
24 June	Audit, Risk and Investment Briefing
24 June	Crs only session
24 June	Workshop - Long-term Plan Revenue & Financing Policy (5) Overflow - Long-term Plan Elected Members Budget Proposals
29 June	Flood Resilience Palmerston North Site Visit
30 June	Council mtg

Communications*

Date	Meetings/Event
25 May	Enviroscapes with Kai Iwi School
9 June	Teacher professional development session at Palmerston North Boys' High School with teachers from Whanganui, Rangitikei, Palmerston North and Manawātū
22 June	2x Enviroscapes sessions with Cornerstone Christian School
23 June	Waiora Stream Study with Kai Iwi School

**Communications staff have also assisted Transport team with multiple appearances at the Feilding Farmers' Market ahead of the improved Feilding bus network launching, and the Biodiversity team with planting days across the region. Furthermore, our Senior Environmental Educator was on leave during this month.*

Report No.	26-141
Information Only - No Decision Required	

RANGITĀNE TŪ MAI RĀ TRUST ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to note that Council has received an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, the Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) for Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. This report advises Council that the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust has lodged its Environmental Management Plan with Council. The report notes Council's statutory obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and recommends that the EMP be recorded and used in accordance with those obligations.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-141 and Annexes.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.
- c. notes that the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust Environmental Management Plan has been lodged with Council and will be recorded in accordance with section 35A(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- d. notes that the Environmental Management Plan is a relevant iwi planning document and will be considered by Council in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991..
- e. notes that the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust Environmental Management Plan may inform the review of direction setting documents such as the Long-term Plan and Council's supporting strategies, plans, policies and frameworks, supporting Council in meeting its responsibilities under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

4.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua
- A holistic approach, from the mountains to the sea (integrated catchment management)

- 4.1.1. The **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)** directly supports Council's strategic priority of strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua by recognising and taking into account the environmental aspirations of the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust. It also contributes to an integrated "mountains-to-the-sea" approach by incorporating iwi perspectives into catchment-wide planning and resource management processes.

4.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's relationship with iwi and hapū are respectful and mana-enhancing



Our region's communities are vibrant and empowered



Our region's ecosystems are healthy

4.2.1. The benefit to the community of this work is improved clarity around iwi values and expectations, leading to more effective engagement, more culturally informed decision-making, and improved environmental outcomes. The plan also assists applicants and stakeholders to understand iwi perspectives early in resource management processes, reducing uncertainty and improving relationships.

4.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- One Plan
- Long-term Plan

4.3.1. The EMP provides cultural and environmental context that is relevant to the implementation of the One Plan, particularly in relation to freshwater management, land use capability, biodiversity protection and integrated catchment planning. It will assist Council in recognising and providing for the relationship of Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua with their ancestral lands, water, wāhi tapu and taonga, as required by section 6(e) of the Resource Management Act 1991. It also aligns with Council's Long-term Plan commitment to 'enabling participation' by 'taking iwi management plans into account in planning and decision-making processes.'

5. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

5.1. Significance Assessment

5.1.1. Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report.

5.2. Engagement section:

5.2.1. The level of engagement recommended/required on this issue is inform.

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

6.1. There is no significant financial impact associated with this report.

7. CLIMATE IMPACT

7.1. Climate Impact Statements

7.1.1. Not applicable. The Environmental Management Plan highlights iwi aspirations related to environmental resilience and climate impacts; however, this report does not seek or recommend decisions that have a direct climate impact.

8. RISK

- 8.1. There are no significant risks associated with receiving the EMP. However, failure to appropriately consider the EMP in future planning and decision-making processes may create reputational, relationship and statutory compliance risks for Council.

9. BACKGROUND

- 9.1. Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust is the mandated Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) representing the Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua interests within the Tararua District. The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) provides a practical iwi-authored reference to support ongoing environmental engagement and decision-making.
- 9.2. Section 35A of the Resource Management Act 1991 requires local authorities to keep and maintain records of planning documents recognised by iwi authorities and lodged with the local authority. The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust Environmental Management Plan is such a document and will be recorded accordingly. Relevant provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 require Council to consider iwi planning documents when undertaking certain statutory planning and decision-making functions.
- 9.3. The EMP outlines Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust's environmental values, principles, aspirations and priorities. It provides clear guidance for Council staff, consent applicants, landowners, resource users and other stakeholders on how Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua view their relationship with land, water, taonga species and culturally significant places. The document includes information on the iwi's area of interest, historical and cultural context, preferred approaches to engagement, and key environmental issues and goals. This material provides a transparent foundation for more effective engagement and more culturally informed environmental management across the rohe.

10. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 10.1. Following consideration of this report, correspondence will be sent to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust acknowledging that Council has noted the lodgement of the Environmental Management Plan.
- 10.2. Dates will be scheduled for future engagement between Council staff and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust to further discuss the plan and improve understanding of how it will be considered within Council processes.

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Iwi Relationships Advisor & Project Support

Approved by Elizabeth Daly
Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science
Michael McCartney
Chief Executive
Nikki Riley
Chair

ANNEXES

- A Te Hāmuatanga Te Mahere Whakahaere o Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust Iwi Environmental Management Plan (*Under Separate Cover*)
- B Iwi Environmental Management Plan Lodgement Form (*Under Separate Cover*)
- C Iwi Confirmation Letter (*Under Separate Cover*)

Report No.	26-142
Decision Required	

MANA WHAKAHONO Ā ROHE - IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCED REFORMS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To seek Council's direction on:
 - a. how to conclude Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes initiated by iwi authorities across the Horizons region;
 - b. how council should engage with iwi authorities that have initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes, including funding iwi participation in these processes to date;
 - c. Council's position regarding potential future iwi participation agreements
- 1.2. This report seeks direction on how Council should respond to the Government's announcement that existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (Mana Whakahono ā Rohe) will not transfer into the new planning system, noting that the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is yet to be repealed and new legislation supporting Government's announcement is yet to be released (or enacted).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The Government has recently announced its intention to amend the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill so that initiated and existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements do not transfer to the new planning system. At the time of writing, these amendments have not been enacted and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), including Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions remain in force.
- 2.2. Based on the Government's announced timeframes for enacting the replacement legislation, it is unlikely that the 11 Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes initiated by iwi authorities across the region can be completed and implemented before the existing RMA legislation is repealed. Council must therefore determine how it wishes to respond to the current circumstances.
- 2.3. The recommendations in this report are not based on a reassessment of the merits of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or any future participation agreement. Rather they reflect the practical implications of Government's announced reforms and the likelihood that initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes cannot be concluded and implemented before the current legislative framework is repealed. Officers consider Council now needs to determine the most appropriate approach for managing existing processes and continuing to build relationships in the period before the new planning system is enacted.
- 2.4. The Government has signalled that councils may be able to enter into iwi participation agreements under the new planning system. These agreements are expected to be narrower in scope than Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, although currently there is very limited detail available.
- 2.5. This item seeks Council direction on how existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes should be concluded and funded; how council should engage with iwi authorities that have initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes; and Council's position regarding potential future iwi participation agreements.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a) receives the information contained in Report No. 26-142 and Annexes.
- b) agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters and decisions in this report are significant, and that direct engagement with affected iwi is the appropriate approach;
- c) notes the Government's announcement that existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe will not transfer into the new planning framework;
- d) notes that given the Government's announcements the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes currently initiated with Council will not be completed and implemented prior to the expected repeal of the Resource Management Act 1991;
- e) notes the Government has signalled the provision of "partnership agreements" with Māori/iwi within the new Resource Management system however details about these "arrangements" are unknown at this time.
- f) supports the continuation of Council's engagement arrangements with Māori/iwi that has been in place prior to the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions (e.g. Memorandum of Understandings, Iwi Environmental Management Plans, Treaty Settlement commitments, and other existing partnership agreements);
- g) agrees to communicate Council's position as outlined in the resolutions to iwi/Māori as is appropriate.

4. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**4.1. Council Strategic Priorities**

- Strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua

4.1.1. Mana Whakahono ā Rohe give Council and iwi authorities a legislated mechanism by which to agree how each authority would work together to implement the RMA. With the announced intent to repeal provisions for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, Council may wish to consider alternative mechanisms for engaging or creating partnerships with tangata whenua partners.

4.2. Council's Community Outcomes

Our region's relationship with iwi and hapū are respectful and mana-enhancing

4.2.1. Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements are a way of fostering respectful and mana-enhancing relationships with iwi. However, they are not the only mechanism, other options include memoranda of partnership / understanding, co-governance or joint management agreements. In time, the 'partnership agreements' mentioned in the government announcement may also fulfil this community outcome, however more detail is needed before this will be known. In the absence of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, Council may need to consider how it will achieve this community outcome into the future.

4.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- One Plan

- 4.3.1. The One Plan, particularly the RMA chapter (Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities) of the Regional Policy Statement, provides context for Council's obligations and approach to enabling tangata whenua involvement in resource management and how sites of significance and cultural values are provided for.

5. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

5.1. Significance assessment

- 5.1.1. On 1 July 2026 Council resolved (resolution 26-139) that the matters and decisions relating to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are significant under its Significance and Engagement Policy, on the grounds that they are likely to generate considerable public interest, are likely to be of high interest to Māori, and involve entering into legal agreements of a permanent nature.
- 5.1.2. Officers consider the first two grounds remain applicable and may warrant increased consideration following the Government announcement. The third ground – permanent legal agreements – will no longer apply to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe themselves but may apply to the successor arrangements contemplated in recommendation (e).
- 5.1.3. In recognition of Council's former resolution (26-139) and the fact that this item relates to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, the matters raised in this item should be considered significant in relation to the Significance and Engagement policy.

5.2. Engagement assessment:

- 5.2.1. On the basis that the matters raised in this report are significant, the policy directs council to consider the level of engagement required. Officers consider direct engagement, *kanohi ki te kanohi* | face to face, with both iwi authorities that have initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes and other interested iwi groups, to be appropriate to communicate Council's position. This engagement is also important because, until the RMA is repealed, Council remains subject to the statutory obligations and timeframes in sections 58L-58U of the RMA, including obligations relating to good-faith negotiations following initiation by an iwi authority.
- 5.2.2. Although the matter has the potential to generate wider public interest, officers consider direct engagement with affected iwi authorities is the most proportionate engagement response because the decision primarily concerns relationships and statutory processes involving iwi authorities.
- 5.2.3. Should Council choose in future to progress non-statutory relationship agreements or iwi participation arrangements under replacement legislation, the significance of those matters and any associated engagement requirements can be assessed at that time in line with the Significance and Engagement Policy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 6.1. On 1 July 2026 Council resolved (26-142) to provide a one-off contribution of up to \$10,000 per iwi entity participating in the development of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements where commitment beyond the initiation hui had been confirmed.
- 6.2. No payments have been made under Resolution 26-142. Following the Government's announcement that initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements will not transfer to the new planning system, Council is asked to consider whether this funding commitment should continue, be amended, or be discontinued.
- 6.3. Fourteen iwi entities were participating in Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes at the time of the Government's announcement. If the original resolution was implemented in full, the maximum financial commitment would be \$140,000.

- 6.4. Funding for this purpose was intended to be met from existing budgets within the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

7. CLIMATE IMPACT

7.1. Climate Impact Statements

- 7.1.1. Not applicable. This report concerns the legal status of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements and Council's response to their repeal. It does not directly affect activities or decisions with climate implications.

8. RISK

- 8.1. The following risks have been identified in relation to the matters raised in this report:

- 8.1.1. **Strategic:** Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provide a statutory mechanism for Council and iwi authorities to set out how we will work together to implement Council's RMA and treaty settlement obligations. The announced amendments to the Bills will remove this mechanism and leaves in its place some uncertainty on what the replacement iwi participation agreements will look like. The proposed legislative changes are likely to affect the progress of existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes and create uncertainty regarding future participation arrangements.

Mitigation: Reaffirm Council's commitment to meeting its statutory obligations and maintaining constructive relationships with tangata whenua. Engage in good faith with iwi on potential alternative mechanisms to continue relationships and build on the work started through the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process.

- 8.1.2. **Relationship:** The proposed legislative changes may be viewed by some stakeholders as reducing opportunities for formal iwi participation. Council's response may affect tangata whenua relationships.

Mitigation: Good-faith engagement and early communication. Kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) meetings between elected officials and iwi.

- 8.1.3. **Compliance:** Council must continue to implement the RMA until it is repealed and sections 58L–58U are removed from the transitional arrangements. Until such time, the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions remain in force and failure to comply with these provisions creates a risk of judicial review.

Mitigation: Continue to meet statutory requirements, specifically RMA timeframes that fall due before repeal or amendment. Engage in good faith with iwi authorities on mutually acceptable approaches or alternatives to satisfy each respective authority's Mana Whakahono ā Rohe obligations in light of the Government's announcement.

- 8.1.4. **Reputational:** The process of developing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements supports timely, good faith engagement between Council and iwi authorities. Delays, unclear communication, or a perceived lack of commitment to a current statutory process may place strain on relationships, particularly where iwi have initiated agreements and are seeking to progress them based on Council's resolutions of 1 July.

- 8.1.5. **Mitigation:** Consideration and commitment to alternative relationship agreements that honour the work already undertaken through Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes. Along with good-faith engagement and early communication. Kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) meetings between elected officials and iwi.

9. BACKGROUND

- 9.1. Mana Whakahono ā Rohe is a statutory mechanism under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) that provides a framework for councils and iwi authorities to agree on how they will work together on resource management matters.
- 9.2. Prior to the Government's recent announcement, the proposed replacement resource management legislation provided for existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangements to continue under the new planning system. There has been an increase in iwi-initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements nationally and within the Horizons region.
- 9.3. Knowing that the legislative framework was changing the Chair wrote to the Minister for Māori Development and Minister Responsible for RMA Reform seeking direction on the government's expectations for regional councils regarding the processing of new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and other agreements under the RMA, and received a response (Annex A) noting local authorities are required by law to follow RMA processes, including those relating to the provisions providing for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, while the Act remains in force.
- 9.4. Following the clear direction given in the Minister's letter, Council recently confirmed the process for receiving, negotiating and agreeing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements initiated with Council at their meeting on 30 June 2026 [report no.26-105].

Government Announcement

- 9.5. On 20 July following release of the Environment Select Committee recommendations, which included provisions for existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, the Government subsequently announced its intention to amend the proposed replacement resource management legislation so that neither existing nor initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements will transfer into the new planning system. Instead, councils would have discretion to enter into more narrowly scoped iwi participation agreements. At the time of writing, limited detail is available regarding the form or operation of these proposed iwi participation agreements.
- 9.6. The Minister wrote to local authorities on 21 July 2026 (Annex B) confirming the change. He acknowledged that some iwi authorities, hapū and local authorities have invested significant time and resource in negotiating or implementing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, and that the change may be disappointing for parties who expected existing or initiated arrangements to transition into the new system. The letter states that officials at the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) are available to discuss how the new agreements are likely to work.
- 9.7. Following the Government's announcement, and in discussion with the Chair, officers wrote to iwi authorities with initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes to advise them of the announced changes, acknowledging the significance of the Government's announcement, the investment made in those processes, and to reaffirm Council's commitment to maintaining respectful and constructive relationships regardless of the future legislative framework. Strong relationships with iwi and hapū are included within the strategic framework of the current LTP and reflected in the draft strategic framework for the future LTP.
- 9.8. The Bills had their second reading on 4 August. Enactment is anticipated in September 2026. If the Bills are enacted in their current form, the RMA, including Subpart 2 of Part 5, is expected to be repealed on commencement of the new planning system. With the removal of the transitional provisions, there is nothing that preserves an existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe beyond that date.

- 9.9. Should the Government's announced amendments be passed by the House, every Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process in the Horizons region ends on enactment, regardless of what stage it has reached.

Existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes

- 9.10. Council has received multiple initiation requests with 11 (representing 14 iwi authorities) being received to date.
- 9.11. The table below summarises the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe initiations received and the stage in the process they are at. A detailed breakdown can be found in Annex C. The information below reflects work undertaken under the current statutory framework.

Stage	Number of Agreements	Number of iwi entities
Draft agreement	1	1
Negotiation and drafting	1	1
Preparing for negotiation	3	3
Scoping	6	9
TOTAL	11	14

- 9.12. The legislation enactment timeline and repeal of parts of the RMA means it is unlikely the initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes can be completed and implemented before the legislative framework changes. Council therefore needs to determine how it wishes to conclude these processes and engage with iwi authorities moving forward.

Proposed Replacement Arrangements

- 9.13. In place of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, the Ministerial announcement states the Bills will provide for a new instrument called an 'iwi participation agreement'. These will be narrower in scope and, unlike Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, entering one will be at the council's discretion rather than a statutory consequence of an iwi authority initiating.
- 9.14. It has been signalled that these iwi participation agreements will record how iwi authorities can engage in the iwi participation processes provided for in the two Bills where those processes are a local authority responsibility and may record processes for engagement required to give effect to Treaty settlement redress.
- 9.15. Two differences matter for Council. It has been signalled that the scope of iwi participation agreements is narrower than section 58R and there is no obligation to enter into the new agreements. Beyond that, very little is known. Scope, enforceability, initiation rights, the relationship with Treaty settlements and the practical operation of these agreements are all unresolved and will not be clear until the amendment paper and the enacted legislation are available. Officers advise against Council or elected members characterising what iwi participation agreements will deliver until that detail exists.
- 9.16. The Government announcements around the removal of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are separate to other Māori participation legislation such as that set out in the Local Government Act and Treaty Settlement legislation. Council will continue to have commitments under other legislation. Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 continues to require Council to establish and maintain processes for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes, to consider ways of fostering Māori capacity to do so, and to provide relevant information.
- 9.17. Treaty settlement legislation applying in this region is unaffected. Statutory acknowledgements, and settlement-specific obligations continue to bind Council.

Current council process for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe

- 9.18. Council recently confirmed the process for receiving, negotiating and agreeing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements initiated with Council at their meeting on 30 June 2026 [report no.26-105].
- 9.19. Council considered Report No. 26-105 on 30 June and 1 July 2026 and made a series of decisions on process, officer delegations and funding of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe. In summary, Council resolved:
- To enter into and progress Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements in good faith
 - That the delegation to approve Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements sits with Council
 - That staff continue to lead negotiations, facilitate the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process, and attend hui on Council's behalf with elected members invited, as per the agreed scoping and design
 - To fund iwi participation in the development of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements by way of a one-off contribution up to \$10,000 per iwi entity, provided commitment beyond initiation hui is confirmed by that iwi entity

July Council resolutions (from Report number 26-105), what remains relevant, what now requires consideration.

- 9.20. The table below outlines Council's resolutions from 1 July on Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and identifies where the resolution potentially creates conflict with the government announcement.

Resolution	Impact of Government Announcement
notes the statutory framework and requirements for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe as outlined in sections 58L-U of the Resource Management Act 1991. (resolution 26-138)	Remains relevant. Until the RMA is repealed Council continues to be subject to the statutory framework and associated timeframes.
note that the negotiation and approval of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are of high strategic and relationship importance to Council. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters and decisions in this report are significant, as the matter is likely to generate considerable public interest and is likely to be of high interest to Māori, and involves entering into legal agreements that are of a permanent nature. The appropriate level of engagement is: inform, as the decision is necessary to comply with the law, and the matters are operational and do not materially reduce a level of service. (resolution 26-139)	Remains relevant. Until the RMA is repealed Council continues to be subject to the statutory framework and associated timeframes.

amends existing officer delegations under sections 58L-U of the RMA to impose a condition that the final decision to approve or sign any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements remains solely with Council, with immediate effect; direct the Chief Executive to update the Delegations Manual (August 2024) to record the delegations to officers under section 58L-U are subject to this condition and to report back to Council confirming the update has been made at the next council meeting on 25 August 2026; confirm that the authority to approve and sign all Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements is reserved to the full governing body of Horizons Regional Council and is to be exercised by resolution at a duly constituted Regional Council meeting; note that staff continue to lead negotiations, facilitate the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process, and attend hui on Council's behalf with elected members invited, as per the agreed scoping and design; draft agreements shall be workshopped with all elected members before formal endorsement, to allow for their feedback to be considered as part of the iterative process; the negotiation process shall at all times be conducted in a manner that reflects the mana of both parties to the agreements; (resolution 26-140)	Remains relevant until the RMA is repealed. However, direction is required on whether officers continue to lead and participate in negotiations in the absence of updated legislation directing Council to do otherwise.
notes the estimated internal costs associated with developing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, and that these will manage through reprioritisation of existing resources and budgets; (resolution (26-141))	No change.
agrees to fund iwi participation in the development of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements by way of a one-off contribution up to \$10,000 per iwi entity, provided commitment beyond initiation hui is confirmed by that iwi entity; (resolution 26-142)	Council direction required. The rationale for funding Mana Whakahono ā Rohe negotiations may no longer apply if agreements are unlikely to be concluded before repeal. However, this funding may be redirected towards participation agreements or other partnership arrangements that support readiness to give effect to the new

	planning system.
supports implementation funding being signalled in agreements, subject to budget being provided through Long-term Plan processes; (resolution 26-143)	No longer relevant if no Mana Whakahono ā Rohe to proceed
notes Council's ongoing obligations in relation to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and directs the Chief Executive to proceed in accordance with Council's decisions. (resolution 26-144).	Remains relevant. The Government announcement does not alter the Council's wider relationship commitments, obligations under other legislation, or obligations arising through Treaty settlement legislation.

10. DISCUSSION

Implications for Horizons

- 10.1. While officers understand existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe statutory obligations under the Resource Management Act remain in force until the new Bills are enacted and these sections of the RMA are repealed, the Government announcements regarding the future of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe have created uncertainty regarding the long-term status of these arrangements under the replacement planning system. This uncertainty extends to how we treat the agreements that have been initiated, particularly in light of Council's recent resolutions.
- 10.2. Officers have prepared potential options of pathways forward for Council to consider. These are outlined in the table below.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option One: Continue Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Under this option, Council would continue to progress Mana Whakahono ā Rohe negotiations and attempt to conclude agreements before enactment.	▪ Delivers on Council's 1 July resolutions; ▪ gives the iwi authorities concerned the opportunity to conclude an agreement; ▪ enables Council to continue progressing negotiations until repeal; ▪ supports relationships between iwi and council; ▪ puts Council and iwi authorities in a better position to conclude agreements within the original timeframes if the announced amendments are not passed.	▪ officers do not consider the conclusion of agreements before enactment to be practicable ▪ it would compress negotiation and elected member workshopping to the point where resolution 26-140(i) is unlikely to be meaningfully met ▪ the resulting agreement would be repealed within weeks if the announced amendments are passed ▪ would favour the iwi authorities furthest advanced over those who initiated later

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
		risks a waste of resource for both iwi and council
Option Two: Continued Engagement and Relationship- Based Partnership (Recommended Option) Council continues proactive engagement with iwi authorities that have initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes and other interested iwi. Discussions could focus on: - Developing a shared understanding of the proposed changes and signalled iwi participation agreements - Opportunities presented by future iwi participation agreements once the legislation is understood - Whether existing non-statutory agreements (MOUs, MOPS relationship agreements or similar arrangements) could be established, renewed or updated; - Identifying elements of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe discussions that remain useful under the proposed new planning framework. Where an iwi authority prefers to wait for the new system, that is their choice and Council keeps the door open	- recognises the investment made by iwi authorities and Council to date; - maintains constructive relationships during a period of legislative uncertainty; - allows Council and iwi authorities to explore future participation opportunities together; - can utilise and build on existing relationship agreements, memoranda of understanding and memoranda of partnership already in place with some iwi authorities; - enables useful work completed through Mana Whakahono ā Rohe discussions to inform future arrangements under the new planning framework; - aligns with Council's strategic priority of strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua; - provides flexibility for individual iwi authorities to choose whether they wish to pursue interim arrangements, await legislation, or do both; - aligns with requirements under LGA to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) and maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local decision-making processes	- a non-statutory agreement has no statutory force and cannot bind Council's regulatory decision-making, and officers must be honest with iwi authorities about that; - some iwi authorities may see it as a lesser substitute and decline; - may require legal review to ensure no provision fetters a statutory discretion
Option Three: Wait for new legislation Stop progress on all Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements and wait.	- avoids negotiating against an uncertain framework; - conserves officer time; - avoids creating instruments that may need to be	- Compromises Council's and officers relationship with parties who initiated in good faith; - places the entire burden of restarting a new process on

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Council advises iwi authorities that the statutory Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process ends on repeal and takes no further action until an iwi authority requests an iwi participation agreement	renegotiated once the new system commences	iwi authorities; - may be viewed as less aligned with the intent of resolutions 26-139 and 26-144; - may create a perception risk regarding Council's commitment to maintaining existing relationships

Officer Assessment and Recommendation

- 10.3. Officers recommend Option 2. This recommendation reflects the practical reality created by the Government's announced reforms and seeks to provide a transition from the current statutory framework while maintaining Council's existing statutory obligations and relationships with iwi authorities.
- 10.4. While the statutory Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions remain in force until legislative change occurs, officers consider it unlikely that the 11 initiated processes could realistically progress through negotiation, drafting, legal review, elected member consideration and formal approval before the replacement legislation is enacted. If the Government's announced amendments proceed, any resulting agreements would not transfer to the new planning system.
- 10.5. In these circumstances, officers consider continued relationship-focused engagement to be the most constructive path forward. Option 2 provides the most orderly transition from the current statutory framework, recognising that iwi authorities initiated these processes under legislation that remains in force while acknowledging the uncertainty created by the Government's announced reforms.
- 10.6. This approach recognises the investment made by iwi authorities and Council to date, maintains constructive relationships through a period of legislative uncertainty, and allows Council to communicate directly with those iwi regarding the implications of the proposed legislative changes without creating expectations about future arrangements. It also positions Council and iwi authorities to consider future participation opportunities once the replacement legislation is enacted and its implications are understood.
- 10.7. Option 2 does not prejudice whether iwi participation agreements will be appropriate, nor does it seek to replicate Mana Whakahono ā Rohe through non-statutory instruments. Instead, it maintains dialogue and allows Council and iwi authorities to consider together whether non-statutory mechanisms (e.g. relationship agreements, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of partnership), or future statutory arrangements are the most appropriate to support ongoing relationships and engagement.
- 10.8. Options 2 and 3 are not mutually exclusive – under Option 2, an iwi authority that prefers to wait ends up in the same place. The difference is who makes the offer. Under Option 2 Council does; under Option 3 Council waits to be asked. Given that the loss of iwi-initiated process is the specific change being made, Officers consider there is value in Council proactively indicating its willingness to continue relationships and discuss alternative arrangements with interested iwi authorities.

Funding arrangements

- 10.9. Council previously resolved to provide a one-off contribution of up to \$10,000 per participating iwi entity where commitment beyond the initiation hui was confirmed.

- 10.10. Fourteen iwi entities have initiated or are participating in Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes. The maximum potential cost of honouring Council's previous decision is therefore \$140,000. However, the actual cost may be lower depending on the eligibility of individual iwi entities, whether all eligible iwi entities decide to seek funding, and whether or not they seek the maximum funding available. Officers understand that the majority of iwi entities currently included in active Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes had progressed beyond the initiation hui stage prior to the Government's announcement.
- 10.11. Officers recommend honouring Resolution 26-142 for iwi entities that committed to the process. While the Government's announced reforms may prevent completion of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, participating iwi entities have already invested time and resources based on both legislation and Council's previous decision.
- 10.12. Since Council's resolution of 1 July 2026, discussion has occurred regarding how Resolution 26-142 would be implemented in practice. While the resolution provided for a one-off contribution of up to \$10,000 per iwi entity, some elected members indicated a preference that funding be released in stages aligned to progress through the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process. Under that approach an initial contribution could be made once an iwi entity confirmed its commitment beyond the initiation hui, with any remaining funding linked to progression towards completion of an agreement.
- 10.13. The Government's announcement means that many Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes are unlikely to reach the later stages originally contemplated. If Council wishes to honour Resolution 26-142, it may wish to consider whether:
- the full contribution remains payable to eligible iwi entities;
 - a partial contribution should be made to recognise participation undertaken to date or
 - any remaining funding should instead be considered alongside future iwi participation arrangements once the new legislation framework is known.

11. COMMUNICATIONS APPROACH

- 11.1. Communications should emphasise that Council's decision reflects the practical implications of the Government's announced reforms rather than a change in Council's commitment to partnering with iwi and hapū. Communications should acknowledge the time, effort and resources invested by iwi authorities and Council in Mana Whakahono ā Rohe processes and reaffirm Council's commitment to maintaining strong relationships and exploring future participation opportunities under the replacement planning framework. Officers suggest that:
- Council Chair to write to each iwi authority that has initiated a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe process;
 - Offer governance-to-governance discussions;
 - Provide opportunity for kanohi ki te kanohi engagement;
 - Operational communications;
 - Chief Executive to communicate operational implications of Council's decision; and
 - Support implementation of Council's agreed next steps.

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Policy Manager

Approved by Elizabeth Daly
Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science

Michael McCartney
Chief Executive

Nikki Riley
Chair

ANNEXES

- A Letter from Hon Chris Bishop 18 Feb 2026
- B Letter from Hon Chris Bishop 21 July 2026
- C Initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe detailed breakdown

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



18 FEB 2026

CB-COR2607/26-CORM-00229

Nikki Riley
Chair
Horizons Regional Council

Dear Nikki,

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2026 to the Minister for Māori Development, Hon Tama Potaka, and me seeking direction on the Government's expectations for regional councils regarding processing new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and other agreements under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). I am replying to you as the matters you raise fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform.

The RMA, including the provisions providing for the making of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, are currently in force. Local authorities are required by law to follow those processes while this Act is in force. The process for an iwi authority to initiate and enter into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are set out at Part 5, Sub-part 2 of the Act. If your Council would like assistance with discharging these legislative requirements, the Ministry for the Environment can provide advice.

As you are aware, the Government has introduced legislation to repeal the RMA and replace it with the Natural Environment Act and the Planning Act. As introduced, this replacement legislation does not provide for new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe to be made or for joint management agreements and transfers of power to be made to iwi authorities. I hope this addresses some of your concerns.

Thank you for your correspondence on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Cc: Hon Tama Potaka – Minister for Māori Development

Hon Chris Bishop

Attorney-General
Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Associate Minister of Finance



21 July 2026

CB-COR3111

Tēnā koe

Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill: proposed changes to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe provisions

I am writing to you regarding changes the Government intends to make to the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill currently before Parliament. Local authorities will continue to lead the delivery of the resource management system under the new legislation, and I wanted to let you know about this intended change that will impact you directly.

The Government intends to amend the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill to remove the provisions that would have saved existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe in the new planning system.

The Bills as introduced provided that existing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, and ones initiated before the Bills are enacted, would transfer into the new system, subject to modifications to reflect the scope of the new legislation. The Government has reconsidered that approach.

The Government now intends to progress amendments so that existing and initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe will not transfer into the new planning system. Instead, the Bills will provide for a new instrument scoped to the new system that will be known as 'iwi participation agreements'.

Iwi participation agreements will enable iwi authorities and local authorities to record how iwi authorities will participate in the iwi participation processes provided for in the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill where those processes are the responsibility of local authorities. They may also record processes for engagement where required to give effect to relevant Treaty settlement redress.

This proposed approach will ensure that participation arrangements in the new system are aligned with the scope and design of the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill. Local authorities will have the discretion to enter into these agreements if requested to by an iwi authority – in contrast to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe that must be entered into if iwi authorities initiate them.

I acknowledge that some iwi authorities, hapū, and local authorities have invested significant time and resource in negotiating or implementing Mana Whakahono ā Rohe. I also acknowledge that this proposed change may be disappointing for parties who expected existing or initiated arrangements to transition into the new system. The Government's intention for the change is to provide a clearer and more consistent framework for iwi participation under the new legislation.

My officials at the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport are available to discuss with you how the new participation agreements are likely to work. For further information, please contact Clare Maihi (clare.maihi@mcert.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi nui

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Cc: Simon Court, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

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Annex C: Table of Initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe

Iwi	Initiated	18 month conclusion date	MWAR Type	Initial Hui	Status
Ngāti Maru	17/12/2026	17/06/2027	M-P inc. WDC and RuDC	30/04/2026	Negotiation and drafting underway
Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga	15/01/2026	15/07/2027	Joint with HRC	01/05/2026	Preparing for negotiation and drafting
Rangitāne o Manawatū*	10/02/2026	10/08/2027	Joint with HRC (considering options for M-P)	28/04/2026	Further scoping underway
Ngaa Rauru Kaitahi	02/03/2026	02/09/2027	M-P inc. WDC	30/04/2026	Awaiting next steps from iwi
Ngāti Rangī	23/03/2026	23/09/2027	M-P inc. RuDC and RDC	12/06/2026	Further scoping underway
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua	23/03/2026	23/09/2027	M-P inc. TDC	22/05/2026	Preparing for negotiation and drafting
Ngāti Tukorehe	04/04/2026	04/10/2027	Joint with HRC (considering options for M-P)	01/07/2026	Initial scoping underway
Rangitāne o Manawatū**	13/04/2026	13/10/2027	TBC	TBC	Initial scoping underway
Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua	15/04/2026	15/10/2027	M-P inc. TDC	29/05/2026	Preparing for negotiation and drafting
Mōkai Pātea***	20/04/2026	20/10/2027	M-P inc. affiliated iwi and possibly Rangitikei DC	04/06/2026	Further scoping underway
Muaūpoko	25/05/2026	25/11/2027	Joint with HRC. (considering options for M-P)	16/7/2026	Initial scoping underway

Report No.	26-143
Information Only - No Decision Required	

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This item presents the finding of a report completed by Simpson Grierson (The Report) in response to two public complaints relating to a claimed elected member's conflict of interest. The report was commissioned by the Chief Executive following receipt of an email received by an elected member and a text message received by the Council Chair.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The complaints at the centre of the issue related to the decision-making process regarding the Ngā Wai Tōtā 2026 Work Programme and Development of Te Tāhoratanga item that was presented and considered at the 26 May Council meeting. A copy of that agenda item and the associated council decision is provided at Annex A. The basis for the complaints related to the claim that the elected member (Councillor Pue) who moved the resolutions had a conflict of interest due to his membership of, and governance role within Ngāti Rangi.
- 2.2. In response to the complaint the Chief Executive engaged Jonathan Salter (Mr Salter) of Simpson Grierson to review the complaints and assess whether the complaints had merit in terms of an existence of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflict of interest. A copy of the final Report is provided at Annex B (excluding Appendices 1 & 2).
- 2.3. The Report considers the statutory context of the Ngati Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019 that gives effect to Ngā Wai Tōtā (joint committee) and Te Tāhoratanga which is the catchment policy document that guides decision makers in the areas of natural resource management.
- 2.4. One of the key matters that was under consideration at the 26 May meeting was the recommendation to provide funding as part of Horizons commitment to the work of Ngā Wai Tōtā. The details of that commitment are outlined in the Council resolutions provided at Annex A.
- 2.5. The Report provides details of the procedural steps that Mr Salter undertook as part of his assessment of the complaints. This also included analysis of the council item and associated resolution.
- 2.6. The primary matter that was assessed in the Report was the issue of Councillor Pue's potential pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interest and the appropriateness to move the recommendation or indeed participate/vote on the matter before Council. Paragraphs 30 to 38 of the report outlines that assessment.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-143 and Annexes.
- b. notes the conclusions/findings of the Simpson Grierson Report on Conflict of Interest dates July 2026.
- c. notes the complaints prompting the necessity for the report are provided in the Public Excluded part of the Council agenda

4. ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This is a public item and therefore Council may deem this sufficient to inform the public.

5. CONCLUSIONS/FINDINGS

- 5.1. Having assessed the complaints, researched the decision-making process and reviewed the legislating including council's standing orders Mr Salter concluded that:

- **39** - *Cr Pue did not have a pecuniary interest in the subject matter of item 8.4 at the Council meeting of 26 May 2026.*
- **40** - *None of his actions in speaking to the report, moving the motions, and voting on it was contrary to any legislation.*
- **41** - *It is evident that Cr Pue was "interested" in the subject matter of item 8.4 in various respects, including:*
 - a. *The framework established by the settlement legislation which establishes Ngā Wai Tōtā and provides for Te Tāhoratanga is settlement legislation affecting iwi to which he is affiliated and in which he is evidently active in various governance roles;*
 - b. *He is a trustee of Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust which appoints a representative to Ngā Wai Tōtā and is directly interested in the outcomes it achieves;*
 - c. *He is likely known to be supportive of Ngā Wai Totā;*
 - d. *He is the Māori constituency councillor for the part of the region to which the Act relates.*
- **42** - *However, there are circumstances that strongly indicate that this is not a situation in which the appearance of bias or partiality would be such as to lead a Court to invalidating the decision.*
These include:
 - a. *The subject matter is of an administrative nature to meet specific statutory obligations;*
 - b. *It is evidently an on-going policy obligation of the Council reflected in accountability documents such as the long-term plan and annual plans;*
 - c. *It would be common knowledge that Cr Pue represents the Raki Māori constituency, and likely also that he has iwi affiliations and governance roles within Ngāti Rangī;*
 - d. *Cr Pue may have cultural, but no financial, connections to the subject matter.*
- **43** - *I conclude that Cr Pue did not act unlawfully by participating fully in the Council process relating to item 8.4.*

Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNEXES

- A Report No. 26-87, Ngā Wai Tōtā - 2026 Work Programme and Development of Te Tāhoratanga
- B Report on Conflict of Interest - Simpson Grierson

Regional Council
26 May 2026

horizons
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Report No.	26-87
Decision Required	

NGĀ WAI TŌTĀ - 2026 WORK PROGRAMME AND DEVELOPMENT OF TE TĀHORATANGA

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council:
- The 2026 Work Programme for Ngā Wai Tōtā
 - Estimated costs associated with administering Ngā Wai Tōtā
 - Estimated costs associated with development of Te Tāhoratanga and suggested funding to support this project
 - Funding options and implications for Council resourcing
- 1.2. The paper also seeks a decision from Council on the funding of two new roles as requested by Ngā Wai Tōtā.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-87.
- b. notes that officers have assessed the matters in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and assessed them as being of low significance.
- c. agrees that the appropriate level of engagement is inform.
- d. notes the costs associated with administering Ngā Wai Tōtā.
- e. notes the statutory process required and the estimated costs associated with development of Te Tāhoratanga.
- f. agrees to support development and initial implementation of Te Tāhoratanga through allocation of funding of \$100,000 per annum to Ngā Wai Tōtā from July 2026 until June 2028, subject to:
 - i. the funding being used for the development and initial implementation of Te Tāhoratanga; and
 - ii. Ngā Wai Tōtā providing six-monthly progress and financial reports to Council.
- g. agrees in principle to fund the two new part-time positions requested by Ngā Wai Tōtā to a value of up to \$150,000 per annum, from July 2026 to June 2028, subject to funding being provided through the Annual Plan and/or Long-term Plan.
- h. notes that if no provision is made for these costs (e and f) through the Annual Plan or Long-term Plan, resourcing will be reprioritised from within existing budgets, which will impact the delivery of other work programmes.

3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- 3.1. Council Strategic Priorities
- Strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua

Regional Council
26 May 2026



- Council has specific obligations in relation the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019. Receiving the information contained in this report and noting the funding required to administer Ngā Wai Tōtā and develop Te Tāhoratanga supports Council in meeting its requirements under the settlement legislation.

3.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's relationship with iwi and hapū are respectful and mana-enhancing.

- The benefit to the community of this work is Horizons upholds its commitments under the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019.

3.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Nil

4. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Significance Assessment

4.1.1. The matters in this report relate to the administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā, the development of Te Tāhoratanga, and associated funding decisions within the context of the 2026–27 Annual Plan.

4.1.2. Officers have assessed the effect of the proposals in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. While the matters are of high interest to Ngāti Rangi and other iwi represented on Ngā Wai Tōtā, and have implications for Council resourcing, they are assessed overall as being of low significance. This assessment reflects that the proposals largely relate to giving effect to existing statutory obligations under settlement legislation, do not involve the transfer or disposal of strategic assets, do not introduce new regulatory provisions, and have modest financial impacts in the context of total Council expenditure.

4.1.3. The recommended level of engagement is therefore inform. This reflects that engagement with mandated iwi entities and community is already embedded within the legislative process for developing Te Tāhoratanga, and Council will communicate decisions through its usual reporting and Annual Plan processes.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACT

5.1. There may be a minor financial impact as a result of this report. In the absence of additional funding in the 2026-27 Annual Plan, the administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā will be sourced from existing budgets. This will likely result in either some other projects not progressing or an overspend in year 3 for the Policy and Strategy budget. Funding for Te Tāhoratanga will be partially provided by the remaining Crown funds awarded in the settlement. The remaining cost is expected to be considered through the 2027-37 Long-term Plan.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT

6.1. Climate Impact Statements

- Not applicable

Regional Council

26 May 2026



7. RISK

7.1. The following risks have been identified in relation to the matters raised in this report:

7.1.1 **Strategic:** If Council does not provide administrative support in Ngā Wai Tōtā or development of Te Tāhoratanga, it would risk misalignment with the LTP strategic priority *Strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua* and community outcome *Our region's relationship with iwi and hapū are respectful and mana enhancing*.

Mitigation: Support officers to continue building relationships through Ngā Wai Tōtā and development of Te Tāhoratanga.

7.1.2 **Compliance:** Council is required to uphold its statutory obligations under the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019. By acknowledging the requirements of Council to administer Ngā Wai Tōtā and the associated costs, Council is taking a step towards meeting its legislative requirements under the treaty settlement.

Mitigation: Acknowledge and provide for the administrative and technical support requirements set out in the settlement legislation and prioritise these obligations within Council work programmes.

7.1.3 **Reputational:** Council risks reputational damage should it not engage in meeting its legislative obligations under the treaty settlement.

Mitigation: Demonstrate a clear commitment to Treaty obligations through transparent decision-making, appropriate resourcing, and ongoing communication with Ngā Wai Tōtā and iwi partners.

7.1.4 **Operational:** If Council chooses not to provide additional funding for the administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā or the development of Te Tāhoratanga, and instead reprioritises existing resources, some work programmes may be deferred. This may result in Council not fully achieving some Year 3 performance targets in the 2026–27 Annual Plan.

Mitigation: This risk is operational in nature and will be managed through active reprioritisation of work programmes, with a focus on statutory obligations, high-risk activities, and core service delivery.

7.1.5 **Relationship:** Insufficient resourcing or delays in supporting Ngā Wai Tōtā and developing Te Tāhoratanga may negatively impact relationships with Ngāti Rangi and other iwi partners, and undermine the intent of the statutory partnership arrangements established through the settlement.

Mitigation: Maintain regular engagement with iwi partners, provide appropriate administrative and technical support to Ngā Wai Tōtā, and ensure Council decisions clearly reflect partnership principles and Treaty settlement commitments.

8. BACKGROUND

8.1. The Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act; passed on 25 July 2019, includes Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika Framework, which establishes statutory partnership arrangements for the Whangaehu River.

8.2. The Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika framework for the Whangaehu River requires the Council to recognise and provide for Te Mana Tupua (recognising the mana of the river) and Ngā Toka Tupua (the intrinsic values that represent the indivisible water body) when exercising particular statutory functions or powers relating to the Whangaehu River.

8.3. A statutory body, **Ngā Wai Tōtā o Te Waiū (Ngā Wai Tōtā)**, is responsible for preparing and approving **Te Tāhoratanga o Te Waiū (Te Tāhoratanga)**, the strategy to advance the health and well-being of the catchment. The purpose of Ngā Wai Tōtā is to:

- promote Te Mana Tupua and Ngā Toka Tupua;
- advance the health and well-being of the awa;

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- advance the integrated management of the awa; and
 - be a voice for the relationship of ngā iwi o te awa (including kawa, tikanga, and ritenga) with the awa.
- 8.4. The specific tasks for Ngā Wai Tōtā are to:
- develop Te Tāhoratanga;
 - update Te Tāhoratanga over time;
 - hold hui and information on health and wellbeing of the awa;
 - advise local government and the Crown on decisions about the awa;
 - maintain the Te Waiū catchment register; and
 - monitor the effectiveness of Te Tāhoratanga implementation and how well Te Mana Tupua and Ngā Toka Tupua are being achieved.
- 8.5. Ngā Wai Tōtā is comprised of eight members. Four iwi members who represent the post settlement governance entities of Ngāti Rangi, Te Runanga o Ngāti Apa, Uenuku Charitable Trust and Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust. Four members who represent Horizons Regional Council, and the district councils of Rangitikei, Ruapehu and Whanganui.
- 8.6. Horizons are required to provide the administrative support for Ngā Wai Tōtā. This includes the provision of services required by the body to carry out its functions under the settlement legislation, the Local Government Act 2002, or any other Act that applies to the conduct of Ngā Wai Tōtā. It is the understanding of officers that the Crown provided a one-off payment of \$400,000 as a contribution towards the cost of establishing Ngā Wai Tōtā and developing Te Tāhoratanga o Te Waiū, the strategy. Once produced the strategy needs to be publicly notified and invite submissions.
- 8.7. Horizons must provide technical support to Ngā Wai Tōtā and resource this from within existing work programmes and must endeavour to accommodate unbudgeted resource requests from Ngā Wai Tōtā where possible. The members of Ngā Wai Tōtā may be supported at any meeting by technical advisors.
9. **DISCUSSION: Administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā and Development of Te Tāhoratanga – timing and resourcing**
- Administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā**
- 9.1. Horizons are responsible for providing administrative support to Ngā Wai Tōtā. This includes secretariat functions, coordination, and associated financial administration undertaken on behalf of the committee. This is outlined in Clause 7(1) and (2) of Schedule 6 of the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act which reads as follows:
- 7. Support for Ngā Wai Tōtā**
- (1) *The Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council is responsible for providing administrative support to Ngā Wai Tōtā.*
- (2) *The administrative support referred to in subclause (1) includes the provision of the services necessary to enable Ngā Wai Tōtā to carry out its functions, including under this Act, the Local Government Act 2002, and any other Act that applies to Ngā Wai Tōtā.*
- 9.2. As part of the settlement arrangements, officers understand that Crown funding of approximately \$400,000 was allocated to support the setup of Ngā Wai Tōtā and development of Te Tāhoratanga. This funding is currently held by Ngāti Rangi. Since the establishment of Ngā Wai Tōtā, this funding has been used to support initial activities, including setting up the committee and undertaking early work to scope and plan the tasks

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for which Ngā Wai Tōtā is responsible. Ngā Wai Tōtā now operates with ongoing administrative support provided by Horizons, enabling the committee to focus on governance, strategic leadership, and direction-setting.

- 9.3. The table below summarises the costs associated with operating Ngā Wai Tōtā. It is intended to provide a high-level view of operational expenditure only. It does not include costs for developing Te Tāhoratanga or any other work programmes of Ngā Wai Tōtā.

Administrative functions to be undertaken by Horizons	
	Estimated annual cost 2026/27 (\$)
Hui	13,500
Iwi representation	29,400
Secretariat support	17,000
Strategic and technical support	37,400
Total	97,300

- 9.4. These costs are estimates only and will vary based on the number of hui held, and the workload associated with preparing for each hui. The estimates for strategic and technical support cover only the work directly associated with Ngā Wai Tōtā hui. This includes attendance at all hui by two Horizons staff members (one technical, one strategic), preparation of board papers for the scheduled hui, and other hui-related oversight. These estimates do not include broader strategic or technical work connected to the development of Te Tāhoratanga or any other work programme. It also does not include any allowance for external professional advice, e.g. legal.
- 9.5. Given the statutory requirement that Horizons undertake administrative functions for Ngā Wai Tōtā, the above funding of approximately \$97,300 will need to be covered within existing budgets and resource, with potential for overspend requiring funding from reserves.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF TE TĀHORATANGA

- 10.1. Te Tāhoratanga is a statutory strategic document established through settlement legislation to provide strategic leadership for the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika catchment. Its purpose is to promote Te Mana Tupua and Ngā Toka Tupua, support the health and well-being of the catchment, and strengthen integrated management through coordination of agencies with responsibilities in the catchment.
- 10.2. The legislation requires Te Tāhoratanga to set out the vision, values, issues, and desired outcomes for Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika, and to provide guidance and strategic direction, including recommended actions, to help achieve those outcomes. Although it must not contain regulatory provisions, it may include any non-regulatory measures that Ngā Wai Tōtā considers necessary.
- 10.3. A vision for Te Tāhoratanga was confirmed at the most recent Ngā Wai Tōtā hui. Development of values, issues and desired outcomes is yet to occur.
- 10.4. The process for preparing Te Tāhoratanga is set out in Schedule 7 of the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019. While Schedule 7 provides detailed requirements, the process can be summarised at a high level to show the key stages Ngā Wai Tōtā must follow in developing Te Tāhoratanga:
- Early engagement with mandated iwi entities
 - Prepare the draft Te Tāhoratanga

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- c. Public notification of the draft
 - d. Submissions and hearings (if needed)
 - e. Amendment and decision making
 - f. Approval of Te Tāhoratanga
 - g. Public notice of the approved document
 - h. Ongoing review.
- 10.5. Given the statutory steps required the process is likely to take 12-18 months, with actual timeframes depending on the submissions received, the complexity of issues raised, and the material already prepared. It is anticipated that the bulk of the work to prepare Te Tāhoratanga will occur over the 2026/27 financial year.
- 10.6. At the March Ngā Wai Tōtā hui, the Committee resolved to set up a working group to oversee the development of Te Tāhoratanga and engagement of a consultant to support development of the document. Decision-making associated with Te Tāhoratanga remains with Ngā Wai Tōtā.
- 10.7. Planning is underway to identify what a work programme for development of Te Tāhoratanga might involve. At this early stage it is expected to require at least four-six workshops (in addition to the usual Ngā Wai Tōtā hui). A very high-level estimate of potential costs associated with preparation of Te Tāhoratanga, following the requirements of the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act (listed above) is anticipated to be approximately \$260,000 upwards. The potential costs are broken down as follows:
- Consultant cost: \$150,000
 - Organise, run and attend Ngā Wai Tōtā workshops
 - Prepare Te Tāhoratanga
 - Present at Ngā Wai Tōtā hui
 - Review consultation collateral and present at early engagement hui
 - Review submissions, prepare hearing material, attend hearings and deliberations
 - Complete final document
 - Early engagement with mandated iwi entities: \$20,000
 - Notification/public consultation costs: \$50,000 (includes consultation collateral and hui costs associated with engagement with iwi entities)
 - Submissions and hearings: \$10,000
 - Preparation of final document and design: \$20,000
 - Legal review: \$10,000
- 10.8. It is difficult to estimate the true cost of developing Te Tāhoratanga given a document of this nature has not been produced before and planning is in the early stages. In coming up with the above figures, officers have considered the cost of preparing a long-term plan, a Regional Land Transport Plan and Te Heke Ngāhuru as possible comparisons. All three are collaborative documents that have involved consultation.
- 10.9. As part of the settlement, \$400,000 was provided by the Crown to support the creation of Ngā Wai Tōtā and development of Te Tāhoratanga. A portion of the funds have been used in setting up Ngā Wai Tōtā with the remaining funds to be allocated for development of Te Tāhoratanga. The remaining funds are unlikely to cover the cost of development of Te Tāhoratanga fully. As a result, Council may need to provide funding to support completion of Te Tāhoratanga through the 2027 Long-term Plan.
- 10.10. It is anticipated that Horizons staff resource to administer Ngā Wai Tōtā and support development of Te Tāhoratanga will be around 0.5 FTE spread across management and senior officer level. At times this may increase to 1 FTE, particularly during engagement, consultation and hearings. This resource is unbudgeted and at present would be reprioritised from existing resources.

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- 10.11. The development and implementation of Te Tāhoratanga is expected to require additional funding from Council to enable Ngā Wai Tōtā to deliver on its obligations under the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act. Officers suggest funding of \$100,000 per year for the next two financial years will ensure completion of Te Tāhoratanga which is expected to be done by June 2028 and may support initial implementation if completed sooner.
- 10.12. Officers suggest this funding should be approved with the following requirements of Ngā Wai Tōtā:
- Funding is used for development and implementation of Te Tāhoratanga
 - Ngā Wai Tōtā provide six-monthly updates to council on progress of Te Tāhoratanga and spend to date.

11. REQUEST TO FUND NEW ROLES

- 11.1. Ngā Wai Tōtā have requested two roles (an administrative role and a project lead role of the development of Te Tāhoratanga). Job descriptions for these roles have been drafted. These roles have not been costed in the budget above, nor have they been included in the 2026/27 Annual Plan for Council. The project lead role would partially be covered by the consultant role included below. It is a decision for Council to determine if Horizons funds these roles.
- 11.2. The two new part-time roles requested by Ngā Wai Tōtā are to be independently appointed and work for Horizons. They would likely be fixed term positions. The primary function of these roles is support Ngā Wai Tōtā with general running and progress of Ngā Wai Tōtā functions, including the development of Te Tāhoratanga.
- 11.3. These roles are currently unbudgeted and not included for the 2026-27 Annual Plan. It is estimated approximately \$150,000 would be required to fund these two roles. If Council agrees to fund these roles for the 2026-27 financial year, funding will need to come from reserves as budget has not been allocated in the current LTP. Future LTPs would then need to continue to resource these roles. At this stage, the expected duration of these roles is unknown, however officers would suggest a period of two financial years would be appropriate.
- 11.4. In determining whether to fund this request from Ngā Wai Tōtā, Council should consider Clause 7(5) of Schedule 6 of the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act which reads as follows:

Support for Ngā Wai Tōtā

Technical support:

(5) The Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council must provide technical support to Ngā Wai Tōtā from existing work programmes and must endeavour to accommodate unbudgeted resource requests from Ngā Wai Tōtā where possible.

12. SUMMARY

- 12.1. In summary officers are seeking the following from Council:
- Endorsement to continue to fund the secretariat (administrative) function of Ngā Wai Tōtā. Noting this is expected to cost \$97,300 per annum.
 - A decision to provide funding of up to \$100,000 per annum until June 2028 to Ngā Wai Tōtā to enable development and implementation of Te Tāhoratanga, subject to:
 - This funding being used for development of Te Tāhoratanga and its ongoing implementation.

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- Ngā Wai Tōtā reporting back to Council at six monthly intervals on how these funds have been used.
- A decision on whether to fund the two part-time roles requested by Ngā Wai Tōtā, which is expected to cost \$150,000 per annum from July 2026 to June 2028. Funding for this would need to be provided for in the Annual Plan and/or Long-term Plan.

13. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 13.1. Ngā Wai Tōtā meetings have been scheduled for the remainder of 2026. In the coming months the work programme for Te Tāhoratanga will be refined and confirmed. Progress updates will be provided to Council through the Strategy and Policy Committee and financial reporting will be provided as part of the standard reporting to Audit Risk and Investment Committee.

Author(s) Leana Shirley
 Policy Manager
 Elizabeth Daly
 Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science

Approved by Elizabeth Daly
 Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science
 Michael McCartney
 Chief Executive
 Nikki Riley
 Chair

ANNEXES

There are no attachments for this report.

SIMPSON
GRIERSON

HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL

REPORT ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Prepared by Jonathan Salter, Consultant



July 2026

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A. BACKGROUND

1. One of the matters for consideration at the Horizons Regional Council meeting on 26 May 2026 was Item 8.4 "Ngā Wai Tōtā - 2026 work programme and development of Te Tāhoratanga" supported by Report No: 26-87 (**Report**).
2. The recommendations in the Report included that the Council:
 - d. notes the costs associated with administering Ngā Wai Tōtā.
 - e. notes the statutory process required and the estimated costs associated with development of Te Tāhoratanga.
 - f. agrees to support development and initial implementation of Te Tāhoratanga through allocation of funding of \$100,000 per annum to Ngā Wai Tōtā from July 2026 until June 2028, subject to:
 - i. the funding being used for the development and initial implementation of Te Tāhoratanga; and
 - ii. Ngā Wai Tōtā providing six-monthly progress and financial reports to Council.
 - g. agrees in principle to fund the two new part-time positions requested by Ngā Wai Tōtā to a value of up to \$150,000 per annum, from July 2026 to June 2028, subject to funding being provided through the Annual Plan and/or Long-term Plan.
 - h. notes that if no provision is made for these costs (e. and f.) through the Annual Plan or Long-term Plan, resourcing will be reprioritised from within existing budgets, which will impact the delivery of other work programmes.
3. Cr Elijah Pue moved the recommendations, spoke to the report, and voted in favour of the recommendations. The motion was carried by 7 votes to 6. Cr Ben Fraser declared a potential conflict of interest during discussion on item 8.4 and is recorded as voting against the motion.

B. COMPLAINT

4. Subsequently, the Council Chair, Nikki Riley, received a text from a member of the public who wished to remain anonymous, alleging that Cr Pue should have declared a conflict of interest and should not have spoken or voted on the motion. It was alleged that Cr Pue had a pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in the subject matter of the motion.
5. On 10 June 2026, by email to all councillors and the chief executive, Cr Gordon McKellar referred to further concerns raised by members of the public. This email is attached as **Appendix 1**.

These concerns suggested that the conflict arises primarily from Cr Pue's role as a "board member of Ngāti Rangī". As a secondary consideration, it was noted that there are connections between Ngāti Rangī and Ngā Wai Tōtā, and that Council decisions on

these matters would impact relationships with Ngāti Rangi (and other iwi). It was also stated that Cr Pue is a senior financial decision-maker of two connected organisations, as chair of Horizons' Audit, Risk and Investment Committee and a trustee of Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust. This trust is the Ngāti Rangi post-settlement governance entity which has responsibility for appointing two members to Ngā Wai Tōtā. It was stated that potential conflict of interest raised important concerns of public trust and confidence in Horizons Regional Council.

6. Cr Pue has confirmed that he is a trustee Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust. This is declared in his current Pecuniary Interests Return dated 29 October 2025 (as required under section 54C of the Local Government Act 2002). The Return also records that he is a trustee of Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust (Ngāti Rangi social entity), has iwi affiliation (by way of genealogy) to Ngāti Rangi iwi, and has various other governance roles.
7. Cr Pue is the councillor for the Raki Māori constituency.
8. With the support of the Chair, the Council Chief Executive forwarded the text messages and email referred to above to me with instructions to undertake an independent investigation into the conflict-of-interest allegations.
9. For the record, this matter is not a complaint under the Council's Code of Conduct. Nor is it a protected disclosure subject to the Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022.

C. STATUTORY CONTEXT

10. The subject matter of the Report relates to co-governance arrangements established by legislation: the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019 (**the Act**).
11. **Ngā Wai Tōtā** is a permanent joint committee of Horizons Regional Council, and Ruapehu, Rangitikei and Whanganui District Councils established under section 114 of the Act. Its membership consists of one member appointed by each of the councils, and one member appointed by the trustees of 4 specified trusts one of which is the Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust (section 118 of the Act).
12. The purposes of Ngā Wai Tōtā set out in section 115 are broad and relate to supporting the restoration, protection and integrated management of water bodies and associated taonga of the Whangaehu river and its catchment. The primary function (section 116) is to achieve the purposes in section 115 which includes preparing and approving Te Tāhoratanga in accordance with subpart 4 of part 3 of the Act.
13. **Te Tāhoratanga** is a catchment document to provide vision, values, issues and desired outcomes for the catchment, to provide guidance to decision-makers and a strategy for, and recommended actions, objectives and policies to achieve, the outcomes (section 123). Under section 124 of the Act, it has legal effect for future decision-making under various Acts including the Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**).
14. Schedule 6 of the Act provides for the administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā. Clause 7 of Schedule 6 is explicit in requiring Horizons Regional Council to provide administrative support, including holding and expending funds at its direction, and providing technical

support "from existing work programmes and must endeavour to accommodate unbudgeted resource requests from Ngā Wai Tōtā where possible".

15. Schedule 7 sets out the statutory obligations for the preparation, approval and review of Te Tāhoratanga.
16. Dr Lizzie Daly, Group Manager Strategy Regulation and Science, has provided further background information attached as **Appendix 2**. Recommendations f) and g) were to approve or agree in principle administrative costs which arise from the Council's obligations under the Act. Dr Daly noted that the two part-time roles approved in principle, subject to future annual plan or long-term plan confirmation, would be employees of Horizons Regional Council.

D. PROCESS

17. In addition to reviewing Cr Pue's Pecuniary Interests Return, I met with him and his legal counsel by audio visual link on 24 June 2026.
18. Cr Pue stressed that the matter before Council related to the Council's fulfilment of statutory obligations. The funding approved was for Council activity and was not funding of any external entity. In particular, the funding was not transferred to Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust, with which he is associated. Any employees engaged as a consequence of the resolution would be employees of Horizons Regional Council. This is addressed in the memo provided by Dr Daly. Cr Pue also made it clear that he is not a member of Ngā Wai Tōtā.
19. Cr Pue receives trustee remuneration from Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust. Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust determines trustee remuneration by decision of registered members at an annual general meeting. There is no other organisation from which Cr Pue receives remuneration that is related to the activities of Ngā Wai Tōtā.
20. I provided Cr Pue and his legal counsel with an opportunity to comment on a draft of this report and I have incorporated their comments where I thought it appropriate.
21. Cr Pue requested that, in the interests of transparency and public accountability, this report and its appendices should be released to the public through consideration by the Council at its next Regional Council meeting.

E. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

22. The law relating to bias and predetermination (conflict of interest) is regulated in New Zealand local government by the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (**LAMIA**), subpart 3 of Part 4 of the LGA (Register of members' pecuniary interests), and the common law (case law).

Pecuniary interests

23. LAMIA deals only with pecuniary interests (financial interests of some sort). LAMIA has two key provisions: section 3 the contracting rule; and section 6 the pecuniary interests rule.

24. Under the contracting rule, an elected member is disqualified (and an extraordinary vacancy created) if the total of all payments made by or on behalf of the Council in respect of contracts in which the elected member is interested exceeds \$100,000 (excluding GST) in any financial year – **section 3(1)**. There are deemed interests and exemption provisions.
25. For the avoidance of doubt, I confirm that any contracts that may have arisen from the motion are not ones which would be disqualifying contracts for Cr Pue. He would not be interested in them in any sense recognised by LAMIA.
26. The pecuniary interests rule provides that a member may not vote on or take part in the discussion of any matter at a meeting (of Council or any committee) in which they have, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public – **section 6(1)**. Again, the section sets out various deemed interests and exemptions. Case law has established that indirect interests that are very remote are not caught by section 6.
27. I confirm that item 8.4 at the Council meeting of 26 May 2026, was not a matter in which Cr Pue had a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. The subject matter of the motion related to statutory obligations of the Council in relation to the administration of Ngā Wai Tōtā, and the progress of Te Tāhoratanga, neither of which had any direct financial impact on Cr Pue. It did not affect any remuneration he receives. It is difficult to conceive what indirect pecuniary benefit he might receive from the decisions. If it exists, it must be so remote that it could not legally sustain a disqualification.
28. It appears that Cr Pue's disclosures on his pecuniary interests return dated 29 October 2025 are appropriate and accordance with the requirements of sections 54A to 54F of the LGA.
29. I have found no breach of any statutory obligations.

Non-pecuniary interests

30. There is no legislation which directly regulates conflicts of interest that are not pecuniary (financial). This area of law is based on case law and the concepts of bias and predetermination. Essential to these concepts are the need to keep an **open mind** when deciding matters that have been subject to consultation (this principle of consultation is expressed in section 82(1)(e) LGA), and to act **impartially** (as provided in the statutory declaration members make under clause 14 of Schedule 7 of the LGA).
31. A financial bias is referred to as "presumptive bias" because the common law presumes that if the decision-maker has some financial interest they are necessarily biased. This is reflected in the LAMIA provisions outlined above. However, conflicts of interest (bias) can arise in various non-financial ways such as personal or family relationships, prior behaviour, involvement with interest groups/campaigns etc.
32. The law of bias certainly captures actual demonstrated bias and predetermination (where a decision has effectively been made or predetermined) by action or decision **before** the time when the decision is to be made following due process. However, the law also recognises "apparent" bias where the circumstances are such that there is a

reasonable apprehension that the decision-maker cannot bring an open, impartial mind to deciding the matter.

33. At common law, Council decisions are valid until a Court (High Court or above) determines otherwise, for example in judicial review proceedings. The Courts have established that whether bias or predetermination invalidates a decision depends on the circumstances and the nature of the decision.
34. Where the Council is acting in a judicial or quasi-judicial capacity (acting more like a judge or tribunal) such as deciding on a consenting or licensing decision through a statutory process, demonstrable impartiality will be appropriate. Where the Council is deciding matters of administration or broad policy there will be greater leniency. The Courts acknowledge that there are some matters in which elected decision-makers may be expected to "stand for" certain policy positions etc, and therefore it is less appropriate for un-elected judges to intervene.
35. The totality of the circumstances will be relevant to the exercise of a Court's discretion in approaching the issues in judicial review. This means it can be difficult to be sure in advance whether the degree of apparent partiality is disqualifying. This lends itself to a cautionary approach.
36. The Council's Code of Conduct notes the nature of non-pecuniary conflicts of interest (at p 33) including the appearance or possibility of bias. However, it does not provide any further guidance on the issue.
37. The Council's Standing Orders include the following:

20.8 Non-financial conflicts of interests

Non-financial interests always involve questions of judgement and degree about whether the responsibility of a member of a local authority could be affected by some other separate interest or duty of that member in relation to a particular matter. If a member considers that they have a non- financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter or any subsequent vote.

The member must leave the table when the matter is considered but does not need to leave the room. The minutes must record the declaration and member's subsequent abstention from discussion and voting.

Neither the Chair nor the meeting may rule on whether a member has a non-financial interest in the matter being discussed

This standing order correctly identifies that it is a matter of the member's own judgement whether a "non-financial conflict" exists. It is the responsibility of each member to identify and declare their own conflict of interest: it is not for other members to determine the issue.

38. However, the standing order appears to overstate the legal consequences. From a legal perspective, not all non-financial perceived conflicts will be invalidating. As section 14(2) of the LGA makes clear for conflicts generally, a primary consideration is to be transparent in addressing conflicts (which are inevitable in the context of local authority activity). There will be situations where a member may address a perceived conflict and explain why they do not regard it as preventing them from taking part in

discussion and voting on the matter. In this respect, I note that the minutes of the meeting record that Cr Fraser declared a potential conflict and proceeded to vote on the motion.

F. CONCLUSIONS/FINDINGS

39. Cr Pue did not have a pecuniary interest in the subject matter of item 8.4 at the Council meeting of 26 May 2026.
40. None of his actions in speaking to the report, moving the motions, and voting on it was contrary to any legislation.
41. It is evident that Cr Pue was "interested" in the subject matter of item 8.4 in various respects, including:
 - (a) The framework established by the settlement legislation which establishes Ngā Wai Tōtā and provides for Te Tāhoratanga is settlement legislation affecting iwi to which he is affiliated and in which he is evidently active in various governance roles.
 - (b) He is a trustee of Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust which appoints a representative to Ngā Wai Tōtā and is directly interested in the outcomes it achieves.
 - (c) He is likely known to be supportive of Ngā Wai Totā.
 - (d) He is the Māori constituency councillor for the part of the region to which the Act relates.
42. However, there are circumstances that strongly indicate that this is **not** a situation in which the appearance of bias or partiality would be such as to lead a Court to invalidating the decision. These include:
 - (a) The subject matter is of an administrative nature to meet specific statutory obligations.
 - (b) It is evidently an on-going policy obligation of the Council reflected in accountability documents such as the long-term plan and annual plans.
 - (c) It would be common knowledge that Cr Pue represents the Raki Māori constituency, and likely also that he has iwi affiliations and governance roles within Ngāti Rangi.
 - (d) Cr Pue may have cultural, but no financial, connections to the subject matter.
43. I conclude that Cr Pue did not act unlawfully by participating fully in the Council process relating to item 8.4.
44. Cr Pue declared his interests in his return of pecuniary interests dated 29 October 2025. I observe that best practice would have been for Cr Pue, in the meeting on 26 May 2026, to refer to his connections to the subject matter and explicitly state that he

believed he was not disqualified from participating, and why. This would have reflected the underlying reality that conflicts are not inherently wrong, it is how they are managed that is important. The key to this is that they are addressed openly and in a transparent manner.

45. However, I note that had Cr Pue done so, it may have drawn attention to the vagaries of Standing Order 20.8, which appears (incorrectly) to require that disclosure of any non-financial conflict to necessitate exclusion from further participation.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – email from Cr Gordon McKellar to all Councillors and the Chief Executive
- Appendix 2 – memo from Dr Lizzie Daly to the Chief Executive



Jonathan Salter
Consultant
Simpson Grierson
31 July 2026

Report No.	26-144
Decision Required	

ADOPTION OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2027-37 LONG-TERM PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the strategic framework for the 2027–37 Long-term Plan (LTP) and confirmation of the strategic challenges and responses that will guide development of the LTP.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. Council has developed a proposed strategic framework to guide preparation of the 2027–37 Long-term Plan and decisions made during the period covered by the LTP. The framework comprises a vision, four community outcomes and four strategic priorities and was developed through a series of elected member workshops.
- 2.2. Council selected a light-touch early engagement approach for the draft framework, reflecting both the value of community input and concern about consultation fatigue. The draft framework was available on Council's LTP webpage between 27 May and 31 July 2026, and feedback was invited directly to elected members. One written item and some verbal feedback were reported and noted at a workshop on 11 August 2026.
- 2.3. The feedback received is set out in this report for Council's consideration. Officers recommend that Council adopts the framework, with any amendments it considers appropriate, to provide a settled basis for completing the draft LTP. It is also noted if Council receives any further feedback about the strategic framework between now and audit, and the subsequent adoption of the LTP, it can consider updates however the timing of and implications on LTP will need to be assessed at the time.
- 2.4. Seven strategic challenges and proposed Council responses have also been developed. These describe the principal matters expected to shape the LTP and provide a basis for assessing subsequent service, investment and funding proposals.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-144 and Annexes.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decision on the strategic framework is significant
- c. notes the early engagement process undertaken on the draft strategic framework and the feedback received;
- d. adopts the strategic framework for the 2027–37 Long-term Plan, attached as Annex A;
- e. confirms the strategic challenges and proposed Council responses attached as Annex B as a basis for developing the 2027–37 Long-term Plan;
- f. notes that the strategic framework will guide development of the 2027–37 Long-term Plan but does not replace the strategic framework applying to decisions made under the 2024–34 Long-term Plan;
- g. notes that te reo Māori text for the elements of the strategic framework will be developed and incorporated into the framework before the deadline for audit;

- h. agrees that the public will be informed of Council's decision through the LTP webpage; and
- i. authorises the Chief Executive to approve minor editorial or formatting amendments to the strategic framework and strategic challenges that do not alter their substance.

4. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

4.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Nil

4.1.1. This report supports the preparation of the 2027–37 Long-term Plan.

4.1.2. The proposed framework and its relationship to the 2027–37 Long-term Plan are discussed in sections 9 and 10 of this report.

4.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's communities are vibrant and empowered

4.2.1. The development of the 2027–37 Long-term Plan contributes to the current community outcome that the region's communities are vibrant and empowered by providing a transparent basis for Council's future priorities, activities and investment decisions.

4.2.2. The proposed community outcomes for the 2027–37 Long-term Plan are described in sections 9 and 10 and set out in full in Annex A.

4.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Long-term Plan

5. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

5.1. Significance Assessment

5.1.1. The decision to adopt a strategic framework is significant because it is the basis for all Council decision making for the period of the Long-term Plan.

5.1.2. The following assessment has been made against the criteria from section 4(b) of the Significance and Engagement Policy:

i. The number of people who may be affected	Yes - Council's priorities and community outcomes will shape decisions that will potentially impact communities and the whole region.
ii. The potential impact on any affected person or persons	Yes – Council decisions made in alignment with its priorities and community outcomes have the potential to impact people, particularly where there is a change to the status quo.
iii. Whether the matter has a history of wide public interest in the region, or is likely to generate considerable public interest	No - It is not expected that the decision in this report will generate wide public interest.
iv. Whether the decision is permanent or can be reversed, such as the potential	Can be reversed – Council can adjust its adopted strategic framework either before audit

impact on the environment	or before the final adoption of the LTP if it was deemed necessary. Any changes that would have a material impact on LTP timing or content, would need to be fully considered at the time a change is proposed.
v. Whether the decision involves a strategic asset	Yes – This strategic framework will guide decisions made about Council's strategic assets.
vi. Whether the decision is likely to be of high interest to Māori	Possibly – Council's strategic priorities and community outcomes may be of high interest to Māori.
vii. The impact the decision will have on Council's resources and/or future direction	Yes - Council's priorities and community outcomes will shape decisions that will impact Council's resources and/or future direction.
viii. Financial consequences to Council	Yes - Council's priorities and community outcomes will shape its financial decisions.
ix. Alignment with Council's vision and community outcomes	No – Council has updated its vision and community outcomes for the 2027-37 LTP.
x. Alignment with Council's policies and plans	Yes – the new framework may impact future policy and planning decisions.

- 5.1.3. If Council modifies this assessment, the reasons for the modification should be recorded in the meeting minutes in accordance with the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement recommendation

- 5.2. Council selected a light-touch early engagement approach for the LTP, balancing the value of ongoing community input with concern about consultation fatigue. The draft framework was made publicly available for approximately two months, feedback was invited through the LTP webpage to elected members, supported by a media release, social media posts and the public record of Council's decisions. The feedback received is set out in this report for Council's consideration.
- 5.3. A small number of responses does not, by itself, indicate whether the wider community supports or opposes the framework. Council should consider the feedback received alongside its existing knowledge of community views and determine whether any amendment is required before adoption.
- 5.4. If Council adopts the framework, the recommended level of engagement following the decision is Inform. The LTP webpage will be updated with the decision, and the wider proposals developed under the framework will be consulted on through the LTP special consultative procedure.

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 6.1.1. There is no additional financial commitment arising directly from the decisions sought in this report. The costs of preparing the 2027–37 Long-term Plan are provided for in existing budgets.
- 6.1.2. The framework and strategic challenges will inform subsequent service and funding proposals. The financial implications of those proposals will be assessed separately through development of the draft Long-term Plan..

7. CLIMATE IMPACT

- 7.1. The decisions sought in this report have no direct climate impact. However, the proposed framework recognises climate-related risks through its emphasis on resilient communities, environmental stewardship and long-term regional resilience.

- 7.2. The climate impacts of specific activities and investment proposals developed under the framework will be assessed as part of subsequent Long-term Plan decision-making.

8. RISK

- 8.1. The following risks have been identified in relation to the matters raised in this report:
- 8.1.1. **Strategic: Low** – Adoption provides a settled framework for the remaining LTP development and reduces the risk of inconsistent direction.
- 8.1.2. **Environmental: Low** – The decision has no direct environmental effect, although the framework will influence later environmental priorities and investment decisions.
- 8.1.3. **Financial: Low** – The decision creates no direct financial commitment, with financial effects to be assessed through subsequent LTP decisions.
- 8.1.4. **Compliance: Low** – The early engagement process provided information and an opportunity for feedback, and the feedback received is before Council for consideration.
- 8.1.5. **Operational: Low** – Adoption does not directly change Council activities, service levels or operational responsibilities.
- 8.1.6. **Reputational: Low** – Some may have preferred more engagement however Council can demonstrate the rationale, duration and accessibility of the light touch approach taken.
- 8.1.7. **Other** - No other risks have been identified.

9. BACKGROUND

Strategic Framework

- 9.1. The Local Government Act 2002 requires a long-term plan to describe the community outcomes for the local authority's district or region. Community outcomes provide a basis for explaining the results Council is seeking for its community and how its activities contribute to those results.
- 9.2. Council developed the proposed framework through four workshops held on 25 February, 4 March, 18 March and 6 May 2026. This work built on an independently facilitated elected member strategy session held on 3 and 4 February 2026, at which elected members identified initial priorities for further development.
- 9.3. Successive drafts were refined in response to feedback provided during and following the workshops. Two elected members then worked with officers to prepare the draft considered at the 6 May workshop. The draft also took account of the anticipated direction of local government and resource management reforms.
- 9.4. The approach to early engagement was discussed with elected members on 10 March and revisited on 31 March. The discussion reflected a range of views, from informing the community to actively seeking feedback, together with concern about consultation fatigue. Elected members indicated a preference for a transparent and accessible LTP webpage through which information could be shared as the process progressed.
- 9.5. Council confirmed this approach on 21 April 2026 through Report No. 26-63. On 26 May 2026, after considering engagement options and their advantages and disadvantages, Council endorsed the strategic framework as a draft and agreed to invite public feedback through the LTP webpage between 27 May and 31 July 2026.
- 9.6. The draft framework was available on the webpage for approximately two months. Feedback was invited directly to elected members, supported by a media release, social media posts and the public record of Council's decisions. Elected Members noted their intention to discuss the framework with their communities. Before the 11 August workshop,

elected members were asked to forward any feedback they had received so it could be considered collectively.

- 9.7. Council's proposed strategic framework is summarised below. The full framework is attached as Annex A.

Vision:

Our region where people and land are nourished

Community Outcomes:

Resilient communities

Our region's communities are flourishing. They are well prepared, adaptable and resilient to natural hazards, environmental and climate related risks.

Healthy environment

Our region's natural environment is healthy and resilient, supporting native biodiversity and delivering important ecosystem services that sustain our communities and the economy, now and into the future.

Prosperous economy

Our region's economy is strong and sustainable, enabled by effective local infrastructure, services and systems that deliver opportunity, innovation and improved wellbeing.

Strong relationships

Our region's communities are enabled to participate meaningfully in decision making processes and take action to benefit our collective wellbeing. Mutually beneficial relationships with our community, iwi and hapū are respectful and mana-enhancing.

Strategic Priorities:

Priority 1: Resilience

Our region anticipates and responds to risks.

Priority 2: Stewardship

Our natural assets are enjoyed by and protected for current and future generations.

Priority 3: Prosperity

Our region is prosperous, enhancing social and economic wellbeing.

Priority 4: Partnerships

Our processes are participatory and pragmatic, and include meaningful engagement with Māori.

- 9.8. Te reo Māori text for the elements of the framework is yet to be developed and will be incorporated before the deadline for audit.

Strategic Challenges

- 9.9. Seven strategic challenges have been identified from Council's environmental scanning, reform monitoring, strategic framework development and elected member workshops. They describe the principal external and organisational issues expected to influence development and delivery of the 2027–37 Long-term Plan.
- 9.10. Council is not statutorily required to adopt a separate set of strategic challenges. Confirming them provides a transparent and consistent basis for testing service, funding proposals as the LTP is developed.
- 9.11. The strategic challenges were drafted by officers with input from elected members. A stable draft was circulated prior to the workshop on 11 August 2026 for further feedback

from elected members. It was requested that a Council response to each challenge be added. The updated draft has been circulated amongst Councillors for feedback. Since no Council hui have taken place since those updates have been made, a tracked version will be provided as an attachment to this report (Annex B).

- 9.12. If confirmed, the challenges and responses will sit alongside the strategic framework, environmental scan and forecasting assumptions as part of the evidence base for the LTP.
- 9.13. An updated environmental scan and forecasting assumptions will be presented to Council at a workshop in early October 2026.

10. DISCUSSION

Feedback received on the strategic framework

- 10.1. Elected members reported at the 11 August 2026 workshop that a written item and some verbal feedback had been received.
 - 10.1.1. The written feedback sought greater emphasis on climate-change mitigation, decarbonisation and nature-based solutions within the Resilience priority and Resilient Communities outcome. The feedback has been circulated to elected members.
 - 10.1.2. One item of verbal feedback considered that public transport was not sufficiently visible in the framework. Council may consider whether this relationship should be made more explicit in the framework or addressed through the relevant LTP activity and investment material.
 - 10.1.3. The remaining verbal feedback was generally positive and did not identify a specific amendment.
- 10.2. The limited volume of feedback is not treated as evidence either of general support for or opposition to the framework. Council should consider the feedback received with an open mind, alongside the work undertaken through its workshops and elected members' knowledge of their communities.

Adoption of the framework

- 10.3. The early engagement approach attempted to balance the desire to seek community input without overloading the community with council requests for feedback during a busy time of other consultation. The draft strategic framework was publicly available, feedback was encouraged through several channels, the period for response was approximately two months, and the feedback received is now before Council for consideration.
- 10.4. On this basis, officers consider it reasonable for Council to adopt the framework now, with any amendments it considers appropriate. Adoption will provide a settled basis for completing the financial and infrastructure strategies, activity information, budgets and consultation material.
- 10.5. Detailed service, funding and rating proposals will continue to be developed and will be subject to the LTP consultation and decision-making process.
- 10.6. Finally, Council does have a choice about whether it wishes to provide a further opportunity for feedback through the formal LTP consultation process, if it does not think it is in a position to adopt now based on the feedback received and members' knowledge of their communities.
- 10.7. If Council adopts the framework today, and subsequently receives further feedback it wishes to incorporate, the windows of opportunity for tweaks are prior to adoption for audit, and prior to final adoption of the LTP. The implications on LTP process and content will need to be assessed at the time.

Relationship with the current Long-term Plan

- 10.8. The 2026/27 financial year is Year 3 of the 2024–34 Long-term Plan. Until the 2027–37 Long-term Plan is adopted, formal decisions under the current LTP must continue to be made within its adopted strategic and financial framework.
- 10.9. Council may have regard to the direction indicated by the proposed 2027–37 framework when making decisions relating to Year 3 of the current LTP. However, it should not be used as the sole or determinative basis for a decision that would materially depart from the adopted 2024–34 Long-term Plan.

Strategic Challenges

- 10.10. The proposed responses to the seven strategic challenges are intended to guide, rather than predetermine, subsequent LTP decisions. They provide a common basis for assessing whether proposed activities, levels of service and investments are consistent with Council's intended direction.
- 10.11. In confirming the challenges and responses, Council should consider whether they capture the most material issues, provide sufficiently clear guidance, align with the strategic framework, and support assessment of competing service and funding proposals.
- 10.12. Subject to any amendments agreed at this meeting, officers recommend that Council confirm the strategic challenges and responses in Annex B.

11. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 11.1. Following adoption of the strategic framework and confirmation of the strategic challenges:
- the framework and challenges will be incorporated into the 2027–37 Long-term Plan development material;
 - subsequent service and budget proposals will be assessed against the framework and guided by the responses associated with the strategic challenges;
 - an updated environmental scan and forecasting assumptions will be workshopped with Council in early October 2026;
 - the financial and infrastructure strategies, activity information and draft budgets will be developed consistently with the agreed direction;
 - the public will be informed of Council's decision through the LTP webpage; and
 - Council will consider the key issues and options proposed for inclusion in the LTP consultation document through the agreed work programme.

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 **Group Manager Governance Engagement &
Transformation**

 Rebecca Bell
 LTP Project Manager

Approved by Cara Hesselin
 **Group Manager Governance Engagement &
Transformation**

 Michael McCartney
 Chief Executive

 Nikki Riley
 Chair

ANNEXES

- A Draft Strategic Framework
- B Draft Strategic Challenges (to be distributed separately)

Strategic Framework for 2027-37 LTP

Introduction

Our Strategic Framework presents our vision for the region, the community outcomes we seek to achieve and our strategic priorities. These continue to guide our decisions, ensuring we deliver durable, efficient, and community-focused services for our region.

Vision



Our region where people and land are nourished

Community Outcomes



Resilient Communities

Our region's communities are flourishing. They are well prepared, adaptable and resilient to natural hazards, environmental and climate related risks.



Healthy Environment

Our region's natural environment is healthy and resilient, supporting native biodiversity and delivering important ecosystem services that sustain our communities and the economy, now and into the future.



Prosperous Economy

Our region's economy is strong and sustainable, enabled by effective local infrastructure, services and systems that deliver opportunity, innovation and improved wellbeing.



Strong Relationships

Our region's communities are enabled to participate meaningfully in decision making processes and take action to benefit our collective wellbeing. Mutually beneficial relationships with our community, iwi and hapu are respectful and mana-enhancing.

Strategic Priorities

Horizons Regional Council is focused on four key priorities: **resilience, stewardship, prosperity, and partnerships**. These priorities guide how we make decisions, allocate resources, and measure success. Shared priorities align governance and operational decisions and ensure limited resources are directed to what matters most.

These priorities operate alongside Council’s statutory responsibilities and legal obligations. When Council makes decisions, we will consider how options contribute to these priorities. The goal is not to maximise one priority at the expense of the others, but to choose options that best support the region’s long-term resilience, environment, prosperity, and relationships.

In practice, this means:

- Staff develop options with these priorities in mind.
- Council debates and decides using these priorities as the frame.
- The community can see the rationale for decisions.
- Disagreement happens on shared terms, not competing agendas.

These priorities will:	These priorities will not:
• Help make decisions where values and trade-offs compete. • Guide project sequencing and budget allocation. • Shape policy direction and organisational focus. • Improve consistency across decisions.	• Lock Council into predetermined projects. • Replace statutory obligations or public debate. • Prevent innovation or alternative options. • Eliminate disagreement.

Priority 1: Resilience



Our top priority is ensuring the region can anticipate, withstand, and recover from external risks. These risks include natural hazards, climate change, biosecurity threats, infrastructure failure, economic shocks, and environmental pressures.

In practice this will mean:

- Building adaptive capacity into infrastructure, systems, and services.
- Strengthening emergency preparedness and response capability.
- Investing in technology and innovation to improve foresight and flexibility.
- Managing land use and natural systems in ways that reduce long-term risk.
- Tracking and improving resilience indicators over time.

Decision prompt: Which option leaves the region better able to anticipate, absorb, and recover from shocks?

Priority 2: Stewardship



We are responsible for protecting and improving land, air, water, and biodiversity while enabling people to live, work, and produce in the region. We recognise that stewardship requires long-term thinking and careful management of natural systems.

In practice this will mean:

- Promoting options that improve long-term environmental conditions.
- Protecting and restoring waterways, ecosystems, and biodiversity.
- Supporting sustainable land and water use.
- Avoiding decisions that create long-term environmental risks.

Decision prompt: Which option best promotes long-term environmental health?

Priority 3: Prosperity



A prosperous region relies on clear rules, reliable infrastructure, and sustainable resource use. We recognise that our role creates environmental and regulatory conditions that enable communities and businesses to invest with confidence, produce effectively, and live well here.

In practice this will mean:

- Providing clear, consistent, and timely regulatory decisions.
- Supporting productive and sustainable land and water use.
- Investing in flood protection, transport planning, and environmental management.
- Reducing unnecessary barriers and delays where we can.
- Working with others to align plans and investments.
- Considering economic and social impacts alongside environmental outcomes.

Decision prompt: Which option best supports regional prosperity and wellbeing?

Priority 4: Partnerships



We recognise that good outcomes depend on strong relationships. We will work with communities, iwi and hapū, partners, and stakeholders in ways that are practical, transparent, and focused on results. Our processes will be fair, consistent and collaborative, building trust in the system.

In practice this will mean:

- Involving people early enough to influence outcomes.
- Working in partnership with Māori as Treaty partners.
- Supporting community-led and collaborative solutions.
- Using clear, consistent, and efficient processes.
- Reducing unnecessary complexity, delay, and rework.

Decision prompt: How can we do this with our community and partners, not to them?

Placeholder for Annex B

Draft Strategic Challenges
(to be distributed separately)

Report No.	26-145
Decision Required	

COMMUNITY GRANTS PANEL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To consider changes to the decision-making arrangements for Council's contestable community grants, in order to improve functioning of the decision-making process and balance the draw on councillor time.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-145 and Annex.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform
- c. discharges the following panel members from the panel: [insert names here]
- d. appoints the following members to the panel: [insert name here]
- e. reduces the quorum of the Community Grants Panel from five to three, **OR**
- f. delegates the authority to approve the allocation of grants to the Chief Executive and discharge the Community Grants Panel.

3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Nil

3.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's communities are vibrant and empowered

- 3.2.1. Council's contestable community funds are established in order to empower communities to act on matters that Council deems important.

3.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Climate Change Action Plan
- Long-term Plan
- Annual Plan

- 3.3.1. See Section 6 for further context about the connection to the Climate Change Action Plan.

4. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Significance Assessment

- 4.1.1. Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no financial impact arising from these matters.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT

- 6.1. The Community Grants Panel (the Panel) is responsible for the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi | Community Climate Response Fund. This Fund delivers on Council's 'empowering communities' focus area, as set out in Council's Climate Action Plan. Improving the functioning of the Panel will assist in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and its adaptation and mitigation objectives.

7. RISK

- 7.1. The following risks have been identified in relation to the matters raised in this report:

- 7.1.1. **Reputational:** Delayed decisions on Grant applications may damage the confidence potential applicants have in the process.

Mitigation: Council adoption of officer recommendations.

8. BACKGROUND

- 8.1. A delegation is the transfer of a responsibility, duty or power from the Council to a subordinate decision-making body, or to the Chief Executive or a Council officer. Any delegation includes the authority to make decisions under delegated authority on behalf of Council, unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 8.2. Key principles of delegation are recorded in section 1.2 of the Delegations Manual. This recommendation has been prepared having regard to these principles. An important principle of delegation is to delegate decision-making to the lowest competent level.
- 8.3. At the beginning of the triennium, Council agreed to establish a single subordinate decision-making body to approve the allocation of grants across the five contestable funds Horizons has (resolution 25-34). The terms of reference are provided in Annex A. These funds are:
1. Don Linklater Memorial Bursary
 2. Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi | Community Climate Response Fund
 3. Regional Freshwater Community Grants
 4. Manawatū Freshwater Community Grants
 5. Kanorau Koiora Taketake | Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant
- 8.4. The Panel replaced a sub-committee in the case of the Bursary and replaced the informal arrangements which existed for the other four grants.
- 8.5. In workshopping the draft terms of reference with councillors, officers suggested a quorum of three. Councillors indicated a preference for a quorum of five and subsequently established the panel with a requirement for a quorum of five.
- 8.6. Eight councillors were appointed to the panel: Crs Nikki Riley, Fiona Gordon, Alan Taylor, Sally Dryland, Peter Wells, Luka Jansen, Wiremu Te Awe Awe and Hamish Easton.

- 8.7. Since the establishment of the panel, despite best intentions, it has been increasingly difficult to find five panel members to attend a panel meeting (whether in-person or online) due to conflicting and busy schedules. The panel was unable to establish a quorum and make decisions for the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi | Community Climate Response Fund, firstly on 18 June 2026, then again on 1 July (except for one application requiring urgent assessment for a mid-July event). A quorum was finally reached on 8 July and decisions made. Applicants were not notified of whether they were successful or not until ten weeks after applications closed, three weeks later than in previous years.
- 8.8. It was also challenging to book sessions to discuss other grants and the draw on time was heavier for some councillors than others. Some councillors were part of decisions for a number of the grants, and others less involved, so the balance of workload has not as even as it could be due to needing five (of eight) members each time.

9. DISCUSSION

- 9.1. Council may wish to consider whether the current mix of councillors on the panel have sufficient availability for the panel to operate. Council has the power to appoint or discharge members of the panel at any time.
- 9.2. Officers recommend reducing the quorum to three. This would be a sensible minimum number of members in order to make a balanced decision. While the panel is not a committee, it is useful to note that the Local Government Act 2002 requires that a quorum for a committee be no fewer than two members of the committee. A quorum of three does not stop more panel members attending meetings, rather it means if only three attend, decisions can be made rather than the meeting having to be rescheduled, delaying funding decisions and creating an inconvenience for those members who did attend.
- 9.3. The alternative to a subordinate decision-making body is to delegate the decision-making authority to the Chief Executive. Council may wish to consider whether it has time to for such a panel to function, given the other demands on Council's time at this time of rapid reform. If Council does not believe it can operate the Community Grants Panel, then it would be appropriate to delegate the panel's function to the Chief Executive. It's noted councillors who wish to be could still be involved in the process, and reporting would come to Council, but the delegation for granting the funding, and in a timely manner, would sit with the Chief Executive.

10. TIMELINE/NEXT STEPS

- 10.1. Officers will update the Panel terms of reference in accordance with Council's decision.

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Andrew Watt
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Approved by Cara Hesselin
Group Manager Governance Engagement & Transformation
Michael McCartney
Chief Executive
Nikki Riley
Chair

ANNEXES

A Grants Funding Panel

Community grants panel

Membership

Chair	x
Deputy Chair	x
Members	Cr Nikki Riley Cr Fiona Gordon Cr Hamish Easton Cr Luka Jansen Cr Alan Taylor Cr Wiremu Te Awe Awe Cr Sally Dryland Cr Peter Wells
Quorum	5
Frequency of meetings	As required

Status

Purpose

Allocation and monitoring of the Council's contestable community grants.

Role

1. Approve the allocation of grants in line with the relevant criteria for the
 - a. Don Linklater Memorial Bursary
 - b. Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi | Community Climate Response Fund
 - c. Regional Freshwater Community Grants
 - d. Manawatū Freshwater Community Grants
 - e. Kanorau Koiora Taketake | Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant
2. Monitor the progress of grant recipients and ensure compliance with grant conditions, as required.
3. Review the criteria for grant funds and recommend changes to the relevant committee of the whole or Council

Power to Act

To approve the allocation of grants (including funding contracts).

Power to Recommend

To any committee or Council.

This body reports to Council.

Report No.	26-146
Decision Required	

MW LASS LIMITED - EXEMPTED ORGANISATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report is to seek Council's endorsement to review the Manawatū-Whanganui Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (MW LASS) status as an 'Exempted Organisation' under the provisions of section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-146.
- b. approves that, subject to confirmation by all Local Authority Shared Services member councils, Manawatū-Whanganui Local Authority Shared Services Ltd be exempt for the purposes of section 6(4)(i) of the Local Government Act 2002 and thus not be a council-controlled organisation under that Act; and
- c. approves that this exemption applies for the period ending 25 August 2029 or until member councils determine an earlier date when this exemption should no longer apply.

3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Not applicable. The topic does not relate to Council's strategic priorities.

3.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's communities are vibrant and empowered

3.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Long-term Plan
- Annual Plan

4. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Significance Assessment

- 4.1.1. Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report.

- 4.1.2. No stakeholder engagement is required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 5.1. Nil.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT

6.1. Climate Impact Statements

6.1.1. Not applicable.

7. RISK

7.1.1. No risks have been identified.

8. BACKGROUND

- 8.1. This company was set up as a council controlled organisation during 2007-08 to provide councils in the Horizons region with an umbrella vehicle to investigate, procure, develop and deliver shared services. At its meeting on 12 March 2013 Council resolved to grant an 'Exempted Organisation' status to the company. This exemption must be reviewed no later than 30 June 2019 and every third year thereafter.

Consideration is being given to whether a further three year exemption from the Council-Controlled Organisation requirements might be an appropriate recognition for the nature of the company. That consideration requires that account be taken of the matters specified in section 7(5) of the Local Government Act 2002. The matters are:

- the nature and scope of the activities provided by the organisation; and
- the costs and benefits, if an exemption is granted, to the local authority, the council-controlled organisation, and the community.

- 8.2. The exemption has previously been granted every three years since 12 March 2013. The exemption provides for less legislative reporting and requirements for MW LASS Ltd. Mainly a formal Statement of Intent, including performance reporting, as well as presenting to shareholders a set of six-monthly accounts. However, in best practice, MW LASS normally prepares a six-monthly set of financial statements as well as an operational plan each year which does include performance reporting.
- 8.3. Secondly, while it is important to maintain reporting as part of the accountability to councils within the region, the LASS member councils are all represented by their Chief Executives on the Board of Directors. This means they are well-placed to keep their respective communities up-to-date with the activities of the LASS.
- 8.4. Council is required to review this exemption every three years, so the recommendation takes that into account and also the need to align with other member councils of the LASS.

Author(s) Craig Grant
Group Manager Corporate & Governance

Approved by Craig Grant
Group Manager Corporate & Governance
Michael McCartney
Chief Executive
Nikki Riley
Chair

ANNEXES

There are no attachments for this report.

Report No.	26-147
Decision Required	

CLIMATE SCENARIOS USED BY HORIZONS AND ALIGNMENT WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE AND EXPECTATIONS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To inform Council of recent ministerial guidance on the use of climate scenarios, how Horizons use climate scenarios in planning and infrastructure management, and the review of climate assumptions which will be updated as part of the development of the 2027-37 Long-term Plan (LTP).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. On 30 June 2026 the Minister of Climate Change, Hon. Simon Watts, wrote to all councils regarding the use of climate scenarios in planning, infrastructure investment, asset management and regulatory decision-making. The Minister emphasised that high-end climate scenarios such as Shared Socioeconomic Pathway SSP5-8.5 and Representative Concentration Pathway RCP8.5 should not automatically be adopted as the primary assumption for council decisions, but rather be treated as less-likely, high impact scenarios. Councils are expected to consider a range of credible scenarios and clearly explain their choices.
- 2.2. Horizons uses a range of climate scenarios across a range of activities including flood risk assessment, river management, infrastructure planning, climate risk assessment and strategic planning. Different scenarios are used depending on the purpose of the work, the planning horizons and relevant guidance available at the time. Higher-end scenarios are not a prediction or default setting. In most cases, higher emissions scenarios are used to understand risk exposure, undertake stress testing, and assess long-term adaptation.
- 2.3. Central government guidance has historically recommended that councils consider both mid-range and high-end climate scenarios, particularly for long-lived infrastructure and hazard assessments. Horizons practices are consistent with government guidance, and further work is underway to improve consistency across the organisation.
- 2.4. As part of preparation for the 2027-37 LTP, officers are reviewing climate assumptions alongside other key planning assumptions. No decisions have been made regarding future climate assumptions. Draft updated assumptions will be workshopped with Council as part of the LTP process at a workshop in September.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-147.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant.
- c. notes that, as an information only report, no decisions are sought regarding future climate assumptions.

4. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

4.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

4.1.1. Climate scenarios are used to understand future climate risk and inform planning, infrastructure management and resilience building activities.

4.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's communities are resilient to the impact of natural hazards and climate change

4.2.1. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Climate Action Strategy

5. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

5.1.1. Council's Significance and Engagement Policy are not triggered by matters discussed in this report or decisions sought.

5.1.2. No stakeholder engagement is required.

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

6.1. As an information only report, there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations.

6.2. Climate assumptions can influence future infrastructure investment decisions and lifecycle costs. Any financial implications associated with future climate assumptions will be considered through the development of the 2027-37 LTP and Infrastructure Strategy or other Council decision making process.

7. CLIMATE IMPACT

7.1.1. Climate scenarios provide a structured way to consider how climate conditions may change over time and assist councils to plan for uncertainty. The robust use of climate scenarios supports long-term planning helps assess how planning and infrastructure may perform under a range of future conditions.

8. RISK

8.1.1. As an information only report, no specific risks have been identified.

8.1.2. Appropriate use of climate scenarios assists Council to understand future climate-related risks and supports informed decision-making about long-term infrastructure and service delivery.

9. BACKGROUND

Minister Watts' Letter to Local Government on the use of climate scenarios

- 9.1. On 30 June 2026, the Minister of Climate Change; Hon. Simon Watts issued a letter to all councils regarding the use of climate scenarios in planning, infrastructure investment, asset management and regulatory decision-making. The Minister advised that councils should:
- use a range of credible climate scenarios;
 - clearly identify their primary planning assumptions;
 - consider affordability implications;
 - use adaptive pathways where appropriate; and
 - avoid automatically adopting high-emissions scenarios as the default planning assumption.
- 9.2. The letter highlights that SSP5-8.5 and RCP8.5 are increasingly regarded internationally as less likely but with high impact scenarios. The Government's expectation is that these scenarios are used for stress testing and contingency planning rather than automatically being treated as the most likely future.
- 9.3. The letter does not change legislation, statutory obligations or existing national guidance, rather it signals central government expectations for proportionate, transparent, evidence-based and value-for-money climate decisions.

Climate scenarios

- 9.4. Climate scenarios are used internationally to explore how climate conditions may change under different future emissions pathways. Rather than predicting a single future outcome, climate scenarios help decision-makers understand uncertainty, test options and assess how assets, communities and services may be affected under different conditions.
- 9.5. Climate science, modelling capability and sector guidance continue to evolve. Scientific discussion around SSP5-8.5 and RCP8.5 has evolved, and these scenarios are now generally regarded as less likely than when first developed reflecting global emissions reductions, technological advances and policy responses. However, they remain useful for assessing high-impact risks and stress-testing long-lived infrastructure decisions. This highlights the importance of considering a range of climate scenarios and being clear about whether a scenario is being used for planning or risk testing purposes.
- 9.6. Local government now has access to the Local Government Sector Climate Scenarios, which provide a nationally consistent framework for considering future climate risks, adaptation and transition pathways. These are being considered alongside other information as part of the review of assumptions for the 2027-37 LTP.

10. DISCUSSION

How Horizons currently uses climate scenarios

- 10.1. Horizons uses climate scenarios across a range of activities including regional climate risk assessment, flood vulnerability and hazard assessments, river management and flood protection planning, infrastructure planning and asset management, and rural resilience programmes. Horizons does not rely on a single climate scenario across all activities. The scenarios used depend on the purpose of the project or assessment, the planning horizons, relevant guidance available at the time, and the consequences of underestimating future risk. Climate scenarios are most commonly applied in river management, flood protection and infrastructure planning. Climate assumptions are

considered during project planning and design, informed by technical advice, project objectives and the intended asset lifespan. Table 1 provides a summary of key plans, projects and assessments where climate scenarios have been applied.

Table 1: Summary of key plans, projects and assessments where climate scenarios have been applied.

Project/ Plan	Climate Change Scenario(s)/ Assumption(s)	Purpose	Detail
2021 Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Risk Assessment.	RCP8.5	To identify and assess the current and future risks of climate change across the Manawatū-Whanganui region.	Evaluates the region's current and future climate-related risks across communities, infrastructure, the economy, and the natural environment. Provides a high level, regional risk overview to inform current, mid-century and end of century risk prioritisation at a regional level.
Application of SedNetNZ using updated erosion mitigations with climate change scenarios in the Horizons region to support NPS-FM 2020 implementation.	RCP2.6, RCP4.5, RCP6.0, RCP8.5	To assess how updated erosion mitigation and climate change scenarios affect sediment loads in the Horizons Region and support NPS-FM 2020 implementation.	The report applies the updated SedNetNZ model to assess sediment generation under erosion mitigation and climate change scenarios across the Horizons Region. The results support implementation of the NPS-FM 2020 by informing sediment limits and prioritising catchment management actions and estimates changes in the SLUI programme to maintain the level of programme effectiveness.
Flood Vulnerability Assessment.	<u>Rainfall</u> Scenarios included +1°C, +2°C, +3°C above current climate (which correspond to +2°C, +3°C, +4°C above the pre-industrial climate, respectively). <u>Sea Level Rise</u> 1.5m on the east coast of the region. 1.1m on the west coast of the region.		This study was undertaken to understand the relative flood risk from a range of design flood events across the Horizons Region. It identifies several strategic priorities to guide Horizon's future planning, investment, and flood risk management.

Project/ Plan	Climate Change Scenario(s)/ Assumption(s)	Purpose	Detail
River Management and Drainage Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2025.	Climate change impacts are stated as a key challenge. No specific scenario is applied in this document.	Asset Management Planning.	Agreed scheme Levels of Service do not include climate change scenario assumptions. These Levels of Service were set historically. The document identifies: <i>"The next steps before the next Long-term Plan are to identity the community's values and priorities, and review the Levels of Service, as part of movement towards an integrated catchment management approach"</i>
Room for the River Investigations.	Mean annual flood (1 in 2.33-year ARI) scaled by +25%.	Strategic assessment.	This work has been undertaken to inform discussions on options for future scheme management. To date investigations have covered the Rangitikei River, Lower Manawatu River, Ōroua River and Pohangina River.
Te Puwaha.	Sea level rise of +0.5m over a 50-year time period.	Design and construction.	This project is ongoing and includes the design and construction of river control structures on the Whanganui River. The noted sea level rise assumption was set in 2019 with specialist coastal engineering input. Design documentation reports that this assumption was at the upper limit of sea level rise predictions at the time.
Albert St Rock Lining.	None applied. Maximum parameters are set by physical constraints/limits on this project.	Design and construction	This project included the design and construction of a new erosion protection asset in the Palmerston North urban reach of the Manawatu River. Maximum design parameters are set by physical limits/constraints, i.e. the height of the adjacent stopbanks at this location. This is a typical scenario for erosion protection works.
Putiki Flood Resilience Project.	Horizons work post the 2015	Options feasibility assessment	This works was an options feasibility assessment for a

Project/ Plan	Climate Change Scenario(s)/ Assumption(s)	Purpose	Detail
	flood for impacts on the Whanganui River: -2.1 degrees of warming to 2090; -Sea level rise +0.3m. RCP6.0 to 2100 for impacts on flow in the Ngatarua Stream.		steering group with Horizons, Whanganui District Council, Waka Kotahi and Iwi representatives to help each identify and plan for infrastructure upgrades in this area in a coordinated manner. The work used a pragmatic approach to climate change assumptions and utilised published work where possible e.g. Horizons flood modelling post the 2015 flood event. This meant the scope did not need to revisit the whole Whanganui River catchment.
Rangiotu Floodgate	None applied. Maximum parameters are set by physical constraints/limits on this project.	Design.	Design and consenting of a replacement floodgate structure where the Te Kawau Drainage Scheme connects to the Ōroua River. Maximum design parameters are set by physical limits/constraints i.e. the height of the stopbanks upstream and downstream of this location. Note that within these limitations additional capacity has been designed into this structure.
Reid Line Spillway Upgrade Design.	RCP8.5 to 2100.	Design.	This project includes the raising of the spillway stopbank and upgrades of the associated infrastructure to increase the Level of Service. The climate change assumption for the project changed from RCP6.0 to RCP8.5 in 2023. This has been applied to the design flows used for setting the new stopbank crest level.
2026-Downscaled climate projections to inform rural resilience and planning (In development).	SSP1-2.6 SSP2-4.5 SSP3-7.0 SSP5.8.5	To provide climate projections to inform rural resilience building and planning. Covering the near-term (now-2040) and mid-term (2041-2060) and long-term (2080-99)	To develop A public facing interactive digital story map portraying changes in climate variables relevant to rural communities at a sub district scale.

Alignment with government guidance

- 10.2. Current central government guidance generally encourages councils to consider a range of climate scenarios, including both medium and high-emissions pathways, particularly for hazard, risk and coastal adaptation planning. High-emissions scenarios such as SSP5-8.5 continue to be included in national guidance to help assess long-term risks and uncertainty. For example, the National Adaptation Plan directs councils undertaking hazard and risk assessments to use both mid and high emission scenarios (SSP2-4.5 and SSP5.8.5) to screen for hazards and risks in coastal areas and for detailed hazard or risk assessments in coastal and high-risk non-coastal areas. While Government expectations regarding planning assumptions are evolving, some current national guidance continues to require consideration of higher-emissions scenarios for certain hazard and risk assessment purposes. The recent Ministerial letter places greater emphasis on clearly identifying the primary planning assumption, considering affordability implications, and using adaptive pathways rather than automatically planning for worst-case scenarios.
- 10.3. Horizons' current use of climate scenarios is generally consistent with national guidance and reflects the purpose and context of individual projects and assessments. High emissions scenarios continue to have a role in understanding risk exposure, stress testing infrastructure and assessing adaptation options. Their use does not necessarily mean they are adopted as the primary planning assumption.
- 10.4. Horizons uses a range of climate scenarios across its planning, infrastructure management and risk assessment activities. Higher-emissions scenarios have historically been used in line with national guidance and remain useful for understanding potential high-impact risks and testing the resilience of long-lived infrastructure. Their use supports consideration of future asset performance, levels of service and the costs of maintaining and renewing infrastructure over time, helping ensure decisions remain robust under a range of plausible future conditions.

Why planning for future climate risk remains important

- 10.5. Recent severe weather events across the Horizons Region demonstrate why councils continue to consider a range of climate futures, including higher-impact scenarios. Flooding, erosion and storm events have affected communities, infrastructure and productive land across the region in recent years. These events highlight that extreme weather can have substantial social and economic consequences, even before the full effects of future climate change are realised. While a "1-in-100-year event" is often interpreted as occurring only once every 100 years, it is more accurately an event with a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. As climate conditions change, the frequency and severity of flooding and other natural hazards may also change, meaning events previously considered uncommon may occur more frequently. Climate scenarios help Horizons assess how communities, infrastructure and services may perform under a range of future conditions, supporting informed decisions about long-term infrastructure investment and asset management.

Climate change assumption development for the 2027-37 LTP

- 10.6. Climate assumptions used in the 2024-34 LTP were informed by the 2021 Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Risk Assessment and reflected the best information available at the time. Since then, updated climate projections, sector guidance and Government expectations have emerged. Officers are reviewing climate assumptions that will inform development of the 2027-37 LTP and will workshop these with elected members in September.
- 10.7. This review is important because climate assumptions influence long-term infrastructure planning, asset management and the Infrastructure Strategy. This includes understanding

future risks, asset performance, potential lifecycle costs and the affordability of future investment decisions.

- 10.8. A range of climate scenarios and planning approaches are being considered as part of this work. No decisions have been made regarding the climate assumptions that may be adopted for the 2027-37 LTP. Draft assumptions will be presented to Council through the LTP workshop process before any decisions are made.

11. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 11.1. Draft climate assumptions and other key LTP assumptions will be presented to Council through planned workshops in September 2026. Feedback from these workshops will inform development of the draft 2027-37 LTP and Infrastructure Strategy. Any proposed climate assumptions will be considered by Council through the normal LTP decision-making process.

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ANNEXES

There are no attachments for this report.

Report No.	26-148
Decision Required	

REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a summary and analysis of the submissions received on "Protecting our region together - Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document" as well as the full submissions to support the review of the **Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)**.
- Seek adoption of high-level direction to assist officers to develop the proposal under the **Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act)** for the review of the RPMP.
- Seek adoption of the drafting-gate framework to assist officers to efficiently develop the proposal document by narrowing down the species of interest.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-148 and Annexes.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.
- c. receives the full submissions: Protecting our region together - Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document included at Annex A.
- d. receives the Summary of submissions: Protecting our region together - Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document included at Annex B.
- e. adopts the High-level direction to support the development of the Regional Pest Management Plan Review proposal included at Annex C.
- f. adopts the Drafting-gate framework included at Annex D.

3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua
- A holistic approach, from the mountains to the sea (integrated catchment management)

3.1.1. This decision supports the strengthening of partnerships with tangata whenua through reporting back on and considering the submissions received on the discussion document.

3.1.2. Biosecurity work, particularly through the RPMP, plays an important role in integrated catchment management, supporting other areas of work and the priority habitats programme.

3.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's communities are vibrant and empowered



Our region's ecosystems are healthy



Our region's economy is thriving and environmentally sustainable



Our region's relationship with iwi and hapū are respectful and mana-enhancing

3.2.1. The benefit to the community of this work is to enable a reviewed RPMP that better serves the needs of the community and the environment.

3.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Regional Pest Management Plan
- Long-term Plan
- Annual Plan
- One Plan

3.4. The matters in this report align directly with the work programme associated with the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan. The Biosecurity Act 1993 directs how Councils are to review a Regional Pest Management Plan.

3.5. The matters in this report will go on to inform the proposal for the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan. Council must be satisfied that the proposal is not inconsistent with a regional policy statement or regional plan made under the Resource Management Act 1991, in this case the One Plan.

3.6. The matters in this report will go on to inform the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan which is interrelated with the Long-term and Annual Plans in that the review must be funded, and the implementation of the reviewed Regional Pest Management Plan must also be funded and may inform decisions on the Long-term and Annual Plans.

4. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Significance Assessment

4.1.1. The decisions discussed in this report are not considered to be significant on the basis of the following criteria from section 4(b) of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2023:

- i. The number of people who may be affected - there are no direct impacts from this report, however, all occupiers of land could potentially be affected by the reviewed RPMP.
- ii. The potential impact on any affected person or persons - there are no direct impacts from this report, but the reviewed RPMP may impose costs on occupiers of land. There are also potential economic, environmental, and social benefits to the affected persons due to the outcomes of pest management.
- iii. Whether the matter has a history of wide public interest in the region, or is likely to generate considerable public interest - this project is likely to have a high degree of

public interest, as indicated by the number of submissions on the discussion document.

- iv. Whether the decision is permanent or can be reversed, such as the potential impact on the environment - the decision to receive the summary of submissions on the discussion document is a permanent decision, however, the contents of the summary does not indicate permanent decisions. The proposal document to initiate the review of the RPMP is yet to come
- v. Whether the decision involves a strategic asset - this decision does not involve a strategic asset.
- vi. Whether the decision is likely to be of high interest to Māori - this decision is likely to be of high interest to Māori.
- vii. The impact the decision will have on Council's resources and/or future direction - this decision will have no direct impact; however, the submissions and high-level policy direction will inform the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan which will have funding and resourcing implications.
- viii. Financial consequences to Council - this decision will have no direct impact; however, the submissions and high-level policy direction will inform the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan which will have funding and resourcing implications.
- ix. Alignment with Council's vision and community outcomes - this decision will support Council's community outcomes of strengthening partnerships with tangata whenua, and a holistic approach, from the mountains to the sea (integrated catchment management).
- x. Alignment with Council's policies and plans - the outcomes from the consultation associated with this decision will assist to inform the scope of the review of Council's Regional Pest Management Plan.

4.1.2. Consultation has already taken place on "Protecting our region together – Biosecurity in the Horizons region". A summary of submissions is included as Annex B. For the high-level policy positions and decision-making framework, engagement is recommended at the level of inform.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 5.1. This decision will have no direct financial impact. However, the submissions and high-level direction will inform the review of the Regional Pest Management Plan which will have funding and resourcing implications.
- 5.2. A budget of \$255,500 has been allocated for 2026/27, comprising \$150,000 from reserves and \$105,500 from rates funding. This budget will support externally provided technical advice on less well-known types of pests, including the risk and vulnerability of our region to marine pests. It will also provide external rigour to ensure that the appropriate level of assessment is applied when analysing the benefits and costs of species under various management options, and fund legal advice on due process. Other costs associated with regional plans include consultation, engagement, and document preparation.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT

- 6.1. Climate Impact Statements
 - 6.1.1. This decision is likely to result in no direct impact on greenhouse gas emissions.
 - 6.1.2. The broader work programme may have positive climate impacts in terms of the increased resilience of our region's ecosystems from the outcomes of pest management.

- 6.1.3. The decision is not directly likely to have an impact on limiting future adaptation options or capacity to adapt to climate change.
- 6.1.4. The decision is not a direct response to a changing climate.
- 6.1.5. The decision supports the Climate Action Strategy in that pest management supports the resilience of our region's ecosystems.

7. RISK

- 7.1. The following risks have been identified in relation to the matters raised in this report:

- 7.1.1. **Reputational:** If the submissions on the discussion document are not received and considered, this may erode community trust and willingness to participate in future engagements. Public and partner expectations may not align with what the RPMP review can and can't deliver. There are several legislative and cost-benefit requirements that determine what can be included in the proposed plan. There is also potential for confusion about responsibilities across the wider biosecurity system including where Horizons Regional Council fits in, and where sector and system partners hold multiple roles (including as regulated parties). This may result in a risk of building expectations of pest management activity that may not be affordable.

Mitigation: Receive the summary of submissions included as Annex B and the full submissions included as Annex A. Use neutral, consistent communications that clearly explain scope, roles, and timeframes, supported by targeted pre-engagement with iwi/hapū and key stakeholders.

8. BACKGROUND

- 8.1. On 24 February 2026, Council adopted the resolution of the 10 February 2026 Strategy & Policy Committee recommendation to approve proceeding with public consultation on Protecting our region together – Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document.
- 8.2. Submissions received on the consultation were workshopped with elected members on 11 August.
- 8.3. The 11 August workshop also included discussions on high-level direction to assist officers to develop Council's proposal document, decision-making criteria to narrow down the species of interest for the plan, and decision-making criteria for how to deal with species outside of the RPMP.

9. DISCUSSION

Submissions

- 9.1. Consultation on "Protecting our region together – Biosecurity in the Horizons Region" opened on 13 March 2026, and the original closing date was 30 April. However, due to emergency events within the region and a request from submitters, this date was extended to 15 May.
- 9.2. One hundred and seventy-six (176) submissions were received during the submissions period. We continue to receive feedback from iwi/hapū with three submissions received at the time of writing.
- 9.3. During the consultation period, officers attended the Rural Games and Central Districts Field Days. The dedicated RPMP review inbox was used to manage queries and feedback. Staff were given the opportunity to attend four drop-in online information sessions about the consultation so that they could provide information and consistent messaging as part of their BAU. The customer service team managed a number of queries and submissions.

- 9.4. The consultation was promoted via a media release, interviews with local media outlets by Horizons staff, organic social media posts, and a limited budget spent on digital advertising.
- 9.5. A summary of submissions is included as Annex B. Key themes included:
 - 9.5.1. Strong support for pest management and shared responsibility between Horizons, occupiers, and agencies.
 - 9.5.2. Prioritisation of environmental values.
 - 9.5.3. Significant interest in the addition of new species to the RPMP.
 - 9.5.4. Concerns about affordability and fairness.
 - 9.5.5. Requests for increased education, resourcing, and other support.
- 9.6. 83 different species were raised through submissions.

High-level direction

- 9.7. Based on the feedback heard through submissions, officers have developed four pieces of high-level direction, with a mind to the requirements of the Act and the **National Policy Direction on Pest Management 2015 (NPD)**. These were discussed at the 11 August workshop with elected members and are included as Annex C.
- 9.8. The intent of the direction is for Council to increase the efficiency of the proposal development by directing officers on its priorities and preferences for programme design. Officers intend to develop more pieces of direction with Council for adoption as the process continues and options are developed.

Decision-making criteria

- 9.9. Many nuisance species are present in the region. However, as discussed at the 11 August workshop with elected members, the Biosecurity Act 1993 sets specific criteria that a species must meet to be included in a RPMP as a pest.
- 9.10. To use Horizons' resources in an efficient manner, based on feedback from the 11 August workshop, officers propose a framework to act as a "drafting gate". The drafting-gate framework is included as Annex D.
- 9.11. This drafting-gate would enable efficient decision-making about whether further resourcing should be spent to consider whether a species could become a proposal subject by following the process set out in the Act, or whether a species will clearly not meet the criteria and therefore further resourcing should not be spent on the species for the purpose of reviewing the RPMP.
- 9.12. The results of the drafting gate exercise will be determined by the best information known at the time from officer technical experts. Where there is uncertainty, officers will seek out additional information to inform the outcome. The reasons for the results will be filed for any future review.
- 9.13. Given feedback from elected members at the 11 August workshop, officers propose that criteria for how Horizons will be involved in species not included in the reviewed RPMP be developed as part of the Biosecurity Strategic Approach.

10. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 10.1. Section 100D of the Act requires Council to initiate a review with a proposal document 10 years after the plan became operative which was on 26 September 2017.
- 10.2. Officers will continue to carry out the work programme associated with the review of the RPMP, for Phase 3: proposal development, and seek Council input at relevant points.

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ANNEXES

- A Full Submissions on Protecting our region together - Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document (*Under Separate Cover*)
- B Summary of submissions: Protecting our region together - Biosecurity in the Horizons Region Discussion Document (*Under Separate Cover*)
- C High-level direction to support the development of the RPMP review proposal (*Under Separate Cover*)
- D Drafting-gate framework (*Under Separate Cover*)

Report No.	26-149
Decision Required	

COUNCILLORS' REMUNERATION AND COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES & REIMBURSEMENTS POLICY REVIEW

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report presents to Members, the remuneration for Elected Members for 2026-27 and some changes to the **Councillors Allowances & Reimbursements Policy (the Policy)** following release of the **Local Government Members (2026-27) Determination 2026 (the Determination)** by the Remuneration Authority (RA).

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-149 and Annexes.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is to inform.
- c. notes that there is no change to elected members remuneration as from 1 July 2026 as outlined in Schedule 1 Remuneration of Members of Regional Councils of the Local Government Members (2026-27) Determination 2026 (Annex A).
- d. authorises the Chief Executive to make mileage allowance payments to elected members from 1 July 2026 as outlined in Clause 10 Vehicle-kilometre Allowance of the Local Government Members 2026-27 Determination 2026 (Annex A).
- e. authorises the Chief Executive to make travel time allowance payments to elected members from 1 July 2026 as outlined in Clause 11 Travel-time Allowance of the Local Government Members 2026-27 Determination 2026 (Annex A).
- f. notes there is one change to the HRC Risk Assessment Framework for Home Security Allowance being the update of the Group Manager role from Group Manager Corporate & Governance to Group Manager Governance, Engagement and Transformation throughout the policy (Annex C).
- g. notes that in accordance with the Local Government Members 2026-27 Determination 2026 (Annex A) there have been no changes to the following:
 - i. Clause 9 Motor Vehicles for Mayors and Regional Council Chairpersons maximum purchase price,
 - ii. Clause 11 Travel-time Allowance,
 - iii. Clause 12 ICT Allowances,
 - iv. Clause 14 Home Security System Allowance,
 - v. Clause 16 Hearing Fees for hearing panel members and hearing Chairpersons.
- h. adopts the Councillors Allowance and Reimbursement Policy, with amendment covering the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (Annex B).

3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1. Council Strategic Priorities

- Not applicable. The topic does not relate to Council's strategic priorities.

3.2. Council's Community Outcomes



Our region's communities are vibrant and empowered

3.3. The matters in this report align with the following adopted policies, strategies and plans:

- Long-term Plan
- Annual Plan

4. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no financial impact arising from the Determination as these costs have been budgeted.
- 5.2. Councillor's Allowance & Reimbursement Policy has been updated to reflect the period the policy covers being from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT

- 6.1. As this item relates to administrative matters there is no climate change impact.

7. RISK

- 7.1. There are no significant business impact risks.

8. DISCUSSION

Remuneration

- 8.1. This relates to Part 1 Remuneration of Members of Regional Councils of the Local Government Members (2026-27) Determination 2026 (the Determination).
- 8.2. The Remuneration Authority sets the annual remuneration for the Chair and also for the Elected Members of Council.
- 8.3. In the Determination (Annex A), the Remuneration Authority has determined there will be no increase to the annual remuneration for the Chair and Elected Members of Horizons Regional Council for the 2026-27 year.
- 8.4. Please see the table below showing the Elected Members remuneration post 2025 Elections and the remuneration from the Remuneration Authority as at 1 July 2026.

Role	Remuneration Post Election 2025	Remuneration From 1 July 2026
Regional Council Chairperson	\$164,237.00	\$164,237.00
Regional Council Deputy Chairperson	\$70,802.00	\$70,802.00
Audit, Risk & Investment Committee Chair	\$67,970.00	\$67,970.00
Audit, Risk & Investment Committee Deputy Chair	\$56,642.00	\$56,642.00
Integrated Catchment Committee Chair	\$67,970.00	\$67,970.00
Integrated Catchment Committee Deputy Chair	\$65,138.00	\$65,138.00
Passenger Transport Committee Chair	\$67,970.00	\$67,970.00
Passenger Transport Committee Deputy Chair	\$56,642.00	\$56,642.00
Councillor with no additional responsibility	\$56,642.00	\$56,642.00
Councillor (minimum allowance Remuneration	\$52,756.00	\$52,756.00

Vehicle-kilometre Allowance

- 8.5. This relates to Clause 10 Vehicle-kilometre Allowance of the Local Government Members (2026-27) Determination 2026 (the Determination) and clause 5.2 of the Councillors Allowances & Reimbursements Policy (the Policy).
- 8.6. Councillors are entitled to a mileage allowance when using their own vehicle for “council business” (which is outlined in the Policy). The RA has advised the following changes to reflect the rate prescribed by Inland Revenue, taking effect from 1 July 2026.
- 8.7. For the first 14,000 kilometre of eligible travel in the determination term the per kilometre mileage rate is:
 - \$1.17 per kilometre to \$1.20 per kilometre if the member uses a petrol vehicle
 - \$1.26 per kilometre to \$1.30 per kilometre if the member uses a diesel vehicle
 - \$0.86 per kilometre to \$0.90 per kilometre if the member uses a petrol hybrid vehicle
 - \$1.08 per kilometre to \$1.28 per kilometre if the member uses an electric vehicle
- 8.8. After the first 14,000 kilometre of eligible travel in the determination term the per kilometre mileage rate is:
 - \$0.37 per kilometre to \$0.37 per kilometre if the member uses a petrol vehicle (no change)
 - \$0.35 per kilometre to \$0.38 per kilometre if the member uses a diesel vehicle
 - \$0.21 per kilometre to \$0.24 per kilometre if the member uses a petrol hybrid vehicle
 - \$0.19 per kilometre to \$0.23 per kilometre if the member uses an electric vehicle
- 8.9. Amendments have been made to section 5.2 Mileage for “Council Business” of the Councillors Allowance & Reimbursement Policy, with amendment, covering the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (Annex B).
- 8.10. In accordance with the Local Government Members 2026-27 Determination 2026 (Annex A) there have been no changes to the following:
 - i. Clause 9 Motor Vehicles for Mayors and Regional Council Chairpersons maximum purchase price,
 - ii. Clause 11 Travel-time Allowance,
 - iii. Clause 12 ICT Allowances,
 - iv. Clause 14 Home Security System Allowance,
 - v. Clause 16 Hearing Fees for hearing panel members and hearing Chairpersons

GST

- 8.11. All allowances set out in the Local Government Members (2026-27) Determination 2026 (the Determination) are inclusive of GST.

9. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 9.1. Once Council resolve to adopt any changes outlined in this report and in-line with the Local Government Members (2026-27) Determination 2026 (the Determination) and the Councillors Allowances & Reimbursements Policy (the Policy) any remuneration or allowance changes will be processed and backdated.
- 9.2. The Councillors Allowances & Reimbursements Policy (the Policy) will be updated to reflect the period the policy covers from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 and the change to the Vehicle-kilometre allowance.

Author(s) Trina Bishop
Team Leader Governance

Approved by Cara Hesselin
Group Manager Governance Engagement & Transformation

Michael McCartney
Chief Executive

Nikki Riley
Chair

ANNEXES

- A Local Government Members 2026-27 Determination 2026
- B Draft Councillors Allowance & Reimbursement Policy from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027
- C Draft HRC Risk Assessment Framework for Home Security Allowance

19/06/2026
PCO 29060/9.0

Local Government Elected Members (2026/27) Determination 2026

This determination is made by the Remuneration Authority under the Remuneration Authority Act 1977 and clauses 6 and 7A of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, after having regard to the matters specified in clause 7 of that schedule.

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cl 1		Local Government Elected Members (2026/27) Determination 2026
Determination		
1	Title	This determination is the Local Government Elected Members (2026/27) Determination 2026.
2	Commencement	This determination comes into force on 1 July 2026.
3	Expiry	This determination expires at the close of 30 June 2027.
<i>Interpretation</i>		
4	Interpretation	In this determination, unless the context otherwise requires,— board means— (a) a community board of a territorial authority other than the Auckland Council; or (b) a local board of the Auckland Council determination term means the period from the coming into force of this determination to its expiry hearing has the meaning given to it by clause 5 hearing time has the meaning given to it by clause 6 GST means goods and services tax payable under the Goods and Services Tax Act 1985 local authority means a regional council or a territorial authority member means, in relation to a local authority or a board, a person who is declared to be elected to that local authority or board under the Local Electoral Act 2001 or who, as the result of further election or appointment under that Act or the Local Government Act 2002, is an office holder in relation to the local authority or board (for example, a chairperson) on local authority business includes on the business of any board of the local authority regional council means a regional council named in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002 RMA means the Resource Management Act 1991 territorial authority means a territorial authority named in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
Determination 2026

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5 Meaning of hearing

In this determination, **hearing** means---

- (a) a hearing arising from a resource consent application made under section 88 of the RMA; or
- (b) a meeting for determining a resource consent application without a formal hearing; or
- (c) a hearing arising from a notice of requirement (including one initiated by the local authority); or
- (d) a pre-hearing meeting held under section 99 of the RMA in relation to a hearing referred to in paragraph (a) or (c); or
- (e) a hearing as part of the process of the preparation, change, variation, or review of a district or regional plan or regional policy statement; or
- (f) a mediation hearing in the Environment Court as part of an appeal from a decision of a local authority; or
- (g) a hearing on an objection against a charge fixed by a local authority under section 36 of the RMA.

6 Meaning of hearing time

In this determination, **hearing time** means the time spent on any of the following:

- (a) conducting a hearing;
- (b) formal deliberations to decide the outcome of a hearing;
- (c) participating in an official group site inspection related to a hearing;
- (d) determining a resource consent application where a formal hearing does not take place;
- (e) preparing for a hearing and participating in any inspection of a site for the purposes of a hearing (other than an official group site inspection under paragraph (c));
- (f) writing a decision arising from a hearing or communicating for the purpose of the written decision.

Entitlement to remuneration, allowances, and hearing fees

7 Remuneration, allowances, and hearing fees payable

Remuneration

- (1) A member of a local authority or a board of that local authority is entitled to the applicable remuneration set out in the Schedule (adjusted under clause 9, if applicable).

- Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
Determination 2026
-
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- (2) If a member of a territorial authority is also elected or appointed to a board, the member is entitled only to the remuneration that is payable to the member as a member of the territorial authority.
 - (3) A member of a local authority or a board—
 - (a) is not entitled to receive remuneration for more than 1 office at any one time; and
 - (b) who holds 2 or more offices is entitled to be paid the remuneration payable for the office with the highest remuneration.
- Allowances and hearing fees*
- (4) A member of a local authority or a board may also be entitled to—
 - (a) the applicable allowances payable in accordance with clauses 10 to 15;
 - (b) the applicable hearing fees payable under clause 16.
- 8 Acting mayor or chairperson**
- (1) This clause applies to a member who acts as a mayor or chairperson during a period when, because of a vacancy or temporary absence, the local authority is not paying the remuneration or allowances that it would usually pay to the mayor or chairperson.
 - (2) While the member is acting as mayor or chairperson, the local authority must pay the member the remuneration and allowances usually payable to the mayor or chairperson, instead of the member's usual remuneration, allowances, and hearing fees.
- 9 Motor vehicles for mayors and regional council chairpersons**
- (1) A local authority may provide to the mayor or regional council chairperson of the local authority—
 - (a) a motor vehicle (which may be provided for restricted private use, partial private use, or full private use); or
 - (b) a vehicle-kilometre allowance under clause 10.
 - (2) If a local authority provides a motor vehicle to a mayor or regional council chairperson during the determination term, the maximum purchase price that the local authority may pay for the motor vehicle is,—
 - (a) in the case of a petrol or diesel vehicle, \$60,000; and
 - (b) in the case of an electric or a petrol hybrid vehicle, \$70,500.
 - (3) If a local authority provides a motor vehicle to a mayor or regional council chairperson for restricted private use, the local authority must not make a deduction from the annual remuneration payable to the mayor or regional council chairperson under the Schedule (as applicable) for the provision of that motor vehicle.

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- (4) If a local authority provides a motor vehicle to a mayor or regional council chairperson for partial private use or full private use,—
- the local authority must adjust the annual remuneration payable to the mayor or regional council chairperson under the Schedule (as applicable) in accordance with subclause (5) or (6) (as applicable); and
 - the adjustment must take effect on and from—
 - the date of commencement of this determination (in the case of a motor vehicle provided to the person before that date); or
 - the date of provision of the motor vehicle to the person (in the case of a motor vehicle provided during the determination term).
- (5) If a local authority provides a motor vehicle to a mayor or regional council chairperson for partial private use, the local authority must deduct the amount calculated in accordance with the following formula from the remuneration payable to that person:
- $$v \times 41\% \times 10\%$$
- where v means the purchase price of the vehicle.
- (6) If a local authority provides a motor vehicle to a mayor or regional council chairperson for full private use, the local authority must deduct the amount calculated in accordance with the following formula from the remuneration payable to that person:
- $$v \times 41\% \times 20\%$$
- where v means the purchase price of the vehicle.
- (7) In this clause,—
- full private use** means that—
- the vehicle is usually driven home and securely parked by the mayor or regional council chairperson; and
 - the vehicle is available for the mayor's or regional council chairperson's unrestricted private use; and
 - the vehicle is used by the mayor or regional council chairperson for both local authority business and private use; and
 - the vehicle may also be used by other local authority members or staff on local authority business, with the permission of the mayor or regional council chairperson
- partial private use** means that—
- the vehicle is usually driven home and securely parked by the mayor or regional council chairperson; and
 - the vehicle is used by the mayor or regional council chairperson for both local authority business and private purposes; and

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cl 10	Local Government Elected Members (2026/27) Determination 2026
	(c) the vehicle may also be used by other local authority members or staff on local authority business, with the permission of the mayor or regional council chairperson; and (d) all travel in the vehicle is recorded in a logbook; and (e) the use of the vehicle for private purposes accounts for no more than 10% of the distance travelled in the vehicle in a year purchase price means the amount paid for the vehicle,— (a) including goods and services tax and any on-road costs; and (b) after deducting the amount of any rebate that applied under the former clean car discount scheme, which ended on 31 December 2023, in respect of the purchase of the vehicle restricted private use means that— (a) the vehicle is usually driven home and securely parked by the mayor or regional council chairperson; and (b) the vehicle is otherwise generally available for use by other local authority members or staff on local authority business; and (c) the vehicle is used solely for local authority business; and (d) all travel in the vehicle is recorded in a logbook. <i>Allowances</i> 10 Vehicle-kilometre allowance (1) A local authority may pay to a member a vehicle-kilometre allowance to reimburse that member for costs incurred in relation to eligible travel. (2) A member's travel is eligible for the allowance if— (a) it occurs at a time when the member is not provided with a motor vehicle by the local authority; and (b) the member is travelling— (i) in a private vehicle; and (ii) on local authority business; and (iii) by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances. (3) The allowance payable to a member for eligible travel is,— (a) for a petrol vehicle,— (i) \$1.20 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and (ii) 37 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; (b) for a diesel vehicle,—

Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
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- (i) \$1.30 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
 - (ii) 38 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term;
 - (c) for a petrol hybrid vehicle,—
 - (i) 90 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
 - (ii) 24 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term;
 - (d) for an electric vehicle,—
 - (i) \$1.22 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
 - (ii) 23 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term.
 - (4) However, if a member of a local authority travels from a place where the member permanently or temporarily resides that is outside the local authority area to the local authority area on local authority business, the member is only eligible for a vehicle-kilometre allowance for eligible travel after the member crosses the boundary of the local authority area.
 - (5) Subclause (4) does not apply to the payment of a vehicle-kilometre allowance by a local authority to a member who permanently or temporarily resides outside the local authority area if—
 - (a) the member's primary place of residence was outside the local authority area at the time of the local election, or an exceptional circumstance beyond the member's control requires them to move outside the local authority area; and
 - (b) the Remuneration Authority determines, on an application from the member and having considered the recommendation of the mayor or regional council chairperson, that subclause (4) does not apply.
- 11 Travel-time allowance**
- (1) A local authority may pay a member (other than a mayor, a regional council chairperson, a member of the governing body of the Auckland Council, the Christchurch City Council, or the Wellington City Council, or a chairperson of a local board of the Auckland Council) an allowance for eligible travel time.
 - (2) A member's travel time is eligible for the allowance if it is time spent travelling within New Zealand—
 - (a) on local authority business; and
 - (b) by the quickest form of transport that is reasonable in the circumstances; and

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- cl 12
- Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
Determination 2026
- (c) by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances.
 - (3) The travel-time allowance is \$41.30 for each hour (pro-rated in the case of a part of an hour) of eligible travel time after the first hour of eligible travel time travelled in a day.
 - (4) However, if a member of a local authority permanently or temporarily resides outside the local authority area and travels to the local authority area on local authority business, the member is only eligible for a travel-time allowance for eligible travel time—
 - (a) after the member crosses the boundary of the local authority area; and
 - (b) after the first hour of eligible travel time within the local authority area.
 - (5) Subclause (4) does not apply to the payment of a travel-time allowance by a local authority to a member who permanently or temporarily resides outside the local authority area if—
 - (a) the member's primary place of residence was outside the local authority area at the time of the local election, or an exceptional circumstance beyond the member's control requires them to move outside the local authority area; and
 - (b) the Remuneration Authority determines, on an application from the member and having considered the recommendation of the mayor or regional council chairperson, that subclause (4) does not apply.
 - (6) The maximum total amount of travel-time allowance that a member may be paid for eligible travel in a 24-hour period is 8 hours.
 - (7) Despite subclause (1), the Chatham Islands Council may pay the Mayor of the Chatham Islands Council an allowance for eligible travel time.
- 12 ICT allowances**
- Member uses local authority's ICT*
- (1) If a local authority supplies ICT to a member for use on local authority business and allows for its personal use, the local authority may decide what portion, if any, of the local authority's costs reasonably attributable to such personal use must be paid by the member.
- Member uses own equipment and consumables*
- (2) If a local authority determines that a member requires particular ICT equipment to perform their functions and requests that the member use their own equipment for those purposes, the local authority may pay an allowance.
 - (3) The matters for which the local authority may pay an allowance, and the amounts that the local authority may pay for the determination term, are as follows:
 - (a) for the use of a personal computer, tablet, or laptop, including any related docking station, \$400:

Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
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- (b) for the use of a multi-functional or other printer, \$50;
- (c) for the use of a mobile phone, \$200;
- (d) for the use of ICT consumables, up to \$200.

Member uses own services

- (4) If a local authority requests a member to use the member's own internet service for the purpose of the member's work on local authority business, the member is entitled to an allowance for that use of up to \$800 for the determination term.
- (5) If a local authority requests a member to use the member's own mobile phone service for the purpose of the member's work on local authority business, the member is entitled, at the member's option, to—
 - (a) an allowance for that use of up to \$500 for the determination term; or
 - (b) reimbursement of actual costs of phone calls made on local authority business on production of the relevant phone records and receipts.

Pro-rating

- (6) If the member is not a member for the whole of the determination term, subclauses (3) to (5) apply as if each reference to an amount were replaced by a reference to an amount calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$(a \div b) \times c$$

where—

- a is the number of days that the member held office in the determination term
- b is the number of days in the determination term
- c is the relevant amount specified in subclauses (3) to (5).
- (7) The Remuneration Authority may approve rules proposed by a local authority to meet the costs of installing and running special ICT where, because of distance or restricted access, normal communications connections are not available.
- (8) In this clause, **ICT** means information or communication technology, including—
 - (a) ICT equipment (for example, a mobile phone and a laptop computer); and
 - (b) ICT services (for example, a mobile phone service and an internet service); and
 - (c) ICT consumables (for example, printer or photocopy paper and ink cartridges).

- cl 13
- Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
Determination 2026
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- 13 Childcare allowance**
- (1) A local authority may pay a childcare allowance to an eligible member as a contribution towards expenses incurred by the member for childcare provided while the member is engaged on local authority business.
- (2) A member is eligible to be paid a childcare allowance for childcare provided for a child only if—
- (a) the member is a parent or guardian of the child or is a person who usually has responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis); and
 - (b) the child is under 14 years of age; and
 - (c) the childcare is provided by a person who—
 - (i) is not a parent of the child or a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner of the member; and
 - (ii) does not ordinarily reside with the member; and
 - (d) the member provides evidence satisfactory to the local authority of the amount paid for childcare.
- (3) A local authority must not pay childcare allowances to a member that total more than \$7,500 per child during the determination term.
- 14 Home security system allowance**
- (1) Based on a security threat and risk assessment authorised by the local authority, a local authority may reimburse the expenses of having a security system installed and monitored at a member's primary place of residence up to a maximum of—
- (a) \$4,500 for purchasing and installing the system; and
 - (b) \$1,000 in any year for monitoring, call-outs, and repairs.
- (2) A member may also be reimbursed for additional expenses for the provision of supplementary security measures at their primary place of residence if—
- (a) the security threat and risk assessment recommends that those supplementary security measures be provided to the member; and
 - (b) the Remuneration Authority, on application from the local authority, approves reimbursement of the additional expenses arising from the provision of those supplementary security measures.
- 15 Allowances inclusive of GST**
- The allowances set out in this determination are inclusive of GST.

Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
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cl 17

Hearing fees

16 Fees related to hearings

- (1) A member of a local authority or member of a board who acts as the chairperson of a hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of up to \$130 per hour of hearing time related to the hearing.
- (2) A member of a local authority or member of a board who is not the chairperson of a hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of up to \$104 per hour of hearing time related to the hearing.
- (3) For any period of hearing time that is less than 1 hour, the fee must be apportioned accordingly.
- (4) This clause does not apply to—
 - (a) a mayor or a member who acts as mayor and is paid the mayor's remuneration and allowances under clause 8(2); or
 - (b) a chairperson of a regional council or a member who acts as chairperson of a regional council and is paid the chairperson's remuneration and allowances under clause 8(2); or
 - (c) a member of the governing body of the Auckland Council, the Christchurch City Council, or the Wellington City Council; or
 - (d) a chairperson of a local board of the Auckland Council.

Revocation

17 Revocation

The Local Government Elected Members (2025/26) Determination 2025 (SL 2025/140) is revoked.

Schedule

Local Government Elected Members (2026/27)
Determination 2026

Schedule

Remuneration

cl 7(1)

Part 1

Remuneration of members of regional councils

Manawatū–Whanganui Regional Council

Office	Annual remuneration (\$)
Regional Council Chairperson	164,237
Regional Council Deputy Chairperson	70,802
Audit, Risk, and Investment Committee Chair	67,970
Audit, Risk, and Investment Committee Deputy Chair	56,642
Integrated Catchment Committee Chair	67,970
Integrated Catchment Committee Deputy Chair	65,138
Passenger Transport Committee Chair	67,970
Passenger Transport Committee Deputy Chair	56,642
Councillor with no additional responsibilities	56,642
Councillor (minimum allowable remuneration)	52,756

Guidance note

The governance remuneration pool for the Manawatū–Whanganui Regional Council is \$792,985. See the explanatory note to this determination for further information about the Remuneration Authority's methodology when fixing members' remuneration.



Councillors' Allowance and Expenses Reimbursement Policy As At 01 July 2026 (To 30 June 2027)

Author: Trina Bishop (Governance Team Leader)
Updated ~~August 2025~~ August 2026
Approver: Council
Current Approval: ~~August 2025 Council Meeting~~ August 2026 Council Meeting
Next Review Due: August ~~2026~~ 2027

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Updated August 2026⁶⁵

Approver: Council

Current Approval: August 2026⁶⁵ Council Meeting

Next Review Due: August 2027⁶⁶

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Updated August 2026⁶⁵
Approver: Council
Current Approval: August 2026⁶⁵ Council Meeting
Next Review Due: August 2027⁶⁶

1. INTRODUCTION

Schedule 7, section 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Remuneration Authority to determine the “remuneration, allowances and expenses” payable to Councillors of local authorities. Section 6 further states that the Remuneration Authority may approve the rules under which expenses are reimbursed to Councillors.

Remuneration, allowances and expense reimbursements not determined by the Remuneration Authority cannot be paid.

2. RELATED GUIDELINES AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

- (a) Office of the Auditor-General publication – “Controlling sensitive expenditure: Guidelines for public entities” <https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/sensitive-expenditure>
- (b) Local Authorities (Members’ Interests) Act 1968
- (c) Guidance from the Remuneration Authority – <https://www.remauthority.govt.nz/local-government-elected-members/allowances-elected-members/>

3. COUNCIL PROCESSES FOR PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Payment for allowances and reimbursements require a claim form to be signed and submitted.

Councillor claims are processed and paid monthly.

Claim forms:

- (a) are to be submitted to the Group Manager [Governance, Engagement and Transformation Corporate & Governance](#) who will vet, approve and arrange payment into members’ bank accounts.
- (b) for each month are to be received by the 20th of the following month **EXCEPT** for the months of May and June. Expense claims for the month of May and beginning of the month of June are to be received by the 15th of June to enable payment in that financial year. Expenses incurred between 16-30 June will be processed in the following financial year.
- (c) submitted after three months will not be entertained except in extraordinary circumstances.

All reimbursement claims are to be supported with a detailed receipted tax invoice. It is not sufficient for payments made by credit card or EFTPOS docket to be supported by only the credit card / EFTPOS receipt.

Payment will be made monthly by direct credit.

4. VEHICLES

4.1 Vehicles

The Remuneration Authority advises that a local authority may provide a regional chair with either:

- (a) a motor vehicle (for restricted private use, partial private use, or full private use) (definitions are included in the Determination), **or**
- (b) a vehicle mileage allowance in accordance with clause [10.11](#) of the Determination.

If a Chair elects to have the vehicle available for full private use, a deduction will be made from their salary by Council in line with the formula determined by the Remuneration Authority.

Updated August 2026⁵

Approver: Council

Current Approval: August 2026⁵ Council Meeting

Next Review Due: August 2027⁶

The Remuneration Authority has determined that from 1 July 202~~6~~⁵, the maximum purchase price that may be paid for a motor vehicle purchased by a local authority for provision to a regional chair during the term of the determination is:

- (a) \$60,000 (including goods and services tax and any on-road costs) in the case of a petrol or diesel vehicle; and,
- (b) \$70,500 (including goods and services tax and any on-road costs) in the case of an electric or a hybrid vehicle.

The new purchase price limits do not apply to existing motor vehicles currently provided to regional chairs. In these cases, the actual purchase prices are grand-parented until the existing vehicles are replaced.

If the motor vehicle is provided for restricted private use, no deduction may be made from the annual remuneration payable to the regional chair under Part 1 of the Determination. The process of valuing the cost of the partial private use or full private use of the vehicle is now the responsibility of Council which will deduct that amount from the Chair's remuneration that is advised in the Determination. Formula are provided in the Determination for valuing purposes.

4.2 Vehicle Provision

Generally, the Council does not provide Council vehicles for members attending Council / Standing Committee meetings, except for the Chair of the Council.

5. MILEAGE ALLOWANCES

5.1 Mileage Rate

The Remuneration Authority determines the vehicle mileage allowance payable to elected members for eligible travel. This allowance reflects cost recovery and is in line with payments set out by the Inland Revenue Department guidelines.

Currently, a mileage allowance is paid on a day when an elected member is travelling in a private vehicle, and on "Council business", and by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances. No reimbursements of costs are chargeable to others (e.g. private company).

Councillors are to include on the monthly claim form details of all meetings (including whether Council or relevant Committee) for which a mileage allowance is being claimed. Reimbursement will only be made for mileage listed on the claim form. Sufficient details relating to "Council Business" meetings are to be included.

5.2 Mileage for "Council Business" ~~from 1 July 2026~~ ^{September 2025}

Councillors are entitled to a mileage allowance when using their own vehicle for "council business".

The allowance payable for the **first** 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term is:

~~\$1,201.17~~ per kilometre for petrol vehicle

~~\$1,301.26~~ per kilometre for diesel vehicle

~~\$0,900.86~~ for petrol hybrid vehicle

~~\$1,221.08~~ for electric vehicle.

The allowance payable **after** the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term is:

(a) ~~\$0,370.37~~ per kilometre for a petrol vehicle

(b) ~~\$0,380.35~~ per kilometre for a diesel vehicle

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- (c) ~~\$0.240.21~~ per kilometre for a petrol hybrid vehicle
- (d) ~~\$0.230.19~~ per kilometre an electric vehicle.

5.2.1 Interpretation

With respect to mileage allowances, the term “council business” includes attendance at the following:

- (a) Official meetings of the Council and any committees and subcommittees.
- (b) Council / Committee workshops / briefings.
- (c) Statutory hearings (excluding Hearings relating to the Resource Management Act (RMA)).
- (d) An external event or meeting where there has been:
 - i. a resolution of Council or a Committee; **or**
 - ii. authorisation by the Council Chair / relevant Committee.
- (e) Formal meetings / visits within the Councillor’s constituency (details to be provided).
- (f) Seminars and training courses where the Councillor’s attendance has been authorised.
- (g) Formal meetings with Mayors, territorial authority committee Chairs or elected members.
- (h) Official Councillor briefings by Council staff.

At no time does “council business” include events where the primary focus is on social activities, political meetings or electioneering.

5.2.2 Exceptions

- (a) if the Council is providing transport, and a Councillor chooses – for personal reasons – to travel independently, they may not be entitled to a vehicle allowance.
- (b) where a Councillor chooses – for personal reasons – to travel by private motor vehicle to a conference or seminar outside of the Horizons’ region they will be entitled to reimbursement of the mileage travelled, up to the value of equivalent airfares.

6. TRAVEL TIME ALLOWANCES

A travel time allowance is payable for travel by Councillors (excluding the Chair of Council) including travel to and from the Councillor’s residence if the travel is on Horizons’ business and by the quickest form of transport reasonable in the circumstances. This allowance is payable for each hour of eligible travel time of the Councillor after the first hour travelled in a day. The amount payable for the allowance is \$41.30 per hour (pro-rated in the case of a part of an hour).

However, if a Councillor resides outside the Horizons region and travels to the regional council area on Council business, the Councillor is only eligible for a travel time allowance in respect of eligible travel time:

- (a) after the Councillor crosses the boundary of the Horizons region, **and**
- (b) after the first hour of eligible travel within the Horizons region.

The maximum amount of travel time allowance that a Councillor may be paid for eligible travel in a 24-hour period, is eight hours.

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7. TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

7.1 Taxis and Other Transport

Other than for agreed conference / meeting attendance, there may be occasions when a Councillor requires a taxi service. Pre-approval by the Governance Coordinator (including the taxi company to be used) is required. Actual costs associated with approved use, will be reimbursed upon production of an official receipt.

7.2 Public Transport

Upon the production of receipts or evidence satisfactory to the council, members are entitled to the reimbursement of the actual and reasonable costs incurred by members who use public transport for travel on local authority business.

7.3 Car Parks

Car parks are available for use by Councillors in the main car park at Regional House, Palmerston North.

7.4 Use of Rental Cars

There may be occasions when rental cars are required for use by Councillors. Approval by the Governance Coordinator (including the company to be used) is required.

7.5 Air Travel - Domestic

Domestic air travel may be considered for conferences approved by Council, only where travel by air is the most economic way.

It is current practice that no one airline is favoured – the cheapest possible flight is booked to meet requirements. All travel bookings are made through the travel agency appointed by the Chief Executive.

Members requiring booking of approved air travel should arrange this with the Governance Coordinator.

7.6 Air Travel - International

International air travel needs to be approved in advance by Council.

It is current practice that all international air travel will be by economy class except where exceptional circumstances arise.

It is also current practice that no one airline is favoured – the cheapest possible flight is booked to meet requirements. All travel bookings are made through the travel agency appointed by the Chief Executive.

Members requiring booking of approved international air travel should arrange this with the Governance Coordinator.

7.7 Airline Clubs / Airpoints / Airdollars

The Council Chair will have paid membership of one airline club.

Airpoints or Airdollars earned on travel, accommodation, etc., paid for by the Council are available for the private use of Councillors.

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7.8 Accommodation Costs

Councillors attending any Council, Standing Committee, Subcommittee or Council Workshop meetings are entitled to any expenses incurred in attending the meeting. Such expenses could include accommodation.

Actual and reasonable accommodation costs will be paid / refunded (upon production of receipts) where appropriate. Such costs are appropriate when a member is required to travel long distances (in excess of 100 km one-way) to a meeting, or it is not practicable to return home on the same day, or in exceptional circumstances.

The Council has negotiated corporate rates with hotels and unless extraordinary circumstances arise, members are to use these venues where appropriate. Bookings are to be made in consultation with the Governance Coordinator.

7.9 Meals and Sustenance- Incidental Expenses

It is policy to provide a lunch for members attending Regional Council meetings, Committee meetings, and workshop days when the meeting extends past the lunch period.

Members may claim fair and reasonable costs for meals when travelling on official business, with the production of receipts (excluding members who choose to stay privately). See Section 3 (page 4) for Council's process for payment of allowances and reimbursements.

There will be no reimbursement of meals provided by others.

Members may also claim the incidentals allowance of up to \$7.30 for each full 24 hour period and for any additional part of less than 24 hours. There will be no reimbursement of minibars, movies, tips.

Laundry reimbursement will be paid, based on reasonable costs, if trip is more than four (4) days duration.

8. ENTERTAINMENT AND HOSPITALITY

8.1 Annual Councillor Function

The Council will make budgetary provision for one Councillor Function per year. The purpose of the function is to provide:

- (a) a forum for building relationships between Councillors and senior staff; **and**
- (b) an opportunity to give recognition to the supporting role that spouses/partners give to Councillors and senior staff.

Attendance is generally limited to Councillors and senior management staff, accompanied by spouses / partners.

If appropriate, costs of accommodation and associated meals will be paid for Councillors and partners attending the annual function.

The Chief Executive or Chair when deemed appropriate for the function may invite special guests.

9. COMMUNICATION ALLOWANCES

9.1 Equipment

Councillors will be supplied with an iPad for electronic access to Council reports, agendas, reference material and council-related matters. This iPad will remain the property of Horizons Regional Council.

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Councillors will not be supplied with a multi-functional or other printer, however an allowance of \$50 for the determination term will be paid for the use of a personal multi-functional or other printer.

9.2 Services

9.2.1 Internet Service

Where the Councillor uses their own internet service for the purpose of their work on Council business, the Councillor will be entitled to an allowance of \$800 per determination term for that use.

9.2.2 Mobile Services

Where the **Councillor** uses their own mobile telephone service for work on Council business, the Councillor is entitled either:

- (a) to an allowance of \$500 per determination term, for that use, **or**,
- (b) reimbursement of actual costs of phone calls made on local authority business upon production of the relevant telephone records and receipts.

9.2.3 Mobile Telephones

Where the Councillor uses their own personal mobile telephone for work on Council business, the Councillor is entitled to an allowance of \$200 for the determination term.

Where the **Councillor** is supplied with a mobile telephone and mobile telephone service - the phone and the related mobile telephone service will remain the property of Horizons Regional Council and there is no entitlement.

The Council will provide a mobile phone for the **Chair**. The mobile telephone will remain the property of Horizons Regional Council.

9.3 Reimbursement of communications equipment and services entitlements

In order to minimise administrative costs, a single yearly payment of either:

- (a) One thousand five hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,550) if accepting 9.1, 9.2.1, 9.2.2 (a) and 9.2.3, **or**,
- (b) One thousand and fifty dollars (\$1,050) if accepting 9.1, 9.2.2 and 9.2.3 plus reimbursements upon production of relevant telephone records and receipts, **or**,
- (c) Eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$850) if accepting 9.1 and 9.2.1.

Payment for Option (a), (b) or (c) will be made to each Councillor – pro-rated as applicable.

9.3.1 ICT Consumables

Included in the communications allowance is a new item covering the reimbursement of ICT consumables such as paper and ink cartridges. Elected Members using their own supply of consumables can seek a reimbursement of up to \$200 during the term of the determination (upon producing a GST receipt).

9.4 Pro-rating

If the Councillor is not a Councillor for the whole of the determination term, the provisions of paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 apply as if each reference to an amount were replaced by a reference to an amount calculated in accordance with the following formula: $(a \div b) \times c$

Where:

- a. Is the number of days that the member held office in the determination term,

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- b. Is the number of days in the determination term,
- c. Is the relevant amount specified in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2. If applicable include 9.3.1.

10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

10.1 CONFERENCES, COURSES AND SEMINARS ETC

An annual budget will be set aside for Councillor attendance at conferences / courses / seminars. (Annual LGNZ Conference not included – see below).

When considered appropriate for a Councillor to attend a conference / course / seminar at the cost of the Council, approval shall only be given for the purpose of acquiring knowledge, including new developments, or transacting business that is appropriate to that Councillor. Costs of attendance must be able to be met within the approved budgets.

Attendance will generally be authorised by resolution in a public session of a Council or Committee meeting, but may also be authorised in writing by the Council Chair.

Councillors who have been authorised to attend a conference, course, seminar etc. will have attendance fees, travel, accommodation and meals paid for. Unless otherwise agreed by the Group Manager [Governance, Engagement and Transformation](#) ~~Corporate & Governance~~, all travel and accommodation will be booked through the Governance ~~Team Leader~~ [Coordinator](#).

The Council will not meet costs of partners / spouses attending conferences / courses / seminars.

Councillors, after attendance at an approved conference / course / seminar should present a written report to an appropriate meeting on relevant matters including course content, matters of interest to other members and staff and an assessment of the value of the attendance.

10.1.1 LGNZ

Attendance at the LGNZ Annual Conference will be considered and resolved by the Council. Every attempt will be made for each Councillor to attend an LGNZ conference during the triennium.

The Council will meet the costs of registration, travel, meals and accommodation for Councillors.

11. OTHER EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENTS AND ALLOWANCES

11.1 COUNCILLORS TRAVELLING OVERSEAS (OTHER THEN COURSES / CONFERENCES)

The Council may support the costs of Councillors travelling overseas on fact-finding visits after consideration of the following factors:

- (a) the information to be gained is necessary to the achievement of the performance measures of a relevant Council project in the Annual Plan / LTP.
- (b) a personal visit is required and the nature of the visit is such that a Councillor is appropriate for the task.
- (c) the visit is an effective means of obtaining the information.
- (d) the Councillor applying for support is an appropriate member to undertake the proposed visit.
- (e) any special circumstances, which are seen to justify support.

All applications for support shall be in writing and will require support from the relevant principal Committee prior to consideration by the Council.

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When a Councillor will be travelling overseas on a personal visit and is asked by the Council to undertake some work which can be conveniently included in their itinerary, then the Council may approve any extra expense incurred as it sees fit.

11.2 Other Expenses

Certain items have been confirmed as not refundable as follows:

- (a) increased clothing standard because of attendance at Council and other meetings,
- (b) constituent expenses,
- (c) lost time or the additional payments incurred in having normal work undertaken by someone else,
- (d) childcare,
- (e) personal subscriptions to magazines,
- (f) personal subscriptions to clubs and organisations,
- (g) hospitality extended to constituents in private home on Council business and community contacts; and,
- (h) spouses costs in attending functions, e.g. clothing and hairdressing.

11.3 Salary Adjustments

When a Committee Chair has been granted extended leave of absence by Council, the Deputy Committee Chair may, by approval of the Council Chair or by resolution of Council, be paid the equivalent of the Committee Chair's salary, for the appropriate period. In justifying any decision to increase the salary of the Deputy Committee Chair under these circumstances, due consideration should be given to the length of leave of absence and the anticipated workload during that period.

The Committee Chair, by virtue of being on leave of absence, will forfeit that proportion of salary.

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Guide for Elected Members: Security System Reimbursement

Introduction

The **Local Authority Elected Members (Security Systems Reimbursement) legislation** provides a framework for reimbursing elected members for home security measures where a credible threat has been identified. The legislation was introduced in response to the increasing risks faced by elected members, including harassment, intimidation, and threats linked to their public roles. It recognises the need to protect elected members and their families, while ensuring any reimbursement is proportionate and transparent.

Eligibility

You may be eligible for support if:

- A credible threat or risk to your personal safety, your family, or your home has been identified.
- The threat is linked to your role as an elected member.
- The security risk assessment is authorised by the local authority.

Allowance Rates

- Up to **\$4,500** for the purchase and installation of a security system.
- Up to **\$1,000 each year** for monitoring, call-outs, and repairs.
- In some cases, supplementary measures (such as reinforced fencing or grilles) may be considered. These require approval from the **Remuneration Authority** following application by the local authority.

How to Request Support

- Report any threats or concerns to the **Group Manager [Governance, Engagement and Transformation](#)**~~Corporate and Governance~~. This includes details of the incident(s) and any evidence such as emails, letters, police reports, photos of damage, or social media posts.
- The Group Manager [Governance, Engagement and Transformation](#)~~Corporate and Governance~~ will document the concern in the Health and Safety Management system and refer it to People and Capability for assessment.
- The Senior Safety and Wellbeing Advisor will complete a formal **risk assessment** to determine eligibility and recommend appropriate security measures:
 - Depending on the circumstances, the assessment may be completed by the Senior Safety and Wellbeing Advisor or by an external independent security

~ 1

Author: Brook Rush (Senior Safety and Wellbeing Advisor)
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specialist. This decision takes into account the complexity of the case, available internal capacity, and, where possible, Councillor preference.

- The assessment will then be reviewed and authorised through the Chief Executive. If supplementary measures are required, the local authority will apply to the **Remuneration Authority** on your behalf.

Confidentiality and Privacy

- All reports are handled in strict confidence.
- Only staff directly involved in the assessment and decision-making process will access your information.
- Personal details are securely stored and managed in line with the Privacy Act.

Contacts for Assistance

- **Group Manager** [Governance, Engagement and Transformation](#)~~Corporate and Governance~~
- In urgent situations, always contact **NZ Police (111)** immediately.

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Health & Safety Risk Assessment: Security System Reimbursement

Legislation Reference:	Local Authority Security System Reimbursement
Assessment Author:	
Date:	
Assessed Member:	
Location:	Primary residence address within local authority area

1. Threat Identification

When assessing security risks, the following categories must be considered and evidence provided (e.g. police reports, incident reports, formal complaints, media references, social media threats):

- **Physical intrusion:** burglary, forced entry, trespass.
- **Targeted harassment:** stalking, intimidation, threats at residence.
- **Vandalism / property damage:** graffiti, sabotage, damage to property or vehicles.
- **Protest activity / gatherings:** demonstrations at or near the residence.
- **Violence / assault risk:** credible threats of physical attack.
- **Online to offline escalation:** social media threats linked to identifiable home details.

Evidence is required for each identified threat to support the assessment.

2. Assessing Risk – Risk Matrix

A **risk matrix** is used to determine:

- **Likelihood (L)** of the threat occurring.
- **Consequence (C)** if the threat occurs.
- **Risk Rating (LxC)** which guides decision-making.

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Risk Matrix Guidance

Rating	Likelihood (When might it occur?)
1 – Rare / Insignificant	May occur only in exceptional circumstances. No known history, isolated or unsubstantiated incident.
2 – Unlikely / Minor	Could occur but little evidence. Isolated past incident, not repeated or escalating.
3 – Moderate / Moderate	Might occur at some time. Some evidence of targeting or repeated behaviour.
4 – Likely / Major	Will probably occur. Clear escalation, repeated incidents, or ongoing targeted behaviour.
5 – Almost Certain / Critical	Expected frequently or imminently. Strong evidence of intent, credible intelligence, or repeated attempts.

- **Likelihood guidance:** Describe observable patterns, not abstract percentages. Consider evidence of escalation, repeat behaviour, and credible threats.

Rating	Consequence (If it occurs, what's the impact?)
1 – Rare / Insignificant	Nuisance-level incident. Minimal/no injury, no property damage, minor unwanted contact.
2 – Unlikely / Minor	Minor incident requiring minimal intervention. Graffiti or tampering, short-term distress, no lasting impact.
3 – Moderate / Moderate	Property damage requiring repair. Harassment at residence. Psychological impact or potential for minor injury.
4 – Likely / Major	Significant incident with serious implications. Attempted forced entry or sustained harassment. Medical treatment or significant psychological harm.
5 – Almost Certain / Critical	Extreme incident with severe consequences. Home invasion, assault, fatality, or lasting physical/psychological harm.

- **Consequence guidance:** Look beyond physical injury. Include psychological harm, family impacts, property damage, and reputational risk.

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Horizons Regional Council Risk Matrix

	Consequence / Severity					
		1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Critical
Likelihood	1 Rare	1 Low	2 Low	3 Low	4 Moderate	5 Moderate
	2 Unlikely	2 Low	4 Moderate	6 Moderate	8 High	10 High
	3 Moderate	3 Low	6 Moderate	9 High	12 High	15 Extreme
	4 Likely	4 Moderate	8 High	12 High	16 Extreme	20 Extreme
	5 Almost Certain	5 Moderate	10 High	15 Extreme	20 Extreme	25 Extreme

3. Risk Assessment Table

Threat	Likelihood (L) (1–5)	Consequence (C) (1–5)	Risk rating (LxC)	Notes / Evidence
Example: Harassment escalating to residence entry	3 (Moderate)	4 (Major)	6 – Moderate	Police reports of ongoing harassment, letters delivered to residence

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4. Decision-Making Criteria

- **Low (1–3):** Does not generally justify reimbursement.
- **Moderate (4–7):** May justify reimbursement if strong evidence supports the risk.
- **High (8–14):** Approve reimbursement of installation and monitoring (within allowances). Supplementary measures may be considered if recommended.
- **Extreme (15–25):** Immediate approval of installation and monitoring. Ongoing review required.

5. Recommended Security Measures

Measure	Justification (linked to threats)	Estimated Cost	Within Allowance (Y/N)
CCTV installation	Deters and records unlawful entry	\$3,200	Y
Monitoring service	Enables rapid call-out response	\$750/yr	Y
Supplementary: reinforced fencing	Recommended due to repeat vandalism	\$5,000	Requires Remuneration Authority approval

Recommendation Detail:

- Summarise the **overall risk picture**.
- Explain **why the recommended measures are appropriate** for the threats identified.
- Link recommendations directly to the **risk matrix rating** (e.g. “High risk – therefore security system justified”).
- Note **any gaps or residual risks** that may remain even with controls in place.
- Outline **any dependencies** (e.g. member cooperation, police engagement, local authority monitoring).
- If supplementary measures are proposed, justify why they are necessary and **why they exceed standard allowance**.
- Provide an **implementation timeframe** and any **review requirements** (e.g. re-assess risk in 12 months, or earlier if threat environment changes).

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6. Legislative Fit Check

- ☐ Within \$4,500 installation allowance
- ☐ Within \$1,000 annual monitoring allowance
- ☐ Supplementary measures recommended for Remuneration Authority approval

7. Approval & Authorisation

1. Assessment Author (HSW team member/ Security Liaison): Completes assessment and recommendation.
2. Group Manager: Reviews compliance with framework and legislation, organises purchase orders where required for equipment / installation procurement. Endorses decision, escalates if supplementary measures required.
3. Chief Executive: Final decision on reimbursement; authorises applications to Remuneration Authority (if required).

Role	Name / Signature	Date	Decision
Group Manager Governance, Engagement and Transformation Corporate and Governance			
Chief Executive			

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Author: Brook Rush (Senior Safety and Wellbeing Advisor)
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 Next Review Due: August 2027~~6~~

Report No.	26-150
Information Only - No Decision Required	

COUNCILLORS' WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE - 21 JUNE 2026 TO 18 AUGUST 2026

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This item is to note the Councillors' Workshop Attendance from 21 June to 18 August 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-150 and Annex.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

- 3.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Cara Hesselin

GROUP MANAGER GOVERNANCE ENGAGEMENT & TRANSFORMATION

ANNEXES

- A Crs Workshop Attendance

**HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS' WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**

(For the period)

23 June to 18 August 2026

Date	Details	Councillor Attendance
23 June 9.30am - 4.12pm	- LTP - Revenue & Financing Policy (4)	Present: Cr AR Taylor Cr BG Fraser Cr EB Gordon (to 2.30pm) Cr EJT Pue (to 2.00pm approx.) Cr FJT Gordon (via Zoom - intermittent) Cr GM McKellar (via Zoom from 9.55 to 1.15pm) Cr HC Easton (via Zoom) Cr JM Naylor Cr LL Jansen Cr NM Riley Cr PF Wells Cr T Teira Cr WK Te Awe Awe Apology: Cr SL Dryland
24 June 9.30am - 3.30pm	- LTP - Revenue & Financing Policy (4) (continued) - LTP - Revenue & Financing Policy (5), Budget Proposals	Present: Cr AR Taylor (from 11.25am) Cr BG Fraser Cr EB Gordon (to 3.20pm) Cr EJT Pue (to 3.15pm) Cr FJT Gordon (via Zoom from 9.43am and in person from 12.25pm) Cr GM McKellar (via Zoom from 9.35am) Cr HC Easton (via Zoom) Cr JM Naylor (from 11.00am) Cr LL Jansen (via Zoom and in person from 11.10am approx.) Cr NM Riley (from 11.00am - attending other Council business) Cr PF Wells Cr T Teira Cr WK Te Awe Awe Apology: Cr SL Dryland

Date	Details	Councillor Attendance
11 August 9.00am - 3.30pm	- PX - Plan Change 2 - Regional Pest Management Plan Review & Draft Biosecurity document - LTP - Progress Check In and Elected Members Budget Proposals - PX - Councillor questions on Regulatory matters - Infrastructure Strategy Key Issues	Present: Cr AR Taylor Cr BG Fraser Cr EB Gordon Cr EJT Pue Cr FJT Gordon (via Zoom) Cr GM McKellar (via Zoom from 10.00am and to 2.25pm) Cr HC Easton Cr JM Naylor (via Zoom) Cr LL Jansen Cr NM Riley Cr PF Wells Cr SL Dryland Cr T Teira (from 9.25am to 11.17am) Cr WK Te Awe Awe (from 9.25am to 1.30pm)
12 August 2.50pm - 4.20pm	- LTP - Revenue & Financing Policy - Finishing up Step 1	Cr AR Taylor (to 3.15pm) Cr BG Fraser Cr EJT Pue Cr FJT Gordon Cr GM McKellar (via Zoom) Cr HC Easton Cr JM Naylor (via Zoom from 3.35pm) Cr LL Jansen Cr NM Riley Cr PF Wells (from 4.10pm) Cr SL Dryland (from 3.15pm) Cr WK Te Awe Awe (to 3.00pm) Apology: Cr EB Gordon Cr T Teira

Report No.	26-151
Information Only - No Decision Required	

AFFIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This paper reports on a document to which Horizons Regional Council's Common Seal has been affixed.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- a. **acknowledges** the affixing of the Common Seal to the below mentioned document.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no additional financial impact.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. The community is able to see this information either in the agenda or on the Council's website.

5. COMMENT

- 5.1. The Common Seal has been affixed to the following document:

- a. **Under Chief Executive's Delegated Authority:**

- Lease Agreement
Lessee: Cooper Smith Enterprises Ltd
Assignor: Hopkins Farming Group Ltd
File: COM00071
Physical location: Parewanui Road, Bulls
Lease Period: 2 June 2026 - 30 June 2035
Reason: New lease following sale of neighbouring land, lease block is landlocked
- Warrant Card: Enforcement Officer
Replacement Card
Name: Mammen Thomas
Position: Consent Monitoring Officer
- Lease Transfer
Name: Porewa Holdings Limited
Assignor: Colin J Free
Area: 46.6878 ha
Location: State Highway 56, Opiki
Lease Period: 2 July 2026 - 30 June 2031
Reason: Transfer of lease to Porewa Holdings following sale of neighbouring land.

- b. **Under Urgency:**
Nil
- c. **To be Approved:**
Nil

6. SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Craig Grant
GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

ANNEXES

There are no attachments to this report.

Report of the fourth meeting of the thirteenth triennium of the Integrated Catchment Committee held at 9.30am on Wednesday 29 July 2026, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs PF Wells (Chair), SL Dryland (to 1.15pm), HC Easton, BG Fraser, EB Gordon, FJT Gordon (from 9.45am), LL Jansen, GM McKellar (via Zoom from 9.35am), JM Naylor, NM Riley, and AR Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
Committee Secretaries Mrs JA Kennedy
Mrs R de Souza

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Dr E Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science),
Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations),
Mrs C Hesselin (Group Manager Governance, Engagement & Transformation), Mr C Davey (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager), Mr L Brown (Freshwater & Partnerships Manager), Mr G Cooper (Land & Partnerships Manager), Ms E Prouse (Information Coordinator), Mr J Galuszka (Manager Media & Communications), Mrs P Tan (Finance Business Partner), Mrs T Hunt (Integrated Catchment Management - Programme Lead), Ms L Totman, Mr R Dalrymple, Mr M Chrystall, Ms S Nichols, and Ms M Stevenson (Rangitikei River Catchment Collective).

Deputations & Public Speaking:

Mr K Venter (Whanganui District Council) and supporters, Mr B Duffy (representing interest groups in Horowhenua and Levin) and supporters, and Mr I Passey (Riverina Pohangina Ltd), Mr S Carroll (Pohangina Farmer) and supporters.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Naylor to open with a Karakia.

APOLOGIES

ICC 26-12 Moved Riley/Taylor

That the Committee receives apologies from Crs Pue, Te Awe Awe, and Teira, and an apology from Cr F Gordon for lateness.

CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

Deputation: Mr Venter (Whanganui District Council) spoke in support of a request for funding for a river edge erosion investigation at Aramoho. (Item 8, Report No. 26-117, Lower Whanganui Scheme, Aramoho River Edge Erosion Control Investigation Funding Request).

Cr McKellar joined the meeting at 9.35am (via Zoom).

Mr Venter delivered a PowerPoint presentation which detailed the issues, possible solution, the RFP process and the next steps, subject to funding from Horizons Regional Council.

Deputation: Mr Duffy (representing interest groups in Horowhenua and Levin). Mr Duffy detailed his support for a request from a voluntary group to establish an extension to the current walkway near Lake Horowhenua onto a further part of Horizons' land (Item 9. Report No. 26-118, Arawhata Wetland - extension of walkway).

Cr F Gordon joined the meeting at 9.45am.

Mr Duffy delivered a PowerPoint presentation summarising the work to date, the stakeholders and volunteers involved, and a vision for the current track to be extended.

Public Speaking: Mr Passey (Riverina Pohangina Ltd), and **Mr S Carroll** (Pohangina Farmer) delivered a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the experiences and frustrations with the Pohangina, Oroua River Scheme, and detailed some ideas for possible solutions. Mr Passey suggested that a new group be formed called "Mitigation Repair Works" and outlined the groups role.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ICC 26-13

Moved

Riley/B Gordon

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Integrated Catchment Committee meeting held on 13 May 2026 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 26 May 2026, as amended with the addition of noting that Cr Taylor was absent on approved Leave of Absence under Apologies.

CARRIED

PRESENTATION FROM THE RANGITĪKEI RIVERS CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE

Report No 26-116

Ms Totman and Ms Stevenson (Rangitīkei Rivers Catchment Collective) presented on the findings of a macroinvertebrate monitoring project funded through Horizons Regional Council's freshwater community Grants Programme.

ICC 26-14

Moved

Fraser/Riley

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-116.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.
- c. receives the presentation from the Rangitīkei Rivers Catchment Collective on the findings of its macroinvertebrate monitoring project funded through the 2025–26 Freshwater Community Grants Programme.

CARRIED

LOWER WHANGANUI SCHEME - ARAMOHO RIVER EDGE EROSION CONTROL INVESTIGATION FUNDING REQUEST

Report No 26-117

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) summarised the item about a funding request from Whanganui District Council which sought Horizons Regional Council's (HRC) support for an investigation into river edge erosion and river management options at the Aramoho riverfront precinct, and sought a decision on the funding request. Members debated the request and sought clarity around RFP process and HRC's ongoing involvement.

ICC 26-15 Moved Taylor/Fraser

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-117 and Annex.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.*
- c. *approves the funding of \$46,500 (excluding GST) for a river edge erosion investigation at Aramoho to be led by Whanganui District Council. Approves the funding to be drawn from operational budgets of the Lower Whanganui Scheme in accordance with the scheme funding policy.*

CARRIED

ARAWHATA WETLAND - EXTENSION TO WALKWAY

Report No 26-118

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) introduced the item which sought Council's direction on a request from a voluntary group to establish an extension to the current walkway near Lake Horowhenua onto a further part of Horizons' land purchased for the Jobs for Nature Project that included the Arawhata Wetland. Members debated the introduction of an amended recommendation c. which requested further consultation to be undertaken. Members sought clarity around aspects of the project and levels of engagement. Mr Duffy (representing interest groups in Horowhenua and Levin) outlined the extent of consultation with various stakeholder groups that had already taken place. As the amended recommendation was not moved or seconded, debate followed on the original recommendation c. A procedural motion to put recommendations a.b. and c. was proposed.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ICC 26-16 Moved B Gordon/Naylor

That the Committee:

- a. *recommends that the original recommendations as set out in Report No. 26-118, Arawhata Wetland - Extension to Walkway be put to the vote.*

CARRIED

ICC 26-17 Moved F Gordon/Easton

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-118.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.*
- c. *approves the track committee extending the existing track onto the new land area.*
- d. *approves the development of signage on the wetland within existing budget from the Horowhenua District Water Quality Improvement programme.*

Against: Cr Dryland

Abstain: Cr Jansen

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.36am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.45am.

ROOM FOR RIVER - POHANGINA AND ŌROUA

Report No 26-119

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) spoke to the item which updated Council on one of the key issues for the Infrastructure Strategy (IS) that was in development around transition to a new delivery model. The item focussed on the room for river (river management lines) project in the Ōroua and Pohangina Rivers and sought Council's direction on the release of a report and next steps for work related to room for river (river management lines). Members debated the recommendations and provided their views on options presented. Clarification was provided by Dr Roygard and Mr Brown (Freshwater and Projects Manager). Recommendations a.b.c.d.i.&ii. were moved and seconded with a request to add the words "with context provided by a press release" to recommendation c. The recommendations were split with a.b.&c. put first, followed by recommendation d.i.&ii. with a division. Recommendation d.iii. was deleted.

ICC 26-18 Moved B Gordon/Riley

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-119.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.*
- c. *directs the Chief Executive to release publicly the report on River Management Lines for the Ōroua and Pohangina with context provided by a press release.*

CARRIED

During the voting process for recommendation d.i.&ii. a point of order was called to suspend the vote while further clarification in support of d.ii. was provided.

ICC 26-19 Moved F Gordon/Riley

That the Committee recommends that Council:

d. directs the Chief Executive to:

i. continue the implementation of the room for river approach in the Lower Rangitikei Scheme; and

CARRIED

ii. continue to work on room for river (river management line) projects including in the Mangatainoka Catchment.

For: Crs Naylor, Taylor, B Gordon, F Gordon, Jansen, Riley

Against: Crs Dryland, Easton, McKellar

Abstain: Crs Jansen, Fraser

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.45pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.15pm.

CATCHMENT OPERATIONS PROGRESS REPORT

Report No 26-120

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) introduced the report which overviewed the activity of the Catchment Operations group that included the biosecurity, biodiversity, freshwater, land, and river management and flood protection activities of the Long-term Plan (LTP). The report provided some background information on the various programmes, updates on progress on the Annual Plan targets, and Council decisions on additional work programmes. Dr Roygard, Mr Brown (Freshwater & Partnerships Manager), and Mr Davey (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager) took Members through a PowerPoint presentation detailing the Catchment Operations group activities and clarified questions. Mr Davey provided an overview of Bird Flu and explained how the response was being managed. Members' debated the future funding model for the advancement of works identified in Table 64: Actions identified for Makirikiri scheme in item 26-72 and status. It was noted that the works would be advanced from the Scheme budget and revisited at a later date.

Dr Roygard gave an overview of the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme and referred to recommendations c. - g. which sought additional loan funding for the Scheme. Following debate, the Chair put recommendations a. through to g.

ICC 26-20 Moved Wells/Riley

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-120.

b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.

- c. *approves an emergency and renewal reserve drawdown equivalent to the total amount for these reserves for the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme in the 2026-27 year. The drawdown is to be in accordance with the Funding Policy of the scheme, 80% targeted (reserves in this case), 20% general rate (general rate reserves in this case).*
- d. *notes for the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme the loan funding approval of \$200,000 excluding GST approved in April 2026 and additional \$250,000 of loan funding approved via the Annual Plan 2026-27 provides a total of \$450,000 loan funding in the 2026-27 Annual Plan Budget. Approves increasing the loan funding by up to \$550,000 for the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme to complete additional works over multiple years. The additional up to \$550,000 loan is to be funded over 10 years in accordance with the Funding Policy of the scheme 80% targeted, 20% general rate.*
- e. *approves consenting costs for the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme to be loan funded over a period of 10 years via the approved loan funding above.*
- f. *approves for the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme funds that were budgeted to be provisioned to increase reserves (\$60,000) to be reallocated for capital loan payments in the 2026-27 year.*
- g. *agrees the Pohangina-Ōroua Scheme works are a priority and that the work to completed with the loan funding will likely occur over a number of years due to staff capacity. Notes the additional work will draw on staff time from across the River Management and Flood Protection Activity and may be completed in place of other River Management and Flood Protection Activity in the region.*

Abstain: Crs Taylor, F Gordon

CARRIED

INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRESS UPDATE AND DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2027-57 OPTIONS

Report No 26-121

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) introduced the report which provided a progress update on Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and included both the ICM Programme and operational delivery. The report presented the Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2027-57 Key Issues and associated levels of change for the Council to determine the preferred level of change to guide the continued development of the Strategy. Mrs Hunt (Integrated Catchment Management - Programme Lead) and Dr Roygard (Group Manager Catchment Operations) summarised the key points and took Members through the recommendations. Following debate by Members' around the preferred level of change for each of the key issues as set out in recommendation d., it was moved and seconded that the item be rolled over to the 12 August, 2026 Strategy & Policy Committee meeting for further debate.

ICC 26-21

Moved

Naylor/Riley

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. *refers Report No. 26-121, Integrated Catchment Management Progress update and Draft Infrastructure Strategy 027-57 Options to the 12 August, 2026 Strategy & Policy Committee.*

CARRIED

Prior to the close of the meeting, Cr F Gordon explained that she abstained in error to Report No. 26-120, Catchment Operations Progress Report. Cr F Gordon thought she was abstaining against recommendations d - g only. Had Cr F Gordon known she was voting for the entire recommendations a - g, she would have voted 'for'. As there is no provision in Standing Orders for a member to change their vote once the resolution has been 'Carried', Cr F Gordon's original vote stands.

After the meeting had closed, Cr Taylor explained that he abstained in error to Report No. 26-120, Catchment Operations Progress Report. Cr Taylor thought he was abstaining against recommendations d - g only. Had Cr Taylor known he was voting for the entire recommendations a - g, he would have voted 'for'. As there is no provision in Standing Orders for a member to change their vote once the resolution has been 'Carried', Cr Taylor's original vote stands.

The meeting closed at 3.07am with a karakia from Cr Naylor.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIR

Report of the third meeting of the thirteenth triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee held at 9.30am on Wednesday 12 August 2026, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs FJT Gordon (Chair), SL Dryland (from 9.37am), HC Easton, BG Fraser, EB Gordon, LL Jansen, GM McKellar, JM Naylor (via Zoom), ETJ Pue, NM Riley, AR Taylor, WK Te Awe Awe, and PF Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager	
Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretaries	Mrs JA Kennedy & Mrs R de Souza

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:

Dr E Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr G Bevin (Manager Regulatory), Ms L Shirley (Manager Policy & Strategy), Mr M Patterson (Manager Science), Mr N Portegys (Team Leader Policy), Mrs T Hunt (Integrated Catchment Management - Programme Lead), Ms E Prouse (Information Coordinator), Ms S Wescott (Team Leader Consents), Mrs S Williams (Senior Environmental Coordinator), and Ms R Bell (LTP Project Manager).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

SP 26-20 *Moved* **B Gordon/Fraser**

That the Committee receives an apology from Cr Teira and an apology from Cr Dryland for lateness.

CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

SP 26-21 *Moved* **Pue/Jansen**

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 14 April 2026 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 21 April 2026.

CARRIED

INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRESS UPDATE AND DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2027-57 OPTIONS

Report No 26-121

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) introduced the report which provided a progress update on Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) including both the ICM Programme and operational delivery. The report also presented the Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2027–57 Key Issues and associated levels of change for Council to determine the preferred level of change to guide the continued development of the Strategy.

Cr Dryland joined the meeting at 9.37am.

Following debate by Members' around the preferred level of change for each of the key issues as set out in recommendation d., the "status quo" was moved and seconded for d.i.ii.& iii. Following further debate, "stretch change" was moved and seconded for recommendation d.iv. and Members' provided their views and support for each of the key issues. Clarification was sought around how delivery and transition to a new delivery model for river management would be progressed.

The Chair put recommendations a. - d.i.ii.& iii.

SP 26-22

Moved

B Gordon/Riley

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-121.*
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters and decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is to inform.*
- c. notes the progress made in implementing Integrated Catchment Management, including the ICM Programme and operational delivery across the organisation.*
- d. determines the preferred level of change (status quo, moderate change, stretch change) for each of the following Key Issues to guide the continued development of the Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2027-57:*
 - i. Key Issue 1 - Ensuring Delivery - (Status quo).*
 - ii. Key Issue 2 - Enhancing Communication - (Status quo).*
 - iii. Key Issue 3 - Enabling Emergency Management Response and Recovery - (Status quo).*

CARRIED

The Chair put recommendation d.iv. with a division.

SP 26-23 Moved B Gordon/Wells

That the Committee recommends that Council:

d. *determines the preferred level of change (status quo, moderate change, stretch change) for the following Key Issues to guide the continued development of the Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2027-57:*

iv. *Key Issue Key Issue 4 - Transitioning River Management to a New Delivery Model - (Stretch change).*

For: Crs F Gordon, Jansen, Riley, Taylor, Te Awe Awe, Wells

Against: Crs Fraser, B Gordon, McKellar, Pue, Dryland, Naylor, Easton

LOST

A foreshadowed motion to a "moderate" level of change was put by the Chair.

SP 26-24 Moved Fraser/McKellar

That the Committee recommends that Council:

d. *determines the preferred level of change (status quo, moderate change, stretch change) for the following Key Issues to guide the continued development of the Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2027-57:*

iv. *Key Issue Key Issue 4 - Transitioning River Management to a New Delivery Model - (Moderate).*

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF PLAN CHANGE 2 TO THE ONE PLAN

Report No 26-122

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) spoke to the report which presented Proposed Plan Change 2 (existing intensive farming land use) (PC2) to the One Plan for Committee approval, in order to make the plan change operative. This formal step was the final stage of the statutory plan change process following the Environment Court's decision and in the absence of any appeals within the statutory timeframe. Members' debated the contents of the report and sought clarification.

During debate a Point of Order was raised to remind Members that questions must be relevant to the topic before the meeting.

Members' debate continued around the workability of the farm modelling tool Overseer.

The Chair put the recommendations with a division.

SP 26-25 Moved Pue/Taylor

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-122 and Annexes.*

b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform; for the reasons set out in section 5 of this report.*

- c. *approves Plan Change 2 to the One Plan, pursuant to Schedule 1, clause 17(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991.*
- d. *authorises the affixing the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council's seal to Plan Change 2 by the Chief Executive pursuant to Schedule 1, clause 17(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991.*
- e. *directs the Chief Executive to take any actions required by Schedule 1, clause 20 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to make Plan Change 2 operative as soon as practicable.*

Against: Cr McKellar.

For: Crs F Gordon, Dryland, Easton, Fraser, B Gordon, Jansen, Naylor, Pue, Riley, Taylor, Te Awe Awe, and Wells.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.10am.

The meeting reconvened at 11.24am.

LONG-TERM PLAN 2027-37 PROJECT UPDATE AND REMAINING WORK PROGRAMME

Report No 26-123

Mrs Hesselin (Group Manager Governance, Engagement and Transformation) presented the report which updated the Strategy and Policy Committee on progress with the 2027–37 Long-term Plan (LTP), confirmed the remaining work programme, and sought the Committee's commitment to the scheduled workshops and decision points required to prepare the Consultation Document and supporting information for audit. Ms Bell (LTP Project Manager) clarified Members' questions around timeframes, and the opportunities available for iwi, Hapū, communities and other stakeholders to participate in decisions.

SP 26-26

Moved

F Gordon/Jansen

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-123 and Annexes.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant and engagement is not required.*
- c. *notes the progress made on the 2027–37 Long-term Plan project and the timing and delivery risks identified in the report; and*
- d. *endorses the forward work programme and notes the scheduled workshops and decision points required to prepare the Consultation Document and supporting information for audit.*
- e. *notes additional workshops may need to be scheduled if the work programme falls behind.*

CARRIED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE 2026

Report No 26-124

This report determined Members' attendance at the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Super Local 2026 Conference. Mrs Hesselin (Group Manager Governance, Engagement and Transformation) presented the report and reminded Members of a previous Council resolution which determined the number of Councillors to attend an LGNZ Conference during a triennium. It was noted that details of the Regional Sector pre-conference tour had not yet been confirmed. Interest was expressed around the possibility of funding all Members to attend the Regional Sector pre-conference tour.

SP 26-27

Moved

Riley/B Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-124 and Annex.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the decisions in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: Inform.*
- c. *approves the attendance of the Chair of Council and up to three Councillors, Crs Elijah Pue, Fiona Gordon, and Te Kenehi Teira, with expenses paid, and the Chief Executive, at the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) SuperLocal Conference 2026 in Rotorua from Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 October 2026 and the Regional Sector pre-conference tour.*
- d. *notes that the Te Maruata Hui and Young Elected Members hui takes place on Tuesday 13 October 2026.*
- e. *notes that the host council, dates, theme and site visits for the Regional Sector pre-conference tour has not yet been confirmed.*

CARRIED

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Report No 26-125

This item provided Members with a Community Engagement and Environmental Education (EE) end of year summary activity report for the 2025-2026 financial year. Ms Williams (Senior Environmental Educator) spoke to the report, summarised the Activity report, commented on the number of successful events and activities delivered from the Enviroschools programme, and highlighted attendance at community engagement events.

SP 26-28

Moved

Fraser/Dryland

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-125.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: Inform.*

CARRIED

SCIENCE PROGRESS REPORT 2025 TO 2026

Report No 26-126

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) introduced the report which provided Members with an overview of the Science team's activities from the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. Mr Patterson (Manager Science) took Members through a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the team activities with accompanying images and explanations, and responded to questions raised.

SP 26-29 Moved Riley/B Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-126.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1.04pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.34pm.

WASTEWATER CONSENTING AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Report No 26-127

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) introduced the report which provided an overview of the Water Services (Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards) Regulations 2025 (WEPs), their implications for wastewater treatment plant consenting, and the impact of the new regulatory framework on Council's regulatory functions. The report highlighted key changes introduced by the WEPs, including reduced regulatory discretion in some areas, emerging implementation and interpretation issues, and the implications of recent legislative amendments affecting wastewater treatment plant consent renewals. The report also outlined potential resourcing, legal and compliance implications arising from implementation of the WEPs and provided a summary of the current compliance status of municipal WWTP within the region. Members' considered the report and Ms Wescott (Team Leader Consents) and Mr Bevin (Manager Regulatory) responded to questions raised.

SP 26-30 Moved Fraser/Dryland

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 26-127 and Annex.*
- b. *agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: Inform.*

CARRIED

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT REPORT - JANUARY TO JUNE 2026

Report No 26-128

This report provided a high-level summary of Regulatory Management activities for 2025/2026 year, an update on Plan Change 2 Implementation, and an overview of the proposed compliance monitoring programme for the 2026/2027 year. Mr Bevin (Manager Regulatory) introduced the report and clarified Members' questions. Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) clarified questions around the communications plan for the implementation of PC2.

SP 26-31 **Moved** **Riley/Pue**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-128.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is informed.

CARRIED

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REFORM - WORK PROGRAMME AND PLANNING TIMELINES FOR REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANS AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANS

Report No 26-129

Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) spoke to the report which provided an update on the proposed timeframes for developing the Regional Spatial Plan and Natural Environment Plan. It also provided an overview of the work underway to support the transition to the new planning system, along with the high-level work programme for the next phase. Dr Daly outlined the key points of the preparatory work, the proposed approach, resourcing and timeframes, the establishment of a spatial planning committee, and responded to Members' questions.

SP 26-32 **Moved** **Pue/Te Awe Awe**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-129 and Annex.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.

CARRIED

POLICY AND STRATEGY TEAM UPDATE

Report No 26-130

This report provided an update on key projects currently being undertaken by the Policy, Rural Advice and Climate coordination teams. Dr Daly (Group Manager Strategy, Regulation & Science) introduced the report and responded to questions raised.

SP 26-33 Moved Pue/Dryland

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-130.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is inform.

CARRIED

TE PAE KŌUKA ACTIVITY UPDATE

Report No 26-131

This report provided an update on current mahi (work) occurring within the iwi and hapū relationships space, along with an outline of key projects and focus areas for the Te Pae Kōuka (Iwi and Hapū Relationships) Team. Members considered the information presented, sought clarification, and raised questions around the progression for an all-staff marae visit later in 2026.

SP 26-34 Moved Riley/Dryland

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 26-131.
- b. agrees that, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the matters in this report are not significant, and the appropriate level of engagement is: inform.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.39pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR

Public Excluded Section

RECOMMENDATION

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the Council meeting as the general subject 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 follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) 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, as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Meeting held on 30 June 2026	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX2 Conflict of Interest (Re: Report No. 26-143)	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. The complainants wish to remain anonymous..	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX3 Chief Executive Performance Review 2026	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. This report is confidential because it discusses employment terms of an identifiable individual..	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
PX4 Council / Committee to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain and define the extent of the release		