



**CENTRAL  
HAWKE'S BAY**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Strategy, Growth & Community Committee Agenda

Thursday, 12 December 2024

9.00am

Council Chambers,

28-32 Ruataniwha Street, Waipawa

*Together we thrive! E ora ngātahi ana!*

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- 1 **WELCOME/ KARAKIA/ NOTICES**
- 2 **APOLOGIES**
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- 4 **STANDING ORDERS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the following standing orders are suspended for the duration of the meeting:

- 21.2 Time limits on speakers.
- 21.5 Members may speak only once.
- 21.6 Limits on number of speakers.

And that Option C under section 22 *General Procedures for Speaking and Moving Motions* be used for the meeting.

Standing orders are recommended to be suspended to enable members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner.

**5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Strategy, Growth & Community Committee Meeting – 17 October 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the minutes of the Strategy, Growth & Community Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2024 as circulated, be confirmed as true and correct.**



**MINUTES OF CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT COUNCIL  
STRATEGY, GROWTH & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 28-32 RUATANIWHA STREET, WAIPAWA  
ON THURSDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2024 AT 10.30AM**

**UNCONFIRMED**

**PRESENT:** Chair Kelly Annand  
Deputy Chair Pip Burne  
Cr Tim Aitken  
Cr Gerard Minehan  
Mayor Brent Muggeridge  
Cr Kate Taylor  
Cr Alex Walker  
Cr Exham Wichman  
Amiria Nepe-Apatu, Pou Whirinaki

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Doug Tate (Chief Executive)  
Nicola Bousfield (Group Manager People and Business Enablement)  
Brent Chamberlain (Chief Financial Officer)  
Dennise Elers (Group Manager Community Partnerships)  
Dylan Muggeridge (Group Manager Strategic Planning & Development)  
Mark Kinvig (Group Manager Community Infrastructure and Development)  
  
Jane Budge (Strategic Governance Manager)  
Sarah Crysell (Communications and Engagement Manager)  
Libby Tosswill (Development Relationships Manager)  
Ben Swinburne (3 Waters Manager)  
Sophie Elliot (Resource Consents Manager)  
Audrey Malone (Senior Communications Advisor)  
Bridget Cover (Community and Library Services Manager)  
Christine Renata (Community Development Lead)  
Annelie Roets (Governance Lead)

**1 KARAKIA**

Her Worship, The Deputy Mayor Kelly Annand welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that the items will be moved around slightly, starting off with Item 5.4 Smart Growth Review.

**2 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest received.

**4 STANDING ORDERS**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.1**

Moved: Cr Kate Taylor  
Seconded: Deputy Chair Pip Burne

That the following standing orders are suspended for the duration of the meeting:

- 21.2 Time limits on speakers.
- 21.5 Members may speak only once.

- 21.6 Limits on number of speakers.

**And that Option C under section 21 General procedures for speaking and moving motions be used for the meeting.**

**Standing orders are recommended to be suspended to enable members to engage in discussion in a free and frank manner.**

**CARRIED**

## **5 REPORT SECTION**

### **5.4 SMART GROWTH REVIEW - UPDATE AND ACTIONS**

#### **PURPOSE**

The report aims to provide the Strategy Growth & Community Committee visibility into the findings and opportunities from the Smart Growth Review, positioning the Council to enable smart growth in our district.

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.2**

Moved: Cr Kate Taylor

Seconded: Cr Gerard Minehan

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee notes the Smart Growth Review Report.**

**CARRIED**

Nicola Bousfield provided an update on the Smart Growth Review, highlighting the involvement of elected members and the feedback from the development community. They discussed the challenges and opportunities related to infrastructure, development contributions, and resource consenting.

- infrastructure challenges, particularly around stormwater and wastewater capacity, and emphasised the need for strategic planning and collaboration to address these issues..
- The need for innovative solutions in development contributions and the potential for developer agreements to fund infrastructure was emphasised.
- Ms. Bousfield acknowledged improvements in the resource consenting process, including better information for developers and a development relationship manager.
- Next steps: Ms. Bousfield outlined actions for the Smart Growth Review, including implementation of recommendations, industry updates, and a focus on customer improvements.

*The Committee adjourned for morning tea at 10.50am and reconvened at 11.10am.*

*Deputy Chair Kelly Annand welcomed everyone to the meeting and special welcome to Laura (Deputy Chair Tamatea Pōkai Whenua) and Jenny Nelson-Smith (Chair Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea).*

## **5.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF HAWKE'S BAY WATER TRUST - ENDORSEMENT AND UPDATE**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Hawke's Bay Water Trust Draft Trust Deed and Council's role in the Trust. It also seeks endorsement of the approach and the criteria sought to inform the process of an inaugural appointment to the Trust.

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.3**

Moved: Cr Jerry Greer

Seconded: Cr Tim Aitken

#### **That the Strategy, Growth and Wellbeing Committee:**

- 1. Endorses the directions of the Draft Hawke's Bay Water Trust Deed with further advice to come to council's meeting of 31 October 2024.**
- 2. Endorses the proposed Inaugural Trustee process and criteria with further advice to come to Council's meeting of 31 October 2024.**
- 3. That Council actively seeks feedback and views and inputs from the community on the Trust Deed ahead of the council meeting on 31 October 2024.**

**CARRIED**

Doug Tate (Chief Executive) presented the proposal for the establishment of the Hawke's Bay Water Trust, emphasising the community-led approach and the separation from commercial activities. Further discussions traversed .

- The Draft Deed for the proposed charitable Trust is presented to Council to address water security in Tamatea, Central Hawke's Bay for future generations.
- The Council, in collaboration with Tamatea Pōkai Whenua and Water Holdings Hawke's Bay Limited, has facilitated the Trust's development.
- If established, the Trust would acquire the intellectual property and consents for the Makaroro River dam and explore water security initiatives, including the Tukituki Water Security Project, technology improvements, land-use diversification, and urban water storage.
- Mr. Tate outlined the proposed Trust structure, initial trustee appointments, and the Council's role in trustee selection.
- The due diligence process was reviewed, emphasizing legal compliance with the Local Government Act and risk management.
- The Committee highlighted the importance of community feedback and engagement in the Trust's establishment.
- Council will be sharing that with the public by the end of this week on our 'Let's Talk CHB – Korero Mai' page here: <https://letstalkchb.co.nz/hawkes-bay-water-trust-discussion-forum>.

*The meeting adjourned at 12.10pm and reconvened at 12.18pm.*

## 5.1 RESOLUTIONS MONITORING REPORT

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the Resolution Monitoring Report. This report carries over two resolutions from Council to the Committee relating to Freedom camping.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.4

Moved: Deputy Chair Pip Burne

Seconded: Cr Kate Taylor

**That the report be noted.**

**CARRIED**

The report was introduced by Doug Tate which was taken as read.

- Dylan Muggeridge provided a positive update on the implementation of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
- The ballot process for Pourere campground has been initiated, with 127 applications received to date.
- Councillors have directed officers to develop a campsite allocation policy, which is progressing well; the final draft is currently under peer review.
- Officers will meet with the Pourere Camping Committee next week to discuss the policy, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for October 30.
- The ballot is set to be drawn in the first week of November.

## 5.2 STREETS FOR PEOPLE PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to present the outcomes of the Streets for People project on the main street of Waipawa.

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.5

Moved: Deputy Chair Pip Burne

Seconded: Cr Kate Taylor

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee:**

1. **Receives the community feedback and safety audits undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the Streets for People programme.**
2. **Endorses the outcomes of the Streets for People programme as presented in this report.**
3. **Directs officers to work with New Zealand Transport Agency to identify funding options to convert the temporary traffic calming and safety interventions from the Streets for People programme into permanent interventions.**

**CARRIED**

Dylan Muggeridge provided an update on the Streets for People Programme, discussing the interventions implemented in Waipawa to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety. He presented the results of the programme, including the reduction in traffic speeds and the positive feedback from the community.

- A presentation on the long-standing concerns raised by the community about speed and safety were presented.

*Mayor Alex Walker left the meeting at 12.29pm.*

Specific interventions at the pedestrian crossing and roundabout were discussed, highlighting the reduction in traffic speeds and the safety improvements and the feedback and recommendations for further improvements were noted.

- Mr Muggeridge presented data showing traffic speeds on Main Street in Waipawa decreased by up to 20 km/h in some areas.
- Safety audit results for the pedestrian crossing and roundabout showed reduced conflicts and improved safety for pedestrians and vehicles.

*Mayor Alex Walker returned to the meeting at 12.39pm.*

#### Ruataniwha Street Intersection Outcomes:

- The roundabout and pedestrian crossing will remain.
- Officers will collaborate with NZTA on further improvements and funding options for permanence.
- Feedback highlighted the traffic calming role of planter boxes, which will stay in place while future adjustments are considered.
- Planter boxes along Main Street (between the bridge and Church Street) will remain, with ongoing reviews for replacement as the town centre plan progresses.

#### Great North Road Outcomes:

- Planter boxes along Great North Road have been removed and will be repurposed in the town centre.
- Traffic calming interventions for Great North Road will be revisited after TREC completes pavement rehabilitation; timing is to be confirmed.

### **5.3 CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLANNING - IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to refresh Elected Members on Town Centre Master Planning, progress made to date and future plans ahead.

#### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.6**

Moved: Deputy Chair Pip Burne

Seconded: Cr Alex Walker

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee notes the Town Centre Master Planning Implementation Update and its priorities.**

**CARRIED**

Dylan Muggeridge provided an update on the implementation of the Town Centre Master plans for Waipawa and Waipukurau, highlighting the progress made and the challenges faced. He discussed the funding considerations and the next steps for the plans.

## **5.6 LOCAL CDEM CORRECTIVE ACTIONS UPDATE FROM CYCLONE GABRIELLE**

### **PURPOSE**

This report provides an update on the Cyclone Gabrielle Corrective Actions work programme.

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.7**

Moved: Cr Kate Taylor

Seconded: Cr Exham Wichman

- 1. That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee receives the Local CDEM Corrective Actions Update from Cyclone Gabrielle.**

**CARRIED**

Dennise Elers provided an update on the local emergency management actions following Cyclone Gabrielle, highlighting the reestablishment of the local emergency management group and the elected member training. She also discussed the ongoing regional work programme.

## **5.7 ANNUAL REPORTING FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the annual reports from community organisations for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 to the Committee.

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.8**

Moved: Cr Gerard Minehan

Seconded: Deputy Chair Pip Burne

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee notes the 2024 Annual Community Organisations reports from Sport Hawke's Bay, Central Hawke's Bay Museum, and EPIC.**

**CARRIED**

The committee received annual reports from Sport Hawke's Bay, Central Hawke's Bay Museum, and CHB Promotions. These reports were noted without further discussion.

## **5.8 ADOPTION OF AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE - CLIMATE ACTION JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report seeks adoption of the amended Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Joint Committee (CAJC).

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.9**

Moved: Cr Alex Walker

Seconded: Cr Tim Aitken

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee adopts the amended Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Joint Committee (CAJC).**

**CARRIED**

Jane Budge introduced the report, highlighting minor amendments to the Terms of Reference.

- Mayor Alex Walker shared feedback on the committee's discussion regarding the appointment of the chair — whether it should be a committee decision or an HBRC-appointed position.
- Cr Tim Aitken expressed satisfaction with the shift towards a more focused approach in identifying and mitigating climate change risks.

## **5.9 REPORTS FROM JOINT COMMITTEES JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024**

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.10**

Moved: Cr Alex Walker

Seconded: Cr Jerry Greer

**That the following Joint Committee Minutes be received:**

1. **29 July 2024 – Minutes from the HB CDEM Group Joint Committee meeting.**
2. **26 Aug 2024 – Minutes from the Climate Action Joint Committee meeting.**

**CARRIED**

Doug Tate introduced the report which was accepted as read.

### **Civil Defence Updates:**

- The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee welcomed John Hambleton as an independent member.
- The committee is undergoing significant transformation work, with a focus on ensuring that future civil defence mechanisms are locally led and coordinated effectively.
- Local initiatives, such as resilience planning and hub preparation, as well as professional development efforts, demonstrate that CHBDC is leading in ensuring that civil defence mechanisms are community-driven, utilising regional resources effectively.
- The Group is seeking a structure that is community-led, fostering the right connections among agencies.
- Work programmes will be shared in due course.

### **Climate Action Focus:**

- The Climate Action Joint Committee's focus was on risk assessment and practical mitigation strategies.
- The committee emphasised the need to prioritise key pieces of work and put pace into their implementation.

## **5.10 UPDATE ON STRATEGY, GROWTH & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the report is to receive an update on the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of 2024 and into early 2025.

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.11**

Moved: Chair Kelly Annand  
Seconded: Deputy Chair Pip Burne

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee receives an update on its 2024-25 Work Programme.**

**CARRIED**

Jane Budge took the report as read with discussions noting:

- The work programme was noted as a live document, with updates and progress to be provided at future meetings.
- The committee acknowledged the need to continue working on the programme and make necessary adjustments as required.

## **6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**

There are no Public Excluded Business.

## **7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: 24.12**

Moved: Cr Gerard Minehan  
Seconded: Cr Brent Muggeridge

**That the next meeting of the Strategy, Growth & Community Committee be held on 12 December 2024.**

**CARRIED**

## **8 TIME OF CLOSURE**

The Meeting closed at 1.40pm.

**The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the next Strategy, Growth & Community Committee meeting to be held on 12 December 2024.**

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**

## 6 REPORT SECTION

### 6.1 RESOLUTIONS MONITORING REPORT

**File Number:** COU1-1400

**Author:** Annelie Roets, Governance Lead

**Authoriser:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive

**Attachments:** 1. Resolution Monitoring Report - 12 December 2024 [↓](#)

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee notes the Resolutions Monitoring Report.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Resolution Monitoring Report.

#### SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

This report is provided for information purposes only and has been assessed as not significant.

#### DISCUSSION

The monitoring report is **attached**.

#### IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT

This report confirms that the matter concerned has no particular implications and has been dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Specifically:

- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made.
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter and considered the views and preferences of any interested or affected persons (including Māori), in proportion to the significance of the matter.
- Any decisions made will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.
- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

#### NEXT STEPS

An updated Resolution Monitoring Report will be presented at the next Committee meeting.



**Strategy, Growth & Community Committee**

**Resolution Monitoring Report for 12 December 2024**

Key	
Completed	<span style="background-color: #92d050; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
On Track	<span style="background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>
Off Track	<span style="background-color: #ff0000; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span>

Item Number	Item	Council Resolution	Resolution Date	Responsible Officer	Progress Report
1	10.4	Headstone Determination Cemeteries Policy 2021	14 March 2024	Dennise Elers / Kate Luff	<span style="background-color: #ffff00;">On Track</span> - Cemeteries Policy Review planned for early 2025.
2	7.9	Freedom Camping Bylaw Options	27 June 2024	Logan McKay / Muggeridge Dylan	<span style="background-color: #92d050;">Completed</span> - Work is underway to implement the Freedom Camping Bylaw ahead of the next camping season. In particular, an operational campsite allocation and management policy which clearly outlines the roles for Council and the Pourerere Camping Committee has been developed with the Camping Committee for the allocation of sites during the upcoming peak summer season. There are no actions for governance at this time, however a verbal update can be provided to the Committee on 12 December.
3	5.5	Establishment of Hawke's Bay Water Trust - Endorsement and Update	17 October 2024	Doug Tate	<span style="background-color: #92d050;">Complete</span> - this resolution has now been superceded by Councils decision at its 31 October 2024 meeting.

Item Number	Item	Council Resolution	Resolution Date	Responsible Officer	Progress Report
4	5.2	Streets for People Programme Outcomes	<p>That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receives the community feedback and safety audits undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the Streets for People programme.</li> <li>2. Endorses the outcomes of the Streets for People programme as presented in this report.</li> <li>3. Directs officers to work with New Zealand Transport Agency to identify funding options to convert the temporary traffic calming and safety interventions from the Streets for People programme into permanent interventions.</li> </ol>	17 October 2024	<p>Dylan Muggerridge</p> <p><b>Complete</b> - Officers will continue to work with NZTA as part of our work programme and the development of the 2027 - 2037 Long Term Plan Programme.</p>

## 6.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

**File Number:****Author:** Sasha D'ath, Economic Development Manager**Authoriser:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive**Attachments:**

1. CHBDC Economic Action Plan - August 2019 (under separate cover)
2. Matariki - Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2016.pdf (under separate cover)

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Strategy, Growth & Community Committee notes the 'Economic Development Action Plan – Progress Report'.**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the progress and implementation of the Central Hawke's Bay Economic Development Action Plan. This update aims to inform the Committee about the current status, achievements, and future steps of the plan to ensure transparency and accountability in our efforts.

### BACKGROUND

The [Central Hawke's Bay Economic Development Action Plan](#) (EDAP) (and attached under separate cover) was initiated in 2019 to enhance the economic growth and sustainability of Central Hawke's Bay. The plan focuses on leveraging the district's strengths to attract and grow businesses.

The EDAP sets out key actions to support and accelerate economic growth for businesses, communities, and tourism in the district. When it was created, it was an ambitious programme that required collaboration between Council and the community. Whilst the original plan remains in place, it has not been a static list of actions over the years. It has been monitored and adapted annually to respond to new opportunities and changes.

Over the years, the EDAP has met several milestones, including the successful implementation of various projects and initiatives that have contributed to our district and the wider Hawke's Bay region's economic prosperity.

The EDAP aligns with the Matariki – Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2016 (attached under separate cover), a comprehensive strategy aimed at fostering economic growth and resilience in Hawke's Bay and governed by the Matariki Governance Group (MGG).

MGG has set the vision of "every whānau and every household is actively engaged and benefiting from growing a thriving Hawke's Bay economy." The strategy is built on a framework of seven key points, each pivotal to maintaining the direction and integrity of the strategy. These points include enhancing economic resilience, promoting sustainable practices, and ensuring community empowerment and well-being.

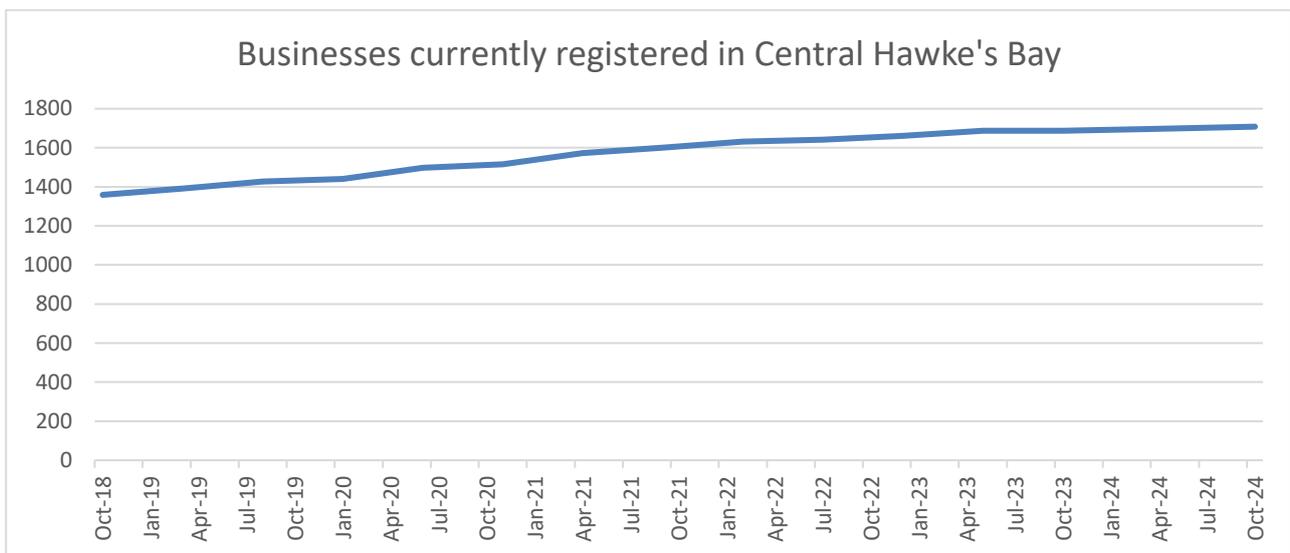
Like the EDAP, the Matariki Strategy emphasizes the importance of community engagement along with an annual review to refine effectiveness and relevance

**DISCUSSION**

With MGG undertaking a refresh of their strategy and four years after the EDAP was developed, the timing is right to undertake a refresh of the EDAP. A review will provide an opportunity to refresh the actions, identify areas that still need to be worked on, and align the new plan with the updated regional strategy in 2025.

Since its inception, the EDAP has outlined numerous actions aimed at fostering economic growth and sustainability in Central Hawke’s Bay. To date, we have successfully completed a significant number of these actions, contributing to the district's economic development. Key metrics indicate that:

- **Business Growth:** The number of businesses operating in the district has increased, with a current total of 1,708 businesses, the majority of which are in the primary industries.



The top 5 business sectors locally are:

1. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: 337 businesses. These businesses are the backbone of our local economy covering a wide range of activities from crop production and livestock to forestry and fishing.
2. Financial and Insurance Services: 278 businesses. Businesses in this sector provide essential financial services such as banking, investment and insurance.
3. Construction: 175 businesses. Businesses in this sector are vital for the development and maintenance of infrastructure locally. This sector encompasses residential, commercial and industrial construction.
4. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services: 173 businesses. This sector is quite broad covering services such as legal advice, accounting, engineering and scientific research.
5. Rental, Hiring and Real Estate: 134 businesses. These businesses support the housing market and offer various solutions from rental, leasing to real estate services.

The bottom 5:

1. Mining: 4 businesses. The mining sector in Central Hawke’s Bay is relatively small, with only four businesses. While not a major employer, this sector contributes to the local economy through specialised jobs and services provided to this sector.

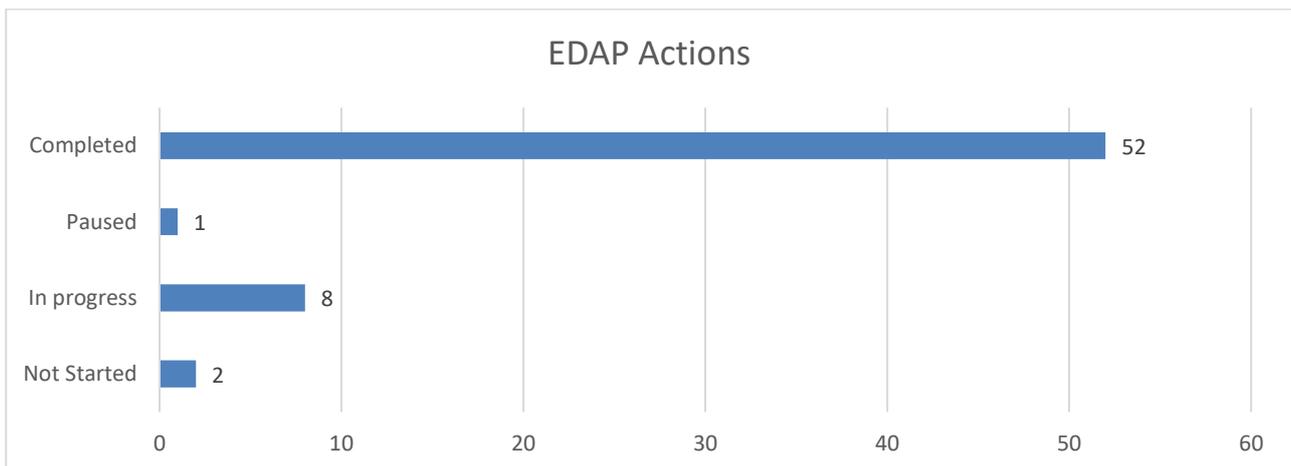
2. **Public Administration and Safety:** 6 businesses. This sector includes services that ensure the safety and well-being of the community. Council will be considered as an employer falling under this sector.
  3. **Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services:** 11 businesses. This sector, with 11 businesses, includes essential utilities vital for functioning of the community.
  4. **Information Media and Telecommunications:** 13 businesses. There are 13 businesses who are essential for communication and information dissemination.
  5. **Wholesale Trade:** 21 businesses. The businesses in this sector support the supply chain by distributing goods to retailers and other businesses.
- **Tourism:** The local tourism sector has experienced growth, with increased visitor numbers. From January 2019 to September 2024, domestic tourism spending increased by 12.1%. Visitors primarily spend on retail items, particularly alcohol, food, and beverages. Additionally, there has been a notable increase in spending on cultural and recreational services.

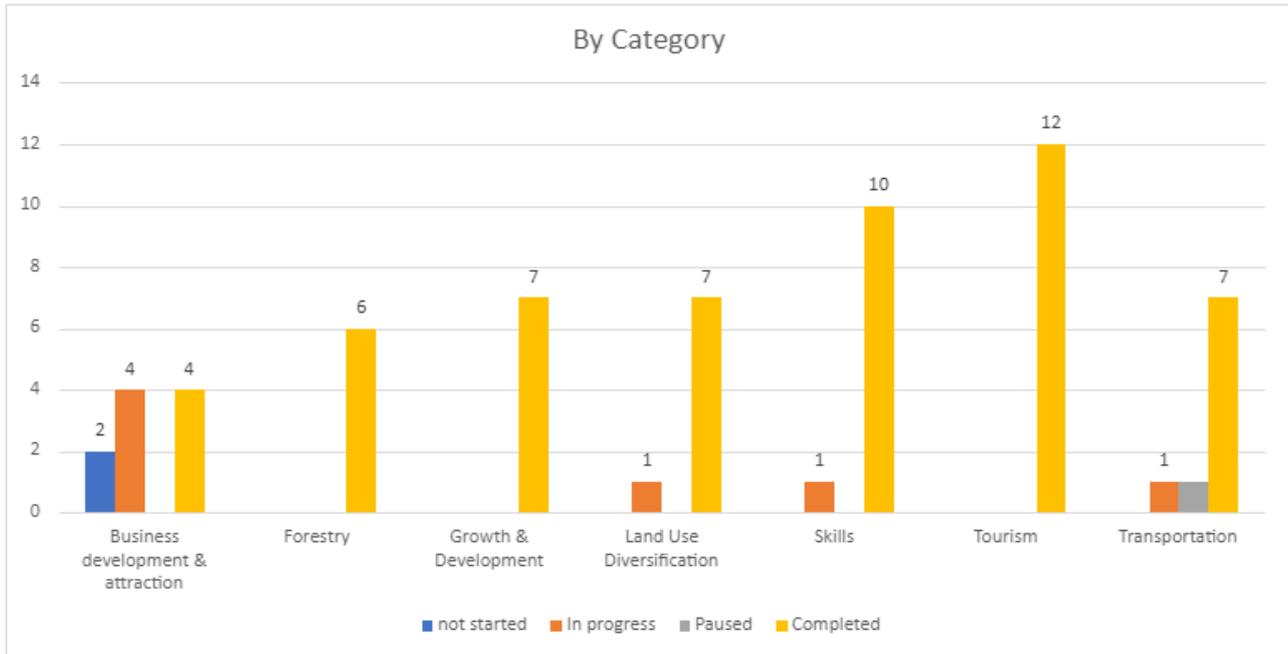
International visitors from Australia and the United States of America account for the highest percentage of visitors by origin. Since 2019, international tourism spending has remained relatively stable.

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The following table provides an overview of the GDP for Central Hawke’s Bay, its neighbouring districts, and other districts with similar rural and community characteristics, as of March 2023.

District	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	GDP per Capita
Central Hawke’s Bay District	\$695M	\$42.8K
Tararua District	\$770M	\$40.3K
South Wairarapa District	\$350M	\$29.6K
Mackenzie District	\$306M	\$55.3K
Wairoa District	\$336M	\$36.8K
Hastings District	\$6.91B	\$76.3K
Napier District	\$4.07B	\$61.1K

These metrics highlight the positive impact of the EDAP on the economic landscape. In addition to these achievements, we have undertaken a comprehensive list of actions as part of the plan. These actions include:





To provide a clear and concise overview of the progress made for each parts of the EDAP, we have categorised the specific actions using a traffic light system. This system will help to easily identify the status of each action:

### Business Development & Attraction

Topic	Status
Update the district business capability and capacity lists to support the investment prospectus	Completed
Support Māori business growth through developing Ngā Ara Tipuna Phase 3	Completed
Build networks into national ag-tech and ag-innovation programmes to complement Business Hawke’s Bay’s work	Completed
Develop a strategy to grow retirement village sector and associated service industry	In Progress
Facilitate a series of provenance marketing events/workshops with key local businesses/farms	In Progress
Issue a Central Hawke’s Bay-specific investment prospectus designed to attract new business investment	In Progress
Map the potential for growth of primary sector service industry	In Progress
Develop shared business support toolkit in collaboration with business clusters	In Progress
Engage community around positioning the district as leaders in sustainability	Not Started
Implement a strategy to grow primary sector service industry	Not Started

### Detail:

- Completed:** To support Māori business growth, we successfully worked in partnership to develop Ngā Ara Tipuna (Phase 3). Additionally, in collaboration with Business Hawke’s Bay

(no longer an organisation), we initiated the creation of networks into national ag-tech and ag-innovation programmes, an ongoing effort. In 2024, we assessed available funding and disseminated this information throughout the district via monthly newsletters and through conversations with Council Officers who might know potential beneficiaries.

- In Progress:** In 2024, we facilitated a series of provenance marketing events and workshops with key local businesses and farms. These workshops encouraged local businesses to come together and explore farm diversification opportunities. Although the focus was not solely on provenance, these events successfully brought local businesses together to discuss and explore diversification options. These initiatives are marked as in-progress as they will remain ongoing. Additionally, we have commenced work on an investment prospectus for businesses who may want to come to the district. We also developed a comprehensive scoping document that assessed the current retirement village landscape and provided local insights to assist future decisions with developers.
- Not Started:** The district's primary sector has collaborated with industry bodies to enhance the district's sustainability profile. While these efforts have not been Council-led, we have provided support where needed. It is appropriate to review this action to determine its future direction.

**Forestry**

Topic	Status
Explore the preparation of a forestry investment prospectus	Completed
Facilitate network opportunities that bring land Leads, industry leaders, and investors together	Completed
Provide the community with roading and land use overlay information to inform forestry investment decisions	Completed
Link to business development plans to ensure we capture value from the harvest, creating additional jobs	Completed
Link to infrastructure plans to effectively manage the impacts of increased logging traffic	Completed
Identify how forest investment can be a key part of any sustainability point of difference for the district	Completed

**Detail:**

- Completed:** After thorough investigation, we have marked the forestry actions as completed. Although we have decided not to proceed with any specific actions currently, the impact of the Emissions Trading Scheme and other factors have influenced this decision. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Right Tree Right Place Programme, supported by the Provincial Growth Fund, continues to promote and support various initiatives in the region. It is now time to review these actions to determine future needs and directions.

## Growth & Development

Topic	Status
Decide on future capacity in wastewater design needed for industrial and commercial growth	Completed
Consider the potential for irrigation output as part of wastewater upgrade designs	Completed
Identify existing capacity for commercial and industrial growth, work with large businesses to meet immediate needs	Completed
Undertake early work on potential role for PPPs in assisting to fund infrastructure investments	Completed
Identify role of urban areas as part of town centre planning	Completed
Undertake survey of industrial and commercial land needs, factoring in existing growth needs and longer-term spatial planning	Completed
Connect growth and development aspects of town centre planning with the focus on creating a great place to live by developing place-based initiatives to increase inclusiveness and diversity.	Completed

### Detail:

- Completed:** We have successfully completed all key actions under the umbrella of growth and development. These actions include initiatives as part of our Town Centre Planning and Integrated Spatial Plan efforts, focusing on future wastewater capacity for industrial and commercial growth, considering irrigation potential in wastewater upgrades, and identifying existing capacity for commercial and industrial growth. Additionally, we explored the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in funding infrastructure investments, identified the role of urban areas in town centre planning, and conducted surveys to assess industrial and commercial land needs.

## Land Use Diversification

Topic	Status
Make baseline soil type and alternate land use information held by Council available to landLeads	Completed
Take an active role in connecting landLead clusters to central government funding for diversification (such as Ministry of Primary Industries and Te Puni Kōkiri)	Completed
Assist landLead cluster groups to consider land uses that have processing and market structures in neighbouring districts	Completed
Assist landLead groups to explore investment propositions for secondary focus crops and grazing animals, including aquaculture	Completed
Work with landLead clusters to obtain more detailed climate data that can be shared (including accessing funding for this)	Completed
Facilitate sharing of additional alternative land use information between landLeads groups	Completed
Consider best way for landLeads to obtain land use option information as part of new environmental regulation requirements	Completed

Topic	Status
Facilitate landLead/industry/ investment network opportunities to support land diversification decisions	In Progress

### Detail:

- Completed:** As part of our land use diversification efforts, we have made baseline soil type and alternate land use information accessible through the Proposed District Plan documents. We have successfully connected LandLead clusters to central government funding, fostering relationships with organisations such as the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and Te Puni Kokiri (TPK).

Our participation in various diversification and investment opportunities includes the Land Use Diversification Forum and the Māori land trusts forum in Waipawa (2019). Other initiatives include providing seed funding for FoodEast - Haumako and supporting PGF applications for Te Mata Mushrooms, Kaikora Seeds, Kanapu Hemp expansion, Tipene Farm, Nopera Trust, and the SFFF funding application for almond growing investigations.

- In Progress:** In 2024, we partnered with Leftfield Innovation to conduct a study on diversification options in our district. More information will be available in the coming weeks and months. We have also collaborated with Renee Hogg of Inside New Zealand (INZ) to offer an Agritourism Workshop and networking sessions. INZ has continued to support the district with networking events and workshops.

We will continue to support local initiatives as they arise and use these opportunities to highlight and celebrate the diversification work underway or being explored in the district.

### Skills

Topic	Status
Establish local industry cluster advisory groups, schools and work with Eastern Institute of Technology (and PTEs) to deliver demand-led skills training locally	Completed
Support PGF application for Hatuma Lime private training enterprise	Completed
Seek funding for 'Connect to Learn 24/7' to provide improved accessibility to digital skills and skills training support	Completed
Develop a Regional (High Value) Skills Strategy	Completed
Explore opportunities for Te Ara Mahi funding (transitions to work connections and youth work-ready programmes)	Completed
Seek funding to pilot a work ready programme in collaboration with industry	Completed
Update Council procurement policy to include guidance on how to contribute to local employment and social procurement outcomes	Completed
Implement Regional (High Value) Skills Strategy	Completed
Review Council investment in young people, social and business development to improve local employment outcomes	Completed
Provide increased opportunities for local employment via social procurement and by providing cadetships at Council	Completed

Topic	Status
Work with Ministry of Education, community service providers and Hawke's Bay Regional Council to investigate and improve public transport options	In Progress

### Detail:

- Completed:** In 2021, the Council took proactive steps to re-establish the Skills, Talent, and Employment Network, supported by the Local Skills, Training, and Employment Action Plan. Despite the lack of support from the Provincial Growth Fund and the uncertainty caused by the announcement of the New National Polytechnic, the Council continued its efforts.

The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Programme largely superseded previous initiatives, focusing on sustainability and future funding opportunities. The Council also developed a Progressive Procurement Toolkit and collaborated closely with local contractors and the Chamber of Commerce to support business and social development initiatives. Additionally, the Council was active in various employment and training programs, including the Gateway program at CHB College and the CHB Work Experience Day.

A collaboration between the Council and Veolia resulted in Council Officers finding cadets for Veolia's vacant roles. The Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) for Hawke's Bay was established to identify and support better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs. The Council continued to provide support as needed, ensuring that the workforce, education, and immigration systems worked together to meet the differing skills needs across the country.

- In Progress:** In 2024, an anticipated public transport trial was planned to be undertaken, led by HBRC and supported by CHBDC, aiming to improve the flow of public transport between CHB, Hastings, and Napier. However, in September, the HBRC public transport trial was removed from the upcoming HBRC budget.

### Tourism

Topic	Status
Undertake a Tourism Infrastructure Feasibility Study (including gap analysis)	Completed
Support development of Ngā Ara Tipuna Phase 1 and 2	Completed
Ensure visitor information is relevant and promoted (implement the Review of Visitor Information Services)	Completed
Develop a range of "point of difference" marketing campaigns alongside our tourism operators to target different tourism audiences	Completed
Position the district as a distinct destination to audiences within a 2hr drive radius	Completed
Build relationships with neighbouring districts to extend our tourism reach across the region	Completed
Undertake infrastructure assessment to support future growth of tourism associated with longest place-name and the Porangahau area	Completed
Build tourism networks and programmes that complement Hawke's Bay Tourism work	Completed

Topic	Status
Develop a Cycle Strategy identifying route enablers e.g. Middle Road, Tuki Tuki Trail	Completed
Develop an Event Bidding and Support Strategy	Completed
Support implementation of regional destination management plan	Completed
Develop Department of Conservation estate opportunities as part of destination management for district	Completed

### Detail:

- Completed:** In 2020, the Council completed a Tourism Infrastructure Feasibility Study, which included a Destination Management Plan known as TINA (Tourism Infrastructure Needs Assessment). This study helped secure additional funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund and contributed to the CHB visitor guide. The Council also supported the development of Ngā Ara Tipuna, with Phases 1 and 2 largely completed by August 2021, and some residual work continuing into September 2021.

A key focus was ensuring that visitor information remained relevant and well-promoted. This involved creating marketing campaigns targeting different tourism audiences and positioning the district as a distinct destination within a 2-hour drive radius. Furthermore, the Council built relationships with neighbouring districts to extend tourism reach across the region through initiatives like "Great things grow here."

The Council also developed a Cycle Strategy, identifying route enablers and supporting the implementation of a regional destination management plan. Additionally, work was done on developing Department of Conservation estate opportunities as part of the destination management plan.

### Transportation

Topic	Status
Invest smartly in key transport information to support investment cases for the 2021 Regional Land Transport Plan	Completed
Establish a road transport advisory group to assist in developing our approach to the 2021 Regional Land Transport Plan	Completed
Active engagement in the Tararua Rail Hub Feasibility Study	Completed
Investigate public transportation needs and input to the Regional Public Transport Plan in 2021	Completed
Implement the "spade ready" projects funded by Provincial Growth Fund application HPMV improvements on Route 52 between Waipukurau and Wimbledon.	Completed
Implement the medium-term projects for HPMV roading improvements	Completed
Assess potential for inland port as primary industry grows on back of water security solutions	Completed

Topic	Status
Investigate opportunities to better capture value of 'land bridge' traffic at key points in journey	Hold
Undertake a full freight study that focusses on the district	In Progress

### Detail:

- Completed:** The 2021 Regional Land Transport Plan was successfully submitted and approved, with valuable input from Stantec enhancing the ability to secure funding requests. Although a formal road transport advisory group was not formed, a business case with the freight industry identified safety issues around intersections, which were incorporated into the next three-year programme. Active engagement in the Tararua Rail Hub Feasibility Study led to the completion of an Economic and Social Impacts Study for upgrading Route 52 in the Tararua District.

Public transportation needs were investigated, ensuring that CHB's concerns were included in the Regional Land Transport Programme. However, the medium-term projects for HPMV roading improvements were not picked up due to high costs and low returns. The potential for an inland port was assessed, but discussions were not progressed, although a local company established a logging inland port in Waipukurau.

- Paused:** The investigation of opportunities to better capture the value of 'land bridge' traffic at key points in the journey is on hold due to funding issues and damage caused by rain and cyclone. However, it remains a priority. In 2021, a business case was developed to present to Waka Kotahi, which included options to recognise the change in function of the roads from local roads to a high-use inter-regional connection.

### IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT

This report confirms that the matter concerned has no particular implications and has been dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Specifically:

- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made.
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter and considered the views and preferences of any interested or affected persons (including Māori), in proportion to the significance of the matter.
- Any decisions made will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.
- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The primary action will be to refresh the EDAP once MGG has completed their strategy refresh. This will ensure our plan aligns with the updated regional strategy and continues to drive economic growth and sustainability in Central Hawke's Bay.

## **IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

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- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made;
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter and considered the views and preferences of any interested or affected persons (including Māori), in proportion to the significance of the matter;
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- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

### 6.3 UPDATE ON REGIONAL DEALS AND ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL DIRECTION

**File Number:****Author:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive**Authoriser:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive**Attachments:**

1. **Regional Deals Letter from Minister Brown** [↓](#)
2. **Hawke's Bay Briefing to the Incoming Minister - November 2023** [↓](#)

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report provides an overview of the Regional Deals Programme announced by Government. It also seeks an endorsement of the proposed approach and priorities for Central Hawke's Bay to be considered as part of a Regional Deal Proposal.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee:**

1. **Notes the report and the timelines set by Government.**
2. **Confirms its intention to participate in a Hawke's Bay Regional Deal.**
3. **Endorses the approach and priorities for the development of a light-touch proposal for a Hawke's Bay Regional Deal outlined in this report.**

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the 21 November 2024, the Government announced the Regional Deals framework that were proposed as part of their pre-election policies.

Now the Government has announced there is a tight timeframe to confirm Councils' intention to participate in a regional deal. There's another short timeframe to confirm the priorities for a light touch proposal to be submitted by 28 February 2025.

This report provides background and identifies specific opportunities for the district, that could be considered for a regional deal.

Officers are seeking feedback on the identified priorities.

#### BACKGROUND

On 21 November 2024, the Government announced that Cabinet has agreed to invite all regions to submit proposals for Regional Deals between central and local government. This represents a significant opportunity for Hawke's Bay to secure a long-term commitment to infrastructure and economic development priorities.

Regional Deals was one of the Governments pre-election policies to provide funding tools to local government. The Regional Deals framework focuses on the enablers for development, which differs from the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) and the previous Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) funding that focused more widely on private investment opportunities.

The Government has established clear expectations that Regional Deals will focus on three primary objectives of:

- Economic growth and productivity
- Delivering connected and resilient critical infrastructure

- Improving the supply of affordable housing

Four secondary objectives have also been developed that regional deals seek to achieve being:

- Greater regional and private sector collaboration;
- Improved local government decision-making and funding;
- Promoting innovative and collaborative ways of working between central and local government; and
- Ensuring resilient and sustainable cities and regions.

Regional Deals require demonstrated collaboration between councils, iwi/Māori, and the private sector. The Government has emphasised that proposals should be practical and focused, rather than aspirational wish lists.

The timeline for proposal development is tight:

- 18 December 2024: Deadline to confirm intention to participate
- 28 February 2025: Light-touch proposals due
- End of 2025: First Regional Deal to be finalised
- October 2026: Three Regional Deals to be established.

More information of the Regional Deals Framework can be found [here](#).

It is proposed the Regional Recovery Agency (RRA) will lead the development of the 'light-touch' proposal for the Hawke's Bay Region, building on the national and regional relationships in place. The Regional Economic Development Agency (REDA) will support bringing growing expertise on the state of the economy of our region and the emerging business insights and industry networks they have been working on.

An early proposed regional approach includes:

- Drawing on existing strategic documents such as the Regional Freight distribution strategy and regional water assessment
- Engaging with Councils, PSGE's, and industry sectors to validate key investment priorities
- Identifying opportunities to reduce regulatory barriers.

## DISCUSSION

This section of the report outlines the previously identified priorities for the Hawke's Bay Region identified by Matariki. These were identified as part of the Briefing to the Incoming Minister (BIM) by regional leaders in December 2023. They focused on five 'Regional Partnership' opportunities, including:

- Water Services Delivery
- Water Security
- Transport
- Hauora and Health Services
- Developing our people.

These five areas are further detailed in the **attached** BIM document.

In a Central Hawke's Bay context, there are likely four potential areas where Council may choose to prioritise its focus regionally. These include:

- **Infrastructure Investment Programmes focused on housing acceleration**

Achieving an appropriate level of investment in Council's infrastructure is a major barrier to development in our urban areas. The Waipukurau South Growth Precinct and future areas of additional land could be accelerated through a programme of infrastructure investment that focused on housing acceleration opportunities for the District and wider region.

- **Transport Initiatives to enhance productivity**

Council already has an existing programme of recovery works that funding would support enhanced economic productivity. Further to this, in 2019 a report was commissioned on key routes for economic uplift that would benefit from upgrades. This earlier piece of work was further built upon with the Hawke's Bay Regional Freight Distribution Strategy in 2023. Further identified investment opportunities included a logging hub for distribution by rail.

- **Water Security to safeguard primary production and enable export growth**

Water Security has been a long-stated priority for Council and the district. The form that supports water security initiatives could take, could long-term, be informed by the future Hawke's Bay Community Water Trust. However, in the short-term priorities within the Regional Water Assessment could be an initial focus area for Council and the wider region.

- **Planning frameworks to enable development**

While Central Hawke's Bay has its Integrated Spatial Plan 2020 - 2050, and Napier and Hastings are currently consulting on their combined Future Development Strategy 2024 - 2054, an opportunity exists for co-ordinated regional planning through a regional spatial plan.

This was previously identified as a priority, prior to the development of the Strategic Planning Act by the previous Government.

Other opportunities that Council and the wider region could build on from work already underway includes:

- Seeking to confirm the pipeline of funding for roading recovery projects;
- Additional/focused support for the future establishment of water services entities; and
- Support to address existing recovery priorities underway or yet to commence (flood protection).

Officers are seeking further feedback from Elected Members on specific matters that should be considered in a Central Hawke's Bay context to inform a regional deal proposal.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

Currently, there are no obvious risks with Regional Deals as its likely to provide opportunities to address Councils existing. As any deal progresses, new risks may emerge, and Council will need to assess these as they potentially develop.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

This decision aligns with many of Councils long-stated priorities, including working with Government for funding and other funding tools through its Non-Rateable Funding Strategic Framework.

The guidance of regional deals aligns with the long-term aspirations that Council has, which ultimately are constrained by funding – an opportunity that a regional deal may be able to resolve.

**DELEGATIONS OR AUTHORITY**

The Committee has the delegation for these decisions.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

In accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, this matter has been assessed as of low significance at this time. Regional Deals have the potential to trigger significance in the future, however this early stage does not trigger significance.

**NEXT STEPS**

Relative to Council meeting dates in the New Year, Council can expect a further update at its first meeting proposed for 13 February 2025.

In the meanwhile, Officers will work regionally to see an initial letter confirming the intention to participate regionally submitted to Government.

**Hon Simeon Brown**

MP for Pakuranga

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

Dear Mayor/Chair,

21 November 2024

**Invitation to submit a regional deal light-touch proposal**

The Government is pleased to invite your council to submit a regional deal proposal.

Regional deals is our Government's initiative to boost economic growth through infrastructure development. Deals will be focused on delivering connected and resilient infrastructure, building economic growth and improving the supply of affordable housing. They will be based on a 30-year vision for the region, with negotiated 10-year strategic plans.

**Proposal process**

Each region has the opportunity to submit one proposal for consideration. The proposals must be a collaborative submission by the territorial authorities involved and the relevant regional council. 'Regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant. One relevant regional council will be involved in each regional deal alongside territorial authorities.

The proposal is intended to be straightforward and high level. We are looking for simple, in-house proposals supported by readily accessible information. Each proposal should identify 3-5 key infrastructure priorities or projects for the region. These should clearly show how they will boost regional economic growth or unlock growth for housing. To support the development of your proposal, a light-touch form is attached to guide you.

Should you wish to submit a regional deals proposal, please complete the attached registration form and submit it to [regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz](mailto:regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz) by 18 December 2024. Final proposals are due by 28 February 2025.

Please find additional guiding material below. Further information will be available at the <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals>. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to refer them to your Department of Internal Affairs Partnership Director or to [regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz](mailto:regionaldeals@dia.govt.nz).

We are pleased to begin this journey and look forward to working with you to deliver infrastructure investment and economic growth for your communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown

**Minister of Local Government**Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand  
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**What classifies as a 'Region'?**

'Regions' in the context of regional deals should be a configuration of territorial authorities within a defined economic and geographic area and must include the regional council where relevant. One relevant regional council will be involved in each regional deal alongside the territorial authorities.

Territorial authorities should determine how they collaborate with one another, alongside the relevant regional council, on a proposal that will support economic growth or unlock growth for housing for the region involved.

**Why are all councils being invited to submit a light-touch proposal?**

We have made the decision to invite all territorial authorities at the same time to enable all regions to put forward proposals that will boost economic growth, and to support the building of relationships between these territorial authorities and their relevant regional council.

**What is a light-touch proposal?**

A light-touch proposal is a document that outline ideas that can be implemented to address clearly understood issues and opportunities. We are not looking for exploratory studies or huge glossy documents.

While each regional deal will reflect the priorities for each region, deals should address the following criteria:

- Regional alignment - shared strategic objectives, developed in partnership and reflecting the particular local characteristics of each region;
- Identification of economic opportunities for long term growth potential;
- Financial and non-financial resources that will be brought to the table;
- Alignment and commitment on approach to broader government reform objectives such as Local Water Done Well – to provide confidence that councils are meeting their regulatory standards;
- Commitment to use of shared services; and
- Identification of alternative funding and financing tools for projects.

My expectation is that territorial authorities take a 'no-frills' approach to these proposals, which are practical and focused on achieving results. The information needed to complete your proposal is expected to be able to be sourced from your existing resources and materials, minimising any unnecessary additional costs and reducing reliance on external parties.

### How should I confirm my intention to submit a light-touch proposal?

To confirm your intention to submit a light-touch proposal, submit the attached registration form to the Regional Deals Team at DIA ([RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz](mailto:RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz)) before 18 December 2025.

### How will light-touch proposals be assessed?

Proposals will be assessed according to the assessment criteria on page 24 of the Regional Deals Strategic Framework (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-08/Regional%20Deals%20Strategic%20Framework.pdf>).

### When will my region get a deal?

We expect the first regional deal to be finalised with the selected region by December 2025, with two more deals finalised by October 2026. Plans for future rounds of deals are still being developed.

We encourage councils that are not selected in the first tranche to continue to build relationships and planning with neighbouring territorial authorities and the relevant regional council to develop their future proposal. The regional deals secretariat will continue to provide support and share information on the rollout of the deals.

### What are the key dates I need to know?

Activity	Date
Letters sent to all Councils inviting a regional deal proposal	21 Nov 2024
Online Q&A sessions for all councils	Late Nov 2024
Regions confirm intention to submit a proposal	By 18 Dec 2024
Regions submit final proposals for consideration	28 Feb 2025
Cabinet agreement on next steps for each region	Mid-2025

### Further information

In the meantime, I encourage you to review the information at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals>, including the Regional Deals [Strategic Framework - DIA](#).

For further questions, please contact your DIA Partnership Director in the table ahead or email [RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz](mailto:RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz).

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160 New Zealand  
+64 4 817 6804 | [s.brown@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:s.brown@ministers.govt.nz) | [www.beehive.govt.nz](http://www.beehive.govt.nz)

<i>Regions</i>	<i>DIA Partnership Director</i>	<i>Contact details</i>
Northland/Auckland/Waikato	Vanessa Blakelock	<a href="mailto:Vanessa.blakelock@dia.govt.nz">Vanessa.blakelock@dia.govt.nz</a> [021 832 417]
Bay of Plenty/Gisborne Tairāwhiti/Hawkes Bay/Manawatū Whanganui/Taranaki	Caroline Dumas	<a href="mailto:Caroline.dumas@dia.govt.nz">Caroline.dumas@dia.govt.nz</a> [022 652 5199]
Wellington/Otago/Southland	Warren Ulusele	<a href="mailto:Warren.ulusele@dia.govt.nz">Warren.ulusele@dia.govt.nz</a> [021 227 8187]
Nelson City and Tasman /Marlborough/Canterbury/ West Coast	Paul Barker	<a href="mailto:Paul.barker@dia.govt.nz">Paul.barker@dia.govt.nz</a> [027 610 7508]

**Action required: Please confirm your acceptance of this invitation to submit a regional deal proposal. Include the councils you will be partnering with to develop your proposal and form your 'region'.**

To confirm your intention to submit a regional proposal, please submit the attached registration form to the Regional Deals Team at DIA ([RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz](mailto:RegionalDeals@dia.govt.nz)) before 18 December 2025.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the new Government prepares to reshape the relationship between central government and local government through long-term partnership agreements, Hawke’s Bay is a region aligned with many of incoming government’s priorities. We are organised for collaboration, united and we have pressing post-cyclone issues to address.

With the urgent challenge of building back resiliently from Cyclone Gabrielle, Hawke’s Bay wishes to explore a

shared strategy with central government to address urgent recovery issues, alongside building an enduring regional partnership to deliver improved results.

Long-term joint planning and a portfolio approach could deliver a regional partnership encompassing transport, housing (including public housing), and environmental resilience investments, and new mechanisms to alleviate roadblocks to a prosperous, sustainable and resilient region.

### Key Issues – Hawke’s Bay Regional Partnership

<b>Silt and Debris</b>	Over <b>1.5 million cubic metres of silt and debris</b> remain on highly productive land from Cyclone Gabrielle.
<b>Category 3 Property Buyouts</b>	<b>Action is needed</b> to ensure the Government-led Kaupapa Māori buyout programme catches up to the broader buyout programme <b>to avoid disparate and unfair outcomes</b> . Further support maybe required for additional category 3 property buyouts if land categorisations change and current funding caps are reached.
<b>Severe Housing Shortages</b>	The region is at least 3000 houses short, with that expected to grow as work expands to restore damaged infrastructure.
<b>Legislative Roadblocks</b>	Legislation and/or new regulations could ease <b>significant consenting and planning blockages</b> slowing critical flood mitigation work.
<b>Emergency Resilience</b>	New measures are needed for more <b>resilient power, telecommunications, and transport infrastructure</b> for when disasters occur.
<b>Water Service Delivery</b>	A regional model based around the five <b>Hawke’s Bay Councils</b> is proposed with strong regional backing to replace the soon-to-be-repealed Three Waters water service entities.
<b>Water Security</b>	There is a pressing need to address the fast-growing demands for long-term <b>climate resilient water supplies</b> for one of New Zealand’s most important primary sector producing regions.
<b>Transport</b>	Significant recovery related investment is needed to build back better and address vulnerabilities on both state highways and local roads, particularly in the <b>‘farm/orchard gate to processing/arterial corridor’</b> element of the road network.
<b>Health Services</b>	Hawke’s Bay Regional Hospital needs priority work while broader health services need to be made <b>fit-for-purpose</b> to meet the region’s needs.
<b>Workforce Development</b>	Development of the local workforce is required to help meet the demand for civil construction workers for post-cyclone infrastructure repairs (up to <b>8000 additional construction workers</b> over the next eight years).

## INTRODUCTION

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Matariki is a collaborative leadership group working to address the range of issues and challenges facing Hawke's Bay. Made up of the five Hawke's Bay Councils, Iwi and six Post Settlement Governance Entities, Matariki has been particularly focused on recovery priorities following the devastation wrought on the region by Cyclone Gabrielle, establishing the Regional Recovery Agency (RRA) to lead this work. Working alongside the public service, business, primary sector and NGO organisations, Matariki and the RRA provide an ideal, joined-up vehicle for Hawke's Bay to work with the Government to advance shared goals and priorities.

Gabrielle was the most significant weather event on record across Hawke's Bay. Eight lives were lost in Hawke's Bay, thousands of homes inundated, many marae were flooded or damaged, roads and bridges were destroyed or damaged, and vast areas of land – much of it highly productive – covered in debris and silt. It is only the third time in New Zealand's history a national state of emergency has been declared. It was the costliest tropical cyclone in the southern hemisphere, estimated at causing more than \$8bn in damages.

The economic, social and environmental impacts have been significant on a region which, until the cyclone, had been outperforming the national economy for a number of years, driven by our traditional strengths in horticulture, agriculture and viticulture, alongside tourism and a construction boom. In the Horticulture sector for example, Cyclone Gabrielle impacted circa 35% of local crop production value, with an estimated \$500M in economic losses in FY23, and \$920M in critical response and replanting costs.

We are grateful for the valuable and ongoing support we have had to date from the Crown. This includes support for buying out Category 3 properties, flood protection, silt and debris removal, restoring transport links, for Māori communities badly damaged by the flood, and for businesses and the primary sector devastated in so many ways. But, as Ministers know, there is huge work still to be done to continue the recovery, restore our crucial primary sector, and build back better.

With the incoming government's expressed intentions to explore 'regional partnerships' and to meet with cyclone affected communities to establish recovery requirements, we are keen to engage with you. Hawke's Bay could be a natural starting point for regional partnerships. Such an approach recognises the limitations of concentrated delivery of public services

from a central bureaucracy. A decentralised model addresses the realities and experiences of different communities, encouraging self-reliance and localised decision making through subsidiarity. The closer that resource allocation and decisions are located to where those resources will be deployed, the greater the prospect of improved outcomes and community support. We also note that, compared to Christchurch after the earthquakes, relatively little public service capacity has been located in the region (acknowledging the good work done by MSD and the Regional Public Service).

We strongly support your approach as articulated during the campaign. We are aligned with many of incoming government's priorities and our partner organisations have expressed their pre-commitment to partnership and regional collaboration. We are joined-up and ready to go.

Our first priority is, of course, the massive recovery and resilience challenge facing us in the wake of cyclone Gabrielle. Our current action plan, supported by the RRA, is about restoring and enhancing Hawke's Bay's resilience – whether it be in the environment, economy, whānau and community well-being, the primary sector, the region's infrastructure, or in how we become more resilient to and recover from future events. We see the best approach to these challenges as a partnership between the Crown and government agencies and our councils, communities and mana whenua, and businesses and primary sector participants across Hawke's Bay.

The starting point for a conversation between the region and the incoming government could encompass:

- Silt and debris – continued Crown support
- Addressing severe housing shortages
- Regulatory relief to deliver outcomes
- Emergency resilience
- Water service delivery – a new direction with regional collaboration
- Water security – support for investment in water efficiency and storage
- Transport – resilience and building back better
- Health services
- Workforce.

# IMMEDIATE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE ISSUES

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## 1. Silt and Debris

Hawke's Bay's silt and debris removal programme is highly successful thanks to the significant support from the Crown. Around 3 million cubic metres of silt needs to be cleared to return highly productive land into horticulture, agriculture and viticulture. As at the end of October, almost half (~1,350,000m<sup>3</sup>) had been removed. The programme has comprised two components – a commercial fund that co-invests with commercial landowners to clear silt from land (e.g., orchards, vineyards and farms), and a local authority fund which, in addition to dealing with residential silt deposits, collects, transports and processes silt and debris once it has been removed from private property.

The Silt and Debris Taskforce operations have supported thousands of hectares of land to get back into production. The Taskforce is working closely with sector groups to prioritise the highest-value land – with the current planting season a priority factor. This programme has strong support across the horticultural, agricultural and viticulture sectors and the wider community. A halt to the programme will have noticeable negative impacts in the Hawke's Bay community.

Alongside the economic impact, there are also public health issues. The silt has the potential to be contaminated with animal and human waste, agrichemicals etc. In parts of the region silt is turning to dust in dry and windy conditions. Airborne dust can cause respiratory health issues for vulnerable communities. Over the summer months this is not a problem for which easy mitigation exists apart from removal. Planting and hydroseeding solutions can stabilise silt where debris and other cyclone waste has been removed, but this is not a viable option until the autumn.

Longer term it is critical to invest in working with landowners in catchments to manage and reduce erosion if we are to reduce the volume of silt and debris mobilised in major storms. This will reduce post event costs and damage and enable the region's economy to be more resilient. The region's Land for Life (formally Right Tree Right Place) programme can help address significant challenges relating to erosion, climate change adaption and mitigation, freshwater protection, and restoring biodiversity. These are important conversations to be held with the new Ministers of Environment and Primary Industries.



## 2. Legislative/Regulatory Relief

The RRA met pre-election with Cyclone Recovery Unit (CRU) officials to consider options to ease the RMA consenting/planning burden for critical flood mitigation infrastructure. Emergency legislation and/or regulations could be explored to streamline and speed up the RMA processes.

Flood mitigation infrastructure is needed to move up to 963 properties within Categories 2A and 2C to Category 1, but is likely to be slowed by complex consenting requirements. Regulatory relief could be delivered by legislative change to streamline the consenting process, via permitted activity or a non-notified controlled activity status. An Order-in-Council may also present a possible pathway.

Discussions between the RRA, the councils and the CRU continue to ensure that feasible options for regulatory relief can be presented to the new Government endorsed by the CRU and relevant agencies (e.g., Ministry for the Environment, DIA, HUD, Crown Law). However, given recent experience, Ministerial leadership may be required to help overcome hesitance on the part of some agencies and officials.

## 3. Housing—Short and Longer-Term

Severe housing shortages in Hawke's Bay were exacerbated by Cyclone Gabrielle. Housing was destroyed or made unoccupiable in flooded areas. People were displaced and without housing, or entered the urban market and displaced others, causing significant indirect displacement. We estimate the region was short of around 3000 houses before the cyclone which has exacerbated the problem.

Māori housing has been disproportionately impacted. Government support (through the Temporary Accommodation Service and MHUD) along with local marae have helped many but there are still whānau without adequate housing. Much of the land where housing was affected is now category 3 or 2A, there are some rural implementation challenges, and the funding provided to support cabins for whānau is unlikely to meet the quantum of need. Additional support and operational policy changes may be required to get some of the support already provided in place 'on-the-ground.'

The Kaupapa Māori Parallel Pathway for Category 3 lands needs urgent attention. While the Council-led general land buyout programme is progressing well, the Government-led Kaupapa Māori led buyout programme lags behind and is creating unfair and disparate outcomes.

The Council-led programme may need some further support in the future should additional properties be recategorised as category 3 due to flood mitigation options not being achievable or economic.

Added to current housing challenges, there are concerns that the projected influx of workers to the region will make the housing situation worse – there needs to be a process for working with Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) Alliance and New Zealand Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi to ensure their approaches to worker accommodation do not exacerbate housing shortages. Sensible approaches could create a legacy for solving housing problems rather than exacerbating them. Discussion on this issue has commenced which is promising.

Continued and additional support for housing investment in Hawke's Bay, including via Kāinga Ora/Homes and Communities and MHUD, is essential to reduce and avoid undesirable social and health outcomes. The region has a good working relationship in place with MHUD. Of particular promise in addressing housing shortages within the region are various housing projects being pursued by Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs) and NKII in conjunction with MHUD. The region strongly supports these projects as part of the wider solution to housing shortages and urges the Government to continue with these housing programmes, and the place-based approaches underway.

## 4. Emergency Resilience

Continuing the work to build stronger resilience in lifeline utilities such as power and telecoms is vital. There needs to be a focus on avoiding a repetition of significant areas, towns and cities being left with no power, no telecommunications and cut-off from land and air transport networks for several days. Hub health facilities need to be increased in capacity and capability for when access to the closest hospitals is cut. Flood resilience for the Awatoto Industrial Area (which hasn't been prioritised in the initial flood protection funding) also needs focused attention.

Emergency services performed heroically in the cyclone but inadequate resources and funding, both at a local and regional level, hampered their response efforts. This needs addressing as New Zealand faces increasing frequency and severity of weather events.

# ‘REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS’ OPPORTUNITIES

## 1. Water Services

During 2019 and 2020 the five Hawke’s Bay Councils collectively undertook a detailed study of the future of water service delivery. That review identified that the status quo of Councils managing water, wastewater, and stormwater (three waters) was no longer a viable option:

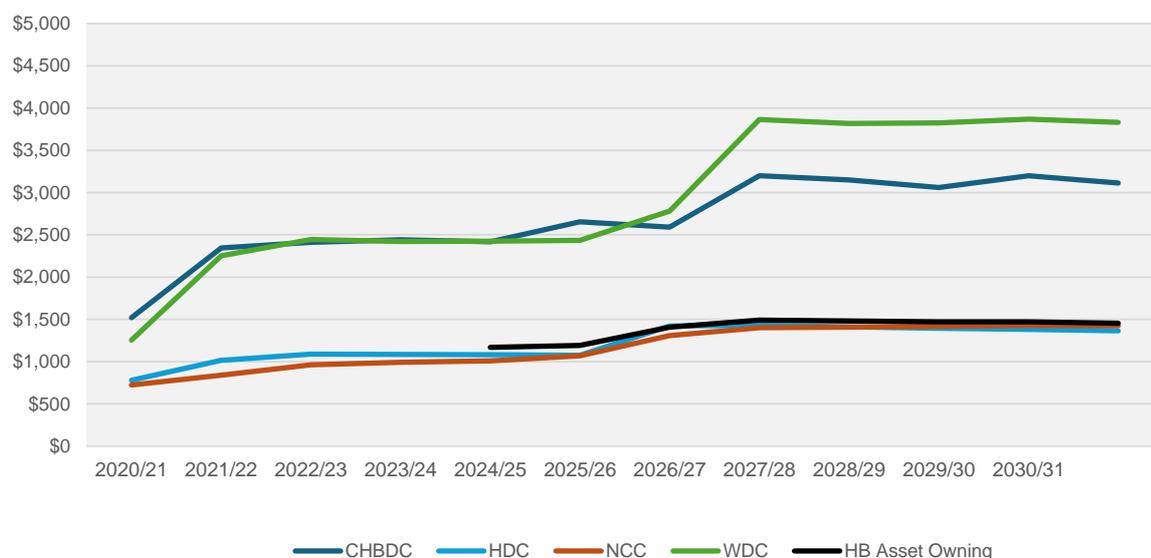
- The cost of three waters services is rising for all ratepayers but the cost increases for Wairoa and Central Hawke’s Bay ratepayers will reach a level considered unaffordable when compared to international benchmarks.
- A regional model could achieve capital and operating savings by consolidating the services into a single entity responsible for the service across all of Hawke’s Bay, significantly improving affordability for Wairoa and Central Hawke’s Bay (note these

figures are currently being updated to include changes post Cyclone Gabrielle).

To establish the regional model legislative change would be needed. Watercare was created by legislation when Auckland Council was created so it has different powers than a CCO created under the Local Government Act. Some of the differences are minor but others are material.

Under the current rules for Council CCOs, the debt would be attributed to and reported by each Council in line with their shareholding. Post Cyclone recovery, Hawke’s Bay Councils are reaching or are projected to reach their debt limits. A change to the rules for CCOs to provide for balance sheet separation for a regional model (and other similar CCOs) would be a significant benefit for the CCOs, the Councils and Government.

**Estimated Future Three Waters Services Costs — Annual \$/Household**



## 2. Water Security

Our Regional Water Security Programme set an overarching objective to ensure “Hawke’s Bay has long-term climate resilient and secure supplies of freshwater, for all”. There are currently three projects included within the HBRC Programme: The Regional Water Assessment, the Central Hawke’s Bay Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Pilot and the Heretaunga Water Storage project.

The Regional Water Assessment provides key information for our freshwater management planning and policy, producing a view on how much water we have, how much we use and what this is projected to be in the future. Irrigation for agriculture, horticulture and viticulture is the biggest user at 64%, municipal supply uses 19%, and manufacturing and processing 13%.

The region currently uses around 140 million m<sup>3</sup> of water annually. Our long-term future demand planning forecasts that even with significant water demand savings, Hawke’s Bay will still require an additional 25 million m<sup>3</sup> of water by 2040 and nearly 33 million m<sup>3</sup> by 2060.

We are looking at a range of options for both reducing demand and increasing supply (for further investigation and assessment), including reducing waste and increasing efficiency and conservation, community-scale water storage (dam/reservoir) and Managed Aquifer Recharge projects to divert water when plentiful to recharge aquifers. A partnership with Government to advance this vital climate resilience work, with its potential for economic, environmental, and cultural benefits, is something the region would welcome.

## 3. Transport

The Draft Hawke’s Bay Regional Freight Distribution Strategy has been collaboratively developed by our councils and Regional Economic Development Agency (REDA), mana whenua, and major transport sector participants. It covers all transport modes of sea, air, and land (road, rail and active) and the end-to-end supply chain from production and manufacturer to customer with a 30-year horizon across Wairoa, Napier, Hastings and Central Hawke’s Bay.

It highlights the need for resilient strategic freight corridors to the north via SH5, to the north and south via SH2, and the east via sea. It also demonstrates the importance of all transport modes, including active, and the importance of investment into rail infrastructure connecting the districts, and the region, to the national network. Along with improving resilience, there are significant opportunities to improve economic outcomes through investment in corridors such as SH2 north to Wairoa and Tairāwhiti.

Input to the Strategy has also highlighted the importance of rebuilding the ‘farm/orchard gate to processing/arterial corridor’ element of the freight distribution network. Alongside state highways, this has been most severely affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

***Councils with extensive rural roading networks are under significant financial pressure post-Gabrielle and will need assistance beyond ‘business as usual’ levels.*** Ensuring event-based enhanced FAR rates remain in place will be essential for council financial sustainability.

The Freight strategy has been completed post Cyclone Gabrielle to ensure its strategic projects align with both recovery efforts to ‘build back better’ and future needs. The recommendations in this strategy are closely aligned with the RRAs priorities and recognise the fragility of the region’s transport network and lifeline infrastructure. Lifeline utility failure was a key impact to emerge from Gabrielle, with road access, along with power and telecoms, cut off for communities large and small for periods ranging from days to weeks.

### Strategic Hawke’s Bay Projects



The recommended projects are the result of extensive engagement and consultation with local stakeholders. All projects are grounded in the Aotearoa New Zealand Freight and Supply Chain Strategy principles of **National Interest, Partnership and System Stewardship** and have been classified as follows:

- Assigned one or more of the four regional strategic priorities.
- Assigned one or more of the three strategic freight corridors.
- Assigned one or more of the six DRAFT GPS 2024 strategic priorities.
- Categorized in accordance with the **intervention hierarchy** provided in the DRAFT GPS 2024.
- Defined as a recovery project (post Cyclone Gabrielle) and/or an enhancement project.
- Given an indicative timeframe of short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-5 years) or long term (5+ years).
- Identified as a particular transport mode (road, rail, air, sea or active)
- The five transport outcomes from GPS 2021 are applied to each project.

<b>PROJECT 1</b> SH5 resilient and efficient	<b>PROJECT 7</b> Build a log yard at Waipukurau to move logs off road to rail
<b>PROJECT 2</b> SH2 to Wairoa resilient and efficient, and investment intensified on road rather than stretched across road and rail	<b>PROJECT 8</b> Deconflict the Ahuriri freight corridor
<b>PROJECT 3</b> SH2 Napier to Hastings dual carriageway and rail feasibility study to realign on the same corridor	<b>PROJECT 9</b> Update the HPUDS to zone industrial land to connect with the main SH2 corridor between PakiPaki and Napier Port
<b>PROJECT 4</b> SH50 and SH51 repairs	<b>PROJECT 10</b> Develop the Napier Airport freight hub
<b>PROJECT 5</b> Complete a study on rebalancing container import and export trades	<b>PROJECT 11</b> Complete a detailed business case to realign intra-region rail along the SH2 corridor between PakiPaki and Napier Port
<b>PROJECT 6</b> Redesignate the Palmerston North to Napier line in the Rail Network Investment Program (RNIP) to Priority Line status	<b>PROJECT 12</b> Complete a feasibility to repurpose the existing rail corridor along SH51 into active modes and/or urban transport routes

### Hawke’s Bay Network Map



(Project and map from the Draft Hawke’s Bay Regional Freight Distribution Strategy, October 2023)

#### 4. Hauora and Health Services

Addressing the state of health services in the region is an area of critical priority for the incoming Government. Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital is no longer fit-for-purpose for the region's needs. The buildings are old, deteriorating – urgent and extensive investment is required. The region is pleased that Hawke's Bay has made it onto a priority list for investment but wishes to see urgent action, including ensuring new facilities (i.e., Emergency Department) have adequate capacity for current and future needs.

Broader health services need to be fit-for-purpose and accessible for diverse communities. This means identifying wellbeing needs and developing services in partnerships with mana whenua and other communities. It also means being willing to move away from the status quo where it is failing communities, and diversifying service delivery and wellbeing support channels so that barriers to wellbeing and healthcare are removed.

The region's Matariki partner organisations are ready to engage with Government in the work required to deliver more decentralised and responsive services in our region. The region, and in particular the Iwi Māori Partnership Board working with the Health Service, will provide further detail in this area.

#### 5. Developing Our Workforce – Recovery, People and Whānau Development, and Economic Potential

Hawke's Bay desperately needs targeted investment in skill and workforce development. The Infrastructure Commission's workforce modelling of the post-cyclone infrastructure programme forecasts that up to 8,000 additional civil construction workers will be needed in the next 2-5 years and beyond (on top of significant housing construction workforce needs). While that programme will be smoothed through phasing, sequencing and funding constraints, there will still be a need for a large increase in the civil construction workforce.

This presents an opportunity to employ and develop our people locally and is a particular focus for the region's Māori and Pasifika communities. The region's PSGEs view capability growth and skill development as essential in improving health and life outcomes for Māori and improving Māori economic potential.

The tertiary education sector has a vital role to play in this. With the formation of Te Pūkenga/New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, the region has lost the local leadership, focus and responsiveness that existed with EIT. Restoring a responsive locally-led tertiary institute, with strong links to mana whenua, the economy and local civic leadership, would be welcomed. EIT was a stand-out tertiary institute before the reforms.

There is also a need to ensure Te Pūkenga/New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and/or its local manifestation, works closely with workforce development councils to ensure offerings are needs and demand focused. Meeting regional industry needs, particularly in civil construction and housing, is vital.



**HAWKE'S BAY  
REGIONAL  
RECOVERY  
AGENCY**

## 6.4 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUBS UPDATE

**File Number:****Author:** Debbie Northe, Community Connections Manager Recovery**Authoriser:** Dennise Elers, Group Manager, Community Partnerships**Attachments:** Nil

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Strategy, Growth and Community Committee notes the Community Emergency Hubs update.**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report provides an update on Community Emergency Hubs in Central Hawke's Bay.

### BACKGROUND

Through a series of 'community conversation' meetings post Cyclone Gabrielle, a key issue raised across the district was the need for communities to have increased resilience through times of isolation, such as that experienced through the cyclone.

The following priorities were identified to support and build community resilience across the district:

- Development of Community Resilience Plans
- Establishing Community Emergency Hubs
- Civil Defence radio network
- Telecommunications resilience.

These priorities were captured under the Social Pou of the Tamatea – Central Hawke's Bay Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery and Resilience Plan and have informed the Community Wellbeing and Resilience Work Programme led by the Community Connections Manager Recovery.

Successful applications to external funders have meant this work programme is fully funded via external grants as follows:

- Ministry of Social Development (Social Sector Recovery) \$135,000 received October 2023
- New Zealand Disaster Fund via New Zealand Red Cross \$340,000 received January 2024
- NZ Lottery Grants Board Te Matāu a Māui Regional Recovery \$228,276.

In addition, four community facilities have been successfully nominated for solar installation via the Ministry Business Innovation and Employment Community Renewable Energy Fund. Funding is capped at \$100,000 per site.

Communications resilience was also identified and included in the Cyclone Gabrielle Corrective Actions Work Programme. An update on this work programme was provided to this committee on 17 October 2024.

## DISCUSSION

Hawke's Bay Emergency Management (HBEM) has adopted the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) community hub model. This has been successfully run for over ten years with 127 hubs across the Wellington region.

<https://www.hbemergency.govt.nz/community/hub/>

HBEM are:

- Leading the strategy of community emergency hubs, of which there are likely to be 60 across the wider Hawke's Bay district.
- Coordinating communications equipment for the hubs
- Leading Community Resilience Plan (CRP) workshops and development of CRP's.
- Leading hub training.

Council's Community Connections Manager Recovery is working closely with our HBEM Advisor to ensure an integrated work programme is in place.

### Community Resilience Planning

Following the post cyclone community conversations, community champion groups were formed to progress community resilience planning. These groups included interested people from the community conversation meetings, hall committees, schools, and local Fire & Emergency brigades amongst others. In most instances, the hall committees were the driving force to get these meetings off the ground.

Community Resilience meetings facilitated by Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management (HBCDEM) have been run throughout the district. The outcome of which is to prepare a Community Resilience plan for each locality that also identifies the location of a Community Emergency Hub.

A Community Resilience Plan helps people in the community understand their local risks and how to work together, to respond, and recover from an emergency event.

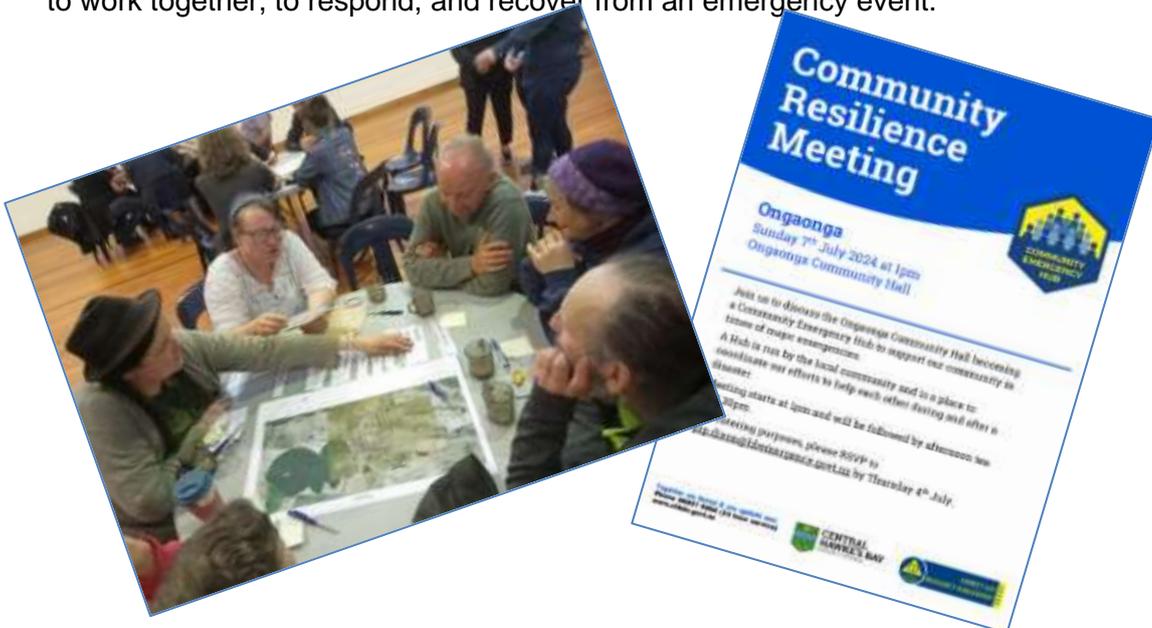


Figure 1: Tikokino Community Resilience Workshop, Ongaonga flier.

To date, resilience conversations been held at Aramoana, Ashley Clinton, Blackhead Beach, Elsthorpe, Kairakau, Mangakuri, Purerere and Wallingford, and meetings/workshops in Ongaonga, Otāne, Pōrangahau Village, Te Paerahi Beach, Tikokino, and Whangaeahu.

Conversations are currently underway with the Omakere and Takapau communities.

Resilience plans are currently being drafted for all the above communities. There are two formats of CRP's – a large A4 format booklet such as the Tikokino Plan, and DL size leaflets which are for our coastal communities which include flood and tsunami modelling and evacuation routes.



Figure 2: Draft CRP booklets and leaflets, tsunami inundation mapping for Whangaeahu

The full CRP's will form part of our Emergency Welfare operating guidelines. The plans will be hosted online by HBCDEM with links to the Central Hawke's Bay District Council website. An abbreviated pamphlet version of the plans will be distributed to communities.

**Community Emergency Hubs**

Community Emergency Hubs are pre-identified, community-led places that are opened and operated by people within the community. They will be activated when there has been an emergency and people need assistance. The community decides the place that everyone can gather to aid each other. They are in geographic locations and communities of interest.

The hubs can support a community to gather, connect with one another and solve problems using the skills and resources that already exist amongst the community, whilst still coordinating with councils about the big issues.

The hubs communicate into councils Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which, in a large-scale event communicates into the regional Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).

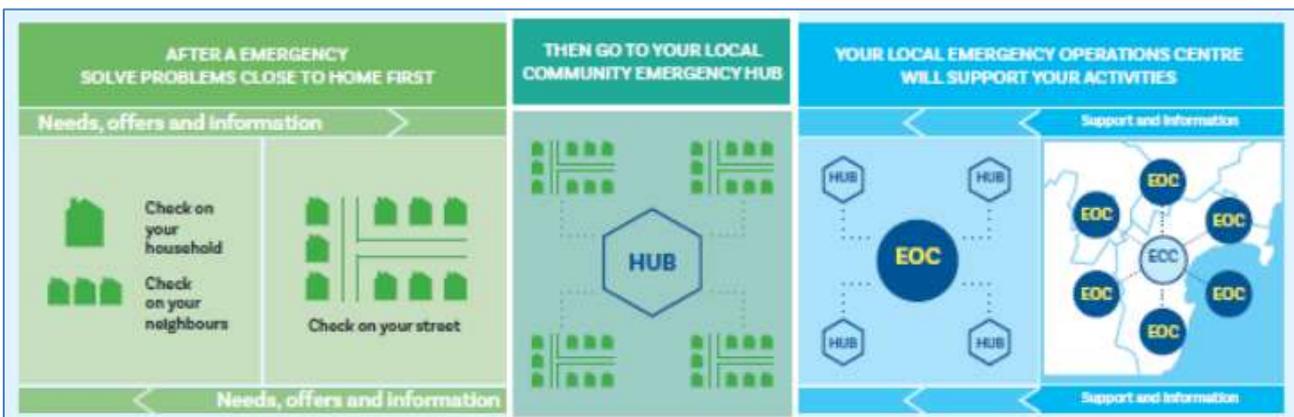


Figure 3: CEH information flow

To date, hubs have been established at:

- Aramonana
- Ashley Clinton
- Elsthorpe
- Ongaonga
- Otāne
- Pōrangahau village
- Te Paerahi beach
- Tikokino
- Wallingford
- Whangaehu beach.

A dedicated hub to support people with disabilities has been established at the Paul Hunter Centre.

Conversations are continuing with our coastal communities around the possible establishment of a CEH and/or the strategic placement of emergency supplies. The Aramoana community has successfully applied for funding via the Hawke's Bay Cyclone Appeal Grant for an E-pod container.

The hubs operate on a standardised model which can be easily adapted for each venue and situation.

Procurement and delivery of hub resources including hub start up kits, catering packs, generators, play bins, emergency lighting, and civil defence emergency supplies is nearly complete, and hub training and practice setup is underway.

Emergency communications equipment is being sourced. Radios will be one option available if normal communications such as phone, text, email are unavailable.

HBEM are leading these discussions due to the future increased use of the CDEM radio network. Hub radios will be 'suitcase radios' that will operate on a digital network, with the ability to revert to the VHF network if required. Discussions are continuing around the requirements for maintenance, training, and regular radio checks.

The hubs will also be supported with resources contained in mobile welfare trailers.



## Mobile Welfare Trailers

The first of our two new mobile welfare trailers has been completed with the second underway. Funded via our grant from the NZ Disaster Fund, the trailers will hold resources to establish a mobile welfare centre. The trailers have been based on the New Zealand Red Cross model and will be equipped with generator, lighting, bedding, first aid supplies, emergency food and water etc.

Discussions are underway as to where these will be strategically placed around the district.



*Figure 4: Ongaonga hub practice, hub equipment, suitcase radio*

Procurement of supplies is underway for the trailers.



*Figure 5: Mobile Welfare Trailer built by CHB Engineering, funded via NZ Disaster Fund*

## Solar installation

Funding has been secured from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment to equip four of our community facilities that will be used as emergency hubs or civil defence centres with solar power systems.

Signed funding agreements are in place for Elsthorpe Hall, Central Hawke's Bay Municipal Theatre and Ongaonga Hall. We are awaiting the contract for Civic Theatre, Waipukurau.

DMAK Electrical completed the Elsthorpe Community Hall installation in November, through funds received from the Cyclone Appeal Fund. We were able to engage local Elsthorpe contractors Ova the Hedge to repaint the entire roof prior to the installation of the solar system.



*Figure 6: Elsthorpe Hall completed solar installation.*

## **STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

The project aligns with Council's goal for stronger communities, connected citizens, and a proud district, as outlined in the 'Together we Thrive' priorities.

## 6.5 ADOPTION OF 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

**File Number:** COU1-1400

**Author:** Annelie Roets, Governance Lead

**Authoriser:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive

**Attachments:** 1. 2025 DRAFT CHBDC Meetings calendar [↓](#)

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt the Meeting Schedule for 2025.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Strategy, Growth & Community Committee adopts the '2025 Council Meetings Schedule'.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

This report requires a decision but is assessed as not significant per Council's significance and engagement policy.

### BACKGROUND

Council may adopt a schedule of meetings for Council and Standing Committees for the calendar year in accordance with Schedule 7 Clauses 19(5)(a)(b) and 19(6)(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

By setting a schedule the Chief Executive fulfils his responsibilities for giving notice in writing to each member. The schedule can be amended and where this occurs members are provided written notice of any changes.

### DISCUSSION

At any time during the year there is provision under the LGA and standing orders to hold extraordinary Council meetings to deal with urgent matters.

Council is required to publicly notify Council meetings, and the adoption of a schedule ensures for seamless operational management of both public notification and development of agendas.

The **attached** proposed schedule recommends:

- A six weekly Council meeting cycle;
- Council workshops co-ordinating with meetings;
- A four weekly Transport Committee cycle;
- An eight weekly Strategy, Growth and Community Committee cycle;
- An eight weekly Finance, Infrastructure and Performance Committee cycle;
- the Risk and Assurance Committee to meet five times a year (although 2025 is an election year and is proposed to meet only four times);
- the Chief Executive Officer Performance and Employment Committee to meet three times.

### Workshops and Briefings

In line with the Chief Ombudsman's recommendations to enhance transparency (report [here](#)), Council opens its workshops to the public unless otherwise specified. Workshop agendas will be made publicly available on the Council's website following each meeting [here](#).

Members of the public can also request the agenda at any time from the Governance team at [governance@chbdc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@chbdc.govt.nz).

### **IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

This report confirms that the matter concerned has no particular implications and has been dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Specifically:

- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made.
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter.
- Any decisions made will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.
- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

### **NEXT STEPS**

On adoption of the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule, Council Officers will publicly notify and prepare for meetings.

Central Hawke's Bay Council & Committee Meeting dates - Draft Annual Planner 2025 (as on 5 Dec 2024)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December																
SUN						1							SUN															
MON						2	King's Birthday		1			1	MON															
TUES				1		3		1	2			2	Housing Taskforce	TUES														
WED	1	New Years		2		4		2	3	Workshop	1		3	WED														
THUR	2	Day After New Years		3	1	5	Council meeting	3	4	Workshop	2	Council meeting	4	Workshop	THUR													
FRI	3			4	2	6		4	5		3		5	FRI														
SAT	4		1	5	3	7		5	6		4		6	SAT														
SUN	5		2	6	4	8		6	7		5		7	SUN														
MON	6		3	7	5	9		7	8	Nominations Open	6		8	EM induction ?	MON													
TUES	7		4	8	Kahui	10		8	9	Voting opens	7	Housing Taskforce	4	EM induction ?	Kahui	9	CE Perf/Em	TUES										
WED	8		5	9	R&A	11		9	10		8		5	EM induction ?	10	R&A	WED											
THUR	9		6	Waitangi Day	6	CE Perf/Em	10	Council meeting	8	Workshop	12		10		7	Council meeting	11		9	Workshop	11	Council meeting	THUR					
FRI	10		7		7		11		11		12		10		8		12		10		7		12	FRI				
SAT	11		8		8		12		12		13		11		9		13		11		8		13	SAT				
SUN	12		9		9		13		13		14		12		10		14		12		9		14	SUN				
MON	13		10		10		14		14		15		13		11		15		13		10		15	MON				
TUES	14		11		11		15		15		16		14		12	Kahui	16		14		11		16	TUES				
WED	15		12		12		16		16		17		15		13		17	R&A	15		12		17	WED				
THUR	16		13	Council meeting	13	Workshop	17		19	FIP	Transport	17		18	Transport	SGC	16	Elections Off Results	13		18		18	THUR				
FRI	17		14		14		18	Good Friday	16		20	Matariki	18		15		19		17		14		19	FRI				
SAT	18		15		15		19		19		21		18		16		20		18		15		20	SAT				
SUN	19		16		16		20		20		22		19		17		21		19		16		21	SUN				
MON	20		17		17		21	Easter Monday	19		23		21		18		22		20		17		22	MON				
TUES	21		18	Housing Taskforce	Kahui	18		22		24	Housing Taskforce	22		19		23		21		18		23		23	TUES			
WED	22		19		19		23		21		25		23		20		24	CE Perf/Em	22	1st Council meeting	19	Council meeting	24		WED			
THUR	23		20		20		24	Transport	FIP	22	Transport	SGC	26		24	SGC	Transport	21	Transport	FIP	25		20		25	Christmas	THUR	
FRI	24		21		21		25	Anzac Day	23		27		25		22		26		24		21		26		26	HB Anniversary	FRI	
SAT	25		22		22		26		24		28		26		23		27		25		22		27		27	SAT		
SUN	26		23		23		27		25		29		27		24		28		26		23		28		28	SUN		
MON	27	Leaders Forum - Wairoa	24		24		28		26		30		28		25		29		27		24		29		29	Labour Day	MON	
TUES	28	Electoral Officer training WLG	25		25		29	Housing Taskforce	27				29		26		30		28		25		30		30		TUES	
WED	29	Electoral Officer training WLG	26		26		30		28				30		27				29		26		31		31		EM breakaway?	WED
THUR	30	Electoral Officer training WLG	Workshop (A/P)	FIP	Transport	27	SGC	Transport					29		28				30		27						EM breakaway?	THUR
FRI	31		28		28				30						29				31		28						28	FRI
SAT			29		29				31						30						29						29	SAT
SUN			30		30										31						30						30	SUN
MON			31		31																31						31	MON
TUES																												TUES

key meetings	Council meeting	Workshop	Risk & Assurance (R&A)	Regional Collaboration Day	Public Holidays	School holidays	2025 Elections	Citizenship Ceremony	Transport Cmt	Finance, I & P Cmt	Strategy, G&C Cmt
	EM Breakaway	HBRC CEG / CDEM JC	Taituara conferences	Crematorium Committee	Zone 3	SuperLocal 2025 Conf	Taituara Conf. CHCH	Taituara Meetings	Housing Taskforce	Kahui meeting	

## 6.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND (LGNZ) FOUR-MONTHLY REPORT FOR MEMBERS - 1 JULY - 31 OCTOBER 2024

### File Number:

**Author:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive

**Authoriser:** Doug Tate, Chief Executive

**Attachments:** 1. LGNZ Four Monthly Report - 1 July to 31 Oct 2024 [↓](#)

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Strategy, Growth & Community notes the ‘LGNZ Four-monthly report for members dated 1 July – 31 October 2024’.**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Four Monthly Report for Member Councils to Council for its noting for the period of July – October 2024.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

This report is provided for information purposes only and has been assessed as not significant.

### BACKGROUND

The report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils. It is specifically designed to be placed on council’s agendas for discussion and feedback. The report is produced three times a year and complements LGNZ’s regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (the fortnightly e-newsletter).

### IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT

This report confirms that the matter concerned has no particular implications and has been dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Specifically:

- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made.
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter and considered the views and preferences of any interested or affected persons (including Māori), in proportion to the significance of the matter.
- Any decisions made will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.
- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.



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# LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024





## Ko Tātou LGNZ.

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

Many councils have found it useful to put this report on the agenda for their next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam and Susan are also happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it, on request.

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

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## Introduction

This busy four months included our SuperLocal conference in Wellington, which attracted more than 700 people and dominated the news agenda all week. This was partly thanks to headline-grabbing comments from the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister, but also because of the LGNZ team's proactive generation of many other topics in the media spotlight at our conference, from four-year terms and tourism levies to localism and regional deals.

Alongside preparing for and delivering SuperLocal, our small team managed a huge range of other work, which is covered in this report. Highlights include:

- Launching our third rates rise toolkit in July, including NZIER's research uncovering the costs of unfunded mandates for councils. Unfunded mandates are costs that local government ends up carrying as a result of central government legislation.
- In October, launching our Electoral Reform Working Group's issues paper exploring the current state of participation in local election and asking for feedback.
- Local Government Minister Simeon Brown announcing a framework for Regional Deals that aligns with many of the elements LGNZ called for in our May proposal.

As you'll see below, we've had many meetings with Ministers, the Prime Minister and other politicians across a wide range of topics. And we've engaged in a range of policy issues, with our work driven by the high-level advocacy priorities that members and National Council agreed earlier this year:

- Funding and financing
- Water
- Resource management reform
- Transport
- Climate change

Right now, we're preparing for the 21 November Combined Sector meeting, focused on the Government's local government reform programme. It features a strong range of speakers including the Local Government Minister, Regional Development Minister, Opposition Finance Spokesperson, Australian local government speakers on their rates capping experience, and a briefing from the Treasury on New Zealand's fiscal situation.

During the meeting, we'll also be launching a funding and financing toolkit, showcasing a range of tools that could be used (alongside rates) to boost local government's financial position and help councils deliver for ratepayers. Watch out for an email direct to your inbox on 21 November with all the details. We'll be advocating strongly for these tools – and sharing resources so you can too.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan

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## Champion

### Local government funding and financing

#### Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

In July we released work we had commissioned from NZIER on the impacts of unfunded mandates on local government. NZIER's research highlighted:

- that many central government reforms have resulted in increased costs for ratepayers;
- that central government does not adequately estimate or address what its reforms cost councils;
- that constant policy changes lead to high sunk costs for councils with no tangible outcomes; and
- the true costs of government reform are hidden because councils absorb them by reducing other service delivery.

Our third rates rise toolkit packaged this research with slides and key messages that members could use. The release generated significant media interest and engagement from members.

#### Tourism and cost recovery

From 1 October, the Government raised the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) from \$35 to \$100 to ensure visitors contribute to the upkeep of the facilities, services and natural environment they use and enjoy during their stay. LGNZ is advocating for councils to have a greater say in how the additional funding is spent on tourism-related initiatives. We are also continuing to advocate for the Government to enable cost recovery tools (such as a local tourism bed night charge).

#### Revenue capping and other measures

At SuperLocal, the Government announced that they would investigate performance metrics, benchmarking, and revenue capping for councils modelled on New South Wales and Victoria. The policy team has been engaging with local government experts from New South Wales and Victoria to understand how these policies have worked for them and what the impact has been. We will provide insights from these discussions and research on these policies with members soon, including at the November Combined Sector meeting.

#### Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

We are working on a toolkit for release at the November Combined Sector meeting that details a range of 24 funding and financing tools that would benefit councils (but potentially require enabling legislation). This toolkit will include:

- Basic information about each tool, how it can be used and what it might deliver
- Data to support our approach and inform members' conversations
- Messages local government can use

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- A draft opened and draft letter to an MP that can be customised

The toolkit launch will be supported by media and advocacy activity, in the same way that the rates rise toolkits were.

### Regional deals

We were pleased that the Government made announcements around its Regional Deals framework at SuperLocal, and that our advocacy has been taken on board with the framework largely reflecting our position. This framework includes partnership, new funding tools and a commitment to long-term planning, and is modelled on LGNZ's proposal released earlier this year.

We know funding tools and regulatory relief will be made available in the regions that secure deals. We have been advocating for those benefits to be available for all of local government (where that makes sense).

Our focus now is on ensuring that the regional deals model has room to evolve and deepen – as it's become clearer that the first iteration will be limited in scope.

### Government relations

We appeared before select committees in support of our submissions on the water services preliminary arrangements and fast-track bills.

We've also had productive meetings with Hon Chris Bishop and Hon Casey Costello.

The meeting with Minister Bishop included Hastings District Council Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and chief executive Nigel Bickle. They were able to provide the Minister with their reflections on the recent Kāinga Ora review and some examples of what they were doing locally to promote better housing outcomes, as part of our effort to position local government as a key partner in resolving the housing crisis.

The meeting with Minister Costello was about what role councils may play in reform of vaping regulations, and resulted in an agreement that LGNZ would further engage with health officials on what a system in which councils have greater control over where vape retailers are located could look like.

In early July we hosted MPs who were former local government elected members or staff for a casual evening function at parliament. Six MPs joined Sam and the LGNZ team for some good conversations and bridge-building across party lines.

We have reached out to ACT leader and Minister of Regulation David Seymour to work with him and his party on streamlining the regulatory burden on councils, and on the ACT commitment in its coalition agreement with National to look at improving housing incentives on councils through GST sharing.

At our July meeting with Minister Brown, we raised concerns regarding NZTA's proposed changes to emergency works funding. We also discussed the Ratepayers' Assistance Scheme (RAS), which is an

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innovative financing scheme that LGNZ has been developing with a group of Metro councils, the Local Government Funding Agency and Cameron Partners. The purpose of the RAS is to make local government policies and charges more affordable for ratepayers. RAS would provide ratepayers with:

- Flexibility to decide when to pay local government charges; and/or
- Very competitive finance terms (below standard mortgage rates).

The recess period gave us the opportunity to connect with staff in the Beehive. These conversations have provided insights into the Government's perception of local government and help myth-bust staffers' perceptions (where that's been required).

In late September, we met with the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister together, as part of our series of regular quarterly meetings. Talks took a practical approach to tackle the challenges facing local government. Before the meeting, we asked mayors and chairs for practical cost-cutting ideas to relieve pressure for ratepayers and help councils operate more efficiently. Here's a selection of the ideas you shared:

- Simplify audits with a tiered, risk-based system
- Review Long Term Plans less often
- Let councils set their own fees for things like parking and animal control
- Review District Plans and conduct Representation Reviews less frequently
- Encourage shared services between councils
- Better align local and central government decisions
- Create a "Fast Track" process for land rezoning
- Address the contributors to civil construction price increases.

The Prime Minister and Local Government Minister were interested to hear about possible changes.

In early October, we again met with the Minister for Local Government. The Minister was open to receiving further advice from us on how to cut costs for councils, including a proposal to change Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act to make it less cumbersome and more accessible for the community. The Minister was open to coming to our sector meetings in February and May next year.

The Government announced a raft of proposed changes to the building consents system in late October and we are meeting with Hon Chris Penk in early November.

## Media

The June Infrastructure Symposium, including Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop's speech at our networking function the night before, received very strong media coverage, with stories in The Post, BusinessDesk, NBR and RNZ focused on our support for more funding tools to pay for infrastructure. We also used the opportunity of the Infrastructure Symposium to further our advocacy against proposed changes by NZTA to emergency works, which was a lead story on 1News. Other media interactions in July focused on elected members' behaviour and Christchurch City Council's exit from LGNZ.

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SuperLocal24 generated widespread national coverage, making it one of the top stories of the week. The Prime Minister’s politically charged speech, rate increases, and large media attendance contributed to the event being so widely covered. The overall media result was the result of significant planning by LGNZ. We developed a range of proactive stories and pre-briefed media on issues important to members, which ensured balance in stories and coverage of our proactive angles.

Feedback from media about the conference experience was very positive.



**6 press conferences**



**33 accredited media**



**400+ media items**



**9 proactive story topics**

Earlier in August, LGNZ led out positively on the Government’s Local Water Done Well announcement. LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry spoke to [1News](#) and said while it was a welcome step, we need to temper expectations about the effect on rates short-term. LGNZ National Council members Tim Cadogan and Neil Holdom spoke to [Stuff and Three News](#) about the need for certainty from all sides so councils can get on with business. Concerns still playing out in the media centre around [credit ratings](#) of the LGFA and the new CCOs, which S&P put a statement out about. LGNZ engaged with S&P at the end of last week and will share updates in the coming months.

Confirmation of time-of-use or congestion charging was also announced in August, with LGNZ Transport Forum Chair Neil Holdom putting LGNZ’s support [on the record](#) saying, “it’s a prudent and pragmatic step that LGNZ has long advocated for”.

Coverage of our unfunded mandates research launch included LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry speaking to [The Post](#), [RNZ](#) and [Newsroom](#) about the report and joining [ZB’s Early Edition](#) to highlight the cost of flip-flops on policies when the government changes. Then in [The Post](#), Ex-Chief Press Secretary for the National Party Janet Wilson reflected on our research, reiterating the impossible situation for councils as “rates as a share of GDP have hovered around 2% for 20 years” and “central government ... have all the power, with local councils forced to carry out its wishes.”

Also in August, rates invoices began to hit letterboxes. LGNZ has consistently raised this as a national issue in the media and ensured there is good data to support these conversations with communities. Infometrics CE and economist Brad Olsen commented in [The Post](#), giving this perspective on rates rises – “if you look at the amount of money that people pay in their rates versus what they pay to central government, you’re talking chalk and cheese.”

In mid-July, in response to the Government’s announcement it would not progress the Future for Local Government report, we issued a media statement saying “LGNZ developed our own response to the FFLG review, in collaboration with members, and that underpins all our advocacy. We won’t give up advocating for these key changes.”

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Earlier in July, a disturbing story was front page in the [Herald on Sunday](#) with former Mayor of Nelson Rachel Reese telling her story after an intruder entered her home back in February. This targeting of former and current elected members is rising, and a poll at LGNZ's Combined Sector meeting in April showed 53% of elected members say it's worse than a year ago. LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene spoke to NZ Herald about members' concerns and highlighted the work LGNZ has been doing to support members – including previously championing a removal of candidate addresses from election advertising, and our roundtable zooms with the likes of NZ Police and Netsafe.

Also in July, LGNZ President Sam Broughton joined the [On The Tiles](#) podcast to discuss our city and regional deals framework and what we could learn from the likes of Australia and the UK.

The Government's building consents reform was welcomed by LGNZ: Sam was interviewed on RNZ and Newstalk ZB. A few days later, when the International Visitor Levy went up, we proactively called for the Government to share the increase with councils to support tourism costs. This advocacy was picked up by the radio stations.

In October, LGNZ was in the media spotlight as we advocated for central government funding of emergency responses. This was part of [our response](#) to the Government's announcement following the North Island Severe Weather Events report. Our President Mayor Sam Broughton and National Council member Mayor Rehette Stoltz shared the workload, with Sam speaking to outlets like [Newsroom](#) and Radio NZ, while Rehette had interviews with TVNZ's Breakfast news and Newstalk ZB.

We marked one year until local body elections by [calling](#) for candidates to start thinking about getting prepared. LGNZ Deputy CE Scott Necklen chatted with Newstalk ZB and RNZ on the subject. During our YEM Hui in Christchurch last month we shone the [spotlight](#) on young leaders in local government, pointing to YEM numbers doubling over the past three elections. We used speakers at the YEM hui to tell a breadth of stories about the importance of this network.

With the Electoral Reform issues paper being released this week, we set up an interview with the Electoral Reform Working Group's Chair Mayor Nick Smith and Jack Tame on [Q & A](#). Securing an interview with one of the only longform political news programmes was a crucial part of our work to raise these issues in the political sphere – and to ensure the work helps inform the Government's decisions. Following our Electoral Reform [article](#) on Sunday, we also organised interviews with Mayor Rehette Stoltz (who is also part of the Working Group) on [Hosking Breakfast](#) and Radio NZ to discuss some of the issues.

LGNZ also [spoke out](#) about the Government's proposal for self-certification for building professionals, speaking to [Three News](#) and Newstalk ZB about the issue of long-term security over the indemnity insurance – to ensure that neither councils nor affected homeowners are saddled with costs if an issue occurs.

Amid public calls for tougher booze rules, Sam Broughton also spoke with both [The Press](#) and [Stuff](#) about how Local Alcohol Policies work.

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### Electoral Reform Working Group

The Electoral Reform Working Group, chaired by Mayor Nick Smith, developed an issues paper that was launched in late October. It sets out the current state of participation in elections. It explores:

- Understanding of local government and why it is important
- How easy it is to vote, especially with the decline of post
- Knowing candidates and what they stand for
- Administration and promotion of elections
- Four-year terms including their implementation and transition

From mid-October to 5 January, we will seek feedback on the paper from members, key stakeholders, and the wider public. This will include presentations at all zone meetings.

Engagement on the issues paper will inform a draft position paper, which will be engaged on from March-May, before a final paper is drafted. National Council will be asked to adopt that final position paper, which will be launched at SuperLocal25.

### Remits

This year, to better prioritise resource allocation to remits, National Council adopted a two-step process for remits agreed at LGNZ's AGM. As part of this process, the AGM ranked remits in order of priority, with the following results:

1. Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives
2. GST revenue sharing with local government
3. Local government Māori wards and constituencies should not be subject to a referendum
4. Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings
5. Representation Reviews
6. Community Services Card
7. Graduated Licensing System

At its September meeting, National Council decided to take the maximum approach for the first four remits. This means commissioning advice or research, or in-depth policy or advocacy work. National Council decided to take a less resource-intensive approach to the remaining remits, which could involve writing a letter to the relevant minister or agency. However, remits may get additional resource if they align with other existing work programmes.

LGNZ's policy team will shortly be in touch with all councils who proposed successful remits to agree on next steps.



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### Māori wards

Forty-five councils established or resolved to establish Māori wards since the law change in 2021. The Coalition Government enacted legislation that required those 45 councils to make decisions to retain or disestablish their Māori wards by Friday 6 September. If councils chose to keep the wards, they have to fund a poll at next year's local elections.

Two councils decided to disestablish their Māori wards: Upper Hutt City Council and Kaipara District Council. The other 43 decided to retain their wards and a number of these decisions were unanimous, including: Far North, Porirua, South Taranaki, South Wairarapa, Hauraki, Stratford, Marlborough, Whakatāne, Rangitikei, and Ruapehu.

Some councils indicated they would investigate the implications of refusing to hold a binding referendum. Palmerston North City Council will present a report at an upcoming council meeting; Whakatāne District Council has sought legal advice; and Far North District Council has asked the chief executive "to investigate options of not conducting a binding poll at the next local body election in 2025".

LGNZ is supporting councillors affected by this legislation. Connected to this is our work around supporting Iwi Māori to stand for (re)election in 2025 and promoting voter participation.

### Water services reform

The passing of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act in August marked the second stage of the Government's *Local Water Done Well* reforms. This Act provides the framework and preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. There is a requirement for councils to develop and adopt Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs) by 3 September 2025. Successful elements of [our submission](#) include the expansion of streamlining provisions for water service entity creation, the scope and timeframe for WSDPs, and the Secretary for Local Government's role in making regulations. However, we were unsuccessful in securing a longer timeframe for WSDP development or greater support for councils in implementing this legislation, including funding.

The Government has announced the third stage of these reforms, which will shape the final bill, due to be introduced by the end of 2024. We released an [explainer](#) covering the key elements of this reform in *Keeping it Local*.

We're engaging with the Commerce Commission on how transitional and permanent economic regulation would work under Local Water Done Well. The Commission will be presenting at the November Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings to support members to develop a greater understanding of what economic regulation is and how it operates in other sectors.



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## Resource management reform

RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop outlined the Government's plans for stage two of its resource management reform at SuperLocal. These will be progressed via a package on national direction and a second piece of legislation amending the RMA. There will be new national direction issued for infrastructure, housing, and natural hazards, as well as amendments to a wide range of existing national direction, with seven new national direction instruments and amendments to fourteen existing ones in total.

The changes cover four areas:

- infrastructure and energy,
- housing,
- farming and the primary sector, and
- emergencies and natural hazards.

Also included are measures to put into effect the Government's Going for Housing Growth and Electrify New Zealand reforms.

The expansion in national direction must be undertaken in close consultation with local government to be workable, and we will raise this with the Minister and officials. We have met with Simon Court to discuss the NPS-Infrastructure, which he is taking responsibility for developing. This was a positive meeting and further engagement with officials is likely to follow.

The Government has announced that two pieces of legislation would be passed to replace the Resource Management Act as part of stage three of their three-stage approach to resource management reform. One piece of legislation will deal with managing "environmental effects arising from activities", while the other one will "enable urban development and infrastructure".

Cabinet has agreed to 10 core design features for the new resource management system. These will guide the work of an Expert Advisory Group (EAG), which was also announced by the Minister. This group will report back to the Minister before the end of the year with a "blueprint" for new legislation.

Resource management lawyer and former Environmental Defence Society director Janette Campbell will chair the EAG, which also features local government experience in Christine Jones (General Manager – Strategy Growth & Governance at Tauranga City Council) and Gillian Crowcroft (former Auckland Council and Auckland Regional Council staffer).

We will be keeping a close eye on how development of the new RM "blueprint" unfolds between now and the end of the year, ahead of our final catch-up of the year with Minister Bishop in December.

## Transport

In August, the Government announced that legislation to enable congestion charging schemes would be introduced by the end of the year. This is a significant and long-awaited announcement,

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particularly for metro councils. We will submit on the legislation when it makes its way to Select Committee.

We submitted on the Commerce Commission's review of Auckland Airport's pricing decisions for the 2022-2027 period. We expressed concern about the flow-on effects that Auckland Airport's proposed increased charges to airlines could have for ticket prices, regional connectivity, and the competitiveness of New Zealand's aeronautical sector.

In August, Sam and Transport Forum chair Neil Holdom met with the NZTA board just ahead of an in-person meeting of the Transport Forum.

In September, the Government released its 2024-27 National Land Transport Programme, which is largely in line with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024. It includes significant funding increases for major roading projects and road maintenance, balanced by a decrease in funding for active and public transport initiatives.

Following the release of the National Land Transport Programme 24-27, we have been building a picture of the impact on members, including through a discussion at the in-person meeting of the Transport Forum. While funding decisions were largely as anticipated (based on the signals from the GPS Transport earlier this year), some members were surprised about the extent of funding cuts for safety improvements and public/active transport. The lack of alignment between the NLTP and LTP planning cycles has also created instances in which projects in LTPs no longer have expected co-funding from central government, meaning councils need to find alternative funding sources or scale the project back.

The impact of the reversal of speed limit reductions will be a focus over the coming month, particularly the fiscal impact given the need for new signage around schools. The new Government's speed limit rule includes:

- Reversing Labour's blanket speed limit reductions on local streets, arterial roads, and state highways by 1 July 2025.
- Requiring reduced variable speed limits outside schools during pick up and drop off times by 1 July 2026.
- Enable speed limits up to 120km/h on Roads of National Significance where it is safe.

We will be engaging with councils to get a picture of the overall fiscal impact of these changes.

### Climate change

We submitted supporting the intent of the Government's draft Second Emissions Reduction Plan (2026–30). We also highlighted that most of the actions would require direct or indirect contributions from councils.

We sponsored the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network's (ACAN) annual hui again this year, which was held in the Bay of Plenty in October. ACAN is a network of council staff working in climate adaptation focused roles. We engage closely with ACAN on all our climate adaptation work.



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The Finance and Expenditure Committee has completed its [inquiry into climate adaptation](#). The high-level objectives and principles it set out will inform the development of New Zealand's climate change adaptation policy framework. The report acknowledges the leading role councils will play in climate adaptation, and adopted much of what was proposed in [LGNZ's submission](#). The report does not resolve crucial questions relating to roles and responsibilities or how to decide who pays for adaptation and retreat.

The Department of Internal Affairs is consulting on an exposure draft of regulations for natural hazard information in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs). The regulations have been drafted to support local authorities in implementing changes to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act that are due to come into effect on 1 July 2025. LGNZ submitted on the amendment Bill in February 2023. We supported the Bill but said we would like to see a few changes, many of which have now been incorporated into the updated Bill and proposed regulations. These regulations, in conjunction with the legislative changes that are due to come into effect next year, will provide certainty for councils about sharing natural hazard information in LIMs and reduce their risk of legal liability.

## Localism

At SuperLocal, Susan launched our Choose Localism guide and research showing public attitudes to councils and localism.

To produce this research, we worked with Curia to poll members of the public. [The data](#) looks at perceptions around the effectiveness of councils, how councils could improve their effectiveness, and who should deliver services.

[Localism: A Practical Guide](#) sets out a wide range of tools and approaches councils can use to make a localist future a reality and apply a localism lens across their day-to-day work. This is a high-quality, comprehensive piece of work featuring many council cases studies. When we launched the guide to members during SuperLocal, this email had a 65% open rate (which is incredibly high by direct-email standards). We will be posting a physical copy of this guide to all Mayors and Chairs later in November.

## Other policy issues

### Earthquake prone buildings

In August we submitted on the Building (Earthquake-prone Building Deadlines and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, which delivers on the Government's commitment to extend remediation deadlines for earthquake-prone buildings. We expressed strong support for the legislation and outlined local government's expectations for the upcoming wider review of earthquake prone buildings.

We have also engaged with MBIE to make sure there is suitable local government representation in the wider review's steering group, particularly individuals from the South Island and/or medium risk councils.

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We understand that decisions on the MBIE steering group for the review of the earthquake strengthening regime are imminent. We put forward a number of names to represent local government on this group, and are following up with MBIE to determine if any of them were ultimately chosen.

#### **Emergency management system improvement**

We engaged on the Government's response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry's report and wider emergency management system improvement as a member of the steering group. We facilitated engagement between the project group and a group of Mayors, Chairs and CEs, to test the group's current proposals. A Cabinet paper will set out a new Emergency Management Bill (to be introduced next year) along with budget bids and other system changes.

The Government's response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry's report, and wider emergency management system improvement, has been released. We have been contributing to this work as a member of the Steering Group. This response will form the basis for the development of a new Emergency Management Bill to be introduced next year, along with budget bids and other system changes. The key recommendation is to retain the locally led, regionally coordinated approach – but with NEMA taking on a standard setting and assurance role. This could require increased investment by councils, but at this stage there are no additional funding mechanisms proposed.



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## Connect

### Member visits

In June, Susan and Sam visited 14 councils. These visits are vital for connecting with members, helping them understand what LGNZ delivers, and hearing their feedback and ideas. Visits resumed in early September with visits to a range of Zone 2 councils. Susan visited the Chatham Islands in late September, with Susan and Sam's other member visits scheduled for October and November.

NC members and LT members have also appeared at several member council meetings via zoom to support their consideration of the LGNZ four-monthly report.

### SuperLocal24

This year's conference was the "place to be" for local government, with the PM, many Ministers and the Leader of Opposition all speaking alongside impressive international and New Zealand keynote speakers. SuperLocal dominated media and public discourse that week.

We had nearly 800 people attend – and generated 394 media mentions across a huge range of topics (bed tax, PM speech, regional deals, localism, women in local government, four-year term, SuperLocal award winners, and much more).

We asked attendees to complete a feedback survey. While feedback was again positive, there were slightly more negative/neutral comments this year, partially driven by the political polarisation prompted by the PM's speech.

We are incorporating feedback into our planning for SuperLocal25, which will be held in Christchurch (supported by the councils in the region). In response to comments about this year's conference length and timing, we will be starting SuperLocal25 on the Wednesday morning (with the AGM prior) and wrapping up the conference by the end of Thursday, with the awards dinner on the Thursday night.

### Combined Sector meetings

We received a huge amount of positive feedback on the programme and organisation of the Infrastructure Symposium on 14 June. Nearly 200 people attended, with Peter Nunns of the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanganga and Sir Bill English particularly popular speakers.

Our November Combined Sector meeting will take a deep dive into the Government's local government reform, including benchmarking, efficiencies and rates capping. Confirmed speakers include Local Government Minister Simeon Brown, Regional Development and Assoc Finance Minister Shane Jones, Labour Finance spokesperson Barbara Edmonds, Auckland Mayor Wayne

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Brown (via zoom), and New South Wales and Victorian speakers on their experience of rates capping.

We are planning for the 2025 Combined Sector meetings, with the theme for February to be around accountability and demonstrating value, and May to be around delivering infrastructure for growth.

### 2025 calendar

We released our [calendar of events for 2025](#) in October. This will be updated with Zone 5/6 events shortly.

### Te Maruata

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere have met regularly, and also initiated a regular Teams drop-in session Piki te Ora that enables members to come in and kōrero, share thoughts and ideas on their mahi and what is happening in their rohe.

Te Maruata's pre-conference hui was attended by approximately 100 people. The hui is the annual face-to-face event for the wider membership but also welcomes non-members who have a strong connection to LG and Kaupapa Māori. The Rōpū welcomed Green MP Hūhana Lyndon, and MP Willie Jackson and MP Shanan Halbert were also in attendance. The programme included a workshop on sharing issues, ideas and solutions given the current climate, and a panel on "how to move the waka forward" with a particular focus on action on the ground, rangatahi participation and civics education.

### YEM

Our Young Elected Members held a successful pre-SuperLocal hui in Wellington attended by around 40 YEM. It included a presentation from Dr Jess Berentson-Shaw on how to communicate effectively to achieve change, and a workshop on how to increase young people's participation in local government.

The annual YEM Hui took place in Christchurch regardless of Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ. This is because the YEM Committee decided earlier this year to shift away from having a host council, with the Committee taking on full responsibility for hosting. We worked closely with Cr Deon Swiggs (Environment Canterbury and member of the YEM Committee) on planning for the event. Former Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel delivered the keynote address, with the theme of the hui being "mā mua kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua" – driving change through community leadership. The programme was about councils empowering community leaders to make real change and equipping YEM with the key skills needed to make good decisions around council tables. Tikanga sessions were organised to support members to prepare for the whakatau at the commencement of their hui.



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### Women's lunch

Before SuperLocal, we hosted a lunch for women that was attended by more than 100 elected members including nearly every woman Mayor. Finance Minister Nicola Willis was a very effective speaker and the event was well covered by media, with [this local democracy reporter story](#) carried prominently by every major outlet. The lunch also included a workshop. We are now considering next steps for this work.

### CBEC

Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ means that Co-Chair of CBEC Simon Britten stepped down in July, with Sarah Lucas becoming the sole Chair.

CBEC has been focused on the Community Boards Conference which, for the first time, was held in conjunction with the LGNZ SuperLocal Conference. While organising the two conferences at the same time was challenging, the Community Boards Conference went well. At their September meeting CBEC resolved not to hold a community board conference in 2025. Instead, they are investigating the possibility of having a dedicated session at the 2025 Super/Local conference that would attract community board members. They are also looking at facilitating smaller zone or regional-based seminars for community boards.

CBEC is continuing to develop a work plan to implement recommendations around community board members' satisfaction and their relationships with their councils. A key part of the work plan is developing a guide to assist councils and community boards to build effective relationships. This will include a model agreement to enable councils and boards to set out mutual expectations.

Sarah Lucas has been actively assisting community boards going through representation reviews.

Work is progressing on the development of an approach to enable the Remuneration Authority to fairly recognise and compensate those community boards with additional responsibilities.

### Metro Sector

The Metro Sector held a workshop in September to discuss metro-specific priorities and agree on actions that will complement and support LGNZ's broader advocacy work programme over the next year. Members agreed that the key priorities for metros are centred around enabling growth and economic prosperity, and achieving these priorities requires removing obstacles and improving things that currently slow us down. This is reflected in the following agreed areas of focus:

1. Improve alignment of central and local government investment cycles to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more bipartisan agreement on key infrastructure decisions.
2. A strategic approach to supporting economic development and growth.
3. Lift governance and accountability in order to improve LGNZ's impact in the Metro space.



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### **Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector**

The online meeting of the Regional Sector in June covered a number of key issues for the sector, including emergency management system improvement, Taumata Arowai's work on wastewater performance standards, and work on the climate adaptation framework. Their October online meeting focused on the Finance and Expenditure Committee's Inquiry on Climate Adaptation, the Regional Sector's views on how Core Services should be defined in upcoming legislative changes, and NZTA's Public Transport programme's priorities.

The Regional Sector's ever-popular Regional Tour prior to SuperLocal explored a range of flood protection, recovery, and biosecurity and biodiversity initiatives across the Hawke's Bay and Wellington regions.



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## Support

### Ākona

Ākona users continue to grow, with another 138 people logging in for the first time since July. We have started a monthly email that highlights new Ākona courses and content. Please let us know if you're not receiving it.

In July we launched a new course on the CE Relationship – featuring the insight of Mayor Sandra Hazelhurst, Nigel Bickle, Nigel Corry and Chair Daran Ponter. This course was developed after receiving multiple requests from members. In August we launched a course on Leading Complex Communities, which will eventually include at least two Ako hours with expert host Jo Cribb.

The Climate Change course (released two months ago) caught the attention of the Aotearoa Council Climate Network, who were impressed with the content and keen to encourage elected members to engage with the learning. To support that mahi, a cloned copy of the Climate Change course was made available to sustainability staff from all member councils two weeks ago.

Five Ako hours were run from June-August, including a session that was arranged in response to the change in Māori ward legislation. Another three Ako hours were scheduled during September/October. These sessions are becoming increasingly popular, whether through attending the live sessions or viewing the recordings later.

We are working to confirm logistics and continue development of materials for Induction 2025 before the end of 2024. A draft design was produced and tested with members across October along with a prototype for an upgraded Ākona platform and programme that delivers a more personalised learning experience. The response from testers was very positive and the tīma have now begun development, starting with the production of pre-elected materials ready for release in March 2025. Existing courses have been reviewed in preparation for the shift in format with their redevelopment due to begin in November.

### Roundtable zooms

Our second zoom in this series on sovereign citizens was popular and provoked a lot of conversation and positive feedback. We then held a well-attended zoom for elected members on physical security in early August. Our next zoom on 24 September featured the Security Intelligence Service speaking about the new threat assessment for New Zealand, which contained specific commentary on the vulnerability of local government. The presentation provoked a lot of member questions.

These recordings and all other security-related resources can be found in a [special section of Ākona](#).

### Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

Work continues on the development of this strategy. Related kaupapa include:

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- **Toitū te Reo** – This annual symposium launched in Hastings at the start of August and is a partnership between Heretaunga District Council and Ngāti Kahungunu, with the support of many others. Three LGNZ team members attended.
- **Tangihanga of Kiingi Tuuheitia Pootatau te Wherowhero VII** – The Māori King passed away on 30 August and his tangi was held from 31 August-5 September at Tūrangawaewae. LGNZ acknowledged the King’s passing on social media and issued a media release acknowledging the ascension of the King’s daughter to the throne, to become Te Arikinui Kūiini Ngā wai hono i te po Pootatau te Wherowhero VIII. The team will firm up a plan to connect with the Kiingitanga in the coming months, in support of the Kōtahitanga vision.

### Governance guides/support

LGNZ has worked with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Party to update the LGNZ standing orders template. The update will ensure legislative consistency and introduce plain English. A draft has been circulated for member feedback and the final draft is now being legally reviewed. The changes made to the template involve updating it to include legislative amendment from the past three years and introducing plain English where possible. The templates, which include a territorial/unitary council version, a regional council version, and a community board version, are expected to be ready in early 2025.

### MTFJ

MTFJ members and networks gathered for the Annual Breakfast meeting at the SuperLocal conference. At this event, Social Development and Employment Minister Louise Upston confirmed \$9 million in funding for the next financial year. Justin Lester of Dot Loves Data launched a revamped youth employment data dashboard, which sets out a council’s local landscape in terms of youth and NEETs.

We would like to acknowledge Mayor Max Baxter’s service and mahi for MTFJ. Max stepped down from the role in early October. MTFJ held a thank-you and farewell afternoon tea in his honour to celebrate his contribution.

Mayor Alex Walker has been elected as the new MTFJ Chair.

### Moata Carbon Portal

This month we’ve extended the Moata portal subscription for Queenstown Lakes District Council for another 12 months. We’ve also provided a demo of the portal and had conversations on carbon accounting with Horowhenua District Council.



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Mott MacDonald, LGNZ and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aotearoa Carbon Crunch event in Auckland on 12 September, with approximately 100 industry players and council staff attending the breakfast event.

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**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the next meeting of the Strategy, Growth & Community Committee be held on 27 March 2025.**

**8 TIME OF CLOSURE**