



**I give notice that
an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:**

Date:	Tuesday, 29 September 2026
Time:	1.00 pm
Location:	Council Chamber Level 1, 67 Horomātangi Street Taupō

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson Mayor John Funnell

Deputy Chairperson Cr Kevin Taylor

Members

- Cr Rachel Cameron
- Cr Duncan Campbell
- Cr Nicola de Lautour
- Cr Ngāhuia Foreman
- Cr Sandra Greenslade
- Cr Kylie Leonard
- Cr Steve Manunui
- Cr Wahine Murch
- Cr Christine Rankin
- Cr Yvonne Westerman
- Cr Hope Woodward

Quorum 7

**Julie Gardyne
Chief Executive**

Auditory Announcement

Please note that one of today's meeting participants has hearing loss. To support clear communication, please use the microphones, speak clearly, and keep your mouth visible to assist with lip-reading.

Reports Not Council Policy

The reports included in this agenda are provided for consideration only and do not represent Council policy unless or until they are formally adopted. If you require further information about any report, please contact the Chief Executive, the Chairperson, or the Deputy Chairperson.

Public Forum

Members of the public are welcome to address the Council or committee during the public forum at the start of the meeting. To participate, please complete the public forum request form available on Council's website by 4.00pm on the day prior to the meeting.

Livestreaming and Recording

Meetings held in the Council Chamber are livestreamed on Council's YouTube channel, and recordings are uploaded shortly after the meeting.

Karakia Tīmatanga – opening prayer gifted by Iraia Bailey of Ngāti Tūwharetoa to Taupō District Council

Tuia ki te mauri o te whenua	Connect to the life essence of the land
Tuia ki te mana o te tangata	Connect and respect to all
Tuia ki te pono, te aroha	Be honest and compassionate
Kia piki, kia eke	(As we seek) to improve, to exceed
Ki te taumata	Expectations
Hui e, Tāiki e	To aim/reach for the summit
	(As we) come together

Karakia Whakamutunga – closing prayer gifted by Iraia Bailey of Ngāti Tūwharetoa to Taupō District Council

Unuhia te rito o tēnei hui	Remove any angst/stress that may have arisen during this gathering
Kia wātea i runga	To be free of anything that impacts your wellbeing
Kia wātea i raro	
Aro ki te tika	That we will act with integrity
Aro ki te pae	As we pursue our goals
Hui e, Tāiki e!	(As we) come together

Order Of Business

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4.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 25 AUGUST 2026

Author: Karen Watts, Senior Committee Advisor

Authorised by: Nigel McAdie, Legal and Governance Manager

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 25 August 2026 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Meeting Minutes - 25 August 2026 [↓](#)

Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

25 August 2026

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LEVEL 1, 67 HOROMĀTANGI STREET, TAUPŌ
ON TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2026 AT 1.00 PM**

- PRESENT:** Mayor John Funnell (in the Chair), Cr Rachel Cameron, Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Nicola de Lautour, Cr Ngāhuia Foreman, Cr Sandra Greenslade (until 4.14pm), Cr Kylie Leonard, Cr Steve Manunui, Cr Wahine Murch, Cr Kevin Taylor, Cr Hope Woodward (via MS Teams)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Acting Chief Executive (S Matthews), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), General Manager Community Infrastructure and Services (T Hale), Acting General Manager Organisation Performance (L Chick), Communications Manager (L McMichael), Legal and Governance Manager (N McAdie), Project Management Office Manager (P Fletcher), Executive Manager Mayor's Office (B Forlong), Governance Quality Manager (S James), District Events Manager (S Ashton), Programme Manager (J Walton), Senior Policy Advisor (H Samuel), Senior Policy Advisor (C Pilkington), Senior Policy Advisor (P Caruana), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)
- MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** Nine members of the public

- Notes: (i) This meeting was livestreamed and is available to view on Taupō District Council's YouTube channel.
- (ii) Cr Kylie Leonard left the meeting at 2.12pm and returned at 3.23pm. She was not present for resolutions TDC202608/13-15.
- (iii) Cr Sandra Greenslade left the meeting at 4.14pm. She was not present for items 5.9 and 5.10.

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

TDC202608/09 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rachel Cameron

Seconded: Cr Steve Manunui

That the apologies received from Cr Christine Rankin and Cr Yvonne Westerman (for absence), and Cr Kylie Leonard (for early departure) be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/09 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Item 5.2 - Cr Ngāhuia Foreman advised that she was related to submitters to Plan Change 47. She would raise matters on behalf of the public but would abstain from voting.

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 28 JULY 2026

TDC202608/10 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rachel Cameron

Seconded: Cr Kevin Taylor

That the public and confidential portions of the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2026 be approved and adopted as true and correct records.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/10 above.

4.2 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 6 AUGUST 2026

TDC202608/11 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Kevin Taylor

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 6 August 2026 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/11 above.

5 NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE ME NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA | POLICY AND DECISION MAKING

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Tama Blackburn introduced himself and shared a PowerPoint presentation (A3969989).

He was working on the Pureora Project which was a positive kaupapa to provide benefits to all. It was in the discovery phase and the scope had not been defined. The area around the forest park was being restored by the Department of Conservation working alongside Waikato and Horizons Regional Councils. The intention was that it would be community led with these government agencies in supporting roles.

From engagement undertaken this year, the reoccurring theme was kotahitanga – a unified approach, shared outcomes and collective outcomes.

He invited members to reach out if they would like to be involved.

Following discussion and questions, the following was noted:

- Taupō District Council could assist by providing opportunities and access to the park, allowing people to get there through the roads, tracks and relationships.
- Taupō District Council was also invited to be involved to help with the design of the project.

Mr Dean Stockwell introduced himself and a discussion document was handed out to members (A3972207). He asked that Council stop the roundabout at Lake Terrace, Maunganamu Drive and Pukenamu Road which he and other residents of Pukenamu Road did not consider to be justified. Lakeside subdivision was made up of Pukenamu Road, Kuiwai Road and Kurapoto Lane and did not have any through traffic. He argued that there were no benefits of a roundabout to this well-functioning, low traffic neighbourhood.

Mr Murray McCallum introduced himself as a resident across the road from Pukenamu Road on the Maunganamu Drive side of Lake Terrace. He had only heard about the proposed roundabout 12 days previously from a social media post and was not consulted or engaged with as an affected stakeholder. He

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was concerned around how lighting and noise could affect his property and would have preferred to have been given the opportunity to influence the design to lessen the impact.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.54pm and reconvened at 1.58pm.

TDC202608/12 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Wahine Murch

Seconded: Cr Ngāhuia Foreman

That Council receives comments from members of the public.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/12 above.

5.2 ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF PLAN CHANGES 47, 48 AND 49 RECOMMENDED DECISIONS FOR NOTIFICATION

The Senior Policy Advisor advised that these plan changes had been worked on for the past few years. They were originally part of a bundle of six plan changes, and these three were the ones that had been granted an exemption in full by central government. Council had previously approved the draft plan changes and the associated section 32s for notification of these plan changes and the appointment of a chairman and commissioner with expertise in Te Ao Māori to hear submissions and make recommendations.

The decision required at the meeting was for the recommended decisions from the commissioners to be accepted and approved for notification. Submitters could then appeal the decision. Alternatively, the decisions could be sent back to the commissioners with concerns outlined, and this was up to the commissioners to agree to or not.

In response to discussion and questions raised, the following points were noted with regard to plan change 47 – Māori Purpose Zone:

- The previous bundle of plan changes had included chapter 38 - Strategic Directions. It had included overarching policy comments to provide for development on Māori land to occur. The plan change 47 Māori Purpose Zones was to implement Strategic Directions, Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki (The Taupō Catchment Plan) and other iwi planning documents.
- The additional coverage of 60% was to recognise that sites included marae and associated buildings. It reflected the practical use of the land and buildings.
- Five sites that were proposed by hapū to be Māori Purpose Zones included hapū representation in the drafting.
- Consultation involved extensive engagement with iwi and hapu across the district, including presentations at the hapu cluster meetings and regular engagement with iwi partners (iwi authorities). The process began with an information sheet seeking early input into the concept. Hapū representatives who chose to have a piece of land zoned as Māori Purpose Zone then assisted in the co-drafting process.
- The section 42A report provided to commissioners summarised the co-design that occurred with iwi and hapū.
- Planners working on the Plan Change were very experienced in working with Māori and particularly development of the tangata whenua related provisions within the Taupō District Plan.

Cr Kylie Leonard left the meeting at this point (2.12pm).

- Following this, should it be approved, the process to rezone new Māori Purpose Zone sites would be dealt with via the land use plan under the new Planning Act. Alternatively, landowners could lodge a private plan change but there was a significant cost for this.
- The Māori Purpose Zone provided more certainty and clarity around development rights which could help with banks being able to provide lending.

Regarding Plan Change 49, the Senior Policy Advisor confirmed that the definition of a residential unit was changed to match up with national planning standards and the Development Contributions Policy which

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worked together.

TDC202608/13 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Cr Kevin Taylor

That Council:

1. adopts the independent panel's recommended decision on the following plan changes, as attached, and directs officers to notify the decisions pursuant to clauses 10 and 11 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991 as soon as practical:
 - (a) Plan Change 47 – Māori Purpose Zone (MPZ)
 - (b) Plan Change 49 – Minor Corrections
2. adopts the independent commissioners recommended decision on Plan Change 48 Designations, as attached, and directs officers to recommend this decision to requiring authorities pursuant to clause 13 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991 as soon as practical; and
3. delegates authority to the Policy Manager to authorise any minor editorial changes prior to notification.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/13 above except for Crs Ngāhuia Foreman and Hope Woodward who abstained from voting. Cr Wahine Murch abstained from voting on 1.(a) above but voted in favour for all other parts of the resolution.

5.3 APPROVAL OF OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL CARRY FORWARD FROM 2025/26 TO 2026/27

The Finance Manager advised that budgets proposed to be carried forward had been approved in either the Annual Plan or Long-term Plan and most were confirmed commitments. The main reason for carry forwards was due to multi-year projects or because projects had had slippage.

Members thanked staff for reducing the overall carry forward numbers and acknowledged the good work that had been done.

TDC202608/14 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Nicola de Lautour

Seconded: Cr Rachel Cameron

That Council approves:

1. An increase in capital budgets for 2026/27 financial year of \$23,758,251 (twenty-three million, seven hundred fifty-eight thousand, two hundred fifty-one dollars), to allow for carry forward of uncompleted capital projects from 2025/26; and
2. an increase in operational budgets for 2026/27 of \$3,304,590 (three million, three hundred four thousand, five hundred ninety dollars) to allow for carry forward of uncompleted operational projects from 2025/26.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/14 above.

5.4 REVIEW OF 2026/27 ANNUAL PLAN PROJECTS

The Finance Manager advised that if Council wanted to make significant changes to the Annual Plan projects, it was difficult to do that without triggering a Long-term Plan amendment. She suggested that

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members look at the reforecasting budgets to see if any projects could be rescope or delayed with realistic delivery value.

TDC202608/15 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hope Woodward

Seconded: Cr Steve Manunui

That Council receives the detailed project list approved through the Annual Plan 2026-27.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/15 above.

5.5 REVIEW OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITY LIMITS

The Finance Manager explained that the key distinction in relation to this item was that decisions were made on the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan, and the current delegations allowed for management decisions to be made within these budgets.

Currently the Chief Executive's limit was any amount that had been approved in the current Long-term Plan or Annual Plan. By reducing this limit, it removed some of the risk from the Chief Executive and provided Governance oversight.

Members were concerned with efficiencies of project delivery but understood that reducing the financial limit would protect the Chief Executive.

Cr Kylie Leonard re-entered the meeting at this point (3.23pm).

The meeting was adjourned at 3.30pm and reconvened at 3.36pm.

TDC202608/16 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Cr Steve Manunui

1. That Council revokes clause 1 of resolution TDC202111/12 and replaces it with the following change to its Delegations to the Chief Executive, to obtain a more appropriate balance between operational efficiency and governance oversight:

A delegation to approve expenditure identified in the relevant Annual Plan, capped at the amount of \$1,000,000 (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) only.

2. That Council approves the following list of exclusions to Council's general financial delegation, and authorises inclusion of the list within the financial delegation section of Council's Delegations Manual, to provide greater clarity for governance and audit purposes:
Council's general financial delegation limits do not apply to the following transactions:
 - statutory payments and obligations, including GST, PAYE, FBT, income tax, ACC, and other taxes or statutory charges;
 - payroll and employment-related payments made in accordance with approved employment agreements and policies;
 - insurance premiums and renewals within the approved insurance programme, and payments of valid insurance claims;
 - principal and interest payments on existing borrowing, and refinancing, or rollover of existing debt undertaken in accordance with Council's approved Treasury Management Policies and existing treasury delegations;
 - reinvestment or maturity of investments undertaken in accordance with Council's approved Treasury Management Policies and existing treasury delegations;
 - payments made under existing contracts, purchase agreements, service agreements or other contractual commitments that have previously been approved by an appropriately delegated authority, provided the payment is within the approved amount;
 - payments made under existing grant, funding, subsidy, or other financial assistance agreements previously approved by an appropriately delegated authority, provided the payment is within the approved amount;
 - payments made by Council to Council, including development contributions or levies, rates, fees, and other Council charges payable under applicable Council policy;
 - payments made to fulfil statutory or regulatory obligations, including resource consent charges, regulatory fees, and other statutory charges, provided the payment is within the approved budget;
 - accounting and allocation transactions, including internal overhead allocations, internal activity recharges, interest, cost allocations, transfers, and capitalisations of internal costs;
 - accounting and other financial reporting entries that do not create a new financial commitment, including depreciation, amortisation, provisions, asset revaluations, impairments, and other non-cash accounting adjustments;
 - customer refunds or adjustments including rates, fees, charges, and other refunds or adjustments due to overpayment or as required under Council policy, legislation, or an existing agreement;
 - payments required to give effect to a Council or committee decision where the financial commitment has already been approved;
 - emergency expenditure where a civil defence emergency has been declared within the district, up to a maximum \$2,000,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting; and
 - emergency expenditure in an undeclared civil defence response which has created extraordinary expenditure, up to a maximum \$500,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/16 above.

5.6 TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY 2026

The Acting Chief Executive advised that July was consumed mostly by Head Start. Reporting had been added on efficiencies gained following the Financial Stewardship, Efficiency and Continuous Improvement Update report the previous month.

The Project Management Office Manager advised that 60% of projects had been completed. Two wastewater projects had increased in risk while three had reduced in risk – universal smart water metering, Kinloch Reservoir, and Omori Kuratau slip.

TDC202608/17 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Nicola de Lautour

Seconded: Cr Kevin Taylor

That Council receives the information contained in the Performance Report for the month of July 2026.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/17 above.

5.7 ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR THE 2028 AND 2031 TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

The Senior Committee Advisor noted that no recommendations had been made so it was up to members to decide their preference of electoral system and whether or not to hold a poll.

Members agreed that it was simpler and cheaper to retain the First Past the Post electoral system and allow the community to have its say by holding a poll at the same time as the 2028 triennial elections.

TDC202608/18 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kylie Leonard

Seconded: Cr Wahine Murch

That Council resolves, in accordance with section 27 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that the next two triennial general elections of the local authority and any associated election of the Taupō District Council, viz 2028 and 2031 be held under the First Past the Post electoral system.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/18 above.

TDC202608/19 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Nicola de Lautour

Seconded: Cr Kevin Taylor

That Council holds a poll in conjunction with the 2028 local elections, unless Taupō District Council is included in an amalgamation proposal before these elections.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/19 above.

5.8 COUNCIL ENGAGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2026, APPOINTMENTS, AND TRAINING AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Senior Committee Advisor noted the following changes to the September engagements:

- Regulatory Committee meeting 1 September had been cancelled. The next Regulatory

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Committee meeting would be held on 10 November.

- The Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee workshop on 2 September would now be 30 minutes starting at 10am.

TDC202608/20 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kevin Taylor

Seconded: Cr Nicola de Lautour

That Council

1. Receives the information relating to engagements for September 2026; and
2. Approves Cr Ngāhuia Foreman and Cr Wahine Murch: Wellington Uni Professional Finance and Risk (Level 7) micro credential: Financial oversight, long-term planning, identifying and managing risk with the online course fee of \$599 plus GST to be paid by Council.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Council meeting voted in favour of resolution TDC202608/20 above.

Cr Sandra Greenslade left the meeting at this point (4.14pm).

5.9 NOTICE OF MOTION - STANDARD REPORT TEMPLATE

Cr Duncan Campbell asked that the standard reports brought to Council answer four key questions and provide additional information as well, per his notice of motion attached to the agenda. He explained that the qualification of the author was to show the pathway and how decisions and specialist advice had come up or been provided. Costs to produce this extra information would be outweighed by the benefit of more transparency.

He moved the motioned and it was seconded by Cr Hope Woodward. When put to the vote, the motion was lost.

MOTION

That the Taupō District Council:

1. Directs the Chief Executive to amend the standard staff report template used for all Standing Committees, Community Boards, and full Council meetings, to be implemented no later than August 2026.
2. Requires the amended template to include the following mandatory headings immediately following the Executive Summary:

Direct Financial Impact

A clear statement of:

- The total estimated capital and operational costs of the recommended option.
- The proposed funding source(s).
- Any ongoing maintenance, compliance, depreciation, or renewal costs.
- Any known financial risks or cost uncertainties.

Opportunity Cost

A clear statement identifying:

- Any projects, services, programmes, or budget allocations that may be delayed, reduced, reprioritised, or displaced if the recommended option proceeds.
- Whether existing staff resources will be diverted from other planned work.

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Options Considered

A summary of:

- The reasonably practicable options considered.
- The advantages and disadvantages of each option.
- The reasons for recommending the preferred option.
- The reasons for any identified alternative options not being recommended.

Significance and Engagement Assessment

A separate section that:

- Identifies the criteria within the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy that were assessed.
- Explains how those criteria were applied.
- States the resulting significance assessment.
- States the level of community engagement undertaken or proposed.
- Includes any completed significance assessment matrix or evaluation used by officers.

Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan Alignment

A statement confirming:

- Whether the recommendation is fully provided for within the current Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, budget, or adopted work programme.
- Whether the recommendation requires unbudgeted expenditure or a material departure from adopted plans.
- Any consequential impacts on future budgets, rates, debt, or levels of service.

Professional and Organisational Advice

A statement identifying:

- The primary report author's professional role and qualifications.
- Any specialist disciplines consulted during preparation of the report.
- Where the final organisational assessment differs materially from the original significance assessment or technical recommendation prepared during report development, a brief explanation of the reason for that change.

3. Directs that where any of the above headings are recorded as "Not Applicable", the report must provide a brief explanation of why the heading does not apply to the matter under consideration.

In Favour: Crs Duncan Campbell and Hope Woodward

Against: Crs John Funnell, Rachel Cameron, Nicola de Lautour, Ngāhuia Foreman, Kylie Leonard, Steve Manunui, Wahine Murch and Kevin Taylor

LOST

5.10 NOTICE OF MOTION - TAUPŌ NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Cr Duncan Campbell asked that more information be provided to elected members for them to make a decision given the high public interest in the New Year's Eve event. He advised that alternative locations and methods could be used to mitigate environmental concerns and still provide an event at New Year's Eve.

He moved that a report be presented at the September Council meeting as per his notice of motion and this was seconded by Cr Hope Woodward.

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MOTION

That Council

1. Refers the matter of the cancellation of the Taupō New Year's Eve fireworks display to the Chief Executive for consideration and report to the Council meeting on 29 September 2026, to enable elected members to consider whether the event, or an alternative New Year's Eve event, should be reinstated.
2. Requests that the report include, as appropriate, the financial implications and funding options, consenting and environmental considerations, alternative locations, and alternative forms of New Year's Eve event or display.

In Favour: Crs Duncan Campbell and Hope Woodward

Against: Crs John Funnell, Rachel Cameron, Nicola de Lautour, Ngāhuia Foreman, Kylie Leonard, Steve Manunui, Wahine Murch and Kevin Taylor

LOST

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 4.32pm with a karakia from all present.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 September 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Author: Karen Watts, Senior Committee Advisor

Authorised by: Nigel McAdie, Legal and Governance Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

To receive comments from members of the public on matters specified on this agenda or, if time permits, on other Council matters.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION

Standing Orders provide for a period of up to 30 minutes to be made available at the start of meetings for members of the public to bring matters to the attention of the Council.

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes. Where the number of speakers presenting in the public forum exceeds 6 in total, the chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters. Members of the public wishing to address the Council during public forum should register at least one clear day before the meeting by emailing publicforum@taupo.govt.nz.

No debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda. Items not on the agenda may only be discussed if the matter is minor in nature and the procedures set out in Standing Order 9.13 are followed. A meeting may deal with (i.e. make a resolution in respect of) an item of business not on the agenda only if the procedures set out in Standing Order 9.12 are followed.

The relevant extracts from Standing Orders are **attached**.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Council receives comments from members of the public.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council receives comments from members of the public.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Extracts from Standing Orders [↓](#)

Extracts from Standing Orders 2022-2025**15. Public Forums | Ngā Matapakinga a te Marea**

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

In the case of a committee, subcommittee, local or community board, any issue, idea, or matter raised in a public forum, must fall within the terms of reference of that body.

15.1 Time limits | Ngā tepenga wā

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

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes. Where the number of speakers presenting in the public forum exceeds 6 in total, the chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters.

15.2 Restrictions | Ngā Herenga

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

- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public forum;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

15.3 Questions at public forums | Ngā pātai i ngā matapakinga a te marea

At the conclusion of the presentation, with the permission of the chairperson, elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

15.4 No resolutions | Kāore he tatūnga

Following the public forum, no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda. (See the LGNZ Guide to Standing Orders for suggestions of good practice in dealing with issues raised during a forum).

15.5 Application of restrictions | Te hāngaitanga o ngā Herenga

Clause 15.2 above applies to members of the public addressing meetings at any time, not just as part of a scheduled public forum session.

Extracts from Standing Orders 2022-2025**9.1 Items of business not on the agenda which cannot be delayed | Ngā take kāore i runga i te rārangi take e kore e taea te whakaroa**

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

- (a) The reason the item is not on the agenda; and
- (b) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

LGOIMA, s 46A(7).

Items not on the agenda may be brought before the meeting through a report from either the chief executive or the chairperson.

Please note, that nothing in this standing order removes the requirement to meet the provisions of Part 6 of the LGA 2002 with regard to consultation and decision-making.

9.2 Discussion of minor matters not on the agenda | Te kōrerorero i ngā take iti kāore i runga i te rārangi take

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and the chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. However, the meeting may not make a resolution, decision, or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

LGOIMA, s 46A(7A).

5.2 MANGAKINO RUGBY SPORTSGROUND LIGHTING PROJECT - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

Author: Bryce Green, District Venues Manager

Authorised by: Tania Russell, Community Engagement and Development Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for officers to apply for external funding to assist with an upgrade of lighting at the Mangakino Rugby Sportsground. This is currently considered an unbudgeted additional project that would only proceed if external funding is confirmed. The funds that would be sought to cover the costing of the upgrades would include:

- New Zealand Rugby Legacy Fund - \$75,000.00
- Sport New Zealand Grassroots Spaces & Places Fund - \$47,550.00

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mangakino Rugby Grounds is an important community facility that brings people together for sport, recreation, and a range of other activities. To ensure the grounds continue to meet the needs of the community into the future, Taupō District Council is proposing a project to upgrade the field lighting, creating a safer, more reliable, and fit-for-purpose facility for local sports teams and users.

The proposed project would upgrade the lighting across two fields, improving visibility, safety, and reliability. Better lighting would increase the usable hours of the grounds, reduce pressures on training schedules, and provide greater flexibility for sporting codes and community groups. The upgrade would support participation across junior, youth, women, and senior sport, while providing a long-term asset for the wider Mangakino community.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council

1. Approves the unbudgeted additional project to upgrade the Mangakino Rugby Sportsground lighting with the understanding the project would only proceed based on securing external funding to cover the total \$122,550.00;
2. Approves council officers to submit funding applications to the New Zealand Rugby Legacy Fund for \$75,000.00; and
3. Approves council officers to submit funding applications to Sport New Zealand Grassroots Spaces & Places Fund - \$47,550.00

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

The proposal has not been presented previously.

Taupō District Council proposes to upgrade the field lighting at Mangakino Rugby Sportsground, creating a safer, fit-for-purpose facility for the local community and the wider King Country rugby community.

The project will upgrade lighting across two rugby fields to provide safer, more reliable evening training and greater use of the grounds during the winter rugby season.

The improved lighting will support local rugby alongside King Country Rugby Union's age-grade and senior representative programmes, which use Mangakino for training, development, trials and fixtures.

The project will increase the usable hours and capacity of the existing fields, reduce training and scheduling constraints, improve safety and support participation across junior, youth, women's and senior rugby. It will

provide a lasting improvement to Mangakino Rugby Sportsground, supporting the local community and strengthening grassroots rugby opportunities across the wider King Country for future generations. The existing lighting at Mangakino Rugby Ground is no longer meeting the needs of the local community or the wider King Country rugby community. Rugby is already well established at the grounds, but limited and uneven lighting restricts how safely and effectively the fields can be used after dark, particularly during the winter rugby season.

Mangakino is important both locally and regionally. The grounds support the local community and are also used by King Country Rugby Union (KCRU) as a central hub for age-grade and senior representative rugby, including training, development days, trials and fixtures. Players, coaches, referees, volunteers and whānau travel from across the King Country's large rural catchment to participate.

The wider community reach of Mangakino Sports Field is also significant. ActiveXchange Regional Advanced Movement data recorded approximately 71,300 visits to the venue during 2025. Of these visitors, 21.79% were under 19, 40.53% came from areas of high deprivation and 20.45% were identified as having difficulty walking or climbing steps. The average distance travelled to the venue was 97.6 km, demonstrating the wide rural catchment the grounds serve.

Better lighting will improve participation by creating more usable training time after school and work, particularly during the winter months. It will give local rugby and KCRU programmes greater flexibility and make it easier for players, coaches, volunteers and whānau to participate around school, employment, family commitments and travel. KCRU currently uses Mangakino four evenings a week during the representative season, as well as one weekend day for camps, development programmes, trials or fixtures.

Safety and wellbeing are also very important benefits. Current lighting is limited and uneven, as shown in the supporting photos and video footage. Improved coverage will provide safer and more reliable conditions after dark and reduce the need to shorten, relocate or adjust training because of poor lighting. For rural participants who already travel considerable distances to attend, having a centrally located and reliable training venue also helps reduce unnecessary additional travel. Please see attachment Mangakino Rugby Sportsground Field Lighting Upgrade – Photographic evidence.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION

Council officers have been working with Sport Waikato to develop the potential project and explore funding opportunities. Sport Waikato has provided data, insights, and support in identifying potential funding sources. As the project is not currently included in Council's plans or budget, officers are focused on securing external funding so that the capital costs do not fall on ratepayers.

The project is expected to have minimal ongoing financial impact to ratepayers. Existing maintenance budgets are considered sufficient to cover ongoing upkeep of the new lighting system, with no significant increase in operating costs anticipated.

Taupō District Council is looking to upgrade the existing sports-field lighting at Mangakino Rugby Sportsground, improving the quality and coverage of lighting across two rugby fields.

The project will include new lighting poles and LED floodlights, together with the required foundations, electrical infrastructure, cabling, earthing and lightning protection, testing, commissioning and certification. The completed system will provide fit-for-purpose lighting across the fields for evening rugby training and community use.

Success will mean more of the playing fields can be safely and reliably used after dark, particularly during the winter rugby season. Local and regional teams will have greater flexibility to train, scheduling pressure will be reduced, and players will have improved conditions in which to participate and develop.

Most importantly, the project will leave Mangakino with a lasting improvement to an existing grassroots rugby facility - one that is well used by its local community and can continue bringing people together through rugby for years to come.

Officers are developing an external funding plan that includes applications to funding providers, including Sport New Zealand's Grassroots Spaces and Places Fund and New Zealand Rugby's Rugby Legacy Fund. Additional funding partners may also be approached if required to address any funding shortfall. The project will only proceed if sufficient external funding is secured.

To support this work, officers are seeking elected member endorsement to apply for:

- \$75,000 from the New Zealand Rugby Legacy Fund, which invests in projects that strengthen communities, support grassroots rugby, and create lasting benefits for future generations.
- \$47,550 from Sport New Zealand's Grassroots Spaces and Places Fund, administered locally by Sport Waikato, which supports projects that improve access to quality sport and recreation facilities, increase participation, enhance safety, and foster community connection.

Both funding opportunities are contestable, and applications are subject to assessment by the relevant funding organisations. If successful, the project would deliver a significant improvement to the Mangakino Rugby Grounds, supporting community wellbeing, increased participation in sport and recreation, and stronger grassroots sporting opportunities across the wider rohe for years to come.

Realistic project completion date based on procurement, supplier lead times, installation, electrical works, testing, commissioning and certification, the following 3 milestones are currently in plan:

Date	Milestone
1 December 2026	Project funding confirmed, procurement completed and installation contract awarded. Consent application.
1 March 2027	Lighting infrastructure installed, including poles, electrical works and LED floodlights.
15 April 2027	Testing, commissioning and certification completed, with upgraded lighting operational for rugby and community use.

The Mangakino Rugby Ground lighting upgrade will benefit the local Mangakino community first and foremost, while also supporting the wider King Country rugby community. The grounds are a shared community asset, not a facility used by one private group or team, and improved lighting will create more opportunities for people to safely participate, train and come together through rugby.

Based on this information it is considered that there are two options.

NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA | OPTIONS

Analysis of Options

Option 1. Status Quo

Advantages	Disadvantages
• No additional staff resource required to progress funding applications or project delivery.	• Existing lighting remains limited and uneven, continuing current safety and usability concerns for evening training and community use. • Venue has limited capacity and capability for community with further growth limitations. • Does not address scheduling constraints during the winter rugby season or support increased participation across junior, youth, women's and senior rugby. • May result in continued pressure to relocate, shorten or adjust training due to poor lighting conditions.

Option 2. Approve the unbudgeted project to process via funding application

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Enables officers to apply for external funding so	• Funding is contestable and there is no

Advantages	Disadvantages
the project can proceed without the capital costs falling on ratepayers. - Improves safety, visibility and reliability for evening sport and community use across two rugby fields. - Increases the usable hours and capacity of the grounds, supporting local users and King Country Rugby Union programmes. - Supports community wellbeing, grassroots participation and longer-term use of an existing community asset.	guarantee the external applications will be successful. - Requires officer time to prepare and submit applications and manage delivery if funding is confirmed. - Project delivery will be subject to procurement, contractor availability, consent requirements, supplier lead times, installation, testing and certification.

Analysis Conclusion:

The preferred option is option 2: Approve the unbudgeted project to progress through external funding applications.

This option best responds to the identified safety, participation and facility-use issues while limiting financial impact on ratepayers, as the project would only proceed if sufficient external funding is secured.

Option 2 also aligns with the community and regional benefits outlined in this report, including improved lighting, increased usable hours, stronger grassroots rugby opportunities and better support for local and King Country Rugby Union programmes.

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS

Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations

The financial impact of the proposal is estimated to be \$122,550.00.00 which is sought to be delivered in full by external funding. The ongoing operational expenditure is not expected to increase outside of the current allocation of maintenance budget.

Long-term Plan/Annual Plan

The expenditure outlined is currently unbudgeted. It is requested that unbudgeted expenditure is approved. Unbudgeted expenditure is preferred because this is a current renewal project in the Annual Plan however due to safety concerns and community interest, we request this to become an upgrade project. It is proposed that funding be established via the two external contestable funding applications as outlined above.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal Considerations

Local Government Act 2002

The matter comes within scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local
 - (i) infrastructure; and
 - (ii) public services; and
 - (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and
- (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

Authorisations as follows are required for the proposal:

✓ Resource Consent ☐ Building Consent ☐ Environmental Health

☐ Alcohol Licencing ☐ Licence to occupy

Authorisations are not required from external parties.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

The proposal has been evaluated against the following plans:

✓ Long Term Plan 2024-2034 ✓ Annual Plan ☐ Waikato Regional Plan
☐ Taupō District Plan ☐ Bylaws ☐ Relevant Management Plan(s)

The key aspects for consideration with regards to this proposal are as follows:

This project is not currently an approved project in the LTP 2024-2034 nor the current Annual Plan as we seek to resolve by support to add as an out of budget cycle opportunity.

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory obligations including in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles, consideration of Māori interests and meaningful engagement with Māori. In meeting its statutory obligations, Council is committed to acting reasonably and in good faith and consistently with a partnership-based approach. Te Tiriti/Treaty principles include but are not limited to active protection of Māori interests, informed decision-making and enabling effective Māori participation in Council processes.

In line with these obligations and commitments we have engaged with Pouakani Marae. Attached is a letter of support from Alan Te Maari, the current Chairman of the Pouakani Marae.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

There is a risk of committing Taupō District Council to provide the resource to oversee the deliverability of the project and keeping within timelines. Via discussion we have had within internal teams we believe this to be a low risk as the majority of workflow is to be completed via contractors.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be taken into account when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is of a low degree of significance.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a low degree of significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

Direct communication will be carried out with affected parties and key stakeholders but no wider communication is considered necessary.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

If approved, the Mangakino Rugby Sportsground Lighting Project will deliver safer, more reliable lighting for sports teams and community users. The upgrade will increase the capacity and usability of the fields, supporting greater participation in sport and recreation while enhancing the overall quality of the facility.

The improved infrastructure will also strengthen the district's ability to host sporting events, helping attract visitors and supporting local economic activity.

To support delivery of the project, officers intend to apply for \$75,000 from the New Zealand Rugby Legacy Fund and \$47,550 from Sport New Zealand's Grassroots Spaces and Places Fund. The project will proceed only if sufficient external funding is secured.

Resolutions of Council are required to support all of these applications.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Mangakino Rugby Sportsground Lighting - Photographic Evidence [↓](#)
2. ActiveXchange Data - Mangakino 2025 [↓](#)
3. Pouakani Marae - Alan Te Maari - Letter of Support [↓](#)
4. KCRU - Support Letter for funding application [↓](#)

Mangakino Rugby Sportsground Field Lighting Upgrade

Rugby Legacy Fund | Photographic evidence

These images document the existing field lighting infrastructure and current use of Mangakino Rugby Ground for training at dusk and after dark. The photographs are provided as supporting evidence for the proposed sports field lighting upgrade.

1. Existing lighting infrastructure



Existing timber light pole and fitting beside the playing field.



Not working: Existing timber light pole, goalposts and field visible behind.



Not working: Existing timber light pole near the pavilion and field boundary.



Not working: Existing timber light pole and single fitting near the roadside boundary.



Existing metal lighting towers across the playing field.



Night-time view showing illuminated and darker areas across the field.

Taupō District Council | Rugby Legacy Fund supporting documentation

Community Rugby Use at Dusk and After Dark

Mangakino Rugby Ground

The photographs below show organised rugby training activity continuing as daylight reduces and under the existing field lights. Together, the images provide visual context for how the ground is used and how lighting conditions vary across the playing area.



Lineout training during low-light conditions.



Rugby training at dusk with daylight reducing.



Training near a goalpost, with uneven light visible across the field.



Training group using a locally illuminated section of the ground.



Wide view of participants training under the existing field lights.



Evening training activity under two existing lighting towers.

Taupō District Council | Rugby Legacy Fund supporting documentation



Rugby training continues as the field becomes darker.



Wide night-time view of field use and existing lighting coverage.

Regional Advanced Movement data

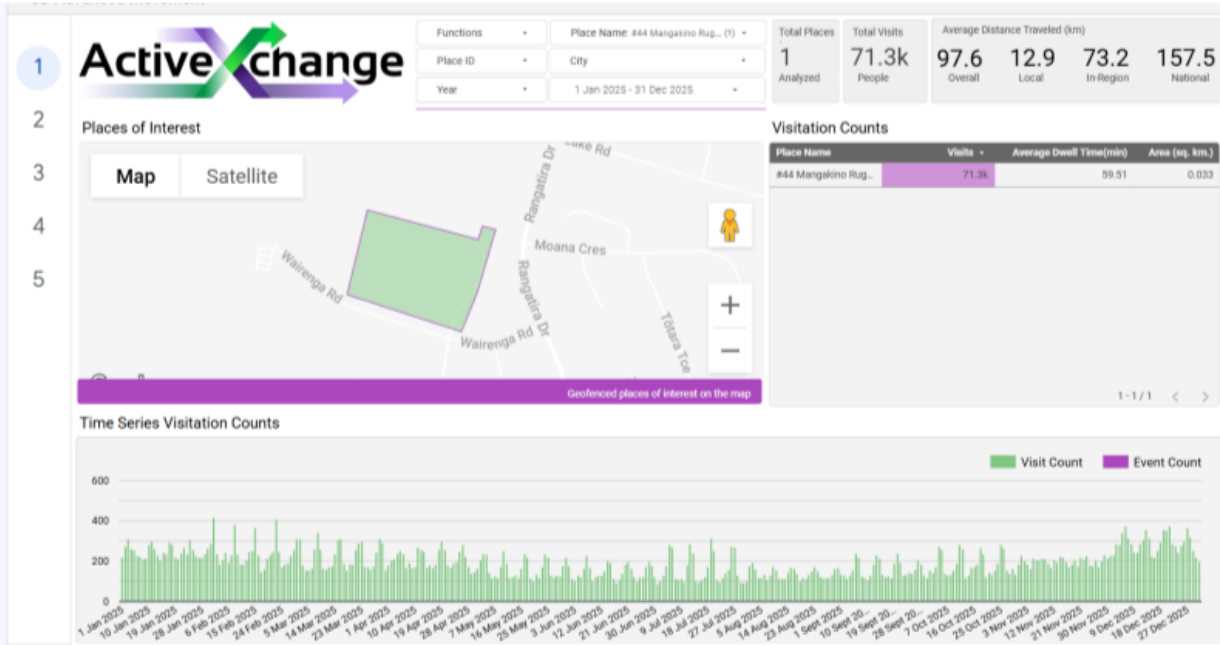
ActiveXchange combines facility and infrastructure information, participation data, community profiles and aggregated movement data to provide a clearer picture of where, when and how people are active.

ActiveXchange movement data for Mangakino Sports Field during the 2025 calendar year:

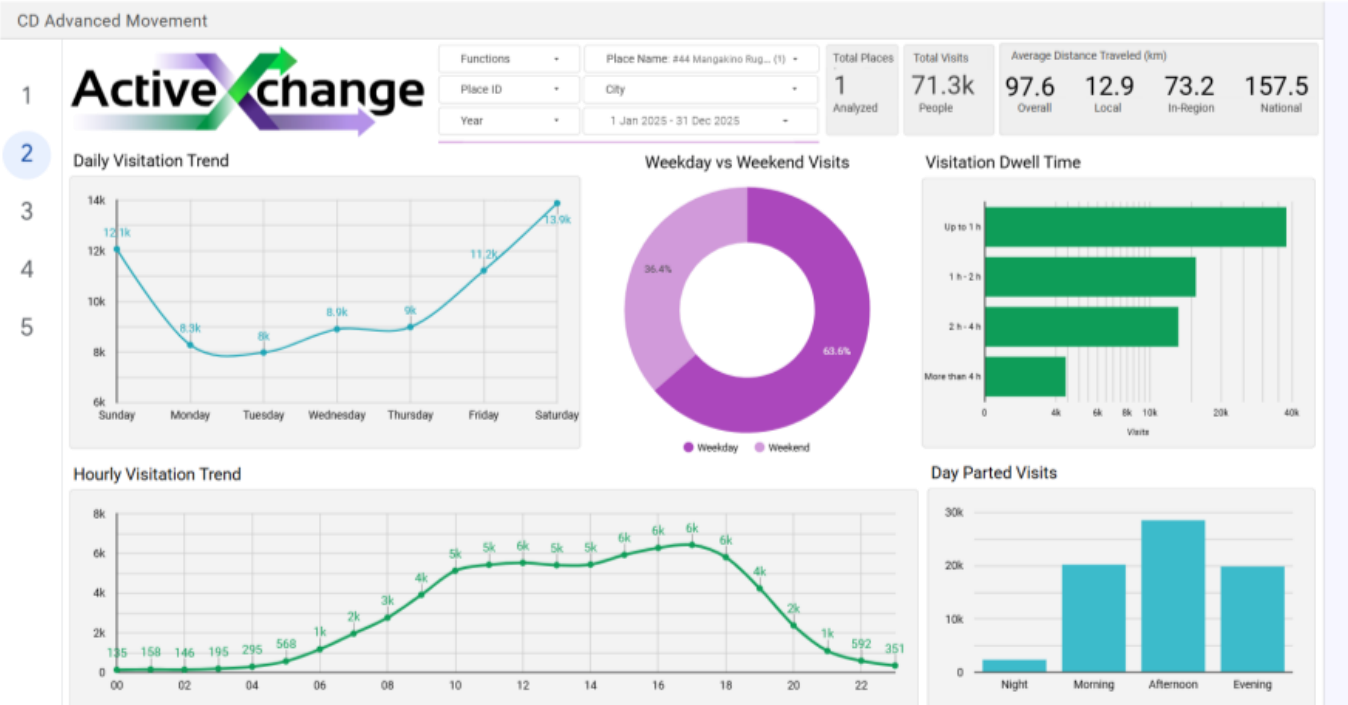
Total visits – 71, 300

Average distance travelled = 97.6km

Average distance travelled for locals (within district) = 12.9km

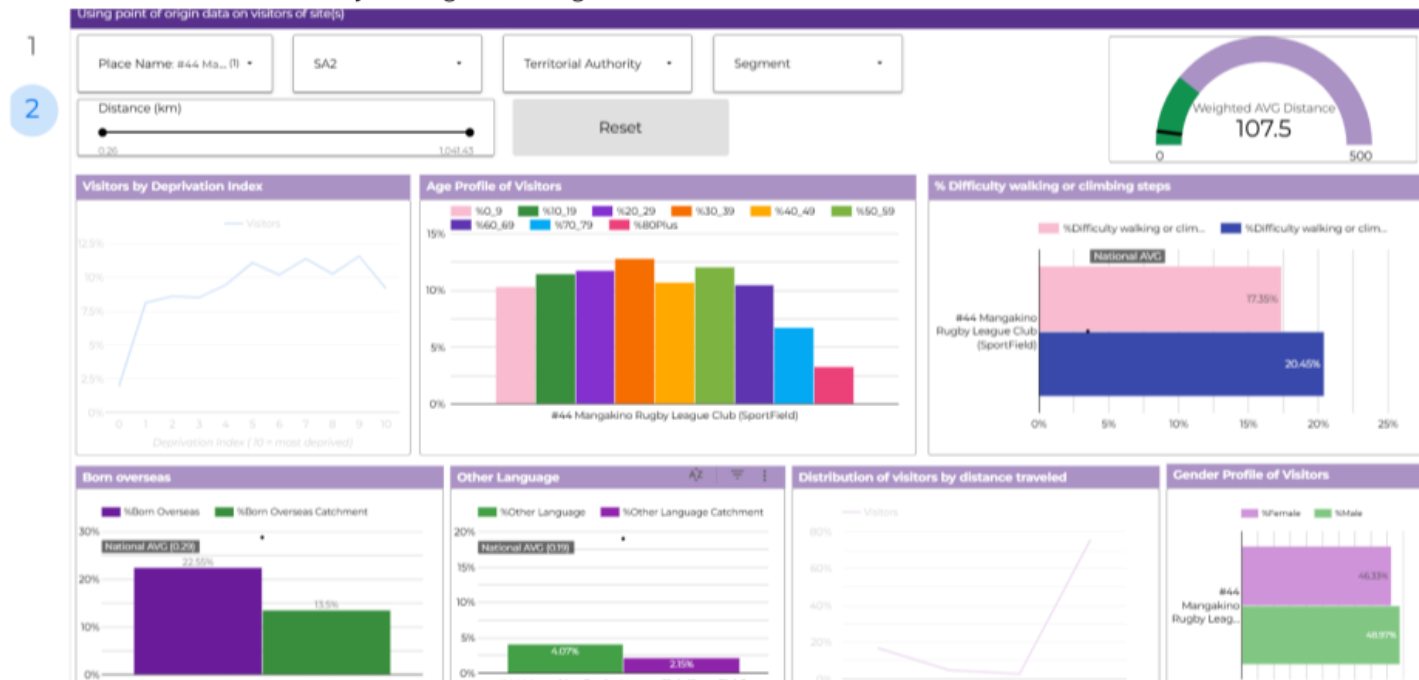


This table shows days of the week most utilised + time of the day...

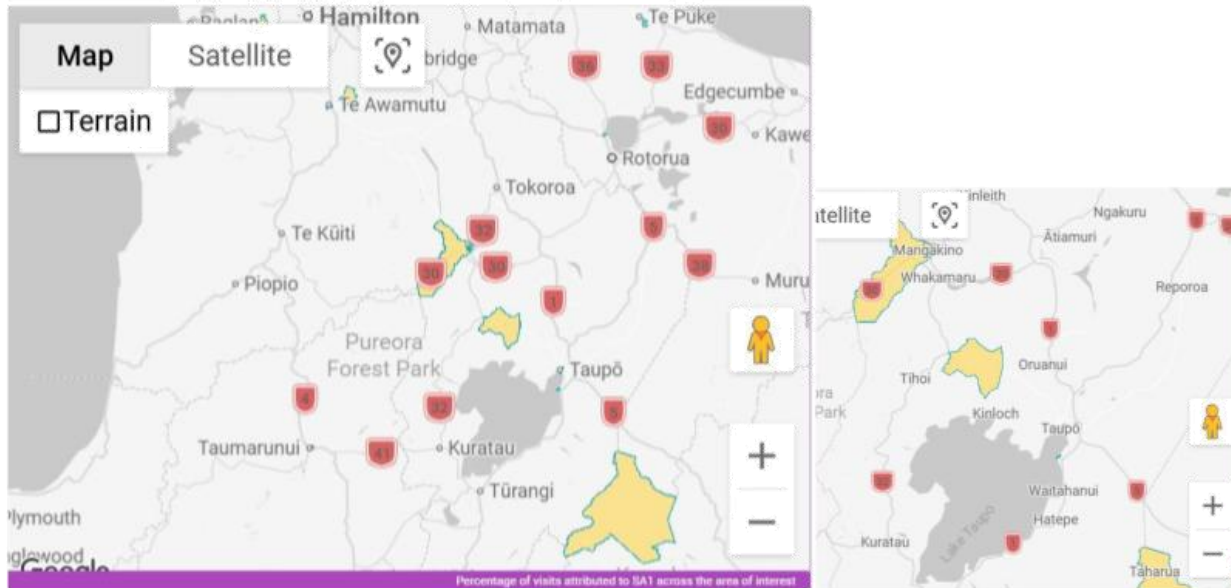


This table gives us the breakdown of visitors:

- 30.91% of visitors come from high deprivation areas
- 21.79% of visitors were aged 19 or younger
- 20.45% of visitors have difficulty walking or climbing stairs



The below ActiveXchange movement data shows where people travel from to visit Mangakino Sportsgrounds. This indicates a high proportion of visitors are from rural communities. Smaller image is a close up on Mangakino & immediate surrounds.



Rebecca Robertson

From: Alan Te Maari <altemaari@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 14 September 2026 10:15 pm
To: Rebecca Robertson
Subject: Fwd: Mangakino rugby ground lights

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links, open attachments, or respond unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

You don't often get email from altemaari@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alaan** <kaveman548@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 14 Sept 2026, 10:07 pm
Subject: Writing
To: <altemaari@gmail.com>

POUAKANI MARAE

LETTER OF SUPPORT

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Support for Mangakino Rugby Ground Lighting Upgrade

I am writing in my capacity as a Representative of Pouakani Marae to express our strong support for the funding application for the proposed lighting upgrade at the Mangakino Rugby Grounds.

The Mangakino Rugby Grounds have played an important role in our community for many generations. They have been a place where our whānau have come together to participate, support, and celebrate sport and recreation across all ages.

The grounds have supported junior and senior rugby, representative rugby, representative rugby league, women's rugby league, women's soccer, as well as a range of other sporting and recreational activities. They have provided an important space for our young people to develop confidence, discipline, teamwork, leadership and positive connections with their community.

Mangakino Rugby also carries an important sporting history as part of the mighty Mooloo Waikato rugby tradition. The grounds therefore represent more than a sporting field; they are part of the history, identity and community life of Mangakino and the surrounding Pouakani area.

As a Pouakani Marae representative, I strongly support encouraging our younger generation to participate in sport, recreation and outdoor pursuits. Providing safe, quality facilities gives our tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and wider community greater opportunities to remain active and connected.

The proposed lighting upgrade would significantly improve the usability of the grounds, allowing

activities and training to take place safely beyond daylight hours. It would provide a valuable resource for sporting clubs, families, volunteers and the wider community.

Pouakani Marae recognises the value of this project and the positive benefits it can provide for our tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and future generations.

We therefore give our full support to the funding application for the Mangakino Rugby Ground lighting upgrade and hope the application is successful.

Nāku noa, nā,

Alan Te Maari

Pouakani Marae Representative

For and on behalf of Pouakani Marae

Date: 14th Sept 2026

King Country Rugby Football Union (Inc)

Offices: Cotter St Te Kuiti & OD Park Taupo

Postal Address: PO Box 394, Te Kuiti

Email: generalmanager@kingcountryrugby.co.nzFacebook: www.facebook.com/kingcountryrugbyThursday 20th August**Letter of Support – Mangakino Field Lighting Upgrade**

King Country Rugby Union (KCRU) is pleased to provide its strong support for the proposed upgrade of the Mangakino field lighting. This project aligns directly with our strategic priorities around participation, safety, inclusion and the long-term sustainability of rugby and community sport across the King Country.

Mangakino plays a critical role within our rugby environment. KCRU utilises Mangakino as a **central hub for the delivery of all age-grade and senior representative rugby programmes**. It is one of the few locations within our geographically large and rural region that can consistently bring players, coaches, referees and support staff together. As such, it is imperative that this facility is supported by lighting infrastructure that is suitable, safe and fit for representative-level training and competition.

The need for this project is immediate. Short winter daylight hours, increasing participation demands and higher safety expectations have placed significant pressure on current infrastructure. The existing lighting no longer meets modern standards and increasingly restricts evening training and match opportunities—particularly for representative teams who must balance school, work and long-distance travel. Without appropriate lighting, KCRU's ability to prepare and deliver quality rugby pathways is compromised.

Upgraded field lighting would address a clear community and organisational need by enabling safe and reliable evening training and competition. This is especially important in a rural context, where alternative venues are limited and many participants travel significant distances. Appropriate lighting at Mangakino would reduce scheduling pressure, improve player welfare outcomes, and ensure equitable access for all programmes delivered through the site.

From a KCRU perspective, success would see Mangakino operating as a future-fit regional hub that supports junior, youth, women's and senior rugby, including all representative teams. It would improve participation and retention, reduce cancellations during winter months, and strengthen KCRU's capacity to deliver development programmes, pathway initiatives and regional events. KCRU serves diverse rural communities with strong Māori representation, broad age ranges and varying socio-economic contexts. For many, rugby is a cornerstone of physical health, belonging and social connection. Investment in lighting at Mangakino is therefore an investment in community wellbeing, inclusion and long-term participation.

KCRU fully endorses this project and recognises the critical role the Mangakino field lighting upgrade will play in supporting representative rugby and the wider King Country community.

Nāku noa, nā

J.W.Standen

Josh Standen

KCRU

Community Rugby Manager



5.3 CLASS 4 GAMBLING AND TAB VENUES POLICY - CONSULTATION

Author: Andrew Wilson, Policy Advisor

Authorised by: Nick Carroll, Policy Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

This report outlines in full the latest information regarding class 4 gambling (gaming machines/pokies) and TAB venues. The report also seeks Council's adoption of a draft Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy for consultation.

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gambling Act 2003 and Racing Industry Act 2020 require Council to have policies on class 4 gambling and TAB venues. These policies are required to be reviewed every three years. The Council has combined these policies into one.

Gaming machines have significant social costs and some benefits to the community. On one hand, some funds are generated for community and sporting groups and the pubs or clubs that host them, but on the other hand, there is substantial harm to individuals and their loved ones. The social impacts must be considered when reviewing the policy. A full social impact assessment is attached to this report.

Based on the findings of the social impact assessment, it is proposed that Council's current policy be amended with a sinking lid. This would mean that no new machines will enter the Taupō District – the limit on the total number of machines would be the current number (149), and if any of those machines leave, the limit would be reduced to prevent them being re-established. To balance this, officers propose retaining existing relocation and merger rules, which allow gaming machines to be relocated to venues within the mapped areas or merged into venues within the areas within the total limit, but without being prevented by the sinking lid. This is an attempt to balance the benefits of community funding raised by gaming machines while slowly limiting the opportunities for harm from gambling.

This approach isn't expected to have an immediate impact on gaming machine numbers, revenues generated for community groups, or the harm from problem gambling. There is no impact on existing operations. Instead, there would be no increase in the number of gaming machines, and there would be a reduction in the number of gaming machines only when current venues choose to close or get rid of their machines and do not relocate.

This paper identifies alternative approaches ranging from the more permissive approach taken by the current policy and the most restrictive approach preferred by harm reduction organisations.

There are additional editorial changes such as updating references to other Acts or adjusting the wording of clauses to match legislative language. Of note are the changes related to the sale of alcohol, the draft policy now refers to alcohol not liquor and uses the relevant alcohol licence types where appropriate. The proposed changes are noted in the attached policy.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION

That Council, with any amendments noted at the meeting, adopts in accordance with the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020, a draft Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy and Statement of Proposal for consultation.

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

The specific proposal has not been presented previously. However, there was a workshop held with elected members on 18 August 2026. This workshop discussed the social costs and benefits of class 4 gambling, explained what the policy does, and why Council must have one.

There were papers presented to the Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee and Mangakino Representative group in September 2026. Feedback from these groups is covered in the engagement section of this paper.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION***Existing Policy***

Under the current policy, last considered in 2023, new class 4 gambling and TAB venues can be established within the Taupō, Tūrangi and Mangakino town centres. Existing venues can also relocate provided they remain within the defined town centre areas. The current policy states that the maximum number of gaming machines in the Taupō District shall not exceed 164 – allowing for additional new venues and gaming machines, along with stipulating the maximum number of gaming machines that can be operated at a venue. Since 2023, the number of machines in the district has dropped from 151 machines to 149, with one venue removing their gaming machines, and subsequently another venue introducing gaming machines

The current policy also includes consent requirements, such as requiring a venue to have a statement of how it proposes to minimise the risks of problem and underage gambling at the venue.

The current policy also sets out the standalone TAB venue consent requirements and states the primary activity of a TAB venue must be for providing racing betting and sports betting services. The policy cannot cover TAB machines in pubs or clubs as this is outside the scope of a territorial authority's powers.

Social Impact Assessment

Each time a review of the Policy is undertaken, a social impact assessment of gambling needs to be completed. Council officers have undertaken this review and the assessment is attached.

The Social Impact Assessment notes that:

- National trends show a continual decline in machine numbers, venues and gaming machine profits. Taupō district's rate of decline in machine numbers and venues up until 2018 exceeds the national trend. However, from 2018 onwards there has been no meaningful change in machine numbers and no change in venue numbers.
- Taupō District has bucked the national trend of declining gaming machine profits in both in real (inflation adjusted) and nominal terms. Nationally there has been an 8% decline in real gaming machine profits since 2015 while Taupō District has experienced a 7.6% increase which is equivalent to approximately \$600,000 in losses. Nominally gaming machine profits has grown 21% at a national level while Taupō District has experienced a 44% increase grown from \$7.9m to \$11.4m
- In the Waikato, Taupō District has the third highest gaming machine profits per 10,000 people and the second highest gaming machine profits per gaming machine.
- When class 4 gambling in the district is assessed using proxy indicators in the Ministry of Health's gambling assessment framework, Taupō District is at medium risk of problem gambling.
- The availability of funding to community and local sports groups is considered a key benefit to the district from having class 4 gambling venues.

In 2025, the district benefited from approximately \$3.8 million in grants allocated from gaming machine profits and up to \$1.9 million in income to the 11 venue operators. This figure needs to be kept in perspective, with the \$11.4 million lost on gaming machines within the same period. Of this \$11.4m, an estimated 37.9% or \$4.3 million is detrimental to the individual based on Ministry of Health research into the rate of harmful spending on all gambling. This financial harm does not include the further harms to family, friends, and the community from the losses incurred by gamblers.

Policy Settings

There are limited options provided by the legislation to manage gaming machines and therefore the related harm. The main policy settings that Council can control are:

- The number of gaming machines in the district (usually by a cap or sinking lid approach), as well as the number and per venue
- The location of gaming machine venues in the district
- The maximum number of machines per venue

There is already some control on locations of gaming machines in the Taupō District through the Policy (relocations are limited to the town centres).

These variables are considered in the options analysis below.

NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA | OPTIONS

The below options analysis outlines two sets of options that are distinct but related. The first set of options deals with the overall number of machines in the district while the second set of options deals with location and relocation of machines. These options are split as there are many different combinations of these choices that could be proposed by Council. It is important to note that by adopting a proposal for consultation elected members are setting an intended policy direction which will then be responded to by the community.

Analysis of Options – Gaming Machines Numbers

Option A. Implement a sinking lid

This option would mean that no new venues or machines would be permitted even if venues close. However, under this option alone mergers and relocations could still be permitted which means an operator could move to a new location, but the overall number of venue or machines could not increase.

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Prevents any additional gaming machines in the district. - May reduce the opportunities for gambling related harm over time.	May reduce grant funding available to community groups over time as venues choose to close or give up their gaming machines.

Option B. Cap but allow for growth

This option retains the status quo and is the most permissive outside of removing or increasing the cap further. This option could be modified with a slight reduction in the machine cap to allow for only one additional venue by reducing the cap to 158.

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Allows the opportunity for additional new venues and gaming machines. - May increase grant funding available to community and sports groups.	- Potentially increases the number of gaming machines and therefore opportunities for harm from gambling. - No downward pressure on machines or venues allows not only for expansion from current rates but allows for replacement

Option C. Cap but do not allow growth

This option would reduce the cap from 164 machines to the current 149 machines. It would not allow for new machines unless existing machines were given up.

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Prevents a rebound in numbers above the current level. - Allows the opportunity for additional new venues and gaming machines if others close.	No downward pressure on machines does not automatically reduce the number of machines allowed.

Analysis Conclusion:

Based on the findings of the social impact assessment and feedback from the Tūrangi Co-governance committee and Mangakino representative group option three of implementing a sinking lid is recommended (Option A). This option seeks to balance the social costs and benefits of gaming machines in the Taupō District. It places some downward pressure on machines but is not expected to have significant impacts in the short term. This approach is in line with recommended best practice for dealing with the risk of harm associated with class 4 gambling.

Analysis of Options – Location of Machines and Relocation**Option 1. Keep the current Town Centre Areas**

This option allows for the relocation, merger and depending on the approach to managing machines, the opening of new venues in Taupō, Tūrangi and Mangakino. This does not force existing operators to move to a new venue inside the mapped areas.

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Allows for gaming to be confined to existing town centres. - Any relocations or mergers happen in a limited area.	Allows for machines to operate in Mangakino and Tūrangi which are two of the highest risk of harm communities in the district.

Option 2. Remove Tūrangi and/or Mangakino from the mapped areas further restricting gambling activity locations

This option is effectively a sinking lid for Tūrangi and/or Mangakino only as it would prohibit new venues or relocations to Tūrangi and/or Mangakino.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Prevents new venues being established in Tūrangi and/or Mangakino, minimising harm in the two most at risk towns.	May reduce gaming machine revenue and therefore grants in the future if the current Tūrangi venue surrenders its machines. Mangakino has no machines currently either in or outside the mapped area.

Option 3. Place a venue cap on Tūrangi and/or Mangakino – 1-2 venues in Tūrangi and 1 venue in Mangakino

This option is more restrictive than the status quo and is a middle ground between total removal of Tūrangi and Mangakino and the status quo which would allow for new venues to open in Tūrangi and Mangakino.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Limits growth in machine numbers in the two most deprived communities in the district.	Allows for expansion of machine numbers in Tūrangi and Mangakino from current levels, with potentially increased opportunities for harm from gambling.

Option 4. Remove all mapped areas and do not allow the establishment of new venues or relocations/mergers (requires a sinking lid approach)

This is the strongest possible option available to Council for restricting class 4 gambling. This is the approach recommended by most harm reduction agencies in order to place the most downward pressure on venues and machine numbers as legally allowed. No Council in the Waikato takes this approach, however others do such as Auckland City.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Places downward pressure on machines.	Will reduce grant funding available to community groups over time.

Analysis Conclusion:

Based on the officer's recommendation for a sinking lid that is balanced with allowing mergers and relocations option 2 with only the removal of Mangakino from the mapped areas is the preferred option.

Overall, the sinking lid will restrict growth in the number of machines and venues but retaining the mapped areas for Tūrangi and Taupō while allowing relocations provides the opportunity for historic venues outside of

the current mapped areas to move into the town centre areas. This approach also allows flexibility for operators already in the town centre areas to relocate within it. Given Mangakino has no existing venues operating inside or outside of the current mapped areas it is proposed that Mangakino be removed based on the feedback provided by the representative group.

In principle this approach would allow for an increase in venues in Tūrangi but the overall number of machines would be limited in the district at large. The removal of any headroom makes this less likely than under the current policy which has head room and allows for new venues to establish in Tūrangi or Mangakino.

If Council chooses not to adopt a sinking lid approach, then officers would recommend option 2 in full removing both Mangakino and Tūrangi. In effect this would centralise gambling to the Taupō town centre only. Limiting the expansion of gambling in Tūrangi and Mangakino based on the risk profile of those communities is supported by the findings of the social impact assessment. Furthermore, town specific rules that limit expansion are options that the Tūrangi Co-governance committee and Mangakino representative group are in favour of.

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS

Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations

Costs associated with consultation and review, and the Class 4 Gambling and TAB venues policy are budgeted for in the current annual plan period.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal Considerations

Local Government Act 2002

The matter comes within scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local
 - (i) infrastructure; and
 - (ii) public services; and
 - (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and
- (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

The proposal has been evaluated with regards to a range of legislation. The key legislation applicable to the proposal has been reviewed and the relevant matters for consideration are as follows:

The Gambling Act 2003 (Gambling Act) requires all territorial authorities to have a gambling venue policy, while the Racing Industry Act 2020 (Racing Act) requires a policy on standalone TAB venues. They are both required to be reviewed every three years in accordance with the special consultative procedure in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

There are no known additional policy implications.

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory obligations including in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles, consideration of Māori interests and meaningful engagement with Māori. In meeting its statutory obligations, Council is committed to acting reasonably and in good faith and consistently with a partnership-based approach. Te Tiriti/Treaty principles include but are not limited to active protection of Māori interests, informed decision-making and enabling effective Māori participation in Council processes.

In line with these obligations and commitments officers will directly inform our Iwi partners of consultation opening. Additionally, early engagement has already been undertaken with Ngāti Tūrangitukua in accordance with Council's obligations under the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement. At the time of writing Officers had not heard back from the Ngāti Tūrangitukua entities.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

Gambling is an issue with considerable social costs and some benefits for sections of the community. There are therefore strong views both for and against gaming machines. This means that there is risk of media attention and potentially controversy over Council decisions on this policy.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be taken into account when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is significant.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a high degree of significance, further engagement is required.

Particularly affected parties will be contacted directly and informed about the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal as required under the Gambling and Racing Acts.

Early engagement with Tūrangi and Mangakino has already begun with discussions at the representative group and co-governance committee respectively. Feedback from these groups included:

- Tūrangi - Support for a sinking lid.
- Tūrangi - If a sinking lid wasn't implemented, then a bespoke arrangement for Tūrangi would be appreciated. Such as a Tūrangi venue limit or removing Tūrangi from the mapped areas.
- Mangakino – Support for Mangakino being removed from mapped areas.

Gambling harm organisations and local health care providers who provide mental health support proactively reached out to Council to provide early feedback. These organisations provided the following feedback:

- Support for a "gold standard" harm reduction approach which is a sinking lid with no relocations and no mergers.
- That harms occur across the spectrum, not just at the problem gambling end.
- Noting that harms are exacerbated on the most disadvantaged groups in our communities.
- Noting that Māori and Pacific peoples are disproportionately negatively impacted by gambling.
- Taupō District has a higher rate of loss per machine when compared to the national average and that Taupō District ranks 6th highest in New Zealand for gaming machine profits per machine based on the January to March 2026 quarter.

Clubs and societies that received Council's community kōrero newsletter have been informed of the upcoming consultation period. Gaming machine license holders and host venues will be contacted directly at the start of the consultation period. Previous consultation with these groups however highlighted that:

- Gaming machine grants are crucial sources of funding for many clubs.
- Gaming machines help support pubs and clubs to operate which provide a social space for communities and supports economic activity. This support also therefore provides jobs.
- Some community groups are torn between the need for funding and the source of the funding. They recognise the potential harms but also need the funding to provide their services, events, or opportunities to our community.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

A special consultative procedure will be undertaken to consult on the draft policy including:

- Public notification and submissions between 1 October and 2 November 2026.
- Social media and website.
- Direct contact with license holders and venue operators via email.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

Class 4 Gambling is a complex topic given both the positive and negative social impacts. Funds from it play a role in supporting many community and national level organisations that provide important services and opportunities to local communities. On the other hand, class 4 gambling is considered one of the most harmful forms of gambling.

On balance, it is recommended that Council moves to a sinking lid approach that still allows for some flexibility to move and merge clubs in the Taupō and Tūrangi town centres given the existing operations in those communities. This won't affect existing operations and the availability of grants immediately, but will not allow an increase in the number of gaming machines and will place some downward pressure on the number of gaming machines if gaming venues choose to close or give up their gaming machines.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policy 2026 [↓](#)
2. Social Impact Assessment 2026 [↓](#)
3. Statement of Proposal - Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policy [↓](#)

Adopted:	XXXXXX
Next review date:	XXXXXX
Document number:	XXXXXXXX
Sponsor/Group:	Policy



Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy 2026

1. Application

- 1.1 This policy applies to Class 4 and TAB Venues.

2. Objectives of the policy

- 2.1 To control the growth of gambling in the Taupō District within the legislative means available.
- 2.2 To minimise the harm to the community caused by gambling while allowing those who wish to participate to do so.
- 2.3 To ensure that the council and the community has influence over the location of new Class 4 and TAB venues in the Taupō District.
- 2.4 To facilitate community access to information about the funds produced and distributed from Class 4 venues within the Taupō District.

3. Revocations

- 3.1 The Taupō District Council Class 4 Gaming and TAB Venue Policy effective from December 2023 is revoked when this policy comes into force on XXX 2026.

4. Definitions

authorised purpose	a charitable purpose or non-commercial purpose that is beneficial to the whole or a section of the community.
Class 4 gambling	means gambling that utilises or involves a gaming machine (as defined in the Gambling Act 2003).
Class 4 venue	means a place used to conduct Class 4 gambling.
club	means a voluntary association of persons combined for a purpose other than personal gain.
corporate society	means a society that is: - incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022; or - incorporated as a board under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957; or - a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1993 that; - does not have the capacity or power to make a profit; and - is incorporated and conducted solely for authorised purposes; or - a working men's club registered under the Friendly Societies and Credit Unions Act 1982.
existing venue	means a venue granted a Class 4 venue licence after 17 October 2001 and before 19 September 2003.
family	means any group that includes children under the age of 18 years.
gaming machine	as defined in the Gambling Act 2003, is a device, whether totally or partly mechanically or electronically operated, that is adapted or designed and constructed for use in gambling.
new venue	means a venue granted a Class 4 venue licence on or after 19 September 2003.

operator's licence	means a Class 4 operator's licence issued by the Secretary for Internal Affairs.
primary activity	means the activity primarily associated with and promoted by the venue.
society	means an association of persons established and conducted entirely for purposes other than commercial purposes.
TAB venue	means premises that are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services.
territorial authority consent	means a consent granted by a territorial authority under section 100 of the Gambling Act 2003.
venue licence	means a Class 4 venue licence issued by the Secretary for Internal Affairs.

5. Where Class 4 Gambling and TAB venues may be established

- 5.1 ~~The Taupō District will operate under a sinking lid policy. Meaning that no consents for additional machines or venues will be granted.~~
- 5.2 Venues may only be established within the Taupō and Tūrangi and Mangakino Town Centres (as defined on the maps in this policy), ~~as a result of a relocation. These relocations are subject to the other conditions of this policy.~~
- 5.3 An existing venue may continue to operate at the site where it was located on 23 March 2004, subject to meeting the other conditions of this policy.
- 5.4 If a venue that was granted a Class 4 venue licence on or before the 17 October 2001 is sold, it may continue to operate a maximum of 18 gaming machines at the site where it was located on 23 March 2004.

6. Number of gaming machines to be allowed at venues

- 6.1 ~~The total number of gaming machines in the Taupō District shall not exceed 164.~~
- 6.2 Venues for which a Class 4 venue licence was granted after 17 October 2001 must not operate more than 9 gaming machines.
- 6.3 If two or more clubs merge, the merged venue may operate 24 gaming machines or the sum of the number of gaming machines licensed to operate at those sites, whichever is the lesser.

7 Relocation of existing Class 4 gambling venues

- 7.1 An existing Class 4 venue may relocate provided it is relocating to or within the Taupō or Tūrangi ~~and Mangakino~~ Town Centres (as defined on the maps in this policy).
- 7.2 Class 4 venues that relocate may be allowed up to the maximum number of gaming machines approved at the time of closing of the former venue, subject to meeting the other conditions of this policy.

8 Primary activity of Class 4 gambling venues

- 8.1 The primary activity of any Class 4 venue shall be for one or more of the following:
- sporting activities or
 - private club activities or
 - ~~a licensed premise with an on license or club license under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 the sale of alcohol with food for consumption on the premises or the sale of alcohol and food for consumption on the premises~~ or
 - racing and sports betting services.
- 8.2 The primary activity of the venue shall not be an activity associated with family or children's activities and it is required that patrons would be restricted to persons 18 years or older.

9 Primary activity of TAB venues

- 9.1 The primary activity of any TAB venue shall be for providing racing betting and sports betting services.

10 Consent requirements for Class 4 gambling venues

- 10.1 The venue shall not be part of a place where another Class 4 venue is located.
- 10.2 The venue is not to be used mainly for operating gaming machines.
- 10.3 The venue shall not have a separate entrance, separate name, or otherwise seem to be separate from the primary activity of the venue.
- 10.4 The venue must have an on-licence, club licence or charter for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises (TAB venues are exempt from this requirement).
- 10.5 The venue must have a statement of how it proposes to minimise the risks of problem gambling and underage gambling at the venue.
- 10.6 The applicant must meet the application and fee requirements.

11 Consent requirements for TAB venues

- 11.1 The venue shall not be part of a place where another TAB is located.
- 11.2 The venue must have a statement of how it proposes to minimise the risks of problem gambling and underage gambling at the venue.
- 11.3 The applicant must meet the application and fee requirements.

12 Application for consent

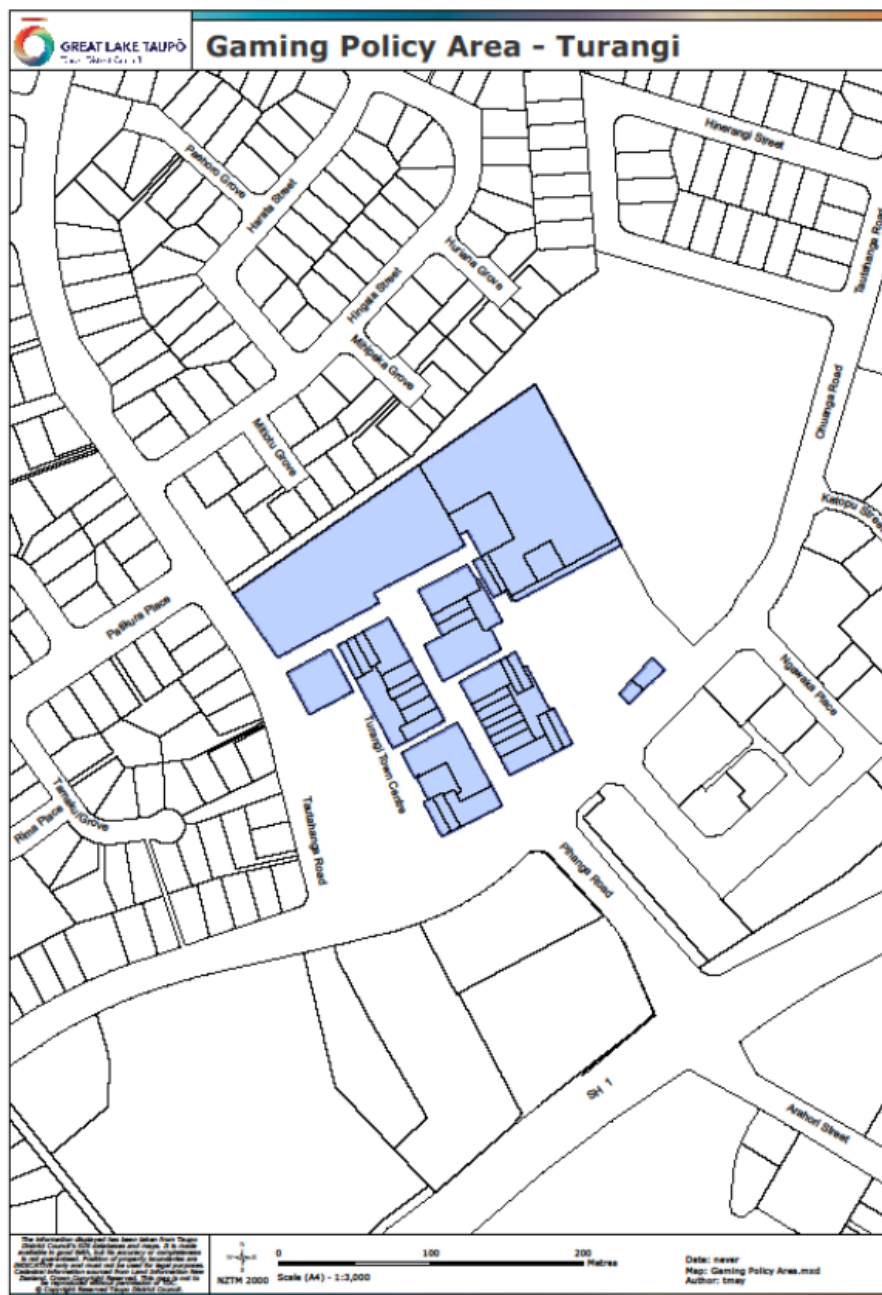
- 12.1 Applications for territorial authority consent must provide:
 - a. name and contact details of the applicant, and
 - b. a description of the proposed Class 4 or TAB venue and its location, and
 - c. a profile of the venue manager and the venue operator including details of their experience in gambling, character, and qualifications, and
 - d. the number of gaming machines to be located at the Class 4 venue, and
 - e. evidence that the Class 4 venue will not be used mainly for operating gaming machines, and
 - f. evidence of the distance to any education facility, community facility, place of worship, residential buildings or other Class 4 or TAB venues.
- 12.2 A statement of how the applicant proposes to minimise the risks of problem gambling and underage gambling at the venue.
- 12.3 Evidence of the alcohol licence(s) applying to the proposed Class 4 gambling venue.
- 12.4 Any other information requested by the Council.

13 Fees

- 13.1 Fees shall be set from time to time by Council resolution in accordance with s150 of the Local Government Act 2002.

14 Policy review

- 14.1 The policy will be reviewed every three years as required by the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020.





Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy Review 2026 - Social Impact Assessment

Prepared by: Andrew Wilson
Reviewed by: Aidan Smith & Nick Carroll
Policy Team
Taupō District Council

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of gambling in New Zealand and the Taupō District, with particular reference to class 4 gambling. It focuses on the social effects of pokie machine gambling, including problem gambling, and reports on recent changes in the industry.

Class 4 Gambling is gambling using gaming machines (pokies) outside of casinos. These machines are operated by gaming trusts and hosted in pubs and clubs. Council has a role in regulating the proliferation of these machines however the Department of Internal Affairs is ultimately responsible for licensing operators and collecting data from them.

Gambling is considered to have both positive and negative impacts for the community. Which is why the Gambling and Racing Industry Acts direct local authorities to have policies regulating class 4 gambling and TAB venues in their communities. These policies however only have limited scope to impact the way gambling operates locally and are principally focused on controlling numbers of venues and machines and their locations.

Councils Current Policy

The current Taupō District Council Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policy provides a cap on the number of gaming machines within the district and places restriction on the relocation of existing venues or the establishment of new ones to specific town centre zones. Despite these provisions, the incidence of class 4 gambling (as evidenced by gaming machines proceeds), along with the possibility of harm to the community, has increased across the district over the last 10 years.

Trends

National trends show a continual decline in machine numbers, venues and gaming machine profits which is total losses minus the winnings paid out to gamblers. Taupō District matched the rate of decline in machine numbers and venues up until 2018. From 2018 onwards, there has been no meaningful change in machine numbers and no change in venue numbers.

Taupō District has also bucked the national trend of declining gaming machine profits in both in real (inflation adjusted) and nominal terms. Nationally there has been an 8% decline in real gaming machine profits since 2015 while Taupō District has experienced a 7.6% increase which is equivalent to approximately \$600,000 in losses to gamblers. Nominally gaming machine profits have grown 21% nationally, while Taupō District has experienced a 44% increase - having grown from \$7.9 million to \$11.4 million.

In the Waikato, Taupō District has the third highest gaming machine profits per 10,000 people and the second highest gaming machine profits per gaming machine.

Benefits

One key benefit of class 4 gambling is the grant funding available through the distribution of gambling proceeds to community organisations. Under national law, 40% of gaming machine profits must be returned to community groups such as sports clubs, cultural groups or social services. The funding does not have to be returned to the area from which it was collected. In Taupō District in 2025, \$3.8 million was returned to the community in grants this is 34% of total gaming machine profits.

Another benefit is the economic impact for venues that host the machines. Under national law, these venues can receive 16.5% of the gaming machine profits from the machines they host, to help

support their operations, as well as any additional custom. In 2025, 16.5% of gaming machine profits in the district would equate to up to \$1.9 million for hosting venues.

Harms

In 2025, \$11.4 million was lost to class 4 gambling machines across the district. Nationally an estimated 37.9% of all revenue that goes to the gambling industry represents a direct welfare loss, which is harmful to the consumer. Applying this estimate to Taupō District class 4 gaming machine profits results in an estimated \$4.3 million of gambling expenditure that represents harm to people locally.

Beyond just the financial losses to the consumer are the serious social issues, not only for those directly affected (the gambler/consumer) but also their family, friends, workplace, and the community at large. Problem gambling is sometimes funded by the proceeds of crime, adding further to the negative impacts experienced by the community.

District Risk Profile

Based on the local prevalence rate, gambling density, ethnicity, deprivation levels and the availability of help services locally, Taupō District has a medium risk profile using the Ministry of Health district profile methodology. While this methodology is a standardised approach to assessing a district-wide risk profile, the prevalence rate is significantly impacted by the availability of data for the number of people who seek help, which is limited for Taupō District. This means that Taupō District could have a higher profile in practice.

While the current class 4 gambling and TAB Venue Policy has provided some restrictions on gambling across the district, gaming machine profits has continued to grow both in real and nominal terms. This growth also represents a growth in the level of harm. If Council wishes to place further downward pressure on machines and machine profits, then a sinking lid is the recommended approach as Council has no ability to close or restrict existing venues operations.

Regulation of Gambling Activities in New Zealand

Gambling activity in New Zealand is regulated by the Gambling Act 2003 (the Act) and the Racing Industry Act 2020. The legislation is primarily enforced at a national level by the Department of Internal Affairs, although councils play a small regulatory role in relation to the following types of gambling venues:

- Class 4 venues i.e. venues with non-casino electronic gaming machines, commonly referred to as pokies
- Racing Industry Transition Agency TAB venues ("TAB venues").

The table below provides an overview of the regulatory framework and the respective roles of central and local government.

Gambling Activity	Central Government	Territorial Authorities
Casino Gambling	• Responsible for all regulatory, licensing and enforcement activities	• No control over casino gambling
Gambling conducted by the New Zealand Lotteries Commission		• No control over gambling conducted by the New Zealand Lotteries Commission
Gambling at class 4 venues	• Sets the legislative framework (e.g. maximum number of machines per venue, rules about distribution of proceeds) • Responsible for venue licensing, subject to council consent • Enforcement activities – • Sets requirements on venue hosts to support harm minimisation under the recent Gambling (Harm Prevention and Minimisation) Amendment Regulations 2023	• Required by legislation to have policies in place to regulate the number and location of new gambling venues in the district • Responsible for consenting new venues that comply with the relevant policy • No control over TAB machines in taverns
Betting at TAB Venues	• Sets the legislative framework • Responsible for venue licensing, subject to council consent • Enforcement activities	
Online gambling	• No/limited ability to control overseas-based online gambling websites • Control over New Zealand based online gambling websites • Online Casino Gambling Act 2026 recent regulation that is attempting to deal with some of the harms	• No control over online gambling

Territorial Authority Regulation of Gambling

In accordance with the provisions of both Acts (Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020), all territorial authorities are required to have a Class 4 Venue Policy and a Board Venue (stand-alone TABs) Policy; and review these policies every three years.

These two policies are combined into one by Taupō District Council and were last reviewed in 2023 at which time they were rolled over without amendment.

In reviewing these policies, the Council must have regard to the social impact of gambling within the district. The policy must specify:

- whether or not class 4 gambling venues may be established within the district, and if so
- where they can be located.

The policy may also specify restrictions such as:

- maximum number of gaming machines that can be operated at a class 4 venue
- a maximum number of machines in the district
- place a sinking lid on machine numbers/venues
- restrict mergers and relocations

Territorial authorities, however, do not have the authority to:

- control hours of operation of TAB or class 4 venues
- close down an existing gambling venue
- be involved in decisions about what happens to proceeds of gambling - where and to whom proceeds are distributed
- regulate casinos, internet gambling or Lotto outlets.

Statutory limits on machine numbers

The Act limits the number of gaming machines permitted at a venue. Venues which held a class 4 venue licence on 17 October 2001 can operate up to 18 machines, while venues with a class 4 venue licence issued after 17 October 2001 but before the commencement of the Gambling Act 2003 are able to operate up to nine machines as long as the Council venue policy allows this (s.89 – 97).

There is the option of applying for ministerial discretion to permit more than nine machines at some sites provided, amongst other things, the territorial authority has issued a consent that is consistent with its class 4 gambling venue policy.

Class 4 Gambling

Class 4 gambling involves a gaming machine. Gaming machines owned by corporate societies (or Trusts) pay the venue a fee to host the machines. The Department of Internal Affairs is responsible for issuing licences to corporate societies. To be eligible, the corporate societies must be non-profit and be established to raise funds for community purposes.

Clubs provide class 4 gambling machines for their members and guests only. These venues do not distribute the profits of class 4 gambling to the community but apply them to provide services to the club and its membership.

There are currently 11 class 4 gambling venues operating within the district with a total of 149 gaming machines in operation. The number of machines operating in the district has been trending downwards slowly over the past decade

Society / Club Name	Venue Name	Number of Machines
Taupō		
The Lion Foundation 2008	dbar	18
Pub Charity Limited	Finn's Bistro Bar	18
New Zealand Community Trust	LUCKY LIZARD	18
Taupō Cosmopolitan Club Inc	Taupō Cosmopolitan Club	18
Youthtown Incorporated	PUB 'N' GRUB	14
Grassroots Trust Limited	Fox and Hounds	9
Grassroots Trust Limited	MULLIGAN'S PUBLIC HOUSE	9
First Light Community Foundation Limited	Pitch Sports Bar	9
TAB New Zealand	TAB Taupō	9
New Zealand Community Trust	Crafty Trout	9
Tūrangi		
Grassroots Trust Central Limited	Turangi Tavern	18
Total	11	149

Board or TAB Venues

TAB venues are owned and operated by the Racing Industry Transition Agency; a statutory monopoly established under the Racing Reform Act 2019. The main business of TAB venues is to provide betting services for racing and sporting events. The Agency uses the proceeds from gambling to support its business operations, and it distributes the remainder to sporting organisations. TAB venues can also apply for a class 4 gambling venue licence to operate gaming machines.

Under the Racing Industry Act 2020, councils must have in place a policy that specifies:

- whether new TAB venues may be established within the district; and if so
- where they can be located

These policies only affect venues that are stand-alone TAB venues. Self-service TAB machines (e.g. in pubs or bars) and franchised outlets (e.g. TABs operating in taverns) fall outside the scope of these policies and the Council has no control over their operation.

As at March 2026, Taupō District has 3 TAB venues located in pubs and clubs which are not covered by the Council's policy.

Type of Outlet	Name of Venue	Number of Outlets
Agency/Board venues	• Taupō Branch TAB Store	1
Self-service outlets (in clubs and pubs)	• Lucky Lizard • Turangi Tavern	2
Social outlets (in clubs and pubs)	• Taupō Cosmopolitan Club Inc.	1
Total		4

Gambling Data

An important part of understanding or approximating the social impacts of gambling is the Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Health data sets related to gaming machine numbers and associated expenditure, along with the number of problem gamblers seeking help both nationwide and in the district.

The money lost on class 4 electronic gaming machines (EGMs) is called the gaming machine profit. It is the amount wagered, less the amount paid back as prizes. It is used as a comparator metric and a proxy for harm.

National Gambling Trends

New Zealand has a long and established gambling history with four main forms of gambling - Lotteries, TAB Sports betting, gaming machines and casinos. While these have traditionally been the main forms of gambling, recent research, is showing evidence that participation in online gambling is growing. Online gambling is not tracked in the DIA gambling expenditure data.

Gambling on class 4 machines is the number one gambling activity by expenditure despite the smaller number of players relative to other forms of gambling such as lotteries or sports betting. Total gambling expenditure (excluding online gambling) is approximately \$2.6 billion per year with over \$1 billion being lost at class 4 machines¹.

Over the last decade numbers of operating venues and gaming machines have declined steadily along with class 4 gambling revenues nationally².

Metric	2015	2025	% change
Machines	16,614	13,613	-18%
Venues	1,277	948	-26%
Gaming machine profits (inflation adjusted)	\$825m	\$760m	-8%
Gaming machine profits (nominal)	\$825m	\$1.02b	+21%

Local Gambling Trends

DIA data suggests Taupō District exceeded the national trend of overall reductions in machine numbers, venues over the last 10 years. However nearly all this reduction happened between 2015-2018 with no meaningful decline in either metric recently.

With respect to class 4 gambling expenditure, Taupō District has bucked the national trend of overall reduction with a 7.6% increase in real terms expenditure. Real gaming machine profits per year has increased from \$7.9 million in 2015 to \$8.5 million in 2025 in Taupō District. Nominally this is an increase from \$7.9 million to \$11.4 million per year in gaming machine profits.

¹ DIA (2026). Gambling Expenditure Statistics

² Department of Internal Affairs (2026). Gaming Machine Proceeds (gaming machine profits) Data

Metric	2015	2025	% change
Machines	201	151	-25%
Venues	16	11	-32%
gaming machine profits (inflation adjusted)	\$7.9m	\$8.5m	+7.6%
gaming machine profits (nominal)	\$7.9m	\$11.4m	+44%

Regional Comparison

Despite having a moderate population and an average number of machines (EGM) per 10,000, Taupō District has one of the highest levels of gaming machine profits per machine and gaming machine profits per 10,000 people in the Waikato region. Taupō District has the third highest gaming machine profits per 10,000 people and second highest gaming machine profits per machine in the Waikato region.

District	Population	gaming machine profits (\$)	gaming machine profits Per 10,000	# of EGMs	EGM per 10,000 ³	gaming machine profits / EGM	# of venues
Thames-Coromandel District	32,200	\$11,836,022	\$3,680,000	246	76	\$48,114	20
South Waikato District	26,000	\$7,833,326	\$3,010,000	133	51	\$58,897	9
Taupō District	42,700	\$11,786,187	\$2,760,000	149	35	\$79,102	11
Hauraki District	22,100	\$5,924,296	\$2,680,000	114	52	\$51,968	9
Waitomo District	9,950	\$2,575,207	\$2,590,000	50	50	\$51,504	4
Matamata-Piako District	39,200	\$7,971,490	\$2,030,000	141	36	\$56,535	10
Waipa District	62,200	\$10,674,488	\$1,720,000	205	33	\$52,071	14
Hamilton City	192,100	\$28,735,773	\$1,500,000	355	18	\$80,946	23
Waikato District	91,100	\$10,892,605	\$1,200,000	220	24	\$49,512	17
Otorohanga District	10,700	\$879,466	\$820,000	23	21	\$38,238	2
Grand Total	468,470	\$99,108,860	\$2,120,000	1,636	35	\$60,580	119

Costs and Benefits of Gambling

Social Impacts of Gambling

Not all gambling products are created equal, and gaming machines are considered to have a higher likelihood of gambling harm than other gambling forms. This is due to a mix of addictive features (like free spins and nearly wins), their solitary nature and how they provide a continuous form of gambling which allows for an instant re-investment of any 'winnings'⁴

There are two main categories of problem gamblers:

³ More than 75 machines per 10,000 is considered high risk

⁴ Problem Gambling Foundation (2019). Gambling in New Zealand

- pathological gamblers, who typically have a craving to gamble more and more, are unable to stop despite massive losses and who feel out of control of their gambling, and
- problem gamblers, a category with multiple meanings that refers generally to people with patterns of gambling behaviour that have an adverse effect on general health, personal and family relationships, work or wider social activities. This is considered a less severe category than pathological gamblers.⁵

Gambling Harm

Harm from gambling is measured by proxy using symptomatology or by self-report in population surveys⁶. In New Zealand these include the New Zealand Health Surveys, the National Gambling Study, or alternatively, client disclosures during treatment seeking. The nature of gambling harm experienced by individuals are broadly grouped as follows⁷:

- Reduced health outcomes (both morbidity and mortality).
- Emotional or psychological distress.
- Financial harm.
- Reduced performance at work or education.
- Relationship disruption, conflict or breakdown.
- Criminal activity.

Gambling harm is both harm to the individual, as well as to family and significant others that manifests in myriad ways. The list below is excerpted from the 2018 New Zealand health survey and presents a high-level overview of some of the ways in which respondents have experienced gambling related harm

- 1 in 14 New Zealand adults (7%) reported second-hand gambling harm in their wider family or household in the last 12 months.⁸
 - Harm was more likely to be reported by Māori than non-Māori.
 - The prevalence of harm has remained relatively unchanged from 2010 to 2018.
- One in six New Zealanders has gone without something they need, or a bill has remained unpaid because of gambling.
- Harm from gambling disproportionately affects higher deprivation and lower income communities and further exacerbates inequality and deprivation.
- Problem gambling particularly affects the poor, ethnic minorities, youth, the aged and other vulnerable groups.

More recently the Ministry of Health funded a 2023 study titled the Economic and Social Costing of Gambling in Aotearoa New Zealand. The study found that the total estimated social cost of gambling problems in New Zealand for the 2023/24 period was \$4.2 billion (\$3.72 - \$4.73 billion, 90% confidence interval). This level of loss is 4 times the total expenditure on class 4 gambling and 1.6 times the total expenditure on gambling. This represented the economic burden arising from gambling-related harm across individuals, whānau, and society. The total estimated social cost was primarily driven by health (physical and psychological) and financial impacts.

⁵ Rankine and Haigh (2003).

⁶ Ministry of Health (2017). Measuring the Burden of Gambling Harm in New Zealand

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Health Promotion Agency, 2019. 2018 *Health and Lifestyles Survey*.

<https://kupe.hpa.org.nz/#!/gambling/gambling-participation/any-gambling-activities>

The majority of gambling harm costs stem from problems and excessive expenditure linked to specific gambling. Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) are the most significant contributors. Offshore online EGMs account for the largest single share of costs at 39.0% (approximately \$1.58 billion). Following this, class 4 pokies contribute 24.5% (approximately \$984.0 million). These are estimates of the directly attributable component of the total costs. Combined, these two EGM categories are responsible for nearly two-thirds (63.5%) of all gambling harm costs attributable to specific forms of gambling.⁹

An estimated 37.9% of all revenue that goes to the gambling industry represents a welfare loss to consumers. This means that this expenditure is harmful and economically inefficient for those spending the money.¹⁰ Applying this estimate to Taupō District gaming machine profits gives a result of \$4.3 million of gambling expenditure that represents a welfare loss to the gambler locally.

Inequality and Equity

Gambling has been shown to adversely impact communities, particularly those that are least able to afford it. In Taupō District, all gaming venues except one are in areas of medium to very high deprivation.

The pattern that emerges from this observation is the entrenchment of disadvantage and the transfer of resources away from other financial and commercial activities towards poker machine gambling at a significant rate, with a concentration of this process amongst the most disadvantaged communities. It is also likely to be a key factor in the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage in disadvantaged communities¹¹

Economic Benefits of gambling

Gambling can benefit New Zealand and local communities by way of community grants, providing employment opportunities, supporting businesses, and as a form of entertainment. This is due to the distribution of 16.5% of gaming machine profits back to venues that host machines, as well as any additional custom from additional patrons to venues. In 2025, 16.5% of gaming machine profits in the district would equate to up to \$1.9 million for hosting venues.

Community Grants

Under the Gambling Act 2003 and the Gambling (Class 4 Net Proceeds) Regulations 2004, all corporate societies that conduct class 4 gambling are required to distribute 40% of their net proceeds to an authorised purpose.

There is currently no requirement that proceeds from gaming machines are distributed within the community or district from which it derived. This means that not all proceeds from gaming machines that operate in the Taupō District will necessarily be returned to the region. However, this also means that the district may benefit from proceeds of machines that operate in other districts.

Most of this funding is distributed to sports organisations, and social and community service organisations¹².

⁹ Browne et al, Economic and Social Costing of Gambling in Aotearoa New Zealand 2023-24, Ministry of Health, August 2025. [Economic and Social Costing of Gambling in Aotearoa New Zealand 2023-24](#)

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Livingstone C et al, Assessment of poker machine expenditure and community benefit claims in selected Commonwealth Electoral Divisions, Monash University, 2012.

¹² Granted Dashboard 2026 <https://www.granted.govt.nz/dashboard>

In 2025, approximately \$3.8 million was received by community organisations who operate in Taupō District¹³. Organisations that operate in Taupō District but are regional or national organisations such as King Country Rugby, Sports Bay of Plenty or Autism New Zealand are counted in this data where the funding has been tracked by the granting organisation as being Taupō District related. It is important to note that the data is collected by the Department of Internal Affairs from operating Societies. Gaps, limitations, or inaccuracies in raw data supplied by operating Societies may result in the final dataset showing anomalies. Where categories are listed as 'unspecified' this means data wasn't provided by Societies.

Although the provision of grants to community groups is often considered to be one of the biggest benefits to the community, \$3.8 million received in funding to community groups and the \$1.9 million of potential distributions to venues should be considered against the \$11.3 million lost by players in the district during the same period.

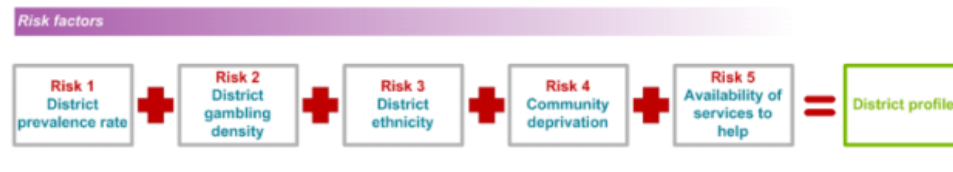
Grants made by Gaming Trusts in Taupō District - 2025

Society Name	Amount Granted
Youthtown Incorporated	\$22,878
WeCare Community Trust	\$13,000
The Lion Foundation	\$662,888
TAB New Zealand	\$10,000
Pub Charity	\$864,505
One Foundation	\$59,302
New Zealand Community Trust	\$130,625
Kiwi Gaming Foundation	\$15,000
Grassroots Trust Central	\$1,154,193
Grassroots Trust	\$417,352
Four Winds Foundation	\$19,350
First Light Community Foundation	\$210,228
BlueSky Community Trust	\$1,516
Aotearoa Gaming Trust	\$221,387
Total	\$3,802,223

For the period under consideration, the largest grants contributor to Taupō District was the Grass Roots Central Trust with \$1,154,193 (30% of total grants) in grants to local community groups. It is important note that several grant providers such as Aotearoa Gaming Trust who do not operate machines locally provided funding to several Taupō District based organisations.

District Risk Profile

A district risk profile is built using the KPMG / Ministry of Health district profile method. This method uses a scoring system based on five key categories that help determine the likelihood of problem gambling occurring in the district. The factors are outlined below.



Prevalence Rate

This is calculated by dividing the number of problem gambling intervention clients by the national rate of help seeking, which is 9.3%, and then dividing that by the district population. The total number of people in Taupō District seeking help in the 2020 year was 8. The prevalence rate is $(8/0.093)/42,700 = 0.002\%$.

Based on MOH guidelines, this rate indicates a low level of gambling prevalence. However, the limited available data from minimisation services in the district also casts a doubt on this figure. It is possible that the numbers are low only because individuals are receiving help from places not supported by MoH funding. If the national average for problem gamblers is 0.3%, then it suggests that the number of problem gamblers in the district should be much higher than 8. This low number of reported problem gamblers has an impact on the district profile as the prevalence rate is the most highly weighted factor.

Gambling Density

As of June 2026, there were 149 machines operating in the district. This equates to 1 machine for every 286 residents, or 35 machines per 10,000 people. Having less than 75 machines per 10,000 people is considered to be low risk.

Using the latest population figures from Stats NZ (42,700) and annual gaming machine proceeds for 2026 (\$11,786,187), gambling expenditure per person comes to \$276 per person per year. This is also considered to be a low-risk rating.

Ethnicity

Māori and Pacific population groups are more likely to experience gambling harm. When average district populations for these ethnicities exceed the national average, they are considered to be markers for risk.

	National Average	District Average
Māori	16.6 %	29.1%
Pacific people	8.9%	3.7%

Community Deprivation

Highly deprived communities are more likely to experience gambling harm; and all class 4 gambling venues in Taupō District are in medium and high deprivation areas of the district.

The current Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy restricts the establishment of new gambling venues to commercial Town Centre areas. It is worth noting that commercial areas, particularly central business districts (CBDs) usually score highly on the deprivation index due to variables such as people being more likely to rent and less likely to own a car.

Deprivation scores for parts of the district with machines are between 8 – 10 (with 10 being the highest possible), this is considered a high-risk rating. The district as a whole scores a 7 on overall deprivation.

Harm Minimisation Services

Several problem gambling service providers operate across New Zealand as part of efforts to minimize gambling harm. The development and implementation of problem gambling intervention services in New Zealand are funded from the problem gambling levy, which is collected from gambling proceeds by the Inland Revenue Department. The MoH is charged with funding and coordinating intervention services, which are then delivered by a range of service providers by contractual agreement.

There are some local providers in Taupō District which can provide support which helps to reduce the risk profile of the district.

District Risk Profile

The district risk profile is the sum of the risk for all risk factors. Each risk factor is measured as

- Low risk = 1 point
- Medium risk = 2 points
- High risk = 3 points

Factor	Unweighted Score	Weighting	Total Score
Prevalence Rate	1 (low risk)	2	2
Gambling Density			
- EGMs/ 10,000	1 (low risk)	1	3
- gaming machine profits / person	2 (medium risk)		
District Ethnicity			
- Māori	3 (high risk)	1	4
- Pacific	1 (low risk)		
Community Deprivation	3 (high risk)	1	3
Harm Minimisation Service	2 (moderate)	1	2
Total Points			14 (out of 24)
MoH risk rating			Medium Risk

Conclusion

Class 4 gambling continues to impact Taupō District as evidenced by the large amounts of money lost to gaming machines every year. It is not easy to determine if the growth in gaming machine profits over the last 10 years is attributable to higher spending by existing gamblers, or an influx of new gamblers as part of population growth.

The possibility of funding for community groups has historically been considered a major benefit accruing from class 4 gambling with a secondary benefit of supporting local businesses. However, funding given to local community groups accounts for only 33% of the total gaming proceeds taken from the district.

With a total of \$11.4 million in losses to the community from class 4 gambling, an estimated 37.9% or \$4.8 million of that expenditure being directly detrimental to the individuals gambling, and the wider impact of those losses on their family, friends and community it is clear that overall electronic gambling takes more out of the district than is returned.

Considering all these factors, it is recommended that the Taupō District Council's Class 4 Gambling Policy should continue to place restrictions on the location and number of machines and Council should consider adopting a sinking lid on machines/venues.

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CLASS 4 GAMBLING AND TAB VENUES POLICY

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Introduction

Council has an existing Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policy. The purpose of this policy is to:

- To control the growth of gambling in the Taupō District within the legislative means available.
- To minimise the harm to the community caused by gambling while allowing those who wish to participate to do so.
- To ensure that the council and the community has influence over the location of new Class 4 and TAB venues in the Taupō District.
- To facilitate community access to information about the funds produced and distributed from Class 4 venues within the Taupō District.

About the Policy

Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue Policies are implemented in accordance with the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020 local authorities are required to have these policies. They set out rules such as the number of class 4 gaming machines (pokies) permitted in the district, locations where class 4 gambling is permitted, and if venues can relocate or merge.

Our current policy is due for review and based on the most recent social impact assessment (**found here**) Council believes there is some need for change. The proposed changes are outlined below.

This statement of proposal has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Council's Proposal

Changes

Proposed Change	Rationale
Move from a district wide machine number cap to a sinking lid policy.	Currently the district has 149 operating machines, but the district-wide limit is 164 machines. Council is proposing a a sinking lid approach, which means that as machines are given up or venues close, those machines are removed from the district-wide total allowed unless they are merged with another club or relocate to a new venue.

Removing Mangakino from the permitted location mapped area	Mangakino currently has no class 4 gambling machines. Given Mangakino has a high level of deprivation, removing the town from the permitted areas is proposed by Council. Additionally, early feedback from the Mangakino representative group was in favour of preventing any gaming machines (pokies) from being added to the town.
Retaining mergers and relocations approach	While not a change, it is important to note that the proposed policy retains the existing approach to mergers and relocations. This means that machine operators can relocate to new locations within the mapped town areas in Taupō and Tūrangi, and two clubs can combine into one within the mapped areas.
Aligned the policy with recent legislative language related to alcohol	Instances where the policy referred to liquor have been replaced with alcohol to ensure consistency.

Have Your Say

The consultation period for the policy will begin on 1 October and conclude 2 November 2026.

This is your opportunity to let Council know what you think of the proposed policy. There are many different ways for you to tell us what you think.

You can:

- Read the policy and submit using our online consultation portal at www.taupo.govt.nz;
- or
- Email us at bylawreview@taupo.govt.nz;

Copies of the statement of proposal and the proposed policy are available online or from our offices.

If you have any questions about this proposal or about how to make a submission, please contact us via email at bylawreview@taupo.govt.nz.

Hearings

Please tell us if you would like to attend a hearing to speak to Council in support of your submission, and include a telephone number and email address to ensure we can contact you to arrange a time for your presentation. Hearings will be held on 10 November in the Council Chambers.

What happens next?

After the hearings, Council will consider all the submissions received and make decisions on any amendments to the policy as a result. As a submitter you will be notified of Council's decision.

Council will consider a final Class 4 Gambling and TAB venues Policy for adoption on XXXX

You have until 2 November 2026 to send us your feedback.

5.4 REPLACEMENT POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SIGNING DEEDS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Author: Karyn Hollman, Senior Solicitor

Authorised by: Nigel McAdie, Legal and Governance Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to authorise a replacement power of attorney to enable deeds to be signed on Council's behalf by any one of the current members of the Executive Team as attorney for Council.

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An elected member (usually the Mayor) signs deeds on behalf of Council, along with one member of the Executive Team as attorney appointed by a deed of power of attorney.

The power of attorney must be continually updated to reflect changes within the Executive Team so that Council can continue to sign deeds in accordance with the law.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

1. Revokes the existing Power of Attorney dated 8 February 2024 and approves a new replacement power of attorney effective from the date the deed is signed; and
2. Authorises the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to execute the new power of attorney prepared pursuant to the above resolution.

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

As a body corporate, Council must sign deeds by two elected members.

Because two elected members might not always be available, it is more efficient to appoint attorneys (being members of the Executive Team) to sign in the place of an elected member.

Attorneys are appointed by a deed of power of attorney, which deed must be continually updated to reflect changes within the Executive Team.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION

Since February 2024 there have been further changes within the Executive Team, meaning that two members of the current Executive Team have not been duly appointed as Council's attorney.

A new power of attorney is needed to ensure that Council can operate lawfully and efficiently in relation to signing deeds without being constrained by the availability of specific members of the Executive Team.

Attached is the proposed form of the new power of attorney.

There are two options, but the preferred option is to approve a new power of attorney.

NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA | OPTIONSAnalysis of Options**Option 1. Approve a new Power of Attorney**

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Council's power of attorney is up to date. - Council can meet the legal requirements for signing deeds on Council's behalf.	None known.

Option 2. Decline to approve a new Power of Attorney

Advantages	Disadvantages
None known	Two members of the current Executive Team have not been appointed as attorney for Council, meaning Council may legally sign deeds to which it is party only if there is available at least one of either the Chief Executive or the two Executive Team members that are appointed by Power of Attorney dated 8 February 2024. This reduces flexibility and efficiency.

Analysis Conclusion:

The preferred option is **Option 1**. Approve the new Power of Attorney.

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS

Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations

The financial impact of the proposal is minimal: only staff time to prepare and arrange signing of the power of attorney and communicate the update internally to appropriate teams.

Long-term Plan/Annual Plan

There is no expenditure to be budgeted for.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal Considerations

The key legislation applicable to the proposal has been reviewed and relevantly:

1. By the Property Law Act 2007, a local authority must sign deeds by two elected members but may appoint an attorney or attorneys for that purpose to act in the absence of two elected members.
2. In the interests of efficiency, deeds to which Council is a party are signed by one elected member and the Chief Executive (or in her absence a member of the Executive Team) who are first appointed by deed as Council's attorneys for that purpose.
3. The existing power of attorney can be relied on, but only where the Chief Executive, or one of two other specific members of the current Executive Team, is available to sign for Council.

Authorisations are not required from external parties.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

There are no known policy implications.

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory obligations including in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles, consideration of Māori interests and meaningful engagement with Māori. In meeting its statutory obligations, Council is committed to acting reasonably and in good faith and consistently with a partnership-based approach. Te Tiriti/Treaty principles include but are not limited to active

protection of Māori interests, informed decision-making and enabling effective Māori participation in Council processes.

In line with these obligations and commitments the report author has considered the need to seek advice, guidance, feedback and/or involvement of Māori on the proposed recommendations in this report and is of the opinion that no engagement with Māori is required given the administrative nature of the proposal.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

There are no known risks.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be considered when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

The report author has assessed the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#) and believes that the proposal under consideration is of a low degree of significance.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a low degree of significance, the report author believes that no further engagement is required prior to Council deciding on this proposal.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

No communication/media required.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

Deeds are signed on Council's behalf by one elected member and the Chief Executive (or, in her absence, a member of the Executive Team) as attorney in reliance on a power of attorney. The existing Power of Attorney is out-of-date and should be replaced with a new Power of Attorney that corresponds to the current Chief Executive and members of the Executive Team. This ensures that Council may continually sign deeds in accordance with the law.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Power of Attorney [↓](#)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

DATED

2026

Between

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

Donor

and

JULIE ANN GARDYNE

and

SARAH JANE MATTHEWS

and

ANTHONY JONATHAN HALE

and

HADLEY McDONALD TATTLE

and

WARRICK RUSSELL ZANDER

Donees

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY is made by **TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL** by way of deed on
the day of 2026.

BACKGROUND

- A. Taupō District Council ("**TDC**") is a local authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and, under section 12 of that Act, is a body corporate.
- B. Pursuant to section 9(3) of the Property Law Act 2007 a body corporate may execute a deed in its name by (inter alia) no fewer than two directors.
- C. Pursuant to section 4 of the Property Law Act 2007 each Councillor is deemed to be a director of TDC as their position is comparable to that of a director of a company.
- D. TDC wishes to appoint attorneys to act for it from time to time in relation to the execution of deeds.

BY THIS DEED

1. TDC from the date of this deed appoints:
 - a. **JULIE ANN GARDYNE**, Chief Executive, of Taupō;
 - b. **SARAH JANE MATTHEWS**, General Manager - Organisation Performance, of Taupō;
 - c. **ANTHONY JONATHAN HALE**, General Manager - Community Infrastructure and Services, of Taupō
 - d. **WARRICK RUSSELL ZANDER**, General Manager - Strategy and Environment, of Taupō;
 - e. **HADLEY McDONALD TATTLE**, General Manager – People and Community Partnerships, of Taupō

jointly and severally to be its attorneys and to do the following on its behalf:

- a. Sign, together with one elected member of Council, and deliver any deeds;
 - b. Generally, do all such acts and things not specifically authorised as the Attorneys may deem proper or expedient for the purposes in a. above.
2. TDC agrees to ratify any deed properly assumed by the Attorneys in the furtherance of the objects and purposes of this Power of Attorney.

3. TDC simultaneously revokes with effect from the date of this deed the Power of Attorney granted by it dated 8 February 2024, which this Power of Attorney replaces.

SIGNED on the date written above by **TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL** by its authorised Councillors:

WILLIAM JOHN FUNNELL (Mayor)
in the presence of:

Witness to signature:

Signature of witness

Name of witness

Occupation

City/town of residence

KEVIN STANLEY TAYLOR
(Deputy Mayor)
in the presence of:

Witness to signature:

Signature of witness

Name of witness

Occupation

City/town of residence

5.5 AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF STOPPED ROAD AND SEVERANCE - FOREST ROAD

Author: Peter Handcock, Property Management Lead

Authorised by: Chris Haskell, Property and Development Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's authority to transfer stopped road and severance to the adjoining property owner as provided in s 345 of the Local Government Act 1974.

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council owns the two areas of land highlighted in green in Figure 1 below ("**subject areas**") as stopped road and severance respectively. In 1988, a Land Purchase Agreement was entered between the adjoining landowner and Taupō County Council. Council has now been asked to transfer the subject areas to the owner ("**property owner**") of the adjoining property coloured in yellow in Figure 1 below ("**property**") pursuant to s 345 of the Local Government Act 1974. This is an outstanding action following the 1981 realignment of Forest Road.

As this matter relates to a disposal of assets, Council is required to make the decision.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

1. authorises the disposal of the areas of stopped road (845m²) and severance (411m²) respectively shown as "L" and "R" on Survey Office Plan 51705 to the registered owner of 1413 and 1417 Forest Road, Mokai (Pouakani B No 6B Section 6E Block and Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 17486).
2. authorises Council Officers to do anything of an administrative nature to give effect to the above resolution.

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

The proposal has not been presented previously.

Definitions

- **Stopped road:** an area that used to be legal road but has been formally "stopped" (cancelled) as road so its land status is no longer 'road'.
- **Severance:** an area adjoining any private land taken for road, which by virtue of that road would become significantly more costly to retain at the same standard or significantly less useful to the owner – i.e.: as now isolated from the owner's main landholding - may be taken as severance.

The proposal is to transfer the subject areas to the property owner for nothing because this ought to have been done at the time Forest Road was realigned in 1981.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION

Council owns the subject areas because of the 1981 realignment of Forest Road. Council completed that realignment for public traffic safety reasons, but in so doing caused the property to lose road frontage.

The subject areas are shown L (Stopped Road) and R (Severance) below. They adjoin each other and together isolate the property from the legal road.

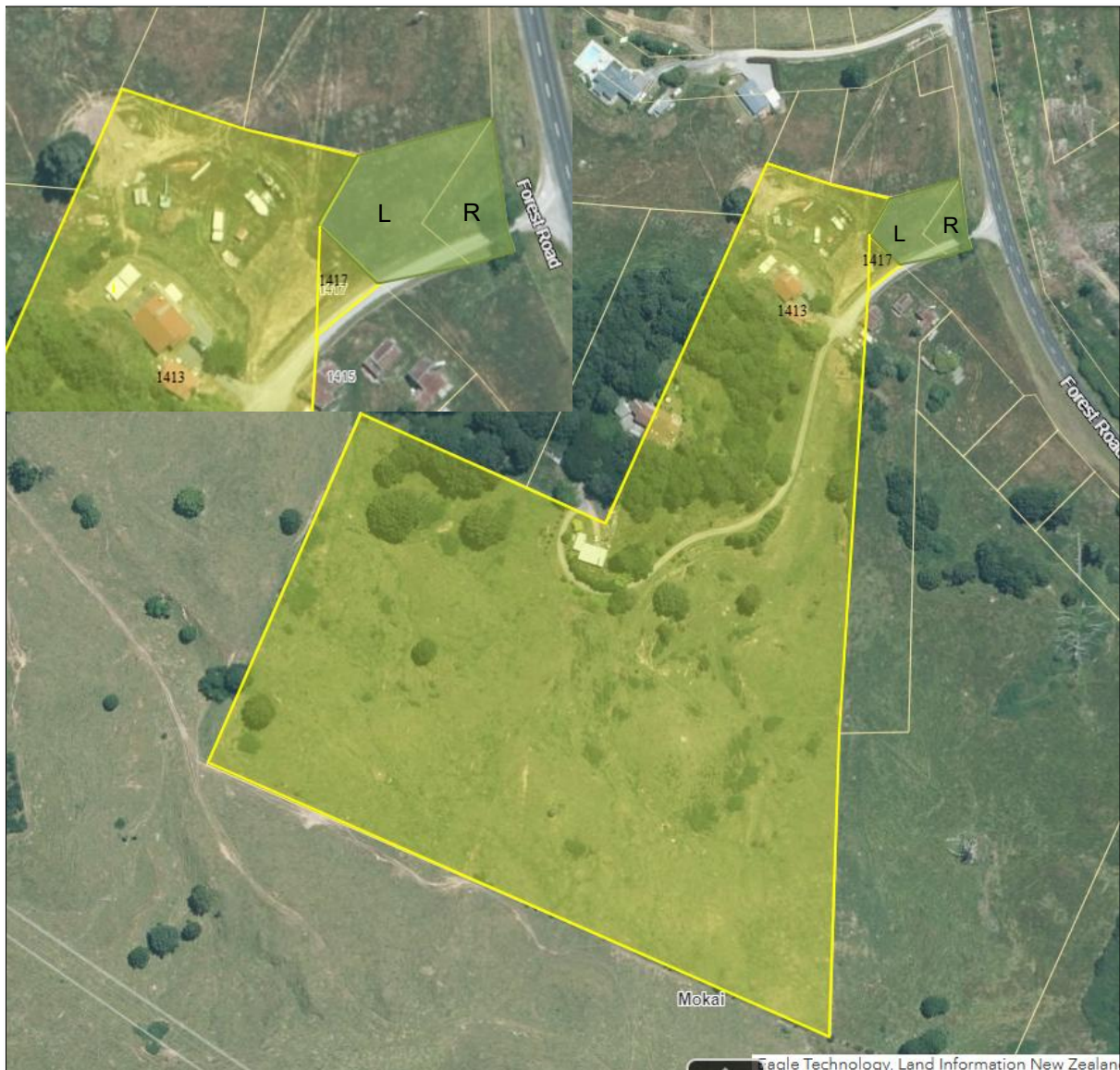


Figure 1 – Stopped road, severance and land at 1413 and 1417 Forest Road, Mokai.

At the time of the realignment the property owner of the day did not produce a key document, meaning that the gazette notice by which the road was realigned did not go as far as transferring the subject areas out of Council's name. Nevertheless, the intention was that the subject areas be transferred to the then property owner.

Since 1981, the current property owner and his predecessor have used the subject areas for *de facto* access to Forest Road, and the property owner has now asked that Council to complete the transfer of the subject areas to him so he may properly develop the property.

Based on this information, it is considered that there are two options.

NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA | OPTIONS**Option 1. Declare the subject areas surplus and transfer them to the property owner**

Advantages	Disadvantages
- The disposal to an adjacent property owner aligns with the Local Government Act 1974. - The property owner obtains legitimate legal access to Forest Road as intended in 1981. - Council's property portfolio is tidied up, and Council is no longer legally responsible for the subject areas.	Up to \$5,000.00 (including GST) incurred but the potential reputational damage from not completing the process will outweigh the costs involved.

Option 2. Status quo – do nothing

Advantages	Disadvantages
\$5,000.00 not incurred.	- Potential reputational damage to Council will outweigh the costs involved with the transfer. - Property owner has <i>de facto</i> access only that is problematic from a development perspective and has the potential to become problematic for the property owner on any attempt by him to sell his property.

Analysis Conclusion:

The preferred option is **Option 1: transfer subject areas to property owner.**

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS**Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations**

Under the 1988 Land Purchase Agreement with Taupō County Council, the landowner on the opposite side of the new road was compensated for land taken for the road realignment. Also, in 1988 a separate Land Agreement was entered into with the subject property owner for the areas of stopped road and severance to be added to their property title to reinstate legal access.

The proposal is for the property owner to pay nil for the subject areas and for Council to meet the costs attendant upon the transfer exercise (estimated to be no more than \$5,000.00), on the basis that the transfer was to have been completed in 1988 when Forest Road legalisation consents were formerly approved by Taupō County Council and the property owner.

Long-term Plan/Annual Plan

The expenditure is covered by current approved budgets.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal ConsiderationsLocal Government Act 2002

The matter comes within the scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is

(a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
 (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local

- (i) infrastructure; and
- (ii) public services; and
- (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and

(c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

As this matter relates to the disposal of stopped road under Part 21 of the Local Government Act 1974, and involves the disposal of Council-owned land, the Council is required to make the decision.

Local Government Act 1974

The subject areas may be disposed of under s 345 Local Government Act. Section 345 envisages a disposal of stopped road (including areas of severance) to the adjoining owner at valuation. It is proposed to not require payment for the subject areas on the basis that the transfer was to have been completed in 1981 when the Forest Road realignment removed the property owner's legal road frontage.

If the Council authorises the recommendation, then an agreement would be signed between Council and the property owner, and the disposal completed by a transfer and issue of an amalgamated title to the property and the subject areas in the name of the property owner.

Authorisations are not required from external parties.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

There are no known policy implications.

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory obligations including in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles, consideration of Māori interests and meaningful engagement with Māori. In meeting its statutory obligations, Council is committed to acting reasonably and in good faith and consistently with a partnership-based approach. Te Tiriti/Treaty principles include but are not limited to active protection of Māori interests, informed decision-making and enabling effective Māori participation in Council processes.

No engagement has been undertaken: this proposal formally completes a legalisation action that was started in 1981.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

There are no known risks.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be considered when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is of a low degree of significance.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a low degree of significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to the Council deciding the matter.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

Direct communication has been/will be carried out with affected parties/key stakeholders but no wider communication is considered necessary.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Council transfers the subject areas to the property owner and enters an agreement for that purpose, with all costs to be met by Council, on the basis that this exercise ought to have been completed in 1981 when Forest Road was realigned.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

5.6 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER CAPITAL BUDGETS FORECASTING

Author: Elena Erasmus, Senior Financial Planner

Authorised by: Jeanette Paenga, Finance Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the transfer of forecasted capital budgets associated with projects and activities expected to continue into the 2027/28 financial year.

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to rephase the 2026/27 capital programme following a review of project deliverability. The review reduces the current year capital programme from \$107.43 million to \$88.44 million, with \$16.69 million proposed to be deferred into future years and \$3.39 million proposed to be cancelled. The deferred budgets will be included in the capital budget planning for year one of the Long-term Plan 2027-37.

The proposed change does not remove approved projects. It provides a more realistic budget position for the year, improves the accuracy of forecasting and financial reporting, and supports better monitoring of capital delivery. Council is asked to approve the revised programme, so budgets align with current delivery expectations.

To support efficient delivery, the recommendation is that Council also delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to reinstate any deferred lines back into the 2026/27 budget, in circumstances where project schedules have accelerated.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council

1. Approves the attached schedule of capital budget changes for 2026/27 financial year of **net reduction** of \$18,985,320 (EIGHTEEN MILLION, NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS), to reflect expected delivery for the current year capital projects. The budget changes are made up of
 - a. \$16,694,197 deferred to 2027/28 (Year 1 Long-term Plan 2027-37).
 - b. \$3,393,423 cancelled (projects completed under budget or no longer required).
 - c. Unbudgeted additional request of \$602,299.
 - d. \$500,000 brought back (previously forecasted out to 2027/28).
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive authority up to \$1,000,000 (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) for each deferred project, to reinstate deferred budget lines back into the 2026/27 budget, in the case where project delivery has progressed faster than planned and budget is now required to deliver the agreed capital works.

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

At the August 2026 Council meeting, Council considered and approved the carry forward operational and capital budget from 2025/26 into 2026/27. As part of that discussion, Council supported the proposed carry forwards but requested that the capital programme be reviewed to ensure it reflected a realistic and achievable delivery programme.

Following Council's direction, management has undertaken a further review of the capital programme, considering project readiness, resource capacity, procurement timeframes, dependencies, and anticipated delivery timeframes. This review has been completed to better align the 2026/27 capital programme with what is reasonably expected to be delivered during the financial year.

The revised capital programme recommendations contained in this report reflect the outcome of that review and are intended to support more accurate budgeting, forecasting, and financial management of the capital programme.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION

Following Council's approval of the forecast carry forwards in August 2026, Finance Business Partners met with their respective business units to review the proposed capital programme and assess the deliverability of individual projects. This review considered factors such as project readiness, resource availability, procurement requirements, project dependencies, and expected delivery timeframes to ensure the programme is realistic and achievable within the 2026/27 financial year.

The original 2026/27 capital programme, including forecast carry forwards from 2025/26, totalled \$107.43 million. As a result of the review process, \$18.98 million has been deferred or cancelled from the current year programme. This results in a revised proposed capital programme budget of \$88.44 million for 2026/27. The proposed adjustments align budgets with the timing of anticipated expenditure, providing a more accurate and transparent basis for financial management and reporting. The deferred budgets will be included in the proposed capital budgets for year one of the Long-term Plan.

The details of all proposed budget changes are attached.

The main projects being deferred are

- Miro Street stormwater upgrades have been deferred (\$1.8M).
- Wastewater upgrades and improvements at Kinloch, Mangakino, Tūrangi have all been delayed by wastewater standards published in December 2025, resourcing and resource consent delays (\$2.1M). The revised programme of work is being developed through the Water Services Strategy.
- Construction on several large, multi-year drinking water projects currently in progress is expected to continue into 2027/28 year, and budgets have been rephased accordingly. These are pipelines/reservoirs to increase Napier Road, Mapara Road and Kinloch capacity, and Centennial and Hatepe drinking water compliance upgrades (\$5.9M).
- Taupō Refuse Transfer Station upgrade is expected to complete construction in 2027/28 and budget has been rephased to match expected delivery timing (\$1.8M).

The projects proposed to be cancelled are

- Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant Overflow – Remaining Budget \$ 107,835
- Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant Building Alterations – Remaining Budget \$ 300,652
- Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant Transfer pump station – Remaining Budget \$ 947,738

The capital programme will continue to be actively monitored through Council's regular financial reporting processes. A further forecasting review is planned for March 2027 to reassess project delivery assumptions and expenditure forecasts, providing an opportunity to make any further budget adjustments required to reflect expected delivery outcomes for the remainder of the financial year. Based on this information it is considered that there are two options.

NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA | OPTIONS

Analysis of Options

Option 1.

Approve the proposed capital budget forecast rephasing of \$16.69 to year 1 of LTP 2027-37 to reflect expected delivery and approve the cancellation of \$3.39 million capital budgets. This will make the revised capital programme Annual Budget for 2026/27 **\$88.3 million**, reflecting the outcome of the deliverability review undertaken with business units. Authorise the Chief Executive to reinstate deferred budget lines back into the 2026/27 budget, in the case where project delivery has progressed faster than planned and budget is now required to deliver the agreed capital works.

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Aligns the capital programme with current delivery capacity, project readiness, and realistic timeframes.	• Future Long-term Plan budgets will need to accommodate rephased expenditure.

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Improves the accuracy of financial forecasting and budget management. - Balances financial prudence with operational efficiency. - Does not constrain the business to the re-phased budget, where capital delivery has progressed faster than planned and budget needs to be brought back into 26/27.	

Option 2.

Do not approve the proposed revisions and retain the original capital programme budget of \$107.4 million, including the previously approved carry forwards.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Retains flexibility should project delivery accelerate during the year.	- The programme may not accurately reflect current delivery expectations and organisational capacity. - Increases the likelihood of significant forecast variances and year-end underspends.

Analysis Conclusion:

Officers recommend that Council proceed with Option 1 and approve the revised operational and capital budget rephasing, to establish a revised 2026/27 capital programme of \$88.3 million. This recommendation reflects the outcome of a detailed review undertaken with business units to ensure the programme is realistic, achievable, and aligned with expected delivery timeframes.

Approving the revised programme will improve the accuracy of forecasting, financial reporting, and performance monitoring, while maintaining Council's commitment to delivering approved projects. The programme will continue to be monitored throughout the year, with a further forecasting review planned for March 2027.

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS**Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations**

The financial impact of the proposal is estimated to be a change in approved budget for 2026/27 from 107.4 million to \$88.3 million.

Long-term Plan/Annual Plan

The expenditure outlined is currently budgeted for under Annual Plan 26/27.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal ConsiderationsLocal Government Act 2002

The matter comes within scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local-
 - (i) infrastructure; and
 - (ii) public services; and
 - (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and
- (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

The proposal has been evaluated with regards to a range of legislation and there are no legislative impacts. Authorisations are not required from external parties.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

The proposal has been evaluated against the following plans:

- ✓ Long Term Plan 2024-2034 ✓ Annual Plan ☐ Waikato Regional Plan
☐ Taupō District Plan ☐ Bylaws ☐ Relevant Management Plan(s)

The recommended option is in line with the 2024-34 LTP, previous planning processes, and consistent with applicable policies of Council.

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory obligations including in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles, consideration of Māori interests and meaningful engagement with Māori. In meeting its statutory obligations, Council is committed to acting reasonably and in good faith and consistently with a partnership-based approach. Te Tiriti/Treaty principles include but are not limited to active protection of Māori interests, informed decision-making and enabling effective Māori participation in Council processes.

The proposed budget rephasing aligns budgets with the expected timing of delivery and expenditure, with any required project-specific consultation and engagement continuing through the relevant project phases.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

The primary risk of not approving the revised budget is that the capital programme would not reflect current delivery forecasts and expected expenditure timing. This could reduce the accuracy of financial reporting, forecasting, and performance monitoring and increase the likelihood of significant budget variances during the year. Approval of the revised programme aligns budgets with expected delivery outcomes and supports more effective financial management, with ongoing monitoring and future forecasting reviews providing opportunities for further adjustments as required.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be taken into account when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is of a low degree of significance.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a low degree of significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

No communication/media required.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

In conclusion, approval of the revised 2026/27 capital programme of \$88.3 million is recommended. This reflects a reduction of \$18.9 million from the original programme of \$107.4 million following a detailed deliverability review undertaken by Finance Business Partners and business units. The review assessed

project readiness, resource capacity, procurement requirements, project dependencies, and expected expenditure timing to ensure the programme is realistic and achievable. Approving the revised programme will better align the 2026/27 capital budget with current delivery forecasts, improve the accuracy of financial reporting and forecasting, and provide a more transparent basis for monitoring performance throughout the financial year.

To support efficient delivery, it is recommended that Council delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to reinstate deferred budget lines back into the 2026/27 budget, in the case where project delivery has progressed faster than planned and budget is now required to deliver the agreed capital works.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

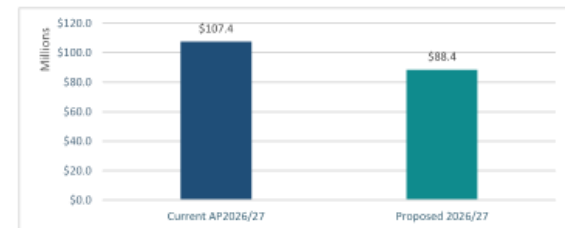
1. Capital Proposed Budget Changes 2026/27 - Forecast as at September 2026 [↓](#)

Forecast Information Summary

This page summarises proposed FY2026/27 capital budget changes across the portfolio. Of 244 projects, 48 have proposed changes, reducing the total budget by \$18.99 million from \$107.4 million to \$88.4 million. The movement is primarily driven by \$16.7 million deferred to FY2027/28 and \$3.4 million of budget reductions, partly offset by \$0.5 million brought forward and \$0.6 million of additional funding requirements. The project detail below outlines each change, its revised budget and the supporting rationale.

Grouping	Budget	Reduced	Bring Forward	Deferred to 27/28	Require Additional	New Budget
Facilities	6,051,361	- 211,038	-	-	177,891	6,018,214
Community Engagement	2,789	-	-	-	-	2,789
Investments	4,703,601	-	-	-	-	4,703,601
Events & Venues	7,135,836	-	-	-	-	7,135,836
Water Supply	33,792,036	- 1,455,973	-	6,538,299	324,408	26,122,172
Wastewater	14,910,517	- 1,482,225	-	2,053,272	100,000	11,475,021
Stormwater	3,425,935	- 244,187	-	2,082,644	-	1,099,104
Waste & Environment	5,919,257	-	-	1,841,344	-	4,077,913
Transport	19,263,688	-	-	-	-	19,263,688
Parks & Reserves	10,372,595	-	500,000	4,178,638	-	6,693,957
Forestry	148,015	-	-	-	-	148,015
Digital Solutions	1,691,950	-	-	-	-	1,691,950
Customer Services	12,000	-	-	-	-	12,000
	107,429,581	- 3,393,423	500,000	16,694,197	602,299	88,444,260

48	Projects Changed
244	Total Projects in FY26/27
- 18,985,320	Net Budget Change
88,444,260	Proposed New Annual Plan FY26/27



Project Detail

Group	Project	Project Description	Project Type	Change Type	Current Year Budget	Change in Budget	New Budget	Notes
Facilities	W00878	Building renewals - Taupo Museum	Renewal	Reduced	176,912	- 25,564	151,248	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00836	Building Renewals Tirohanga Hall	Renewal	Reduced	31,356	- 4,446	26,910	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00838	Building Renewals Turangi Senior Citizens Hall	Renewal	Reduced	39,385	- 3,811	35,574	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00839	Building Renewals Turangi Arts & Crafts Hall	Renewal	Reduced	9,076	- 5,317	3,759	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00908	Building Renewals Turangi Depot	Renewal	Reduced	39,724	- 35,590	4,134	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00919	Ground renewals - Dog Pound	Renewal	Reduced	91,274	- 52,846	38,428	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00827	Building Renewals - Housing for the Elderly - Taupo	Renewal	Reduced	131,622	- 45,524	86,098	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00788	2324 Building renewals - Superloo	Renewal	Reduced	11,133	- 11,133	-	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W01034	2526 Mkg Sports Hall Upgrade & repaint	Renewal	Reduced	112,339	- 19,911	92,428	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W01050	2526 GLC Rebutynol Walkway Canopy	Renewal	Reduced	10,138	- 6,538	3,600	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Facilities	W00935	Building Renewals 6 Te Mitiotu Grove, Turangi	Renewal	Reduced	258	- 258	-	Budget adjusted to align with asset management plan
Parks & Reserves	W00859	Taupo South - Reserve Land Purchases for new local	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	4,178,638	- 4,178,638	-	Budget is not expected to be spent by Parks & Reserves.
Parks & Reserves	W00845	Mangakino Lakefront Development Plan	Capital	Bring Forward	2,982,667	500,000	3,482,667	The programme is progressing faster than originally planned; future budget needs to be brought forward.
Stormwater	W00925	Miro street industrial area reticulation upgrade	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	1,904,760	- 1,804,760	100,000	Project deferred to continue in FY2027/28
Stormwater	W01131	Kaimanawa Street improvement device	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	343,200	- 343,200	-	Transfer budget to W00816.
Stormwater	W00930	Turangi Stormwater Flood Mitigation (SH1)	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	399,917	- 374,917	25,000	Consolidate & Transfer the remaining budget to W00926.
Stormwater	W00926	Stormwater network renewals program	Renewal	Deferred to 27/28	188,767	- 111,233	300,000	Budget reflects the expected construction contract value transferred from W00930
Stormwater	W00816	2425 Mobil Station Improvement Device	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	91,000	- 329,000	420,000	Budget transfer from W01131.
Stormwater	W00931	2425 Pukawa Flood Mitigation	Capital	Reduced	160,063	- 120,063	40,000	Reduced budget reflects a lower-than-expected scope of work.
Stormwater	W01059	2526 Street Flooding Upgrades	Capital	Reduced	234,124	- 124,124	110,000	Budget reflects the expected remaining costs for the CAMEX contract.
Waste & Environment	W01060	RTS Upgrade	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	5,524,031	- 1,841,344	3,682,687	The project is in the design phase, with completion estimated for December 2027. Move one-third of the budget to FY2027/28.
Wastewater	W01058	Kinloch WW MBR upgrade - Second reactor	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	1,616,213	- 1,466,213	150,000	Project costs are included in Year 1 of the Water Services Strategy.
Wastewater	W01127	Mangakino WWTP Upgrade	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	520,000	- 370,000	150,000	Retain funding for design development this year. Resource consent delays mean design and procurement are likely to begin in FY2026/27, with construction starting in Year 1 of the Water Services Strategy.

Project Detail								
Group	Project	Project Description	Project Type	Change Type	Current Year Budget	Change in Budget	New Budget	Notes
Wastewater	W01133	Turangi WW Discharge Improvements	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	367,059	-	217,059	150,000 Resource consent delays mean design and procurement are likely to begin in FY2026/27, with construction starting in Year 1 of the Water Services Strategy.
Wastewater	W00780	2324 Taupo WWTP addit primary clarifier	Capital	Reduced	176,000	-	176,000	- Project cancelled; the new budget allocation requires review.
Wastewater	W00365	Taupo Wastewater - WWTP overflow risk re	Capital	Reduced	107,835	-	107,835	- A risk-based decision is required on further investment in the existing plant, which may be decommissioned.
Wastewater	W01000	2425-2526 Taupo WWTP Building Alteration	Capital	Reduced	300,652	-	250,652	50,000 Retain funding for minor investment only.
Wastewater	W01055	2526 Taupo WWTP Transfer pump stn	Capital	Reduced	947,738	-	947,738	- A risk-based decision is required on further investment in the existing plant, which may be decommissioned.
Wastewater	W01098	2526 Wastewater Manhole Level Raising	Capital	Require Additional	55,584	-	100,000	155,584 Additional funding is required to repair and raise newly identified manholes for compliance.
Water Supply	W01005	District - Fire Flow Improvements	Capital	Reduced	446,736	-	446,736	- This budget is not required.
Water Supply	W01053	Taupo - Napier Road Reservoir Construction	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	2,269,163	-	1,519,163	750,000 FY2026/27 expenditure includes site clearance, geotechnical work, design, and tendering. Reservoir, pipeline, and pump-station contracts are expected to be awarded in March/April 2027, after which expenditure will increase significantly.
Water Supply	W00694	Centennial - Treatment Compliance Upgrade	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	6,732,973	-	1,232,973	5,500,000 Pipeline (\$4.0m) and pump-station (\$0.5m) tenders are planned for September, with construction expected by August 2027. The reservoir tender (\$2.5m) is expected in October 2027, with delivery by December 2027.
Water Supply	W00695	Hatepe - Treatment Compliance Upgrade	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	5,953,860	-	1,953,860	4,000,000 Detailed design is underway. Approvals may delay construction until November; delivery is expected to take approximately 11 months. The FY2026/27 forecast assumes seven months of construction.
Water Supply	W00696	Motuoaapa - Treatment Compliance Upgrade	Capital	Reduced	1,067,978	-	267,978	800,000 The project is under construction and is forecast to underspend by \$200,000.
Water Supply	W00812	Taupo - Mapara Area Capacity Increase	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	2,589,313	-	589,313	2,000,000 Pipeline design is complete and ready for tender, with construction planned for January-June 2027. The reservoir tender is expected in early 2027; construction is expected to begin late in FY2026/27, with some expenditure carrying into FY2027/28.
Water Supply	W00622	Waihaha - Continuity of Supply Upgrade	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	622,188	-	322,188	300,000 Delays in obtaining bore-drilling consent have reduced forecast expenditure for the year.
Water Supply	W01136	Taupo - Poihipi Reservoir Construction	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	290,000	-	90,000	200,000 Design and site-enablement works are underway.
Water Supply	W01013	Burst Valves, Level Switches - Reservoir Resilience, I	Capital	Transfer	539,893	-	300,000	239,893 Remaining funding is expected to be spent on planning for delivery in FY2027/28. Transfer \$300,000 to W01140.
Water Supply	W01137	Turangi - Spring Roof Renewal	Renewal	Deferred to 27/28	364,000	-	64,000	300,000 Design is complete and engagement is underway before tender. Timing may be affected by the complexity of the engagement process.
Water Supply	W00813	District - Water Network Renewals	Renewal	Require Additional	4,675,592	-	324,408	5,000,000 Designs are complete. The first two packages, valued at approximately \$3.5m, are out for tender, with further packages ready to tender.
Water Supply	W00772	2324 Large Scheme chlorine dosing imprv	Capital	Reduced	641,809	-	631,809	10,000 This budget can be relinquished. Further scoping is required, including consideration of SCADA and smart-metering links; defer the project to a later year of the new LTP.
Water Supply	W00374	Kinloch Water low zone reservoir construction2024 p	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	2,005,878	-	505,878	1,500,000 The reservoir tender (\$2.5m) is expected in October 2027, with delivery by December 2028. Pipelines are expected to be tendered in April 2027 and delivered within six months. The FY2026/27 forecast assumes six months of construction.
Water Supply	W00148	1819-2526 Tirohanga intake structure imp	Capital	Deferred to 27/28	560,924	-	260,924	300,000 The forecast includes turbine-pump recommissioning, with the UV upgrade planned for FY2027/28.
Water Supply	W00349	2425 BW 2122-26 Omori WS DWSNZ upg CN428	Capital	Reduced	139,303	-	89,303	50,000 The project is nearing completion. A further \$50,000 is forecast, leaving \$90,000 available to relinquish.
Water Supply	W00358	2122-2425 Whareroa DWSNZ bore head upgrd	Capital	Reduced	25,147	-	20,147	5,000 Minor expenditure is required to complete final administration and close the contract.
Water Supply	W01140	Reservoir Access Safety Improvements	Renewal	Transfer	-	-	300,000	300,000 This project was created through a budget transfer from W01013. The full budget is expected to be spent.
Facilities	NEW	Building Renewals - Pier 87	Renewal	Require Additional	-	-	47,000	47,000 Budget request: \$28,000 for painting and two HVAC units at \$7,985 each. The lease was renewed at a higher rent based on completion of these works.
Facilities	NEW	AC Baths Geothermal borepump renewal	Renewal	Require Additional	-	-	130,891	130,891 Critical Spare pump required for failure to ensure LOS, 12 month delivery lead time due to Straits of Hormuz Blockage
Total					49,676,221	-	18,985,320	30,690,900

5.7 AMENDMENT TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DELEGATED FINANCIAL AUTHORITY LIMITS**Author:** Jeanette Paenga, Finance Manager**Authorised by:** Sarah Matthews, General Manager Organisation Performance**TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to correct an omission from the 25 August 2026 update to the Chief Executive's delegated financial authority, by revoking and replacing the associated reporting requirement. The amendment reflects Council's decision to cap the Chief Executive's delegation for budgeted expenditure at \$1,000,000, while retaining reporting to Council for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000.

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council meeting on 25 August 2026, Council revoked and replaced clause 1 of resolution TDC202111/12, increasing the Chief Executive's delegated financial authority for expenditure identified in the relevant Annual Plan to a cap of \$1,000,000.

No other clauses were amended at that time. The monthly reporting clause was related to previous delegations where the Chief Executive's delegation for budgeted expenditure was capped only by the amount budgeted, as there was no amount defined to be reported to Council. Following Council's 25 August 2026 decision, budgeted expenditure above \$1,000,000 must now come to Council for approval rather than being approved under Chief Executive delegation. The reporting clause no longer needs to refer to the use of the Chief Executive's delegation for certain expenditure as this has been limited to \$1,000,000 and should instead be limited to reporting on unbudgeted expenditure.

Staff identified this issue while updating the Delegations Manual following the August 2026 resolution. The reporting clause was an accidental omission from last month's update and still reflects the previous delegation framework.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council

1. Revokes clause 4 of resolution TDC202111/12 and replaces it with the following:
2. That the exercise of the Chief Executive's delegated authority for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000 be reported to Council on a monthly basis via the Chief Executive's performance report.

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

The proposal has been before Council at the 25 August Council meeting; item 5.5 and the following resolution was made:

TDC202608/01 RESOLUTION

1. That Council revokes clause 1 of resolution TDC202111/12 and replaces it with the following change to its Delegations to the Chief Executive, to obtain a more appropriate balance between operational efficiency and governance oversight:

A delegation to approve expenditure identified in the relevant Annual Plan, capped at the amount of \$1,000,000 (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) only.

2. That Council approves the following list of exclusions to Council's general financial delegation, and authorises inclusion of the list within the financial delegation section of Council's Delegations Manual, to provide greater clarity for governance and audit purposes:

Council's general financial delegation limits do not apply to the following transactions:

- statutory payments and obligations, including GST, PAYE, FBT, income tax, ACC, and other taxes or statutory charges;
- payroll and employment-related payments made in accordance with approved employment agreements and policies;
- insurance premiums and renewals within the approved insurance programme, and payments of valid insurance claims;
- principal and interest payments on existing borrowing, and refinancing, or rollover of existing debt undertaken in accordance with Council's approved Treasury Management Policies and existing treasury delegations;
- reinvestment or maturity of investments undertaken in accordance with Council's approved Treasury Management Policies and existing treasury delegations;
- payments made under existing contracts, purchase agreements, service agreements or other contractual commitments that have previously been approved by an appropriately delegated authority, provided the payment is within the approved amount;
- payments made under existing grant, funding, subsidy, or other financial assistance agreements previously approved by an appropriately delegated authority, provided the payment is within the approved amount;
- payments made by Council to Council, including development contributions or levies, rates, fees, and other Council charges payable under applicable Council policy;
- payments made to fulfil statutory or regulatory obligations, including resource consent charges, regulatory fees, and other statutory charges, provided the payment is within the approved budget;
- accounting and allocation transactions, including internal overhead allocations, internal activity recharges, interest, cost allocations, transfers, and capitalisations of internal costs;
- accounting and other financial reporting entries that do not create a new financial commitment, including depreciation, amortisation, provisions, asset revaluations, impairments, and other non-cash accounting adjustments;
- customer refunds or adjustments including rates, fees, charges, and other refunds or adjustments due to overpayment or as required under Council policy, legislation, or an existing agreement;
- payments required to give effect to a Council or committee decision where the financial commitment has already been approved;
- emergency expenditure where a civil defence emergency has been declared within the district, up to a maximum \$2,000,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting; and
- emergency expenditure in an undeclared civil defence response which has created extraordinary expenditure, up to a maximum \$500,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting.

The additional clauses of the delegations were not updated. It is proposed through this report to revoke and replace clause 4 of resolution TDC202111/12 because the existing reporting clause still reflects the previous delegation framework. That clause was relevant when the Chief Executive could approve budgeted expenditure up to the amount budgeted for an Annual Plan item, which meant expenditure above \$1,000,000 could be approved under delegation and then reported to Council through the Chief Executive's performance report. Following the August 2026 amendment, budgeted expenditure above \$1,000,000 is no longer within the Chief Executive's delegation and must come to Council for approval. The reporting clause should therefore be amended to remove the reference to reporting expenditure but retain reporting for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000.

Staff identified this while updating the Delegations Manual following the 25 August 2026 Council decision. The omission of the reporting clause from last month's update was accidental, and this report is intended to correct that omission.

Resolution TDC202111/12 was as follows and only clause 1 was revoked at the 25 August Council meeting:
That Council revokes clause 1 of resolution TDC201804/18 and makes the following changes to its Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer:

1. A delegation to approve expenditure identified in the relevant Annual Plan, capped at the amount budgeted for that Annual Plan item; and
2. A delegation to approve budget substitution up to \$500,000 (i.e. reallocation of expenditure between projects and budget lines but with a net zero effect on overall TDC budgeted expenditure); and
3. A delegation to approve Unbudgeted Expenditure up to the value of \$100,000.
4. That the exercise of the delegations outlined above be reported to Council on a monthly basis via the Chief Executive's performance report, in particular expenditure of over \$500k and any unbudgeted expenditure over \$50k.

NGĀ KÖRERORERO | DISCUSSION

The amendment is administrative in nature and is intended to correct an accidental omission from the August 2026 delegation update. The previous reporting reference to expenditure above \$500,000 was appropriate when the Chief Executive's delegation for budgeted expenditure was effectively unlimited within the approved budget. Since Council has now capped that delegation at \$1,000,000, any budgeted expenditure above that amount will already require Council approval. The ongoing monthly reporting requirement therefore only needs to cover the Chief Executive's exercise of delegated authority for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000.

For clarity, the new proposed delegations will read as follows, incorporating the August 2026 changes and suggested changes identified in this report.

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to approve the following matters:

1. A delegation to approve expenditure identified in the relevant Annual Plan, capped at the amount of \$1,000,000 (ONE MILLION DOLLARS) only.
2. Exclusion of the following items from Council's general financial delegation limits:
 - statutory payments and obligations, including GST, PAYE, FBT, income tax, ACC, and other taxes or statutory charges;
 - payroll and employment-related payments made in accordance with approved employment agreements and policies;
 - insurance premiums and renewals within the approved insurance programme, and payments of valid insurance claims;
 - principal and interest payments on existing borrowing, and refinancing, or rollover of existing debt undertaken in accordance with Council's approved Treasury Management Policies and existing treasury delegations;
 - reinvestment or maturity of investments undertaken in accordance with Council's approved Treasury Management Policies and existing treasury delegations;
 - payments made under existing contracts, purchase agreements, service agreements or other contractual commitments that have previously been approved by an appropriately delegated authority, provided the payment is within the approved amount;
 - payments made under existing grant, funding, subsidy, or other financial assistance agreements previously approved by an appropriately delegated authority, provided the payment is within the approved amount;
 - payments made by Council to Council, including development contributions or levies, rates, fees, and other Council charges payable under applicable Council policy;

- payments made to fulfil statutory or regulatory obligations, including resource consent charges, regulatory fees, and other statutory charges, provided the payment is within the approved budget;
 - accounting and allocation transactions, including internal overhead allocations, internal activity recharges, interest, cost allocations, transfers, and capitalisations of internal costs;
 - accounting and other financial reporting entries that do not create a new financial commitment, including depreciation, amortisation, provisions, asset revaluations, impairments, and other non-cash accounting adjustments;
 - customer refunds or adjustments including rates, fees, charges, and other refunds or adjustments due to overpayment or as required under Council policy, legislation, or an existing agreement;
 - payments required to give effect to a Council or committee decision where the financial commitment has already been approved;
 - emergency expenditure where a civil defence emergency has been declared within the district, up to a maximum \$2,000,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting; and
 - emergency expenditure in an undeclared civil defence response which has created extraordinary expenditure, up to a maximum \$500,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to be reported at the next Council meeting.
3. A delegation to approve expenditure identified in the relevant Annual Plan, capped at the amount budgeted for that Annual Plan item; and
 4. A delegation to approve budget substitution up to \$500,000 (i.e. reallocation of expenditure between projects and budget lines but with a net zero effect on overall TDC budgeted expenditure); and
 5. That the exercise of the Chief Executive's delegated authority for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000 be reported to Council on a monthly basis via the Chief Executive's performance report.

NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA | OPTIONS

Analysis of Options

Option 1. Amend the reporting clause so that the Chief Executive's exercise of delegated authority for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000 is reported to Council on a monthly basis via the Chief Executive's performance report.

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Aligns the reporting requirement with Council's August 2026 decision to increase the Chief Executive's financial delegation to \$1,000,000. • Corrects an inconsistency in the existing resolution without changing the substantive financial delegation already approved by Council. • Recognises that budgeted expenditure above \$1,000,000 will require Council approval under the delegation amended in August 2026, so does not need to be separately reported after the fact. • Retains Council visibility of unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000 approved under	• No material disadvantages have been identified, as the amendment gives effect to the intent of Council's previous decision.

delegation.	
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Option 2. Leave the reporting clause unchanged, meaning expenditure over \$500,000 would continue to be reported monthly even though budgeted expenditure above \$1,000,000 now requires Council approval rather than being exercised under delegation.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No further amendment to the resolution is required.	- The reporting clause would continue to refer to after-the-fact reporting for budgeted expenditure that now requires Council approval before it can proceed. - The inconsistency between the financial delegation and the reporting threshold would remain unresolved.

Analysis Conclusion:

Option 1 is preferred because it updates the reporting clause to reflect the Chief Executive's \$1,000,000 financial delegation approved by Council in August 2026. The previous reporting requirement was relevant when budgeted expenditure could be approved under delegation up to the amount budgeted. As budgeted expenditure above \$1,000,000 now requires Council approval, the only ongoing monthly reporting requirement needed is for unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000 approved under delegation.

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS

Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations

The financial impact of the proposal is estimated to be \$0.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal Considerations

Local Government Act 2002

The matter comes within scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local-
 - (i) infrastructure; and
 - (ii) public services; and
 - (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and
- (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

Clause 32 in Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act gives the Council the power to delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers (with some exceptions) to an officer of Council.

The ability to delegate does not remove Council's ultimate accountability for decisions made under delegation. Council may amend, revoke or replace delegations at any time and must balance operational efficiency against appropriate governance oversight.

Authorisations are not required from external parties.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

Procurement of goods and services is undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy (July 2026) and guidance is also provided to staff by way of TDC Procurement Procedures (July 2026).

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory obligations including in relation to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi principles, consideration of Māori interests and meaningful engagement with Māori. In meeting its statutory obligations, Council is committed to acting reasonably and in good faith and consistently with a partnership-based approach. Te Tiriti/Treaty principles include but are not limited to active protection of Māori interests, informed decision-making and enabling effective Māori participation in Council processes.

As this is an administrative matter, no Māori engagement is required.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

There are no known risks.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be taken into account when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is of a low degree of significance.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a low degree of significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

No communication/media required.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

The proposed amendment updates the monthly reporting requirement associated with the Chief Executive's delegated financial authority. The earlier reporting clause was relevant when the Chief Executive could approve budgeted expenditure up to the amount included in the Annual Plan. Following Council's 25 August 2026 decision to cap that delegation at \$1,000,000, budgeted expenditure above that amount will already come to Council for approval. The reporting clause should therefore be updated so that monthly reporting focuses on unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000 approved under delegation.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

5.8 TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT - AUGUST 2026

Author: Julie Gardyne, Chief Executive

Authorised by: Julie Gardyne, Chief Executive

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an overview of the performance of the organisation including updates from the executive team, a portfolio update, and a finance report.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council receives the information contained in the Performance Report for the month of August 2026.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Performance Report - August 2026 [↓](#)
2. Portfolio Update - August 2026 [↓](#)
3. Finance Report - August 2026 [↓](#)



TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

August 2026

CHIEF EXECUTIVE - Julie Gardyne**Overview**

August marked a transition from the organisation's focus on the Government's Head Start reform process towards preparation for the upcoming Long-term Plan and the strategic priorities that will shape Council's work programme over the coming years.

Government policy update

Head Start local government reform submissions were due to Central Government on 9 August, with Council lodging its formal response and continuing to advocate for outcomes that reflect the needs of the Taupō District.

Nationally, Parliament also passed the new Emergency Management Act 2026, replacing the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act and establishing an updated framework for resilience, preparedness and emergency response. Together, these developments reinforce the Government's wider focus on local government capability, financial sustainability and service delivery outcomes.

Stakeholder relationships

August saw a strong focus on building and maintaining strategic relationships across local government, business, iwi and community sectors. Council continued to engage with neighbouring councils, iwi partners and central government as part of the local government reform process, advocating for outcomes that reflect the needs and aspirations of the Taupō District.

The month also provided opportunities to strengthen relationships within the visitor economy, including participation in the Taupō Tourism Summit (Hui a Tāpoi), which brought together tourism operators, accommodation providers, hospitality businesses, iwi and industry leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the sector. Council also continued its advocacy with central government on sustainable funding solutions for destination communities, highlighting the pressures visitor growth places on local infrastructure and services.

Operating efficiency and improvements

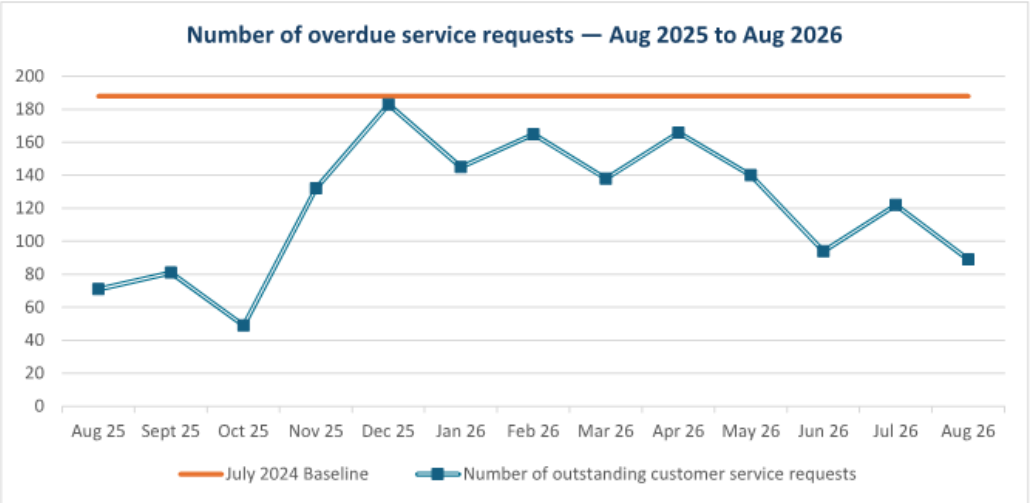
The Enterprise Leadership Team (ELT) dedicated time this month to reviewing Council's priorities and capacity for the year ahead. Discussions focused on the significant demands facing the organisation, including delivery of the Long Term Plan, major capital projects, water services reform, wastewater compliance requirements, savings targets, rates capping, and the Head Start programme.

A key outcome of the session was the development of a draft ELT business plan and greater alignment on the organisation's "critical few" priorities. The workshop highlighted the increasing demand on shared specialist resources and support functions, reinforcing the need to carefully balance priorities across Council. ELT also considered the trade-offs required to ensure focus on the work that will have the greatest impact for the community. This includes identifying activities that may need to be deferred, slowed, or delivered differently to enable successful delivery of priority initiatives.

Further work is underway to refine priorities, confirm organisational trade-offs, and translate these into specific actions. This process will support a more focused and sustainable approach to delivering Council's strategic objectives while responding to a changing external environment.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS - Hadley Tattle

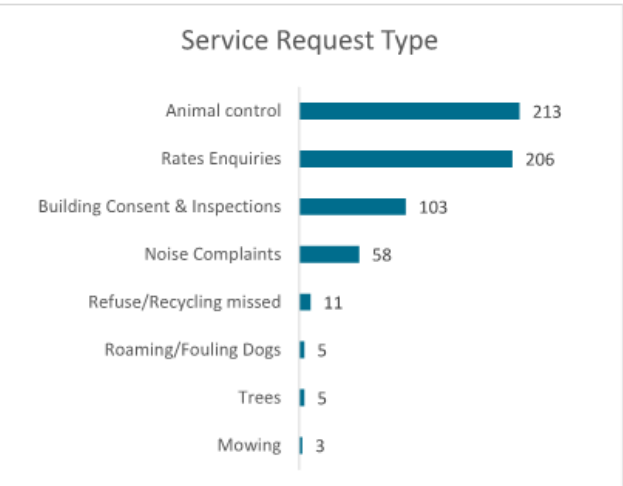
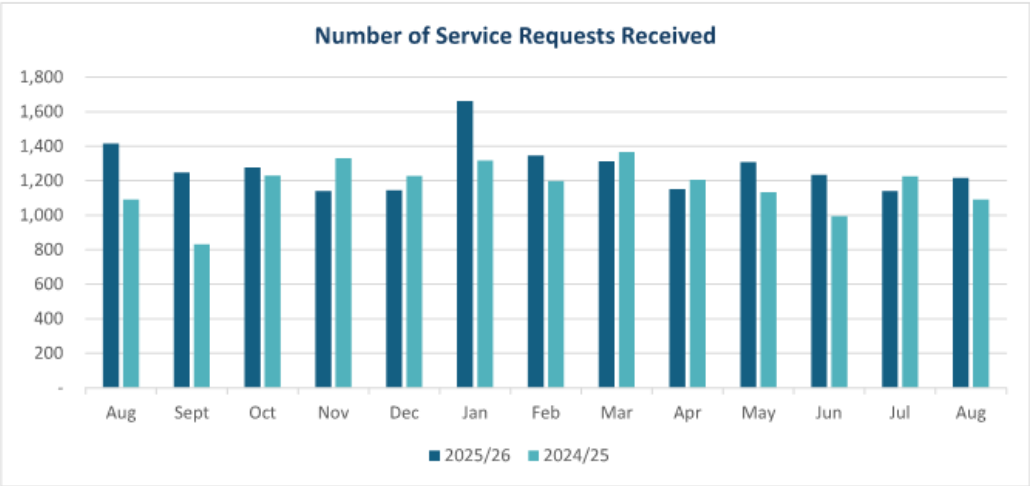
Customer focus



4513 calls received by customer services

67% of calls answered within 40 secs

August's focus for the customer experience was on responding to customer enquiries relating to the first rates instalment of the financial year and continuing to support the dog registration season. This was reflected in our highest call volumes in the last twelve months. Alongside responding to incoming enquiries, the team proactively contacted dog owners who had outstanding registrations to encourage registration compliance. The overall positive trajectory of service requests continued, with overdue service requests decreasing yet again, reflecting the organisation-wide focus.



Community engagement and communications

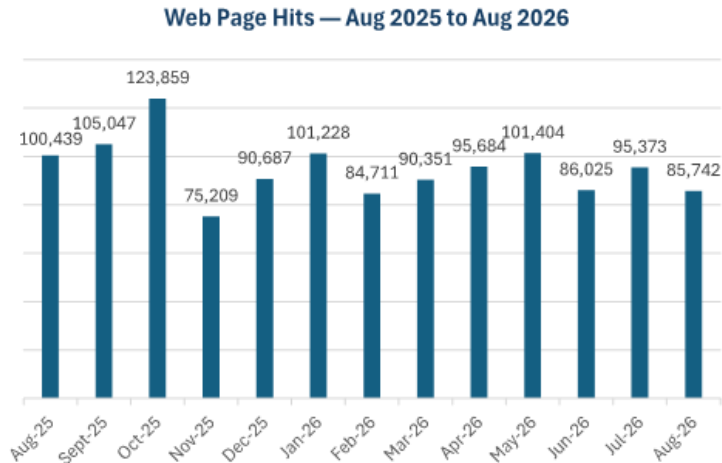
148,847 people engaged in social media across this messaging area in August

New Year's fireworks cancellation - A lot of community commentary around the decision that the 2027 New Year's fireworks on the lakefront will not go ahead. This post was an illustration of the type of community reaction Council may receive in the future as levels of service conversations continue in the context of a future rates cap.

Developer constructing new roundabout on Lake Terrace - Although this is not a Council project it was advised to the community on the basis of the high profile nature of the project and the disruption to motorists.

Mapara boil water notice - A 24-hour boil water notice received good uptake and shares, illustrating the value of social media in reaching large numbers of people quickly for urgent communications.

Water awareness campaign launch - Council does a lot of work and spends a lot of rates money on water infrastructure and compliance and there are many things the community can do to help protect the wai. This campaign, launched on World Water Week, aims to increase people's understanding.



Iwi partnerships and initiatives

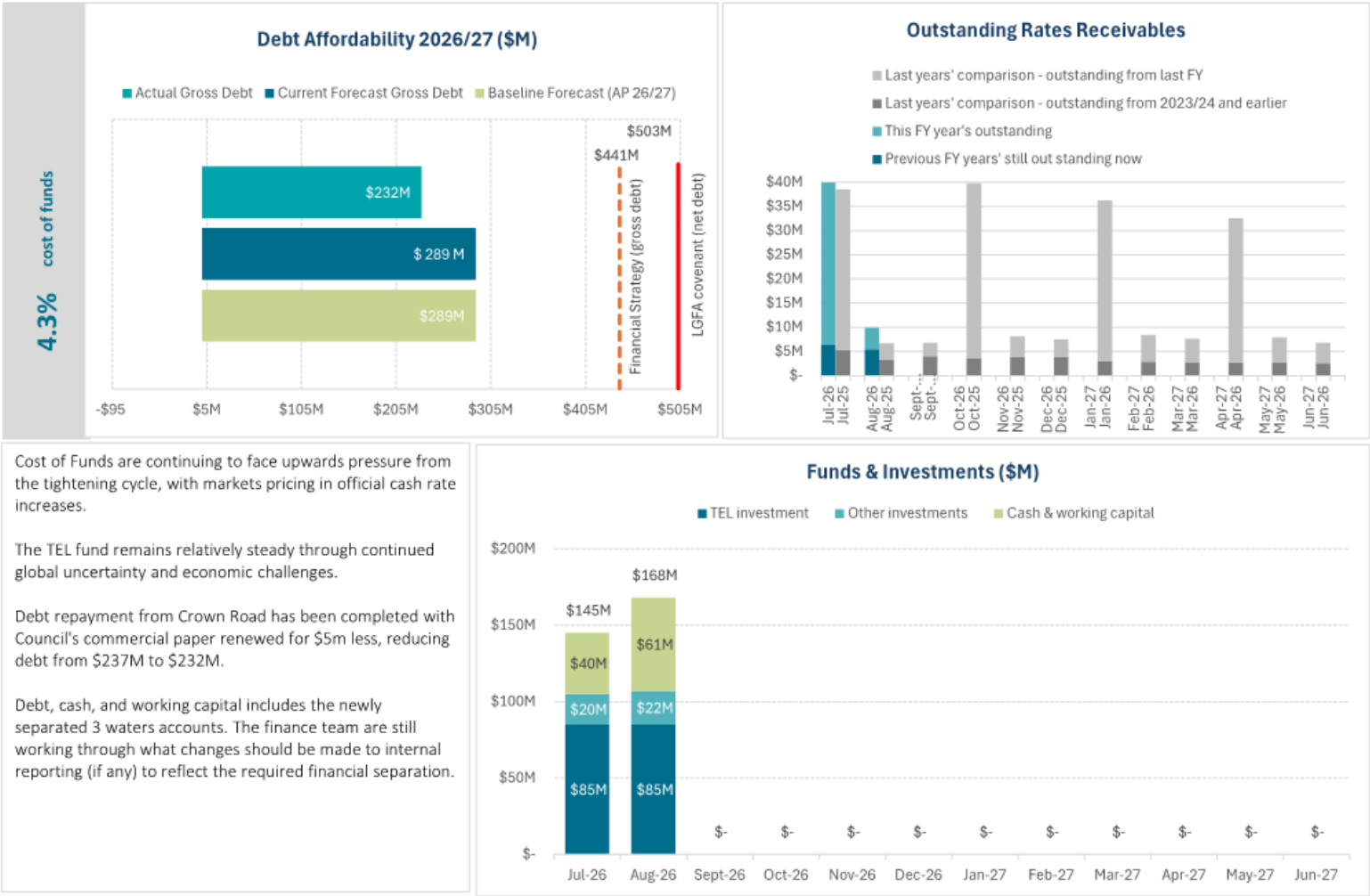
Engagement with iwi, hapū and community partners remained a key focus throughout August. Following Council's decision not to submit a Head Start proposal, staff continued discussions with iwi partners, with strong interest in the kaupapa reflected through ongoing dialogue.

Preparations for Long-term Plan (LTP) engagement progressed during August. Initial discussions were held with Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board and Ngāti Tūrangitukua inform and discuss future LTP engagement.

Work continued with Pouakani Marae to support the development of a marae emergency readiness plan. This partnership-focused approach helps build community resilience and strengthens local preparedness for emergency events.

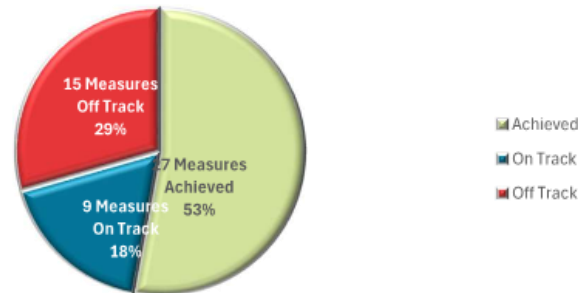
ORGANISATION PERFORMANCE - Sarah Matthews

Financial Strategy

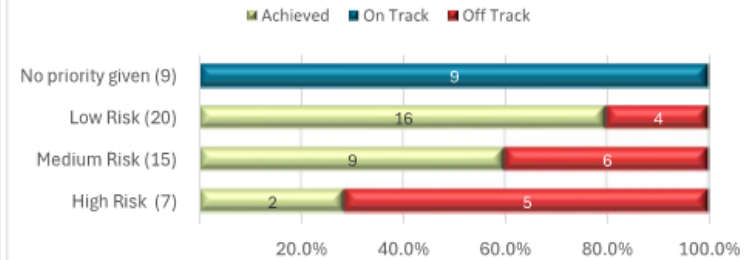


Health & Safety Improvements

Progress of Health & Safety Workplan



Achievement of Health & Safety Workplan, arising out of KPMG Recommendations (as a % of number of measures)

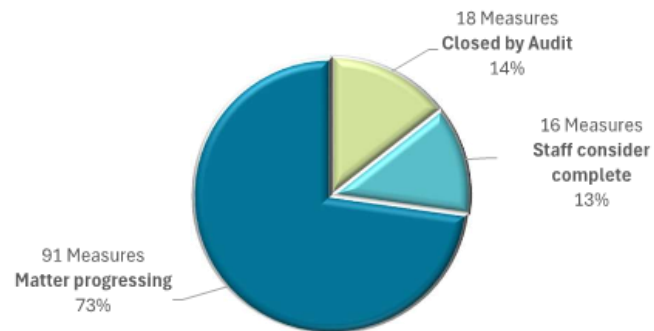


Council continued to progress delivery of the Health and Safety Improvement Plan during the month, with a particular focus on strengthening internal capability and embedding critical risk management practices across the organisation. A key focus has been onboarding of Council's new Health, Safety and Risk Coordinator, increasing internal capacity to support implementation of the improvement programme. Recruitment is underway for the Health, Safety and Risk Manager.

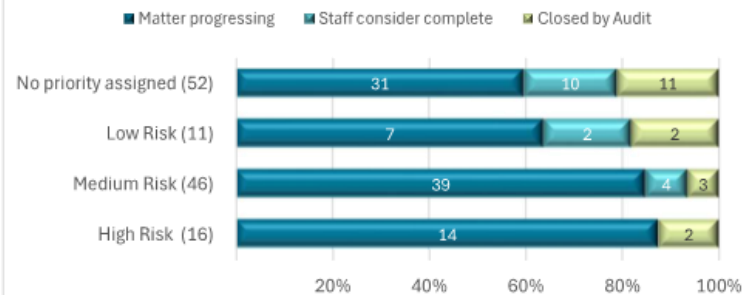
Progress was also made on Council's Asbestos Management Programme, including development of an implementation plan to support rollout of the proposed Corporate Asbestos Management Plan and associated governance arrangements. Alongside these improvement initiatives, the team continued to support operational health and safety requirements, including incident investigations, and ongoing advice to business units on risk management and compliance matters.

Organisational Wide Audit Improvements

Outstanding Audit & Improvement Items - Quarterly Update



Outstanding Organisational Wide Audit & Improvement Actions (as a percentage of number of actions)



Council Property

Crown Road Development: One additional lot has settled, with two more due to settle in September. Only five lots remain for sale, with strong market interest continuing throughout August.

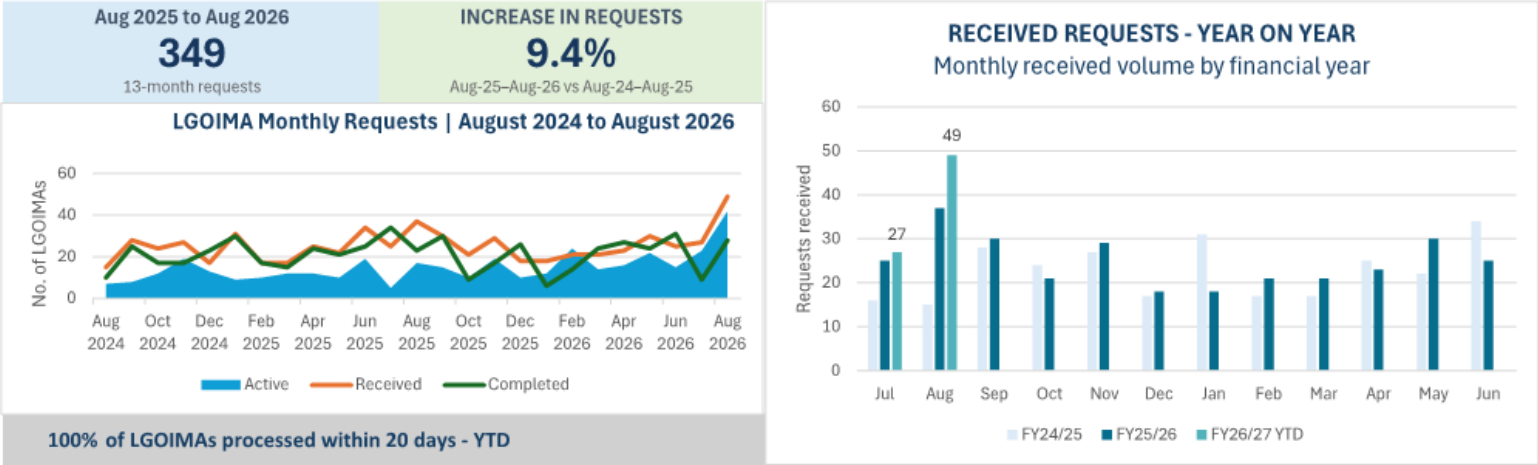
East Urban Lands: The Oroko Rise Consortium has commenced construction on 45 lots, with two more starting in September. The first homeowner remains on track to move in during November. Stage 1B works are progressing as planned, with launch preparations underway pending title issuance. Planning has begun for stage 2.

Mahoe Street: Remains under conditional contract, with positive signs for a successful outcome.

Digital Solutions

During August, the Digital Solutions team continued to make steady progress on key strategic priorities, including TechnologyOne delivery, annual upgrade preparation and user acceptance testing (UAT), cloud migration planning, infrastructure modernisation, and cybersecurity enhancement activities. August also marked a significant milestone with the implementation of the new Digital Solutions team structure, designed to strengthen the team's capability to support Council's future technology needs, increase resilience, enhance service delivery, and drive continuous improvement across the organisation.

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) requests



August 2026 was a record month for LGOIMA requests, with 49 received. Requests were received (and have been grouped from highest to lowest volume) across four main areas:

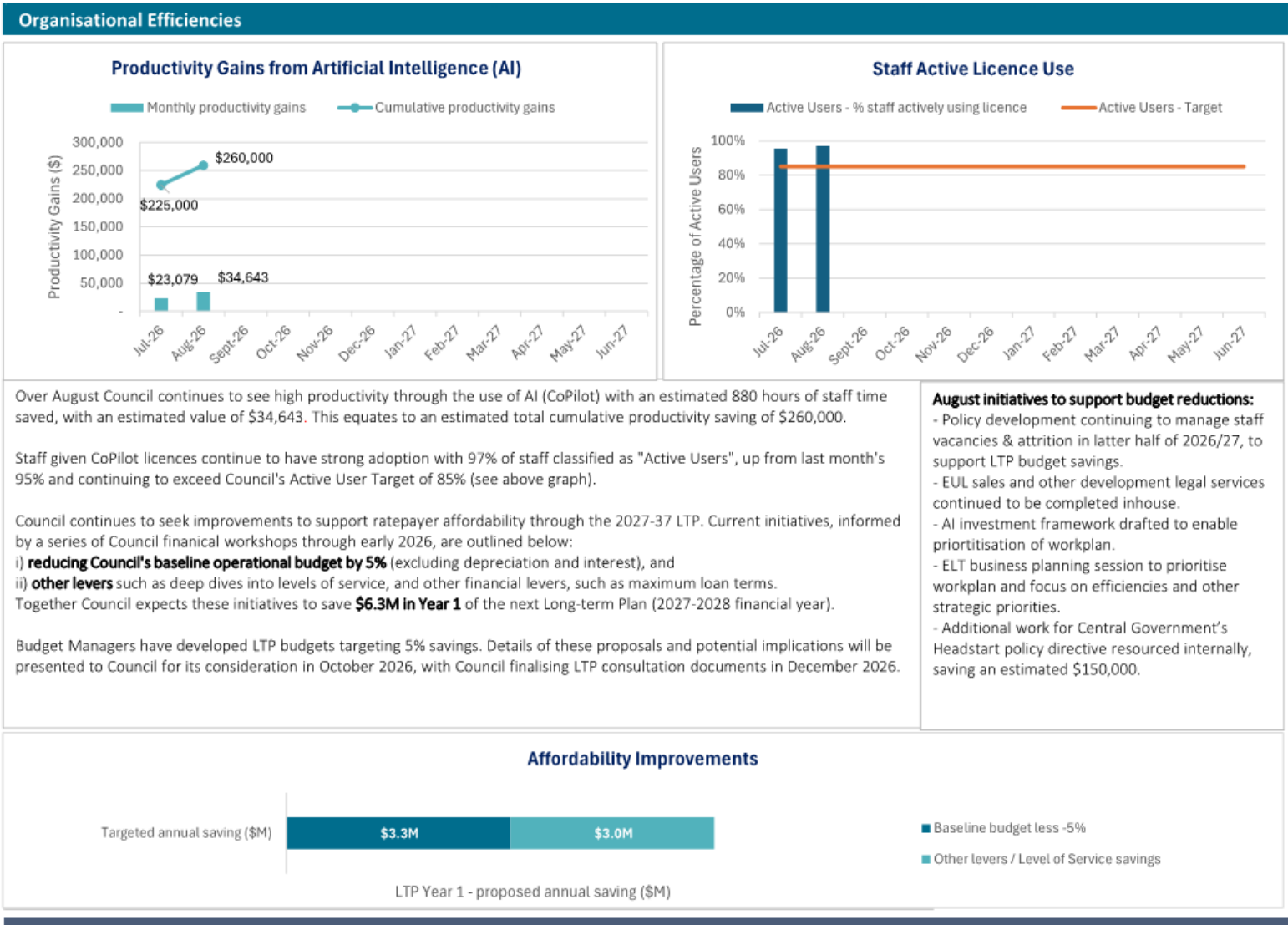
Environmental Services — the largest category, covering consents, liquor licences, Certificates of Acceptance, dogs, data centres, and noise complaints.

Infrastructure — including Landfill and waste services, plus the Lake Terrace and Maunganamu Drive roundabout.

Waters — covering connections, safe supplies, and stormwater pipe matters.

Miscellaneous — including IT systems, staff demographics, fireworks costs, motor camp matters, and Council artworks.

August's 49 requests were 81% higher than July 2026 and 32% higher than August 2025.



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES - Tony Hale

Three Waters

Monthly dry weather overflow

Month	Monthly weather overflow	Cumulative overflow - YTD	End of FY target
Aug-25	0.1	0.1	1.0
Sept-25	0.1	0.2	1.0
Oct-25	0.1	0.3	1.0
Nov-25	0.1	0.4	1.0
Dec-25	0.1	0.5	1.0
Jan-26	0.1	0.6	1.0
Feb-26	0.2	0.8	1.0
Mar-26	0.1	0.9	1.0
Apr-26	0.1	1.0	1.0
May-26	0.1	1.1	1.0
Jun-26	0.1	1.2	1.0
Jul-26	0.1	1.3	1.0
Aug-26	0.1	1.5	1.0

3

notifications to Taumata Arowai of risk to drinking water quality. Target is Nil. 1. Monthly arsenic test results exceeded compliance limits in Centennial Drive, Hatepe, and Motutere. Arsenic has always been present in these water supplies due to geothermal activity. The test results continue to be stable and arsenic removal is included in the treatment plant upgrades that are underway. 2. A vermin contamination incident at the Bluebridge Reservoir resulted in precautionary boil water notice being issued to affected customers. Investigation, response actions, and targeted monitoring were completed to confirm drinking water safety before the boil water notice was removed. 3. A notification remains open with the Water Services Authority regarding elevated lead detected at one of the Omori water monitoring points. Investigations have confirmed the issue is localised to a small section of pipework near the sampling tap, rather than a wider drinking water quality issue. Management and remediation actions remain ongoing.

0

moderate or significant resource consent non-compliances (take & discharge) with an actual or potential adverse health or environmental effect. Target is Nil.

- An amended version of the Wastewater Standards was released by the Water Services Authority (Taumata Arowai) on 17 August 2026. Staff have reviewed the amendments and commenced assessment of impacts on Council's wastewater compliance programmes and future reporting requirements.

- First Commerce Commission information disclosures have been completed and published, representing a significant milestone in meeting new economic regulation obligations.

- The Mangakino wastewater network smoke testing programme is nearing completion. The programme has identified significant stormwater inflow and infiltration issues, providing valuable information to support future network improvement works.

- Taumata Arowai released its national Stormwater Engagement Paper, signalling increased sector focus on stormwater risk management and regulation.

Transport

- Quantities for pavement renewal projects are currently being validated and will be reported in the next monthly update.

- Contract price escalation remains a potential risk to the delivery of the programmed works. The extent of any impact is currently being assessed.

- The team is working on the investment programmes and contractor commitments for the year ahead.

- During August, 93 service requests (see diagram to the right) and seven LGOIMA requests were received.

- Public transport patronage for August was 1,777 passengers, representing a 15% decrease compared with the same period last year.

By Request Category

Category	Count
Roads - Streetlights	25
Roads - Signs	13
Footpath and Berm - Enquiry	12
Roads - Slips, Obstruction, Environmental Spill or Deb...	10
Roads - Pothole or Similar Damage	6
Roads - Tree	7
Roads - Cycling and Pedestrian	2
Roads - General Safety Concerns District-Wide	2
Roads - Kerb and Channel	2
Roads - Marking	2
Roads - Physical Surface	2

August 2026 * PERFORMANCE REPORT * 1 | 2

Item 5.8- Attachment 1

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Waste Management

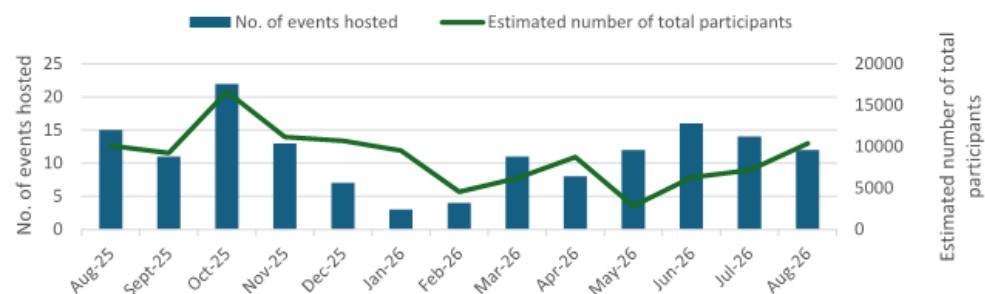
765 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill - YTD
15% of waste stream diverted from landfill - YTD
50% target diverted from landfill - by 2034

- All current resource consents remain fully compliant. The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport audit of landfill operations was successfully completed.
- During the month, a site meeting was held with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and consenting consultants, a peer review report was received, and the annual landfill report was submitted to WRC.
- Community waste minimisation initiatives continued, including a school caretakers workshop, a Repair Café that diverted 62 kg of waste and avoided an estimated 444 kg of CO₂-e emissions, and planning for an expanded community fundraising and education programme.
- The team also contributed to national discussions on reducing single-use cup waste through participation in a sector hui.

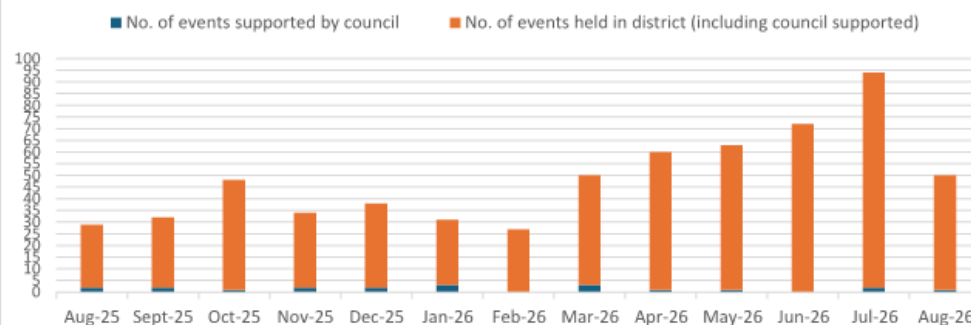
Events and Venues

- The Taupō Marathon was a key highlight for August, delivering another successful event for the district. Early indications show participation exceeded 2025 levels, demonstrating the continued growth and appeal of the event and reinforcing Taupō's reputation as a premier destination for endurance and recreational events. The event generated significant visitor activity and community engagement, providing positive benefits for local businesses and economy.
- Throughout August, the events team continued to support and facilitate a diverse programme of sporting, community and recreational events across Taupō, Tūrangi and Mangakino.
- Events held in Tūrangi and Mangakino continued to provide important social and economic benefits by enhancing community connections, activating local spaces and supporting local businesses and organisations.

Monthly events hosted by council venues



Events held in the district



Donations, grants and sponsorship fund

\$10,000 of **\$433,000**
 donations, grants & sponsorship fund invested to date
\$27,403,302 estimated economic return - YTD *
273933% return on investment - YTD

August 2026 * PERFORMANCE REPORT * 2 | 2

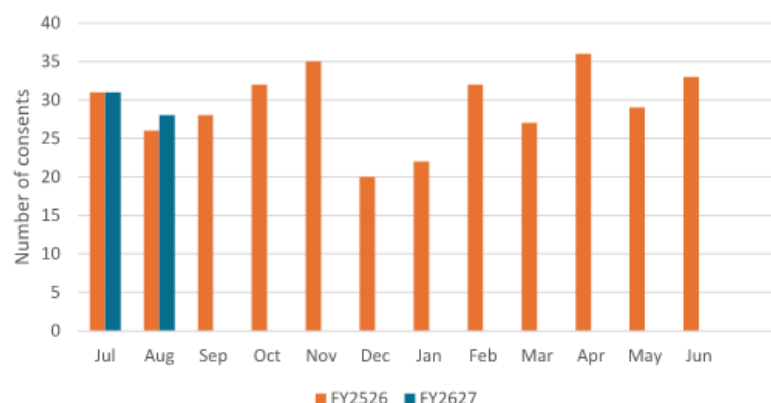
STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT - Warrick Zander

Policy

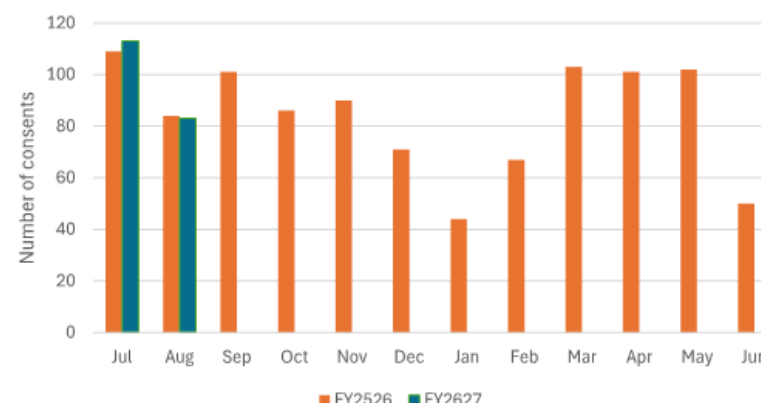
- Council's submission on the Government's Head Start programme was finalised and submitted.
- Work on the Long-term Plan continued, with a particular focus on developing the capital programme.
- Decisions on Plan Changes 47 (Māori Purpose Zone), 48 (Designations) and 49 (Minor Corrections) were notified. Any appeals must be lodged with the Environment Court by 15 October 2026.
- The team continued to support the representation review through background work.
- Community and stakeholder engagement on the District-wide Reserve Management Plan remained a key focus, with ongoing discussions across a broad range of interest groups.
- Preparatory work for the review of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policy progressed, including workshop with Council.

Environmental Services

Total resource consents granted by month



Total building consents granted by month



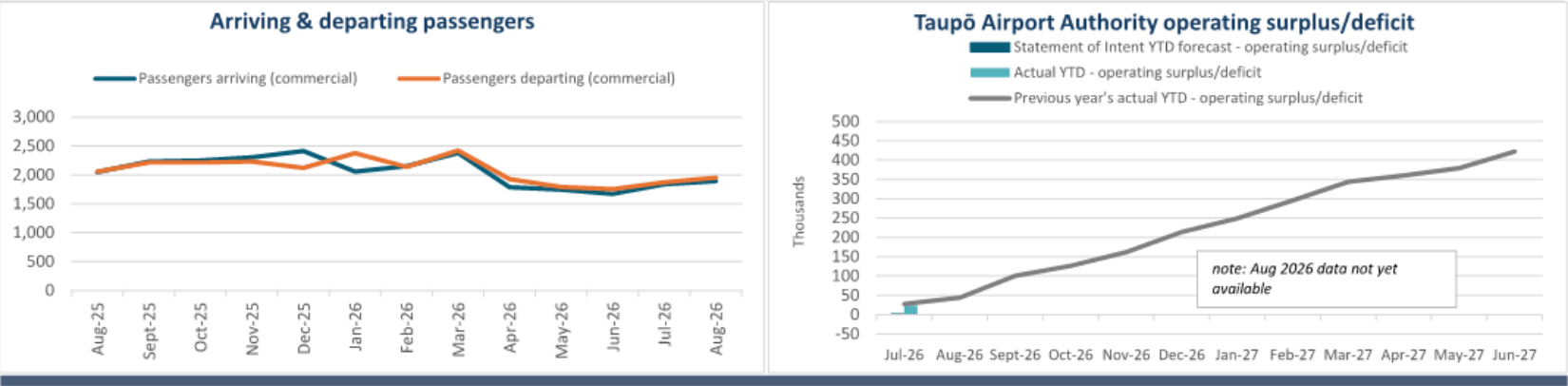
- Key regulatory outcomes continue to be achieved, including a successful outcome of a menacing dog classification hearing and strong building consent processing performance, with 97.6% of applications processed within statutory timeframes. Two applications exceeded timeframes due to an organisation-wide IT disruption and a contractor oversight.
- Community engagement remained a focus during August, with team participation in the Careers Expo and continued daily patrol activities in Mangakino.
- The introduction of the Plumbers and Drainlayers Self-Certification Scheme and upcoming system improvements are expected to enhance service delivery.
- Operational challenges continue to be managed, including an increase in horse-related complaints in Tūrangi, a serious dog attack incident, ongoing parvovirus cases affecting impounded dogs, and reduced parking enforcement capacity.
- Demand for regulatory services remained steady across the district.

Parks and Reserves

- The new arborist tree work plan was completed during August. Following its implementation, additional improvements were made to further enhance efficiency. Following these enhancements, a second package of tree work has been issued for contractor pricing.
- The reserve maintenance programme commenced in the final week of August, with reserve rangers beginning seasonal mowing operations across the district.
- Parks and Reserves received 51 service requests during August. Of these, 46 have been completed, with the remaining five requests actively being managed and tracked to ensure timely resolution.

Taupō Airport

- The 2026/27 financial year has commenced strongly, with revenue tracking 12% above budget and expenditure 17% below budget. Despite unplanned building maintenance costs during August, the Airport has achieved a healthy operating surplus.
- The first strategic workshop for the 2027 Airport Master Plan was successfully completed, establishing a clear direction and strong foundation for the next stage of planning. Development of the plan continues in collaboration with the consultant consortium and local aviation community.
- Demand for future airport development opportunities remains positive, with strong interest from prospective tenants and ongoing discussions regarding potential ground lease and opportunities that support the Airport’s long-term growth and commercial objectives.
- Discussions are ongoing to address planning matters relating to the Eastern Urban Lands development and the Airport’s Obstacle Limitation Surfaces.
- The 2026 market rent review of airport ground leases is underway, with management continuing to engage with tenants and progress options for future lease arrangements, including presentation of a proposed alternative lease framework to the Taupō Airport Authority Committee in September.



 GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ Taupo District Council		PORTFOLIO UPDATE						
Activity Area	OVERALL	TIME	COST	SCOPE	KEY UPDATES	UPCOMING MILESTONES	% COMPLETE (Life Budget)	LIFE BUDGET
Events & Venues								
Owen Delany Park upgrade								
A masterplan design and construction to upgrade Owen Delany park. The main focus being to address the current seismic ratings of the grandstand, changing rooms, clubroom/function space and the lighting, PA system and scoreboards for Field 1. The aim is to upgrade and futureproof this facility, to host larger events and to take the pressure off other local sports and rec facilities.	●	●	●	●	Sports Hub is complete and we've held the official Opening.	Carpark should be finished by end of September. Tender for grandstand to be released.	88%	\$10M
Investments								
204 Crown Road - subdivision earthworks & civil								
Development of 31 hectares of land along SH1, focusing on earthworks and civil works to facilitate the sale of lots and generate revenue.	●	●	●	●	Construction complete and titles issued. Sales progressing well. Closing out project and lessons learned.	Formally close project.	97%	\$11.0M
EUL Stage 1 Lot 20 - Earthworks & Civil.								
Provide affordable lots for medium to high density dwellings to eligible purchasers and renters, supporting both affordable housing and revenue generation.	▲	●	▲	●	63% of Stage 1a homes sold. 79% of 1a homes under construction by the end of August. First (market) home owner has moved in. Stage 1b civil works tracking to plan and due for completion in October.	Continue Stage 1a sales and marketing through build partners. Complete Stage 1b civil works and plan release of Stage 1b lots to the market.	103%	\$11.9M
Parks & Reserves								
Erosion Control - Kuratau								
Mitigate effects of lakeshore erosion at Kuratau foreshore.	▲	▲	▲	●	Beach nourishment from river mouth to Te Rae Pt completed first week of September, more monitoring following this to meet consent requirements.	Survey of shoreline to ascertain boundary.	100%	\$0.8M
Erosion Control - Tapuaeharuru Bay								
Mitigate effects of lakeshore erosion in Tapuaeharuru Bay.	▲	▲	▲	▲	WRC meeting to understand next steps, e.g. around consenting and consultation (as related to consenting process). Continued monitoring.	By the end of September we will have received and reviewed Geotech investigation data, property boundary survey, latest report, ground water analysis. With this new information we will reengage with hapu and iwi to update them on our findings and work towards developing a consent ready plan. Currently reviewing the Action response plan threshold	93%	\$0.2M
Mangakino Lakefront Upgrade Project								
This project will combine a number of existing LTP Mangakino redevelopment projects/renewals into a coherent upgrade project for the Lakefront. The aim will be to futureproof use of the area. Includes Shared Path Mangakino.	▲	●	●	▲	Lease agreement progressing (Mercury & LINZ legal to meet in Sept). Progressing minor design changes on the boat ramp parking area post-engagement feedback, accessibility stairs into the lake awarded, Stage 1 tendered.	Stage 1 tender close/award, construction starts on accessibility stairs.	29%	\$1.7M
Solid Waste								
Broadlands Road Consent Programme								
Renewal of Broadlands Road Landfill Consent which expires in 2027.	◆	◆	●	▲	WRC/TDC Consent authorities site visit, affected parties engagement ongoing.	Odour study per WRC request, ongoing consent process.	52%	\$1.0M
Support services								
Long Term Plan 2027								
Development of Long-term Plan and Water Services Strategy 2027-37, to be adopted June 2027.	▲	▲	●	▲	Activity Area Plans and project justifications have been completed, although there will be some tidy up and refining needed as we progress through the next couple of months. The development of the capital programme is underway and information will start to be loaded into the financial system. The ELT reviews of projects have been completed. The schedule and deliverables have been reviewed, some scope change is proposed due to time constraints.	Finance loading project information into the financial system. Teams will complete their opex budgeting at the end of September. Capital programme workshops with the Elected Members at the end of September.	0%	
Transport								
Omori / Kuratau Slip								
Repairs to slip on Omori road required including retaining wall structure.	●	●	●	↓	Construction to start 28/09/2026, TMP approved, pre start has been held.	Construction starting	64%	\$0.3M

GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ Taupō District Council		WATERS PORTFOLIO UPDATE							
Activity Area		OVERALL	TIME	COST	SCOPE	KEY UPDATES	UPCOMING MILESTONES	% COMPLETE (Life Budget)	LIFE BUDGET
3W All									
SCADA FTView Upgrade Programme of upgrades to convert legacy 3W network SCADA control systems technology to FTView.		▲	▲	●	●	Delays from contractor completion of documentation holding up completion of contract. Contractor delays	Completion of contract.	89%	\$4.6M
Water Services Delivery Plan Implementation Programme of work required to comply with central government reform Local Water Done Well.		●	●	●	●	Development of Water Services Strategy.	Workshop capital programme October.	92%	\$1.2M
Stormwater									
Stormwater Discharge Consents Renewal District wide Stormwater consent expires June 2027, a significant amount of work will be required to renew this consent.		▲	●	▲	●	Stage 2 reports almost completed - drafts to be reviewed.	Share Catchment Management Plan drafts with stakeholders	80%	\$0.8M
Wastewater									
Taupō WW Control gates bridge buffer storage tanks To enable continued growth in the Nukuhau area and increase resiliency to the control gates bridge pipe, we will install buffer tanks and pump station at Control Gates bridge to manage peak flows.		●	●	●	●	Construction is on the go, re-route existng water main and install sheet piling completed, tanks are delivered to site.	Bracing of sheet piles and deep excavation for installation of tanks.	55%	\$0.8M
Taupo WWTP Infrastructure improvements Phase 1 Phase 1 improvement works Seismic works - demolition of Treatment Plant roof structure Inlet works - installation of new screens and supporting equipment Bypass pump station - installation of a new bypass pump station to Pond 3		▲	●	●	▲	Inlet screens revised design proposal and costing completed. Sludge is currently being introduced to the digester.	Inlet works - obtain approval for scope change and continue with construction works.	31%	\$1.1M
Turangi WW Consent Renewal of Tūrangi Wastewater discharge consent		◆	◆	●	●	Finalising options report with hapū to report back to Water Services Committee	Committee and Council to receive report.	32%	\$0.2M
Wastewater Taupō Treatment Future Options Programme of works to increase capacity and improve treatment at Taupō Wastewater Treatment Plant, including installation of a third primary clarifier, pump station upgrades, and new processes to increase nitrogen removal at the plant.		◆	◆	◆	◆	Further changes to Wastewater standards were published in September - reviewing the impact of these.	Exploring options with Water Services committee October.	0%	
Water									
Centennial - Treatment Compliance Upgrade Pump station and pipeline from Taupō scheme to Centennial and reservoir upgrade and renewal at Centennial to enable safe and compliant water to be provided to customers on the Centennial scheme.		●	↓		●	Tender out for pricing with 3 Waters Panel and Building Panel.	Tender close and review.	36%	\$2.6M
District - Universal Smart Water Metering Address high water usage throughout the district through the installation of water meters on all water connections to enable planned growth, reduce wastage and operational costs.		▲	▲	●	●	Tender moderation.	Finalise Tender Evalauation and award.	27%	\$1.0M
Hatepe Drinking Water Standards NZ Upgrade New Membrane Drinking water treatment plant at Hatepe		▲	▲	▲	●	Detailed design is underway with the contractor, however there are some delays with this process due to contractor resource.	Detailed design and the Cultural Impact Assessment are due for completion in late September. Construction is currently anticipated to commence in late 2026/early 2027, although the programme has slipped slightly from the original timeline.	40%	\$2.3M
Kinloch Low Zone Reservoir Construction of new reservoir and pipelines to support growth and resilience in Kinloch community.		●	●	●	●	Review of reservoir tender and pipeline tender documents. Designation/consent process. Exterior design options for community feedback.	Go to tender, exterior design options engagement(s) for community feedback.	35%	\$0.8M
Motuoapa Drinking Water Standards NZ Upgrade New Membrane Drinking water treatment plant at Motuoapa		●	↓	↓	●	The project has achieved Practical Completion. A small number of minor works remain, primarily relating to the power supply following the commissioning of the new transformer by the Lines Company (which is now complete) Time and Budget have been updated to Green, reflecting that the project has achieved Practical Completion and remains on track to be delivered within the currently approved budget.	Close-out of minor defects and remaining works, along with planning and coordination for the official opening.	94%	\$9.6M

KEY

●	Low Risk	↓	Risk Decreased (Amber/Red to Green)
▲	Medium Risk	↘	Risk Decreased (Red to Amber)
◆	High Risk	↗	Risk Increased (Green to Amber)
⊖	On Hold (waiting LTP)	↑	Risk Increased (Amber/Green to Red)
■	Almost Complete	\$1.0M	Smaller Value Project
■	12% Low Spend to Date	\$9.6M	High Value Project
% Complete = \$ Spend to Date / Life Budget		\$ Life Budget	

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL – FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE 31 AUGUST 2026

\$000	Taupo District Council			3 Waters			Consolidated				Notes
	YTD Actual	YTD Approved Budget	YTD variance	YTD Actual	YTD Approved Budget	YTD variance	YTD Actual	YTD Approved Budget	YTD variance	Full year budget	
Operating revenue											
Rates	14,218	13,194	1,024	8,547	8,197	350	22,765	21,390	1,374	126,963	
Subsidies and grants (operational)	149	766	(617)	0	0	0	149	766	(617)	3,671	1
Fees and charges	10,620	3,191	7,429	79	130	(51)	10,699	3,321	7,378	30,962	2
Finance revenue	1,812	786	1,026	0	0	0	1,812	786	1,026	4,715	3
Total operating revenue	26,799	17,936	8,862	8,626	8,327	299	35,425	26,263	9,162	166,310	
Asset development & other revenue											
Development and financial contributions	248	1,073	(826)	68	525	(457)	316	1,598	(1,282)	9,589	4
Subsidies and grants (Capital)	106	2,090	(1,984)	0	0	0	106	2,090	(1,984)	8,084	1
Gains on financial assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other revenue	156	196	(40)	0	504	(504)	156	700	(544)	7,955	5
Total asset development & other revenue	510	3,360	(2,850)	68	1,028	(960)	578	4,388	(3,810)	25,628	
Total revenue	27,308	21,296	6,012	8,694	9,355	(661)	36,002	30,651	5,351	191,938	
Expenditure											
Personnel costs	5,338	5,446	108	550	614	64	5,888	6,060	172	36,361	
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3,476	4,026	549	2,708	2,546	(162)	6,184	6,571	387	39,427	
Finance costs	644	741	97	1,207	1,207	(0)	1,851	1,948	97	11,685	
Other expenses:	12,033	8,239	(3,794)	2,325	3,018	693	14,358	11,257	(3,101)	75,850	6
Legal, professional & consultant expense *	575	814	240	263	193	(70)	838	1,007	170	7,081	
Maintenance expense	1,517	1,631	113	760	1,260	501	2,277	2,891	614	16,886	
Services & service delivery expense	2,090	2,315	225	392	483	91	2,482	2,798	316	17,529	
Grants and funding expense	421	303	(118)	0	1	1	421	304	(117)	1,825	
Other operating expenses	7,430	3,176	(4,254)	910	1,081	170	8,340	4,257	(4,083)	32,529	
Total operating expenditure	21,492	18,452	(3,040)	6,789	7,385	595	28,281	25,836	(2,445)	163,324	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	5,816	2,844	2,972	1,905	1,970	(66)	7,722	4,816	2,906	28,615	

* Legal, professional & consultant expenses are operational costs only

Reconciliation to Annual Plan

Surplus as per Annual Plan	30,835
Operational Carry forward	(3,291)
Reforecast of revenue at Information Centres	110
NZTA Subsidy associated with capital carry forward	340
Release of NZTA subsidy on no longer subsidised work	(114)
NZTA subsidy related to Waipapa slip and Wairakei steam bridge	735
Revised Forecast	28,615

Explanation of variances to consolidated group +/- 10%

- 1) Both operational & capital grants and subsidies are under budget due to the timing of the NZTA grant claims for Jul and Aug 2026 expenditure.
- 2) Fees and charges revenue is significantly ahead of budget due to the timing of section sales - \$7.212m (Crown Road \$6.5m, EUL Stage 1a \$666k) which were budgeted for in 2025/26.
- 3) Finance revenue is ahead of budget by \$1.026m due to the timing vs. budget of dividends received by the TEL fund.
- 4) Development contributions revenue is behind budget \$1.282m due to timing of developments vs. budget assumptions.
- 5) Other revenue is behind budget \$544k mostly due to budget timing variances in 3 Waters with vested asset recognition.
- 6) Other expenses are above budget by \$3.101m comprised of:
 - o Cost of section sales \$2.451m representing costs associated with variance explanation 2, which were budgeted for in 2025/26.
 - o Unrealised losses on the TEL fund of \$2.159m are unbudgeted.
 - o Consultants expense (\$240k), maintenance expense (\$113k) services expense (\$225k) and other direct costs of activities (\$91k) all under budget.
 - o Grant and funding expense over budget (\$118) due to timing of funding rounds compared to budgeted assumptions
 - o Software licensing expense (\$184k) under budget
 - o 3 Waters maintenance expense lower than budget (\$500k), and 3 waters services expense under budget (\$91k).

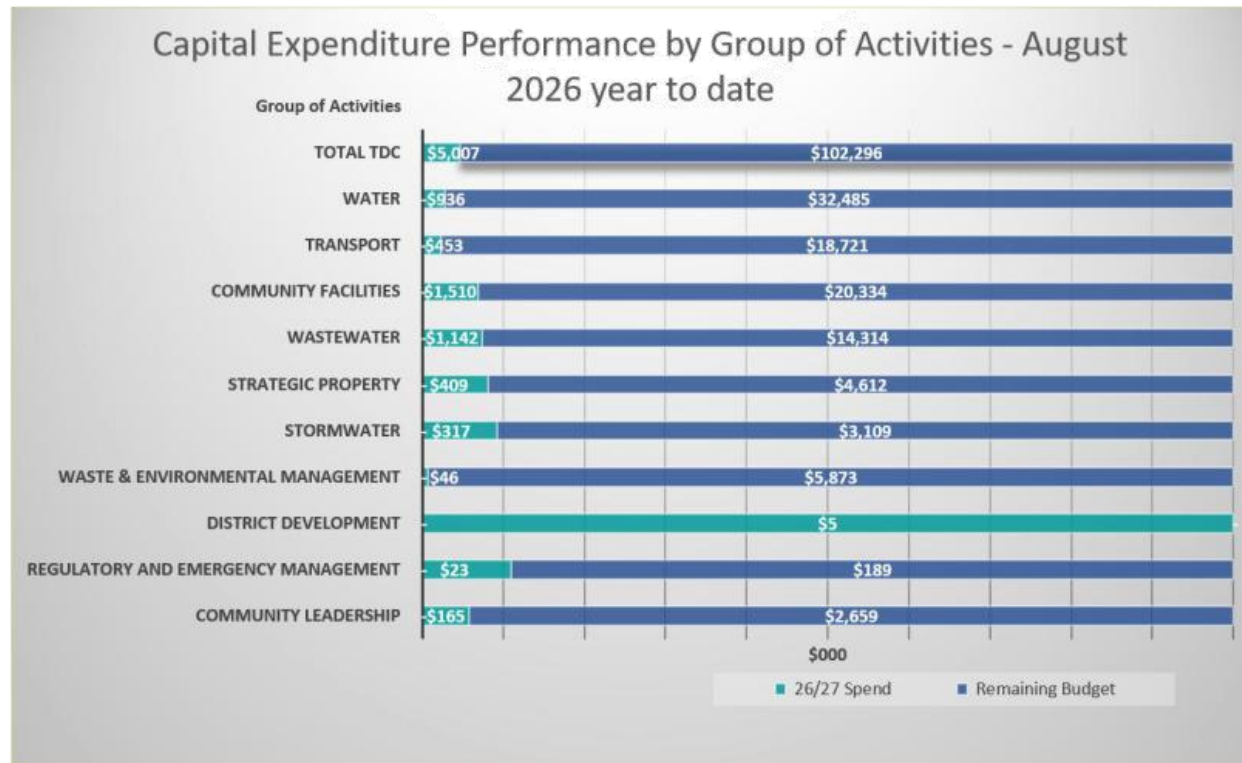
FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 AUGUST 2026 - Consolidated

\$000	YTD Actual	Year End Budget (AP)	Note
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	14,733	769	1
Trade and other receivables	16,103	11,237	
Other financial assets	143,181	142,260	
Prepayments	2,198	1,643	
Inventories	16,215	13,139	
Total Current Assets	192,429	169,048	
Non-current assets			
Derivative financial instruments	145	0	
Intangible assets	5,363	5,843	
Investment in COO and other similar entities	11,818	12,880	
Investment properties	58,606	57,543	
Biological assets - forestry	8,553	10,441	
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,003,486	2,180,123	
Total Non-current assets	2,087,972	2,266,830	
Total Assets	2,280,401	2,435,878	
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	45,181	26,238	2
Employee benefit liabilities	3,821	4,063	
Derivative financial instruments	355	343	
Borrowings	98,090	38,000	
Total Current Liabilities	147,447	68,644	
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	183	250	
Derivative financial instruments	1,410	2,425	
Borrowings	134,000	251,353	
Total Non-Current Liabilities	135,593	254,028	
Total Liabilities	283,041	322,672	
Net Assets	1,997,360	2,113,206	

*A financially separated balance sheet will be presented once Annual Report is finalised

General notes:

- 1) Cash and cash equivalents is higher than typical due to the 3 Waters separation. 3 Waters cash is held in an interest bearing call account, until such time as a cashflow profile can be established.
- 2) Trade and other payables is significantly higher due to the accounting treatment for rates installment 1. The September apportionment of the installment is recognised as revenue in advance within trade and other payables (approx. \$14m).



The above graph shows the capital expenditure by Group of Activity for the current year to date

To date we have achieved 4.7% of the current budget. The capital budget is phased evenly across the year, which doesn't consider seasonal fluctuations for works (roading in particular – which is gearing up). There can also be significant lag with capital contract claims being received and processed which may not be captured in the above.

Please note that due to accounting treatment the EUL development is not included in the Annual Plan capital budget but for ease of reporting we include it in the capital expenditure actuals as it is, in essence, capital expenditure. In the Annual Plan the value of the work is included in inventory.

CE DELEGATIONS REPORTING

CE approval of budgeted expenditure over \$500,000: Nil to report

CE approval of unbudgeted expenditure over \$50,000: Nil to report

TREASURY REPORT - TEL Fund update

Customised Investment Solutions

31 August 2026

Account Number: 6000004

Adviser Names: Andrew Bateman & Roger Fitzgerald

Portfolio Summary

Taupo District Council

Interim Only

Customised Investment Solutions

As a Wholesale Advice Client and a Wholesale DIMS Investor you have authorised Forsyth Barr Limited to manage this portfolio in accordance with the Service Agreement for our **Wholesale Portfolio Advisory & Management Service**, a discretionary portfolio advisory and management service.

Your portfolio is managed on a discretionary basis in accordance with our Service Agreement and with reference to your Statement of Investment Policy & Objectives (SIPO), noting in particular any investment limitations or exclusions in your SIPO.

Asset Allocation

Underlying sectors in which the portfolio is invested

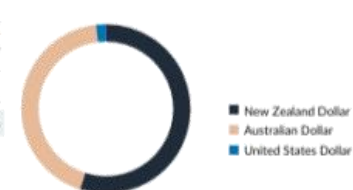
Sector	NZ Dollar Value	Portfolio %
Cash	6,900,976.55	8.1
Fixed Interest	28,589,836.29	33.6
Property	3,997,470.18	4.7
NZ Equities	8,176,352.00	9.6
Australian Equities	8,037,317.93	9.4
International Equities	29,384,947.87	34.5
Total	\$ 85,086,900.82	100.0



Currency Allocation

Currency of market on which the security trades

Assets by Currency	Native Value	FX Rate	NZ Dollar Value	Portfolio %
New Zealand Dollar	46,777,058.93	1.0000	46,777,058.93	55.0
Australian Dollar	30,363,420.68	0.8261	36,757,340.24	43.2
United States Dollar	918,615.23	0.5917	1,552,501.66	1.8
Total			\$ 85,086,900.82	100.0



This report is interim only and some of the figures included may be subject to change due to some data being unprocessed at the time this report is created. This report is not intended to replace your regular 'full' quarterly report. The information shown in this report is obtained from various sources believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, no liability is accepted for any errors or omissions. If you are unsure of the appropriate tax treatment of your investments, you should consult your tax adviser. The foreign exchange (FX) rates reported are the closing rates as at the close of business. Actual transaction FX rates may differ.

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FORSYTH BARR

5.9 COUNCIL ENGAGEMENTS OCTOBER 2026, APPOINTMENTS, AND TRAINING AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Author: Karen Watts, Senior Committee Advisor

Authorised by: Nigel McAdie, Legal and Governance Manager

ENGAGEMENTS – OCTOBER 2026

ENGAGEMENT	DAY	DATE	TIME
Workshop: Long-term Plan Capital Programme (Council Chamber)	Thursday	1	10am-3pm
Workshop: Long-term Plan (Council Chamber)	Tuesday	6	11am-3pm
Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee workshop (Te Mataapuna, Tūrangitukua Park, Hirangi Road, Tūrangi)	Wednesday	7	9.30am-10.30am
Tūrangi Co-Governance Committee meeting (Te Mataapuna, Tūrangitukua Park, Hirangi Road, Tūrangi)	Wednesday	7	10.30am-12.30pm
Tongariro Representative Group Committee meeting (Te Mataapuna, Tūrangitukua Park, Hirangi Road, Tūrangi)	Wednesday	7	2pm-3.30pm
Water Services Committee workshop: Water Services Capital Programme (Council Chamber)	Thursday	8	10.30am-4pm
Taupō East Rural Councillor Connect Forum (Rangitaiki Hall, Rangitaiki School Road, Rangitaiki)	Thursday	8	6pm-8pm
Regulatory Committee Workshop – District-wide Reserves (Council Chamber)	Tuesday	13	1pm-2.30pm
Closed Chief Executive Review Committee meeting 12-month review (Council Chamber)	Tuesday	20	10.30am-12pm
Closed Workshop: East Urban Lands Affordable Housing Area Update – Stages 1 and 2	Tuesday	27	11am-12pm
Council meeting (Council Chamber)	Tuesday	27	1pm-4pm
District Dog Control Committee meeting (Council Chamber)	Thursday	29	10.30am-12pm

APPOINTMENTS

No new requests for appointments have been received.

TRAINING AND CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

In accordance with the Expenses and Allowances Policy 2025-2028, this is a request to approve, either prior or retrospectively, elected member attendance at training and/or conferences.

The following request to attend a training and conference opportunity has been received:

- Cr Wahine Murch: Local Government New Zealand SuperLocal conference on Wednesday 14 October and Thursday 15 October in Rotorua with travel, accommodation (if necessary) and attendance costs to be paid by Council.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council

1. Receives the information relating to engagements for October 2026; and

2. Approves / declines the attendance of Cr Wahine Murch at Local Government New Zealand SuperLocal conference on Wednesday 14 October and Thursday 15 October in Rotorua with travel, accommodation (if necessary) and attendance costs to be paid by Council.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

Nil

5.10 NOTICE OF MOTION - MEDIA

Author: Julie Gardyne, Chief Executive

Authorised by: John Funnell, Mayor

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

Councillor Duncan Campbell has given notice, in accordance with Standing Order 27, that he intends to move at this meeting (29 September 2026) the following motion:

That Taupō District Council:

1. Agrees in principle that Council-funded communications may provide appropriate opportunities for individual elected members to communicate their own views on matters of public and Council interest, including views that differ from an adopted Council position or those of other elected members.
2. Agrees that where such opportunities are provided:
 - i. Access should be fair and substantially equitable between elected members;
 - ii. Individual commentary should be clearly attributed as the views of the elected member and not necessarily those of Taupō District Council;
 - iii. Contributions remain subject to applicable law, confidentiality and privacy obligations, reasonable publication requirements, the Code of Conduct for Elected Members, and appropriate pre-election restrictions; and
 - iv. Contributions should not be edited or declined solely because they express a political viewpoint or a view differing from the majority or an adopted Council position.
3. Reinstates the “Councillor Kōrero” item in Council's *Kōrero* insert in the *Taupō & Tūrangi News* as one means of giving effect to these principles, with elected members provided substantially equal opportunity to contribute.
4. Requests that appropriate guidelines for elected-member contributions to Council-funded communications be developed consistent with these principles and reported to Council for approval.
5. Notes the briefing paper *Individual elected-member commentary in Council communications: New Zealand local-government practice and a proposed fair-access protocol*, which identifies examples of elected-member commentary in New Zealand Council communications and proposes a framework for balancing representative voice, Council neutrality, fair access and appropriate safeguards.

NGĀ KŌRERORERO | DISCUSSION

The Notice of Motion is attached.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Notice of Motion will be moved at the meeting.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. Notice of Motion [📄](#)
2. New Zealand local-government practice and a proposed fair-access protocol [📄](#)

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

I, Duncan Campbell, give notice that I intend to move the following motion at the Taupō District Council meeting to be held on 29 September 2026:

That Taupō District Council:

1. Agree in principle that Council-funded communications may provide appropriate opportunities for individual elected members to communicate their own views on matters of public and Council interest, including views that differ from an adopted Council position or those of other elected members.
2. Agree that where such opportunities are provided:
 - Access should be fair and substantially equitable between elected members;
 - Individual commentary should be clearly attributed as the views of the elected member and not necessarily those of Taupō District Council;
 - Contributions remain subject to applicable law, confidentiality and privacy obligations, reasonable publication requirements, the Code of Conduct for Elected Members, and appropriate pre-election restrictions; and
 - Contributions should not be edited or declined solely because they express a political viewpoint or a view differing from the majority or an adopted Council position.
3. Reinstate the “**Councillor Kōrero**” item in Council's *Kōrero* insert in the *Taupō & Tūrangi News* as one means of giving effect to these principles, with elected members provided substantially equal opportunity to contribute.
4. Request that appropriate guidelines for elected-member contributions to Council-funded communications be developed consistent with these principles and reported to Council for approval.
5. Note the briefing paper *Individual elected-member commentary in Council communications: New Zealand local-government practice and a proposed fair-access protocol*, which identifies examples of elected-member commentary in New Zealand Council communications and proposes a framework for balancing representative voice, Council neutrality, fair access and appropriate safeguards.

Context and Discussion

Prior to the 2025 election period, elected members had the opportunity to express their views through the weekly Council-funded *Kōrero* page in the *Taupō & Tūrangi News*, under the heading “**Councillor Kōrero**”. Contributions were generally limited to a maximum of 300 words and were published on a rotational basis, providing each councillor with several opportunities each year to communicate directly with the community.

This provided an additional means for residents and ratepayers, including those who do not regularly use digital or social media, to hear directly from their elected representatives. That opportunity is no longer available and this Notice of Motion proposes that it be reinstated.

The previous guidance for contributions also discouraged elected members from discussing political matters. Given the representative and governance roles undertaken by elected members, matters of public policy, Council decision-making and differing views on those matters will inevitably form part of their communication with the community.

Taupō District Council's Freedom of Expression Policy affirms the importance of freedom of expression and a presumption in favour of free expression, while recognising that reasonable and demonstrably justified limitations may apply. Elected members are also subject to the adopted Code of Conduct, including its requirements concerning interactions with the media and the public.

The proposed approach therefore seeks to provide elected members with reasonable freedom to communicate their individual views, while making clear to readers that those views belong to the individual elected member and do not necessarily represent an adopted position of Taupō District Council.

Signed by mover:



Councillor Duncan Campbell

Date: 21 September 2026

Signed by seconder:



Councillor Hope Woodward

Date: 21 September 2026

BRIEFING PAPER

Individual elected-member commentary in Council communications

New Zealand local-government practice and a proposed fair-access protocol

18 August 2026

Includes clickable source links for immediate verification

Purpose

To assess whether New Zealand local-government practice supports a blanket proposition that regular Council publications should not carry the personal opinions or political views of elected members, and to identify a practical framework that permits representative voice while protecting Council neutrality, fairness and public resources.

Executive conclusion

The evidence does not support a blanket prohibition. A number of New Zealand councils have deliberately published individually attributed commentary from ordinary councillors on Council-controlled channels. Other councils formally contemplate elected-member columns in their pre-election protocols and suspend them only during the pre-election period. The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) likewise expressly refers to “Mayoral or Members’ columns in Council publications” and recommends their suspension during the pre-election period because of electoral-advantage risk.

The stronger, evidence-based position is therefore: Council communications need not be confined to a single corporate voice. Individual elected-member commentary can be legitimate where it is clearly attributed, access is equitable, Council’s formal position is distinguished from the member’s view, normal legal and conduct constraints apply, and special safeguards operate in the pre-election period.

Key evidence at a glance

Authority / source	Practice located	Why it matters
Nelson City Council	Recurring “Councillor’s Comment” in Council publication/channel.	Direct precedent for ordinary councillors having an identifiable first-person voice.
Tararua District Council	Current 2026 “Councillor Column” series.	Ordinary councillors discuss priorities, judgments and Council issues in their own voice.
South Waikato District Council	Multiple councillor columns in Council’s In Touch newsletter.	Columns explicitly acknowledge disagreement and robust debate among members.
Timaru / Ōpōtiki protocols	Elected-member columns restricted or suspended in pre-election period.	Implies such communications are contemplated outside the special election period.
Office of the Auditor-General	Refers expressly to Mayoral or Members’ columns in Council publications.	The concern identified is electoral advantage in the pre-election period, not an inherent ban.

Quick links - open the examples immediately

The following links go directly to the strongest examples and policy sources cited in this paper.

- [Tararua - Councillor Column \(Peter Naylor, July 2026\)](#)
- [Tararua - Councillor Column \(Erana Peeti-Webber, February 2026\)](#)
- [Nelson - current Councillor Comment \(Nigel Skeggs, June 2026\)](#)
- [Nelson - Councillor Comment archive](#)
- [Office of the Auditor-General - pre-election communications guidance](#)
- [Timaru - 2025 Election Protocols \(PDF\)](#)
- [Opotiki - Pre-election Protocol Policy \(PDF\)](#)

1. Scope and method

A national web-based sweep was undertaken across New Zealand local authorities, with targeted searches for councillor columns, elected-member commentary, Council newsletters, communications protocols and pre-election policies. The Department of Internal Affairs records 78 local authorities: 67 territorial authorities and 11 regional councils.

This is an evidence survey of publicly accessible and indexed material, not an OIA audit of every authority's internal policy. Accordingly, absence of an indexed example should not be treated as evidence that an authority prohibits such commentary.

2. Direct precedents involving ordinary councillors

Nelson City Council

[Open the Council / official source](#)

Nelson provides one of the clearest precedents. Its Council publication *Our Nelson* has carried a recurring "Councillor's Comment" feature written by individual councillors. Examples include Matt Lawrey, Yvonne Bowater, Trudie Brand and Matthew Bengé. The pieces are written in the first person and include personal judgments, priorities, observations about Council processes and advocacy on public issues.

For example, a 2023 Councillor's Comment by Cr Matthew Bengé discussed planning rules, climate resilience and possible high-rise development, stating his own views and urging public participation. This is materially different from a corporate media release merely reporting a Council resolution.

Tararua District Council

[Open the Council / official source](#)

Tararua currently publishes a "Councillor Column" series on its official website. In February 2026 Cr Erana Peeti-Webber described what motivated her to stand for Council and identified her own priorities. In May 2026 Cr Alison Amboy wrote in the first person about her roles and perspective. In July 2026 Cr Peter Naylor evaluated Council's Long Term Plan pre-engagement and central-government reform announcements. The format deliberately identifies the individual councillor as the speaker.

South Waikato District Council

South Waikato's Council-produced *In Touch* newsletter repeatedly carried separate "Councillor Column" contributions. A July/August 2021 column by Cr Gary Petley discussed difficult Council matters, personality clashes and robust debate, concluding that councillors "won't always agree" and "won't always win". A January/February 2022 column by Cr Hans Nelis went further into policy advocacy, stating that he would defend local self-determination and control of local assets in the context of local-government reform.

These examples are important because they demonstrate that a Council-controlled publication can accommodate plurality among elected members rather than requiring every contribution to reproduce a single corporate voice.

Palmerston North City Council

A 2024 Council report records elected members writing newspaper columns and appearing on radio to discuss their roles and Council projects as part of Council's wider communications and community-engagement activity. This is not as direct as a Council newsletter column, but it supports the legitimacy of individual elected-member communication as part of representative engagement.

3. Formal policy evidence

Office of the Auditor-General

[Open the Council / official source](#)

The OAG's local-government pre-election communications guidance is particularly significant. It identifies a risk that Council communications resources may advantage sitting members during an election period. For that reason, it recommends that mass communications facilities including Council-funded newsletters to constituents and "Mayoral or Members' columns in Council publications" be suspended during the pre-election period.

Implication: the OAG treats members' columns as an established form of Council communication requiring special election-period restraint; it does not state that such columns are inherently improper throughout the triennium.

Timaru District Council

[Open the Council / official source](#)

Timaru's 2025 Election Protocols state that Council communications will be restricted during the pre-election period and that "Elected members' columns in Council publications will be suspended." The protocols separately prohibit use of Council resources for campaigning and suspend elected-member radio slots.

The wording is useful because it distinguishes ordinary representative communications from campaign use of public resources. A temporary suspension rule presupposes that the activity exists or is contemplated outside the restricted period.

Ōpōtiki District Council

[Open the Council / official source](#)

Ōpōtiki's adopted 2025 Pre-election Protocol Policy states that newsletters, media releases, advertisements and regularly published columns will not feature elected members during the pre-election period. It also states that comments made by elected members should be identified as personal comment unless authorised by management, and makes members responsible for the accuracy and appropriateness of political comment during that period.

This is particularly relevant to the practical issue: the policy recognises "personal comment" as a category that can be identified and managed. The safeguard is attribution and election-period control, rather than an assumption that an individual political view can never appear in a Council communications environment.

4. What the evidence does - and does not - establish

- It establishes that ordinary councillor columns and first-person elected-member commentary are an accepted practice in at least some New Zealand councils.
- It establishes that national good-practice guidance and multiple Council protocols expressly contemplate elected-member columns.
- It supports a distinction between representative commentary and use of Council resources for election campaigning.
- It does not establish an unrestricted right for a councillor to publish anything through Council channels.
- It does not establish that Council staff must publish defamatory, confidential, misleading, personally abusive or electioneering material.
- The survey did not locate a clean current precedent in which an ordinary councillor used an official Council column expressly to campaign against an already-adopted Council resolution. That narrower proposition should therefore not be overstated.

5. Proposed elected-member communications protocol

If Council wishes to recognise elected members' representative role while preserving the integrity of Council communications, the following model would provide a workable middle ground.

Principle	Proposed rule
Purpose	Provide residents with access to the perspectives of their elected representatives and improve democratic engagement.
Equal access	Offer each elected member substantially equal opportunity, frequency, word limit and placement, preferably through a rotating column.
Clear attribution	Label each contribution with the member's name and a statement that the views are the member's own and are not necessarily the formal position of Council.
Corporate position	Where a column discusses a matter already decided by Council, accurately state the Council decision or provide a link to the relevant resolution so readers can distinguish the institutional decision from the member's commentary.
Editorial limits	Council may require compliance with law, confidentiality obligations, privacy, defamation, accuracy requirements, the Code of Conduct and reasonable standards against personal abuse. Editing should not be used to remove a political viewpoint merely because it differs from the majority.
Right of correction	Staff may identify demonstrable factual errors and request correction. Genuine differences of opinion, interpretation or policy judgment should not be treated as factual errors.
No electioneering	Council-funded channels must not be used to solicit votes, promote candidacy, attack election opponents as candidates, seek campaign donations or otherwise confer an improper electoral advantage.
Pre-election period	Suspend or materially restrict individual member columns during the defined pre-election period, consistently with OAG guidance and Council's election protocol.
Transparency	Publish the protocol so elected members, staff and the public understand the distinction between Council information and representative commentary.

6. Suggested position for Council consideration

Suggested principle: Council communications should distinguish between the corporate voice of Council and the representative voices of individual elected members. Subject to fair access, clear attribution, legal and conduct obligations, and pre-election restrictions, Council-controlled publications may provide space for individual elected members to express views on matters of public and Council interest, including views that are not identical to the majority position.

7. Conclusion

New Zealand practice demonstrates that the choice is not simply between a purely corporate publication and an uncontrolled political forum. Councils including Nelson, Tararua and South Waikato have used identifiable councillor commentary, while formal protocols and OAG guidance manage the genuine risks through attribution, fairness and election-period restrictions. A blanket rule that personal elected-member opinion has no place in regular Council media is therefore a policy choice, not a demonstrated New Zealand local-government norm.

Sources

Department of Internal Affairs - Local Government Policy (78 local authorities): [Open source](#)

Office of the Auditor-General - Communications guidance in the local government pre-election period: [Open source](#)

Tararua District Council - Councillor Column, 20 July 2026: [Open source](#)

Tararua District Council - Councillor Column, 2 February 2026: [Open source](#)

Tararua District Council - Councillor Column: Alison Amboy, 11 May 2026: [Open source](#)

Nelson City Council - Our Nelson, Issue 180, Councillor's Comment: [Open source](#)

Nelson City Council - Our Nelson, Issue 92, Councillor's Comment: [Open source](#)

Nelson City Council - Our Nelson, Issue 119, Councillor's Comment: [Open source](#)

South Waikato District Council - In Touch, July/August 2021: [Open source](#)

South Waikato District Council - In Touch, January/February 2022: [Open source](#)

Palmerston North City Council - Council agenda/report, 5 June 2024: [Open source](#)

Timaru District Council - Election Protocols for Incumbent Elected Members, 2025: [Open source](#)

Ōpōtiki District Council - Pre-election Protocol Policy, adopted 17 February 2025: [Open source](#)

Note on evidential weight: The cited examples demonstrate existence and legitimacy of the practice; they do not prove that every New Zealand local authority follows it. Policies should also be checked against the Council's current Code of Conduct, communications policy, election protocol and any relevant legal advice before adoption.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
Agenda Item No: 6.1 Award of Contract CN813 - Rainbow Point Water Network Renewals	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	It is necessary to consider this item with the public excluded because confidential pricing is included. Making it public at this stage could unfairly harm the successful tenderer's business interests or affect the Council's ability to achieve the best commercial outcome. The resolution will be released in public following the meeting.
Agenda Item No: 6.2 Appointment of External Representative to Community Grant Distribution Committee	Section 7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	Section 48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 7	It is necessary to protect applicants' personal information that they have provided in their cover letters and curriculum vitae.

I also move that [\[name of person or persons\]](#) be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of [\[specify\]](#). This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because [\[specify\]](#).