TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

9 July 2026

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that, the **Audit and Risk** Committee Meeting will be held in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford**, on **Tuesday 14 July 2026,** beginning at **1.00pm.**

Additionally**,** notice is hereby given that, the **Ordinary** Meeting of Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford**, on **Tuesday 14 July 2026,** beginning at **3.30pm.**

The timetable is as follows:

11.00am	Public Forum – Simplifying Local Government • Ngāti Ruanui • Mary Bourke • Bill Davies
12.30pm	Lunch for Councillors
1.00pm	Audit & Risk Committee
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting of Council

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

63 Miranda Street, PO Box 320, Stratford 4352
Phone. 06 765 6099 | stratford.govt.nz

2026 - Agenda - Ordinary - July

14 July 2026 03:30 PM

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda Topic | Page

AGENDA
Ordinary Meeting of Council

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/25040

Date: 14 July at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

1. Welcome

1.1 Opening Karakia
D21/40748 Page 5

1.2 Health and Safety Message
D21/26210 Page 6

2. Apologies

3. Announcements

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

5. Attendance Schedule

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings Page 7.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 9 June 2026
D26/21559 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.2 Policy and Services Committee – 23 June 2026
D26/23152 Page 12

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3 Water Services Committee – 30 June 2026
D26/24141 Page 20

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Water Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2026 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.4 Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group – 3 June 2026
D26/25059 Page 23

Recommendations

THAT the unconfirmed minutes and associated documents of the Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2026 be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

7. District Mayor's Report
D26/25704 Page 66

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

8. Questions

9. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 74

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai	I draw in (to my being)
Ā hauora	The reviving essence
Ā haukaha	The strengthening essence
Ā haumāia	The essence of courage
Ki runga, Ki raro	Above, Below
Ki roto, Ki waho	Within, Around
Rire rire hau Paimārire	Let there be peace.

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D22/17082

Health and Safety Message

In the event of an emergency, unless guided to an alternative route by staff, please exit through the main entrance. Once outside the building please move towards the War Memorial Centre congregating on the lawn area outside the front of the council building.

If there is an earthquake, please drop, cover and hold where possible. Remain indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit or remain where you are until further instruction is given.

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5. Attendance schedule for 2026 Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

Date	10/02/26	24/02/26	10/03/26	14/04/26	12/05/26	26/05/26	09/06/26	14/07/26	11/08/26	08/09/26	13/10/26	10/11/26	08/12/26
Meeting	O	E	O	O	O	E	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
David Chadwick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Jaimie Bertie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Josh Best	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Grant Boyde	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AV	✓						
Katherine Sextus	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Mathew Watt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						

Key	
O	Ordinary Meeting
E	Extraordinary Meeting
EM	Emergency Meeting
✓	Attended
A	Apology/Leave of Absence
AB	Absent
S	Sick
AV	Meeting held, or attended by, by Audio Visual Link

MINUTES
Ordinary

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/21559

Date: 9 June 2026 at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor Neil Volzke (the Chairperson), the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Jono Erwood, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive –Sven Hanne, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Governance Advisor & Executive Assistance – Gareth Hancock, the Roading Manger – Stephen Bowden.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read and the H&S message was read. The mayor welcomed members, senior staff to the meeting and members of the public.

2. Apologies

None recorded.

3. Announcements

The District Mayor advised that there would be a councillors-only session to provide an update on the Simplifying Local Government changes. He further noted that he would elaborate on the invitation issued for a joint meeting of South Taranaki and Stratford elected members.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. None were noted.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Ordinary Council Meetings was attached and noted.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee – 5 May 2026
D26/16402 Page 9

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund Assessment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 be adopted.

DUDLEY/WATT
Carried
CL/26/44

Councillor Dudley noted there was robust discussion at the meeting and referenced the junior league club. The Councillor also noted there was a carryover of funds, which would be carried over to future rounds.

6.2 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 12 May 2026
D26/17207 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLKZE/BERTIE
Carried
CL/26/45

6.3 Audit & Risk Committee – 19 May 2026
D26/18682 Page 19

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the *Audit & Risk Committe*e meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the *Audit & Risk Committee* meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 be adopted.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
CL/26/46

Councillor Boyde sought clarification on the Percy Thomson Trust letter of expectation and requested an update. The Chief Executive noted that this is in progress.

6.4 Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 26 May 2026
D26/19437 Page 29

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

SEXTUS/BECK
Carried
CL/26/47

Councillor Boyde noted that his name was omitted from the list of attendees. The Governance Advisor would amend this.

6.5 Policy and Services Committee – 26 May 2026
D26/19436 Page 33

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be adopted.

BOYDE/BEST
Carried
CL/26/48

Councillor Chadwick noted the date. The Governance Advisor would amend this.

7. Decision Report - Summary of Early Conversation Discussions – Roading

D26/19994 Page 40

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLKZE/HARRIS
Carried
CL/26/49

2. THAT Council approves the option preferences from the Roading Activity Early Conversation Workshops

3. THAT the approved options are further developed into business cases to support the development of the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan budget and programme of work.

BECK/HALL
Carried
CL/26/50

Recommended Reason
The adoption of these option preferences will guide the development of business cases to support the development of the 2027-37 LTP roading budgets and programme of works, which are in themselves subject to public consultation and final approval by Council.

The Roading Manager the following points:

- This report brings together all decisions, presents the associated costs, and provides a snapshot of the overall financial impact. If all options were combined, the cost would exceed $100 million over ten years. It outlines each option selected and indicates how and where funding would be obtained.
- The Chief Executive spoke to the third recommendation, noting that officers have worked through the workshops with elected members, can develop greater clarity and costs, and can now refine the options and bring them back to elected members for approval.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarification regarding the earlier workshop and whether the figures presented there were included. The Roading Manager explained the NZTA funding model.

8. District Mayor's Report

D26/21206 Page 48

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/BEST
Carried
CL/26/51

The District Mayor noted the following points

- The Stratford Park project was covered in the morning's discussion. The Mayor noted that the funding for the Gorge is very positive news for the region and highlighted the works it will involve. The announcement was made prior to all three Taranaki mayors meeting with NZTA, and they were pleased with that outcome. NZTA made it very clear that funding is for works delivered on the ground, not for consultancy services.
- The Mayor also referenced Minister Watt's letter and the voting restrictions on non-elected members. He noted the implications for the Audit & Risk Chair but clarified that there is an exception process available.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarification regarding the exception process. The District Mayor advised that there is a six-month provision to amend standing orders and delegations, as well as a window to apply for an exemption.

9. Questions

- None.

10. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 57

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.58 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 14th day of July 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES
Policy and Services Committee

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F25/96/005 – D26/23152

Date: Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 3.00 pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris (the Chairperson), the District Mayor Neil Volzke, Councillors: Steve Beck, Jaimie Bertie, Josh Best, Grant Boyde, David Chadwick, Annette Dudley, Ellen Hall, Katherine Sextus and Mathew Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Sven Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, the Servies Asset Manager – John Cooper, the Community and Economic Development Manager - Saba Afzal, Venture Taranaki General Manager Corporate - Jennifer Patterson, Venture Taranaki General Manager Destination - Janet Reynolds.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read. The Deputy Mayor reiterated the emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillor Erwood who had an approved leave of absence.

Recommendation

THAT Councillor Erwood's apology be received.

BOYDE/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/65

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. Councillor Hall noted a conflict on item nine.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached and noted.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy & Services Committee - 26 May 2026
D26/19436 Page 11

> **Recommendation**
>
> THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.
>
> WATT/DUDLEY
> Carried
> P&S/26/66

- Councillor Dudley noted a typo. The Governance Advisor would amend this.

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 18

> **Recommendation**
>
> THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.
>
> BOYDE/HALL
> Carried
> P&S/26/67

- The Chief Executive advised that a report on the Community Group Relationship Funding Policy would be presented in July. A report on dog control is coming. Farm profits and PTT audit costs will be addressed today.

8. Information Report - Economic Development Quarterly Report – to 31 March 202

D26/22416 Page 19

> **Recommendation**
>
> THAT the report be received.
>
> BERTIE/BOYDE
> Carried
> P&S/26/68
>
> **Recommended Reason**
> The report provides an update on the economic development activity.

Venture Taranaki noted the following:

- It was noted that they would walk members through the past six months and provide an up-to-date report. This report will be slightly different due to the availability of Quarter Three data. An economic overview was provided to elected members. A change in strategic focus was also highlighted. It was noted that VT has attracted some government funding to support both start-up and existing businesses to explore tourism opportunities.
- Branching out and VT's work were discussed, including initiatives underway to grow supply chains. Hemp crops were noted as an example and identified as a potential opportunity, with plans to scale this up.
- A recap on tourism was provided. Over the last six months, there has been a focus on market development and taking Taranaki to the world. Opportunities to leverage central government support alongside regional initiatives were also highlighted.
- An update was provided on the Stratford Economic Development Strategy was provided.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Beck noted the $3.2 million funding VT received, which was allocated for the establishment of the alliance and spread over five years.

- Councillor Beck also referred to the American market, providing an example of travellers encountered. He enquired whether there is any Airbnb data available. It was acknowledged that this data is challenging to capture and is often driven by demand, with individuals diversifying their income. The Councillor also queried hemp production in the region, asking whether conditions are too wet; it was noted that there are good opportunities in this area.

9. Decision Report - Percy Thomson Trust - Consideration of Council contribution to Audit Fees

D26/22286 Page 115

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/69

2B. THAT Council does not contribute financially to Percy Thomson Trust's annual audit costs.

BOYDE/DUDLEY
Division
5 for 6 (Casting Vote by the Chair) against
Lost
P&S/26/70

2A. THAT Council contribute financially to Percy Thomson Trust's annual audit costs for the 2025/26 financial year to the amount of *$15,000* ~~/ XX percent of the set audit fees~~ for the annual audit.

SEXTUS/BERTIE
6 (Casting Vote by the Chair) for 5 against
Carried
P&S/26/71

~~3A. THAT Council allocate $XX per annum in the draft Long Term Plan for an ongoing, annual contribution to (optional: to cover X% of) Percy Thomson Trust's audit costs.~~

OR

3B. THAT Council does not allocate funding in the draft Long Term Plan for an ongoing, annual contribution to Percy Thomson Trust's audit costs.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
P&S/26/72

Recommended Reason

Council has discussed the requirements and merits of Percy Thomson Trust being audited as part of council's annual audit as is a requirement for council controlled organisations, unless specifically exempt. As part of this discussion, elected members felt that the benefits of an external audit exceeded the costs – however there was a consideration whether in lieu of providing an exemption from the requirement of an audit, council should consider contributing financially to such costs. This report facilitates this consideration.

The Chief Executive noted the following:

- It was noted that this paper arose from discussions by the Trust regarding CCO and audit requirements. A question had been raised by Elected Members about contributing to audit costs, and it was determined that the most appropriate response was to prepare a report. The various options were explained to members, and a summary of the report was provided. The total audit costs were outlined, along with the contributions to the Trust.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the reference to toilet cleaning and questioned whether it was a council-listed public toilet. The CE advised that this was a request from the Trust and had been a council decision at the time. Councillor Boyde queried whether this should now be removed. The CE responded that it remains a council decision and is appropriately considered as part of LTP discussions. The associated costs were noted, and Councillor Boyde indicated a preference for this to be removed.
- Councillor Watt noted an error in the figures, which should be $70,000.
- The District Mayor sought clarity regarding the audit costs paid by the Trust and how much difference exist now compared to when in-house services were delivered by the Council. This was further elaborated on for the Mayor.
- Councillor Dudley sought clarification on a breakdown of the arboretum costs; however, a detailed breakdown was not available at the time.

A motion was moved on recommendation 2B and a division was called for.
Those voting Yes: Chadwick, Boyde, Dudley, Watt, Beck – Five
Those voting No: Bertie, Best, Harris, Sextus, Volzke – Five
The Chairperson casting vote was exercised and voted No.

Points noted in discussion recommendation 2B:

- Councillor Boyde noted that the figures speak for themselves and, in a rate-capping environment, further expenditure was not possible.
- Councillor Dudley noted that she had previously approached the CE to ask whether relief was available for the Trust; however, this was before two Statements of Intent were declined. She also noted that the Trust currently has $400,000 in accounts and that another investment is expected soon.
- The District Mayor noted that significant funds are being directed to the Trust and referenced Councillor Dudley’s comments regarding the unapproved SOI, which is a concern. He stated that, as a Council, the decision was made to establish the Trust as a CCO, and the associated costs are a result from the Council decision. He added that if funding for the audit was a fixed amount, he would support it. He warned that the Trust may eventually run out of money and that Council, as the “mothership,” holds responsibility.
- Councillor Watt noted that a considerable amount of money goes into the Trust and acknowledged that Council made it a CCO, which contributes to the situation. However, he questioned whether Council would provide $70,000 per year if it were not a CCO, suggesting the likely answer is no.
- Councillor Beck supported this view and noted that the Trust’s audit fee is included within the funding already provided.
- Councillor Sextus, voting against, echoed the Mayor’s concerns and noted that Council has restricted the Trust from accessing funding streams such as Toi. And added that Council both provides funding and takes it away.
- Councillor Bertie noted that Council placed the Trust in its current position and that paying for the audit appears fair.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that she was in an unusual position, having initially indicated she would not support it.

There was discussion among members regarding an amount for Option 2A, noting what the trust would pay if it were not a CCO, excluding Audit NZ fees. Members did not wish to debate further, as they considered that the key points had already been covered in the proceeding recommendation 2B.

Points noted in discussion recommendation 3B:

- Councillor Boyde stated that he cannot support allocating additional funding to the Trust.
- The Mayor expressed support for excluding this from the LTP, noting there is a split view. It is essentially a one-off. There is also an opportunity to revisit the matter in the future.

10. Decision Report - Council Farm – Financial Allocations and Reserves Policy

D26/22255 Page 119

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BECK/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/73

2. THAT the *Council Farm – Financial Allocations and Reserves Policy* be adopted.

HALL/VOLZKE
Carried
P&S/26/74

Recommended Reason
It is recommended that Council adopt the new policy to provide clear and transparent guidelines for the allocation and management of the Council farm surpluses, capital returns and financial reserves.

The Director Corporate noted the following:

- That the policy establishes clear guidelines and sets up two separate farm reserves. It incorporates feedback from Elected Members.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Beck had a query regarding the wording , specifically around the efficient and effective running of council operations. This was clarified by the Director, who noted that it improves reliability for planning processes and budgetary requirements.
- Councillor Hall noted the ranking of priorities and how they are formulated. It was explained that these were generated from feedback. It was also noted that there is a minimal balance in the reserve, and assurance is needed that this reflects rates migration, with Council remaining the final decision-maker on applying the policy. This assurance was provided.
- Councillor Boyde queried the Fonterra dividend and where this would be allocated. It was noted that this would be distributed into two separate reserves.

11. Decision Report - Rate Remission Application - Excessive Water Use Due To A Leak

D26/15009 Page 128

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/75

2. THAT Council gives consideration under Clause 9 of the Rates Remission Policy to remit water use lost due to a leak.

3. THAT Council ~~approves/~~declines the application for a rate remission due to a leak.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/26/76

Recommended Reason

Council Policy allows for rate remission due to a leak to be considered, if the water loss was out of their control. As detailed below, once the occupiers were made aware of the leak they were proactive addressing the leak.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Bertie sought clarification on whether the building owner has their own insurance. If so, could we request proof that any claim has been declined. It was noted that the insurance excess would likely outweigh the cost, and the issue could have been avoided if the water had been turned off at the toby.
- Councillor Dudley noted that water bills were delayed in being sent out and asked whether this was a contributing factor. It was likely that the bill would not have immediately reached the recipient or been paid regardless of the delay.
- Councillor Boyde queried whether the policy should include vandalism and whether this might lead to an increase in similar incidents. It was noted that this was the first instance of a leak like this, so it is unlikely to become an ongoing issue.
- The Deputy Mayor queried whether, when the water bill is issued, that the recorded consumption could have highlighted the issue earlier and helped resolve it sooner. This point was further elaborated on.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Hall noted that she is usually quite open and passionate about such situations. She added that failing to turn off the toby and check the property was negligent, and that it is not for the ratepayer to cover the cost.
- The District Mayor noted that the policy allows for remission in the case of a leak and that each situation can be considered. However, he questioned whether this instance qualified as a leak, noting that the definition is clear and that this case does not meet it. He expressed some sympathy for the building owner, but stated that the landlord has a responsibility.

12. Monthly Reports

12.1 Assets Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BEST/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/26/77

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall queried the satisfaction level of the roading network, noting the target was not achieved. It was clarified how this was measured. It was noted there are three waves of surveys (November, February, and April), which are aggregated over the year.
- Councillor Boyde questioned whether all playgrounds meet safety standards and why it was marked as not applicable. The Director noted these are assessed every two years, alongside regular inspections by maintenance.
- Councillor Boyde also sought an update on the subdivision, which the Director provided.
- Councillor Dudley noted the current trend regarding organic waste and asked whether anything could be done to prevent green waste from going into bins. It was noted that the bylaw does not prevent this.

12.2 Community Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/78

- Councillor Boyde noted the success of the Positive Ageing Expo and wished to pass on his congratulations to the team.

12.3 Corporate Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

WATT/BEST
Carried
P&S/26/79

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted the Datascape platform and queried whether this would result in fewer people needing to come in person. It was explained that this is an online payment system, which has already gone live for dog-related services, with additional services to be added over time.
- The District Mayor noted that the aquatic centre budget is tracking downwards and efforts are being made to keep costs down. However, also noted that building control expenditure is over budget and questioned whether the use of external consultants was contributing to higher costs. The CE advised that the use of external consultants is longstanding practice, with costs largely recovered from the majority of applicants.
- Councillor Beck noted that the net debt ratio is trending downward, but also highlighted an increase in overdue rates. The Director acknowledged that while a lower level would be preferable, the current position compares fairly with other councils.

12.4 Environmental Services Report

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HALL/BERTIE
Carried
P&S/26/80

The Director Environment noted the following:

- That there was an update on local alcohol policy and update from the South decision, which was made yesterday and cleared to go ahead.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Hall sought clarity regarding the letter from Chris Bishop, providing very specific examples and what control this Council has over contracting outside of the organisation. It was noted that the Council does not have that level of control, and the Councillor queried whether any control exists. The CE advised that the Minister’s letter relates to resource consents, which are largely managed in-house. Staff have operational control, while elected members influence longer-term through the District Plan. The CE also provided an update to elected members on the Building Control team, noting that a new Building Control Manager will be starting soon.
- Councillor Dudley asked whether there would be any issues arising from the Government reducing application timeframes from 20 days to 10 days. It was advised that there would be no problem.

13. Questions

- Councillor Best had a question regarding the farm and ring-fencing it for Stratford under the Simplifying Local Government process. The CE noted that the farm is not protected by legislation, and if amalgamation were to occur, it was suggested the asset would be absorbed for the greater good. In discussions, however, there may be an opportunity to negotiate setting money specifically aside, and TET may also serve as an example.

14. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

A K Harris
Chairman

Confirmed this 21 day of July 2026.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

Water Services
MINUTES

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

F26/96/005 – D26/24141

Date: Tuesday 30 June 2026 2026 at 2.00pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor (the Chairperson) Neil Volzke, the Deputy Mayor Amanda Harris, Councillor Mathew Watt.

In attendance

Councillors: Steve Beck, Grant Boyde, Jono Erwood. The Chief Executive – Sven Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson, the Director – Assets – Victoria Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Blair Sutherland, the Governance Advisor and Executive Assistant – Gareth Hancock, General Manager - Water Services Business Unit - Deron Sharma.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read. The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from the Director – Community Services – Kate Whareaitu, the Director – Corporate Services – Raelene Johnson.

3. Announcements

The Chief Executive introduced Deron Sharma, General Manager – Water Services Business Unit, to the committee. It was noted that he is from the Waikato and has an extensive background in water services and associated infrastructure.

The Mayor noted that he was acting as the interim Chair and that it was his intention to become a committee member as soon as an independent Chair was appointed.

4. Declarations of members interest

Elected members were asked to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5. Information Report - Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit – Establishment Update

D26/22101 Page 7

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/HARRIS
Carried
WS/26/1

Recommended Reason

The report provides the Committee with an update on the establishment programme of the Stratford Waters Internal Business Unit.

The General Manager - Water Services noted the following points:
- Key discussion points included the establishment programme outlined in the report. The programme is required by legislation and is linked to the Water Services Strategy. It is monitored by the Department of Internal Affairs who will soon transfer to the new ministry, MCRET. The programme consists of nine workstreams and is intended to be delivered in bite-sized chunks, providing clear operational and governance visibility.
- It was noted that the Water Services Steering Group will provide reporting to the Water Services Committee.
- It was highlighted to elected members that the City Care contract would be rolled over.

Questions/points of clarification:
- Councillor Boyde noted the proposed changes relating to the Simplifying Local Government reforms and their potential impact. The General Manager advised that planning for the establishment programme is underway and must comply with the legislative requirements of the Water Services Act. The programme allows for some flexibility, and at the next decision gate, officers will assess what flexibility exists.
- The District Mayor noted that the next report to the DIA is due on 31 July and sought confirmation that the requirements would be met. The General Manager advised that work on the report is underway. The report will be submitted to DIA and subsequently brought to the Committee.
- The District Mayor raised a query regarding three waters and sought clarification on stormwater. It was noted stormwater is associated with roading and receives NZTA funding. It was further advised that work is underway in accordance with the Water Services Delivery Plan in the area.
- Councillor Beck reiterated that it was good to have greater clarity regarding stormwater.

6. Information Report - Appointment of an Independent Chairperson to the Water Services Committee

D26/22358 Page 12

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

WATT/VOLKZE
Carried
WS/26/2

Recommended Reason

This report provides the Committee with the proposed criteria that will be used to support the Mayor's appointment of an independent Chairperson, congruent with the Committee's Terms of Reference and Council's approved Water Services Delivery Plan.

The General Manager - Water Services noted the following points:
- The key elements are summarised in Table One, which outlines the core criteria. These have been developed from available guidance. While the guidance relates to a CCO, it has been adapted for use for an in-house business unit.
- The intention was to seek the Committee's feedback on what the criteria should look like.

Questions/points of clarification:
- Councillor Boyde noted that the criteria would likely result in a limited pool of candidates and queried whether a candidate could hold roles across multiple councils, and whether there would be any issues with that. The CE noted that experience and insights gained would be beneficial and was similar to that of an Audit and Risk Committee Chair. The Mayor suggested strengthening the wording relating to familiarity with Taranaki by including the local community and context.
- The District Mayor queried whether the Chair could be the CE of another water entity. The CE advised that this would likely depend on workload and contractual arrangements in place.
- The Deputy Mayor expressed support for the inclusion of the local community context.
- Councillor Boyde queried the financial implications of the appointment and whether budget existed. It was confirmed that funding exists.
- Councillor Watt sought clarification on whether there was a timeframe for appointing the Chair. The Chief Executive noted that the Committee was meeting the necessary requirements, while the Mayor expressed a preference for the appointment to be made sooner rather than later as development progressed.

- Councillor Beck reiterated the importance of integrity and public trust, noting that if the public did not have confidence in the Chair, it would be difficult to gain traction.

7. Information Report - Appointment of a Mana Whenua Representative to the Water Services Committee

D26/22515 Page 32

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/WATT
Carried
WS/26/3

Recommended Reason

This report provides the Committee with the proposed approach that will be used to support the appointment of a Mana Whenua Representative, congruent with the Committee's Terms of Reference and Council's approved Water Services Delivery Plan.

The General Manager - Water Services noted the following points:

- The report outlines the process. As part of this, a representative with the appropriate mana and a regional connection to the committee is required.
- This is a feature of the WSDP and outlines the proposed process and criteria.
- This will also be a remunerated role.

Questions/points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde sought clarity on the budget and process, and this was further expanded.
- The District Mayor sought clarification on whether the discussion related to iwi or mana whenua. The CE noted that engagement was occurring with the three iwi and that a range of options was being explored.
- The District Mayor queried right of objection. The process was clarified, and officers advised that they would be engaging with iwi throughout the process.
- The District Mayor also raised the proposed changes to voting rights by central government and asked whether these would be discussed. It was noted that an exception process would likely exist but was not yet known. The District Mayor further noted that he may revisit the possibility of appointing another elected member to the committee once the exception process was clearer.
- It was also noted that the integrity and trust criteria should be carried over to this appointment criteria.

8. Questions

- None.

9. Closing Karakia

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 2.39 pm.

Neil Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 18th day of August 2026.

Neil Volzke
District Mayor

Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group

Item	Detail
Date and time	Wednesday 3 June, 9am, Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom
Present:	Councillor Jonathan Young – TRC Councillor Bonita Bigham – TRC *(Audio-visual link)* Mayor Phil Nixon – STDC Councillor Andy Beccard – STDC Councillor EJ Barrett – NPDC *(Audio-visual link)* Councillor Grant Boyde – SDC Mayor Neil Volzke – SDC Mitchell Ritai – Iwi Representative *(Audio-visual link)* Graeme Young – Iwi Representative
Attending	Abby Matthews – TRC Finbar Kiddle – TRC Anne Duncan – TRC Blair Sutherland – SDC Becky Wolland – STDC Kylan Luke-McKeen – STDC Rachelle McBeth – NPDC *(Audio-visual link)*
Apologies	Councillor Damon Fox – NPDC

The meeting opened with a group Karakia at 9am.

1. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair

1.1 Chair

Abby Matthews, called for nominations for Chair.

Mayor Neil Volzke, nominated Councillor Jonathan Young.

VOLZKE/NIXON

No other nominations were received and Councillor Jonathan Young was appointed as Chair of the Steering Group.

1.2 Deputy Chair

Abby Matthews, called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Councillor Jonathan Young nominated Councillor Andy Beccard.

YOUNG/BOYDE

No other nominations were received and Councillor Andy Beccard was appointed Deputy Chair of the Steering Group.

Councillor Jonathan Young resumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Resource management reform: The road ahead

2.1 The Steering Group received a presentation from Finbar Kiddle on the Government's Resource Management Reform programme and its implications for councils in Taranaki. Members noted the proposed replacement of the current Resource Management Act framework with a new system separating land use planning and natural environment management, supported by stronger national direction and standardisation.

2.2 The Steering Group discussed the greater emphasis on private property rights in the new regime. Regarding regulatory takings, it was noted that council income largely comes from rates, and that there is no indication from Government as to how regulatory relief should be funded.

2.3 The Steering Group noted the proposed division of responsibilities between district and regional councils, and the importance of collaboration in developing a regional spatial plan to support long-term strategic planning, infrastructure alignment, and environmental management across Taranaki.

2.4 Questions were raised around iwi representation on a future joint committee in light of recent announcements made by Government. It was noted that this will be explored in greater depth as the work programme progresses. Ensuring the joint committee is representative of the districts and the region was noted as an important consideration.

2.5 In response to a question, the group was advised that the independent hearing panel would likely be made up of commissioners rather than elected members. Concerns were raised around the risk that the work of the independent hearings panel may not be connected in with the political realities and priorities of each council.

2.6 Overall, the Steering Group noted the many unanswered questions in how the new regime would operate where we are still awaiting more detail from central Government.

Mitchell Ritai, left the meeting at 10am

3. Reporting back to each council

3.1 The process for reporting back to each council was discussed. It was confirmed that the minutes and documents from this meeting would be provided to each council and made publicly available through the Taranaki Regional Council Policy and Planning Committee.

Recommendation

That the Resource Management Reform Steering Group:

a) <u>supports</u> the proposed approach for reporting back set out in this memorandum.

NIXON/BOYDE

The meeting closed at 10.06am with a group karakia.

Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group

Item	**Detail**
Date and time	Wednesday 3 June, 9am-10am
Location	Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road Stratford **Zoom** Meeting ID number: 399-090-6633 Passcode: 7127 Web link: https://zoom.us/j/3990906633

1. Opening Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease the winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	Cease the winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Let the breeze blow over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Kia hī ake ana te atakura	Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air
He tio, he huka, he hauhu	A touch of frost, a promise of glorious day
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia tina.	Let there be certainty
Tina!	Secure it!
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!	Draw together! Affirm!

2. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair

3. Resource management reform: The road ahead

4. Reporting back to each council

5. Closing Karakia

Kia uruuru mai	I draw in (to my being)
A hau ora	The reviving essence
A hau kaha	The strengthening essence
A hau māia	The essence of courage
Ki runga	Above
Ki raro	Below
Ki roto	Within
Ki waho	Around
Rire rire hau	Let there be peace
Paimārire	

Memorandum

To:	Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group
Title:	Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair
Author:	Finbar Kiddle, Strategy Lead TRC
Approved by:	Abby Matthews, Director Environment Quality TRC
Document:	TRCID-803681965-1209
Date:	3 June 2026

Purpose

1. To appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group (Steering Group).

Recommendation(s)

a. **Appoint** ________ as Chair of the Steering Group

b. **Appoint** ________ as Deputy Chair of the Steering Group

c. **Note** the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group in Appendix One

d. **Note** the focus of the Steering Group is on discussion and providing guidance, while from time to time the Steering Group may make recommendations, none of these are binding on the councils.

Background

2. The purpose of the Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group (the Steering Group) is to develop the Process Agreement setting out how the four councils will work together in the development of a regional spatial plan and on resource management reform more widely.
3. The full responsibilities, membership and operational provisions of the Steering Group are set out in the Terms of reference in Appendix One. This terms of reference has been endorsed by the four councils.

Discussion

4. The terms of reference require the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Steering Group be appointed in the first meeting of the Steering Group. This decision is to be made by consensus wherever possible. Where consensus cannot be achieved, a simple majority is required.
5. It is important to note the Steering Group is not a joint committee and has no formal delegations. Accordingly, its focus is on providing guidance and direction to the resource management and spatial planning work across the councils. Individual decision-making authority rests with each council. This includes the adoption of the final Process Agreement.

Appendices:

TRCID-803681965-1208: Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group

Purpose

1. To develop the process agreement setting out how the four councils will work together in the development of a regional spatial plan and on resource management reform more widely.

Membership

2. The Membership of the Group comprises:
    a. Two councillors from the South Taranaki District Council
    b. Two councillors from the Stratford District Council
    c. Two councillors from the New Plymouth District Council
    d. Two councillors from the Taranaki Regional Council
    e. Three iwi representatives on behalf of ngā iwi o Taranaki.
3. The chair and deputy chair shall be appointed in the first meeting of the Group.
4. Council officers and other relevant parties can attend meetings in a non-voting and advisory capacity on an as-needed basis.

Responsibilities

5. The Group shall develop a draft process agreement for approval by each of the four councils that covers:
    a. the key geographical areas, issues, and opportunities that the draft regional spatial plan will focus on
    b. the roles of each local authority in the process, including how the local authorities will work together
    c. how the local authorities will work with central government, including relevant agencies and Crown entities
    d. how the local authorities will work with other local authorities in adjacent regions
    e. how each local authority will ensure that its obligations or agreements under iwi participation legislation or agreements under that legislation, existing joint management agreements, or existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are upheld during the process
    f. how the spatial plan committee will consult iwi authorities in the region
    g. how the local authorities will engage and work with communities, infrastructure providers, development and sector groups, and others with a strong interest in spatial planning.

   h. any other legislatively required matter that is added to the Planning Bill as it moves through the House or that appears in the final Planning Act
   i. the terms of reference for the future Regional Spatial Planning Committee
   j. any other matter the Group considers relevant to the successful delivery of the spatial plan and resource management reform in Taranaki.
6. The Group will also consider the degree to which the four councils should integrate their respective work on the environment and land use chapters of the new resource management regime. The results of these considerations will be included in the process agreement where relevant.

Term

7. The Group will cease to operate once the process agreement is approved by all four councils, or at such time as the Members agree to dissolve the Group.

Operational Provisions

8. A quorum will consist of half the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number (including vacancies) is odd, with at least one member from each council present.
9. Recommendations will be made by consensus wherever possible. Where consensus cannot be reached, a simple majority is required with the chair being the decider in the event of a tie.
10. The Members agree to work in good faith and in an open, honest and transparent manner to achieve the Group's purpose. Members will operate under their respective organisational codes of conduct. The confidentiality of any information provided or shared will be fully respected by all Members.
11. The Group will meet as is required to develop the process agreement ready to be considered by the four councils soon after the Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill receive Royal Ascent. All meetings will be hybrid, with in-person attendance available at Taranaki Regional Council or another location if agreed prior.
12. Taranaki Regional Council will act as the Secretariat for the Group. The functions of the Secretariat include, but are not limited to:
    a. Providing meeting administration, including scheduling meetings, preparing agendas and papers, and recording minutes, decisions and actions.
    b. Coordinating inputs, advice and information from participating councils, workstreams and advisors for consideration by the Steering Group.
    c. Tracking and reporting on actions, deliverables and milestones arising from Group decisions.
    d. Maintaining records and information in accordance with council information management and confidentiality requirements.
13. All agendas and papers will be provided to the Members at least five working days ahead of any meeting.

14. Remuneration and expenses for the council members are the responsibility of the host council that they are appointed by. Taranaki Regional Council will be responsible for the remuneration and expenses of iwi representatives.
15. Council representatives should report progress to their respective councils on a regular basis.
16. This Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an as-needed basis as determined by the Members.

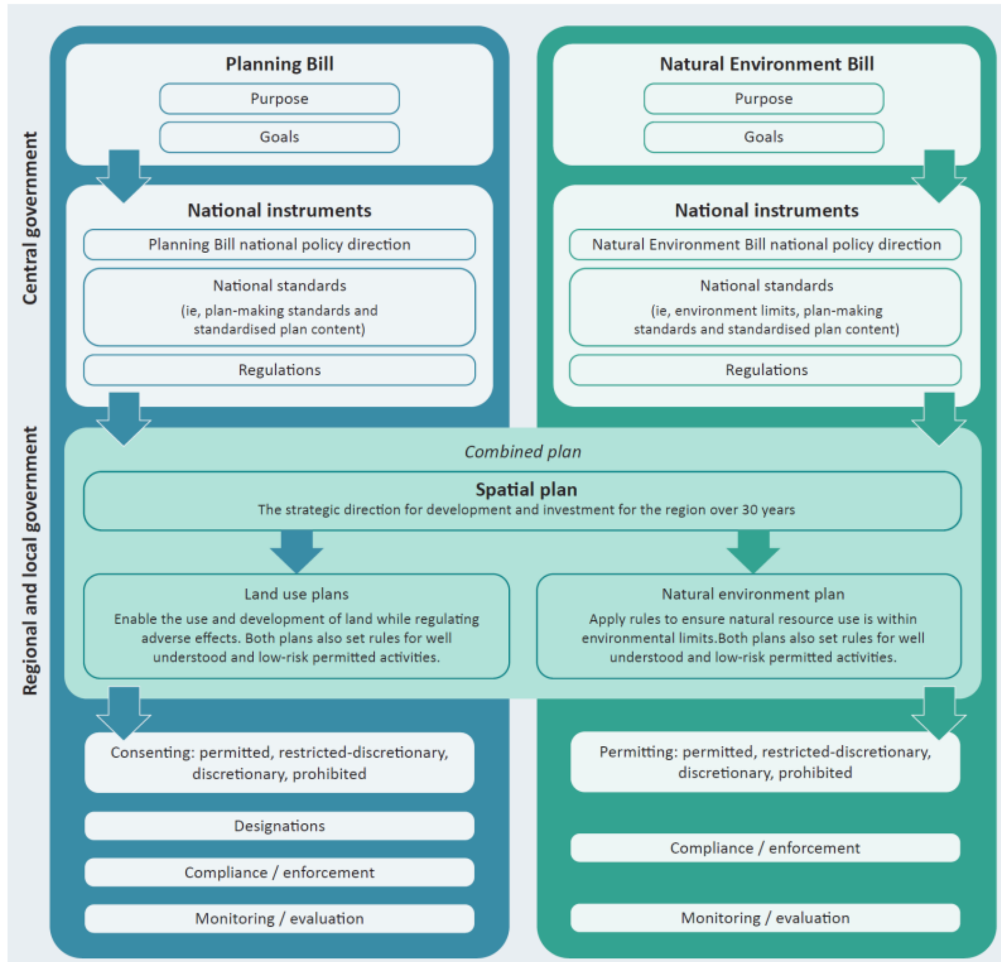
Resource Management Reform: The Road Ahead

Overview

- The new system
- Spatial plan process
- Spatial plan content
- Proposed meeting schedule

The new system

The bills


Central government
Regional and local government
Planning Bill
Purpose
Goals
National instruments
Planning Bill national policy direction
National standards
(ie, plan-making standards and standardised plan content)
Regulations
Natural Environment Bill
Purpose
Goals
National instruments
Natural Environment Bill national policy direction
National standards
(ie, environment limits, plan-making standards and standardised plan content)
Regulations
Combined plan
Spatial plan
The strategic direction for development and investment for the region over 30 years
Land use plans
Enable the use and development of land while regulating adverse effects. Both plans also set rules for well understood and low-risk permitted activities.
Natural environment plan
Apply rules to ensure natural resource use is within environmental limits.Both plans also set rules for well understood and low-risk permitted activities.
Consenting: permitted, restricted-discretionary, discretionary, prohibited
Designations
Compliance / enforcement
Monitoring / evaluation
Permitting: permitted, restricted-discretionary, discretionary, prohibited
Compliance / enforcement
Monitoring / evaluation

Roles

District

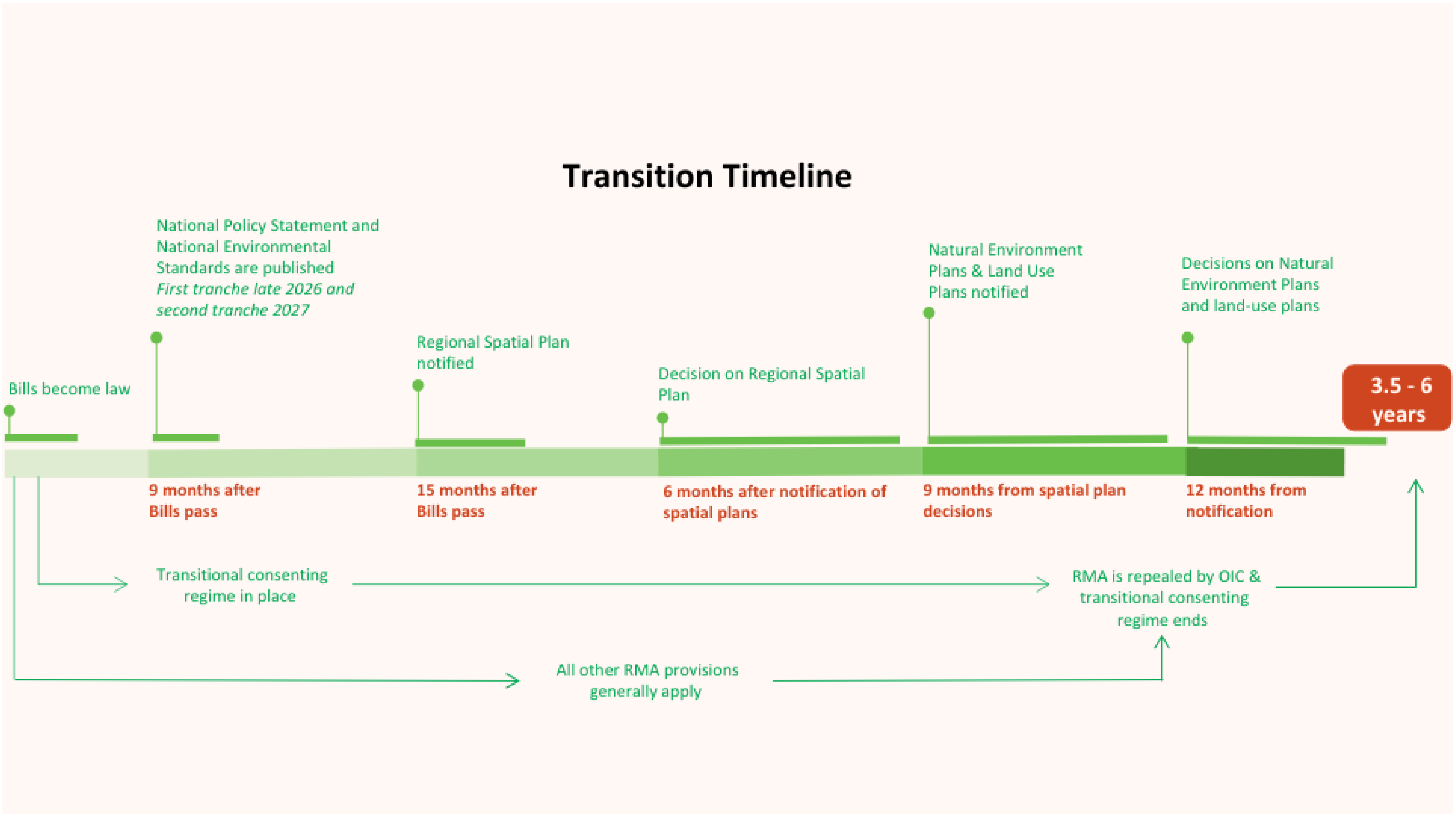
- The outstanding natural features and landscapes
- Areas of high natural character within the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins
- Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers
- Effects of natural hazards as they relate to land use
- Contaminated land
- Significant historical heritage
- The development capacity of land for housing and business
- The integration of land use planning with infrastructure planning and investment

Regional

- The quality and quantity of water and geothermal resources
- The discharge of contaminants to land, air, or water
- Indigenous biodiversity
- The coastal marine area, including coastal occupation
- Natural hazard risks as they relate to natural resources
- Soil conservation
- The bed of any water body
- The use of land as it relates to managing natural resources
- The allocation of natural resources.
- District matters entirely in the coastal marine area (except access and infrastructure and land use integration)

System shifts

- Narrower scope
- Stronger national direction
- Property rights
- Environmental limits
- Less plans
- More permitted activities
- Potential for a national compliance and enforcement regulator
- Broad front to narrow front approach


Transition Timeline
Bills become law
National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards are published
First tranche late 2026 and second tranche 2027
Regional Spatial Plan notified
Decision on Regional Spatial Plan
Natural Environment Plans & Land Use Plans notified
Decisions on Natural Environment Plans and land-use plans
3.5 - 6 years
9 months after Bills pass
15 months after Bills pass
6 months after notification of spatial plans
9 months from spatial plan decisions
12 months from notification
Transitional consenting regime in place
RMA is repealed by OIC & transitional consenting regime ends
All other RMA provisions generally apply

Natural Environment and Land Use Plans

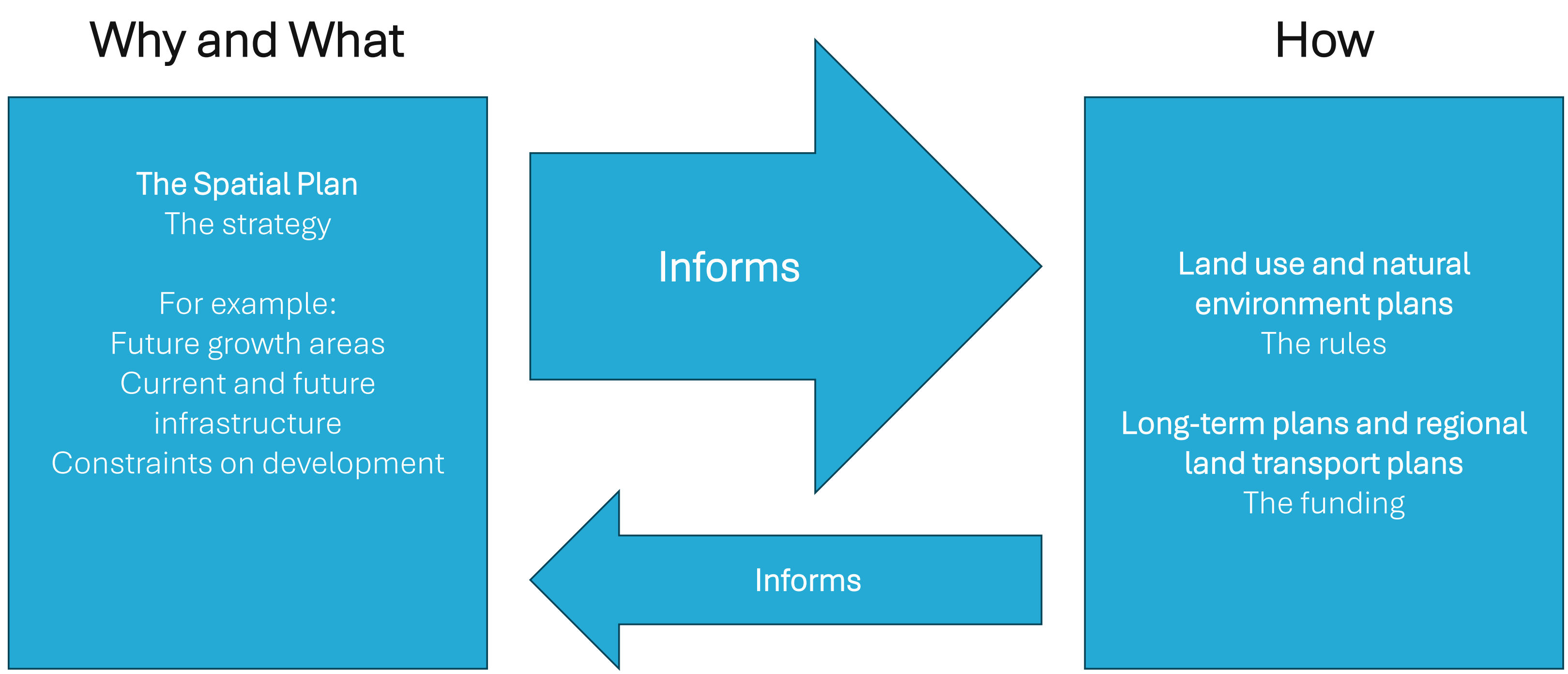
- Land use plans could be less work than now, natural environment plans more
- Defaults to each council working on their respective plan
- But first generation plans have to have a shared hearings panel
- Also have to consider periodically if joining up on land use plans and/or environment plans is a good idea

Immediate impacts

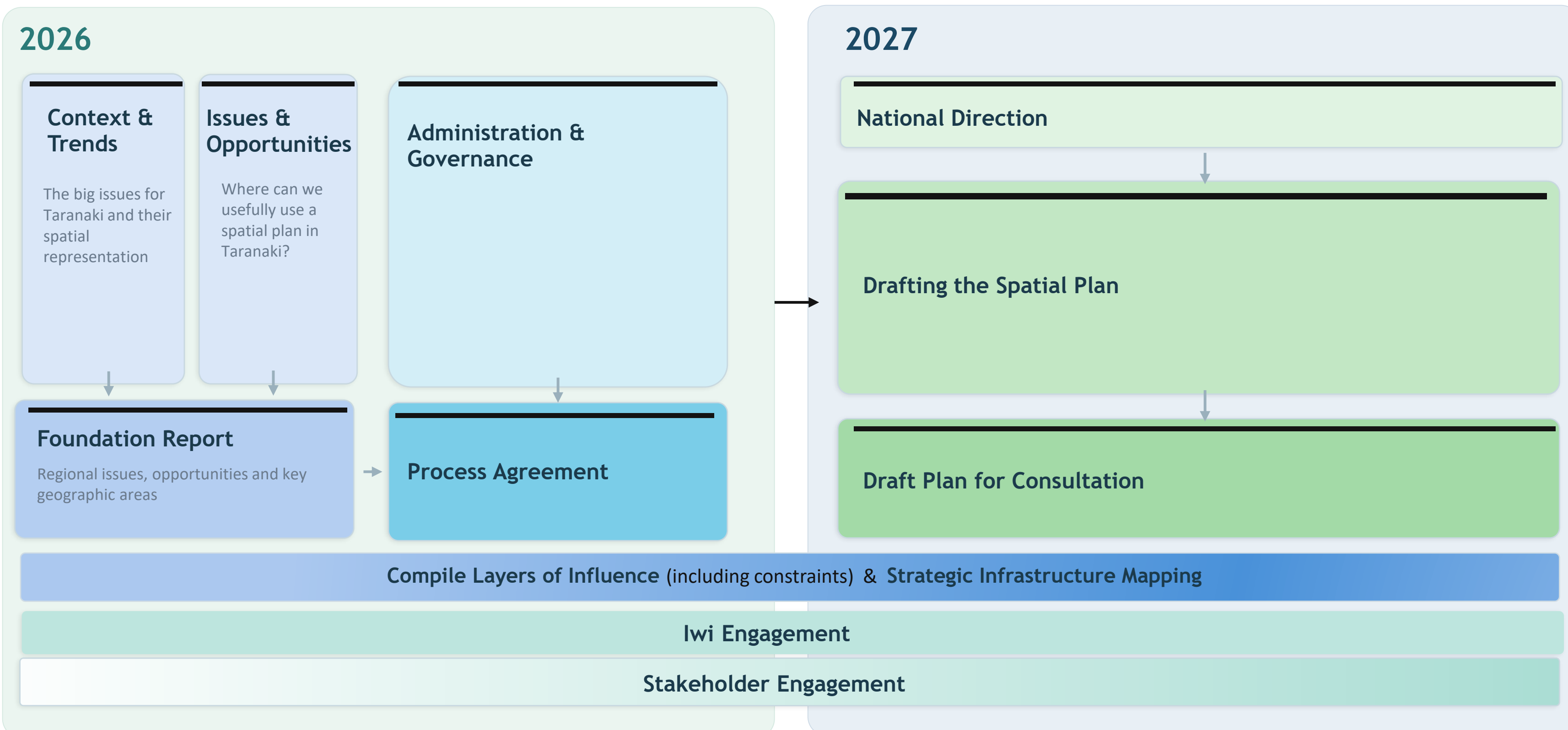
- Significant drop in replacement consents
- Procedural principles
- No regard to a number of matters in resource consents
- Financial assurance and bond requirements
- Adverse publicity orders

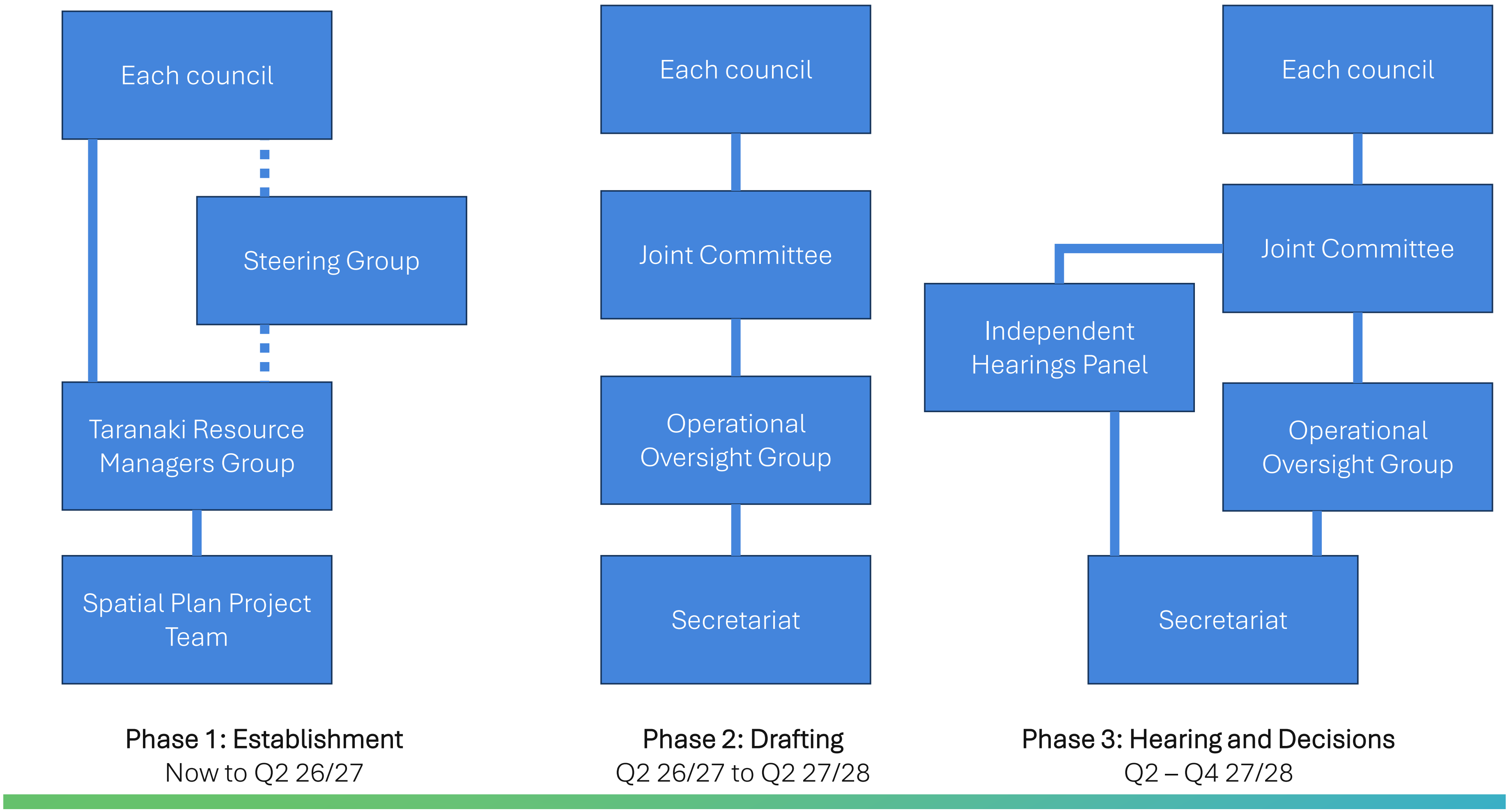
Spatial plan process

The Plans


Why and What
How
The Spatial Plan
The strategy
For example:
Future growth areas
Current and future infrastructure
Constraints on development
Informs
Informs
Land use and natural environment plans
The rules
Long-term plans and regional land transport plans
The funding

Resource Management Reform Steering Group - June 2026 - Resource management reform: The road ahead




Each council
Steering Group
Taranaki Resource Managers Group
Spatial Plan Project Team
Phase 1: Establishment
Now to Q2 26/27
Each council
Joint Committee
Operational Oversight Group
Secretariat
Phase 2: Drafting
Q2 26/27 to Q2 27/28
Each council
Joint Committee
Independent Hearings Panel
Operational Oversight Group
Secretariat
Phase 3: Hearing and Decisions
Q2 – Q4 27/28

Spatial plan content

Purpose

A regional spatial plan must—

(a) set the strategic direction for development and public investment priorities in a region for a time frame of not less than 30 years; and

(b) enable integration at the strategic level of decision making under the Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act; and

(c) implement national instruments made under the Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act in a way that provides for use and development within environmental limits; and

(d) support a coordinated approach to infrastructure funding and investment by central government, local authorities, and other infrastructure providers; and

(e) promote integration of development planning with infrastructure planning and investment.

Mandatory matters

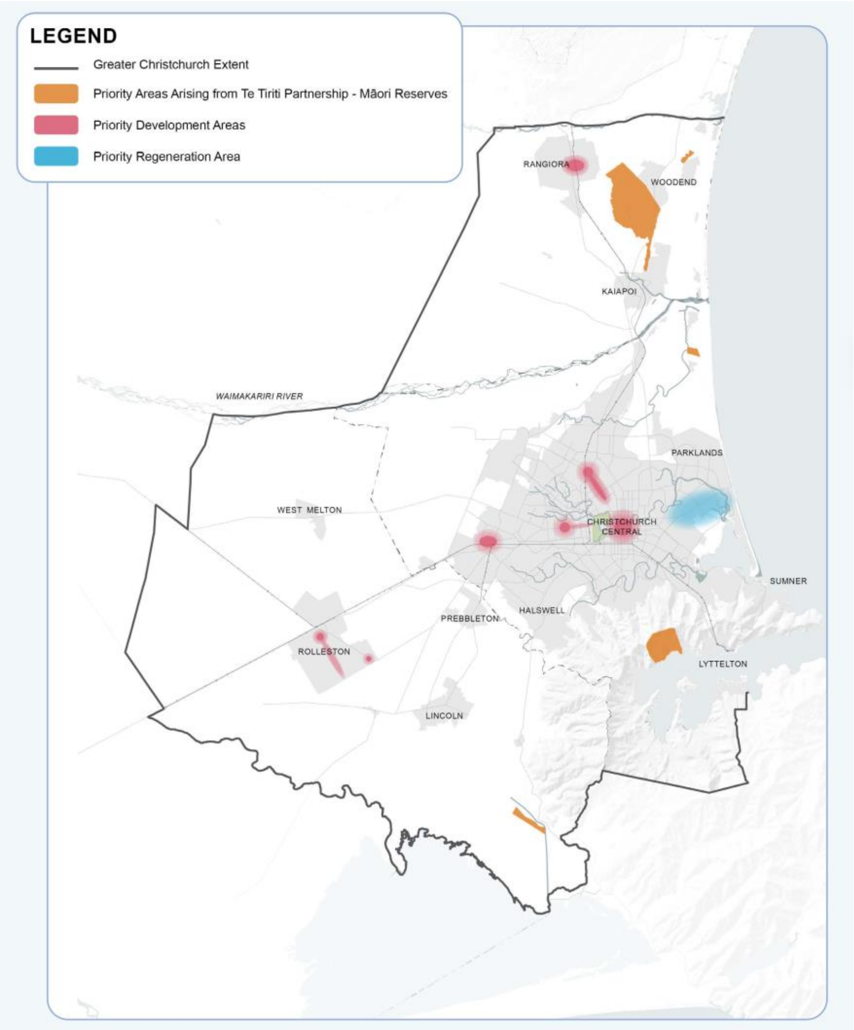
- Constraints (e.g. natural hazards, significant natural areas, highly productive land)
- Spatial implications of environmental limits
- Sequenced urban development, including public investment priorities
- Existing and future key infrastructure
- Infrastructure services
- Climate change adaptation locations
- Gross pattern of development
- Statutory acknowledgements
- Sites of significance to Māori
- Customary marine title areas

Optional matters

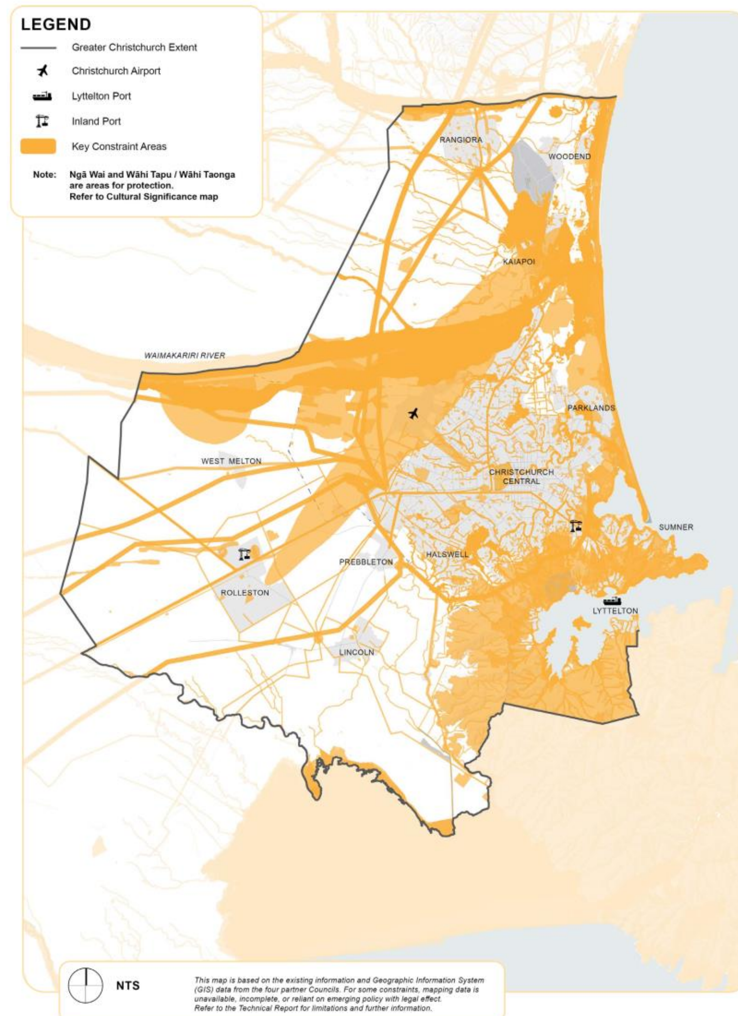
- Any other matter that is:
  - Of strategic importance to the district, region, or country; and
  - Consistent with national direction

Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan

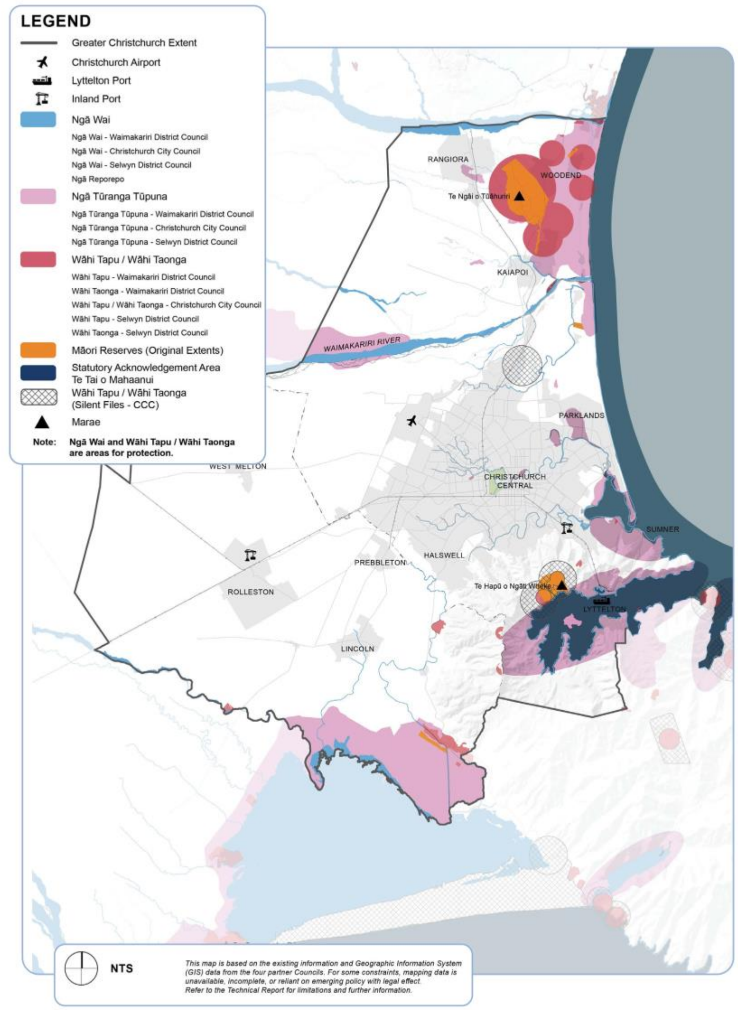
Priority areas



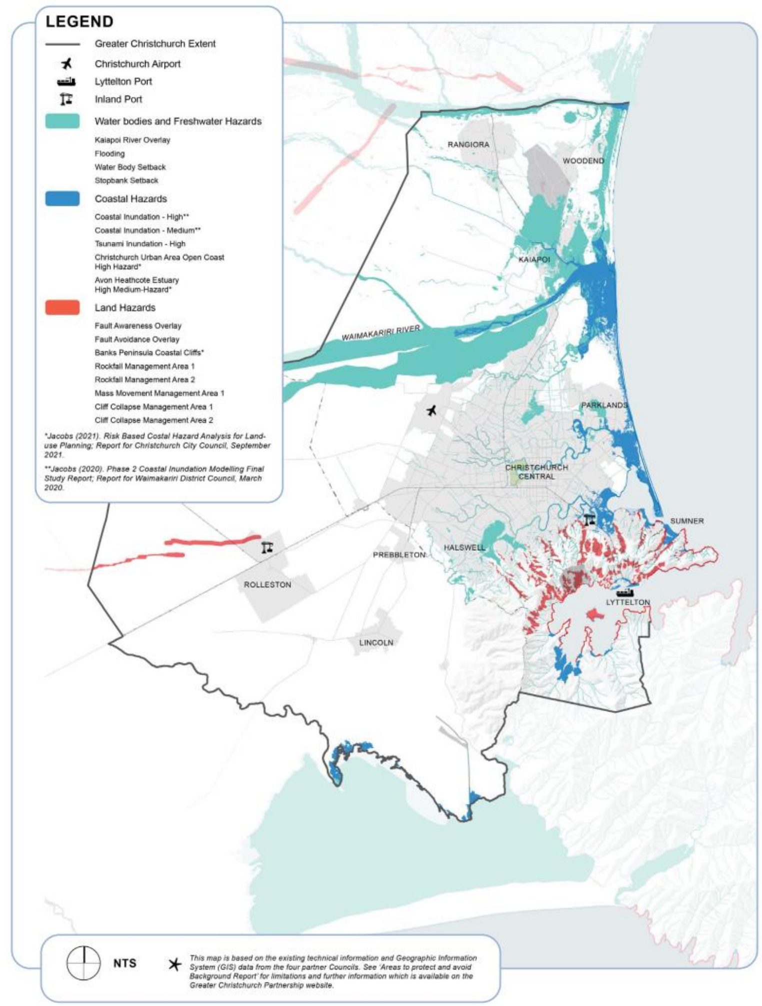
Key constraint areas



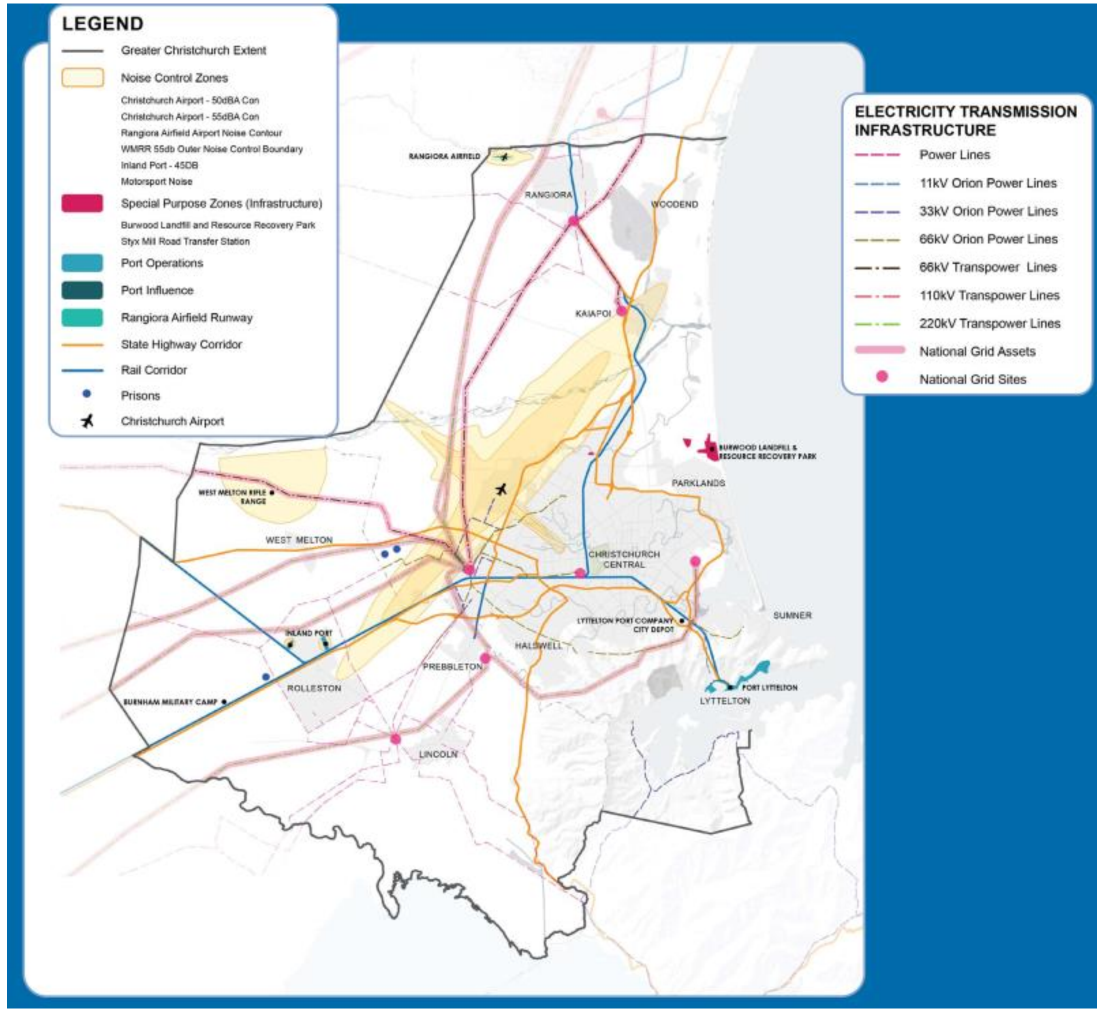
Sites and areas of significance to Māori



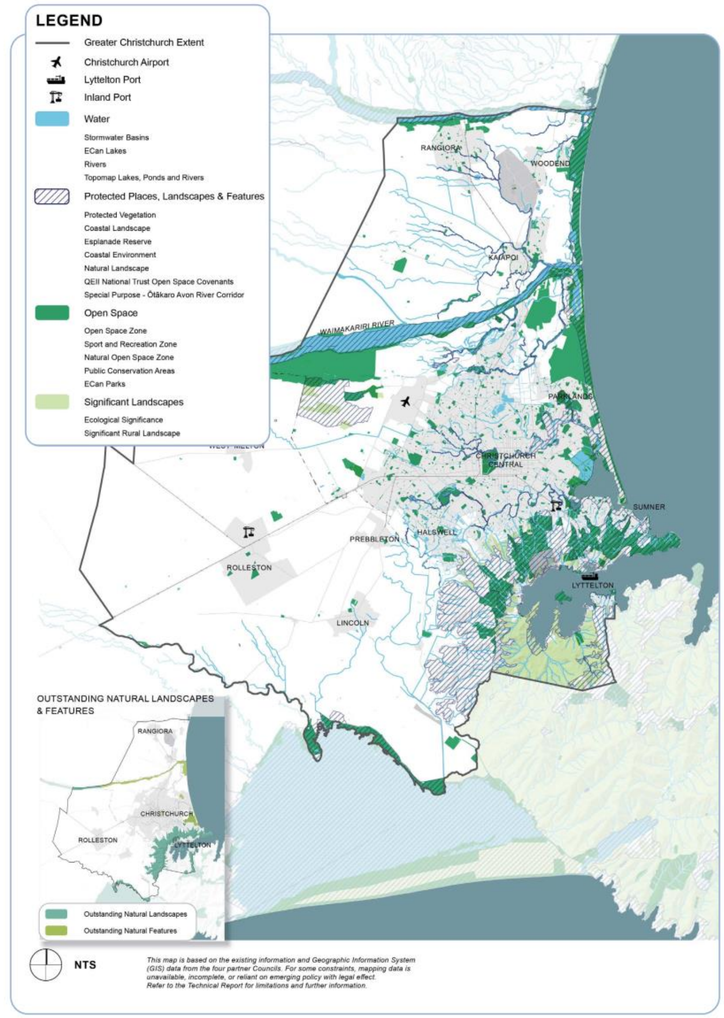
Natural hazard risk



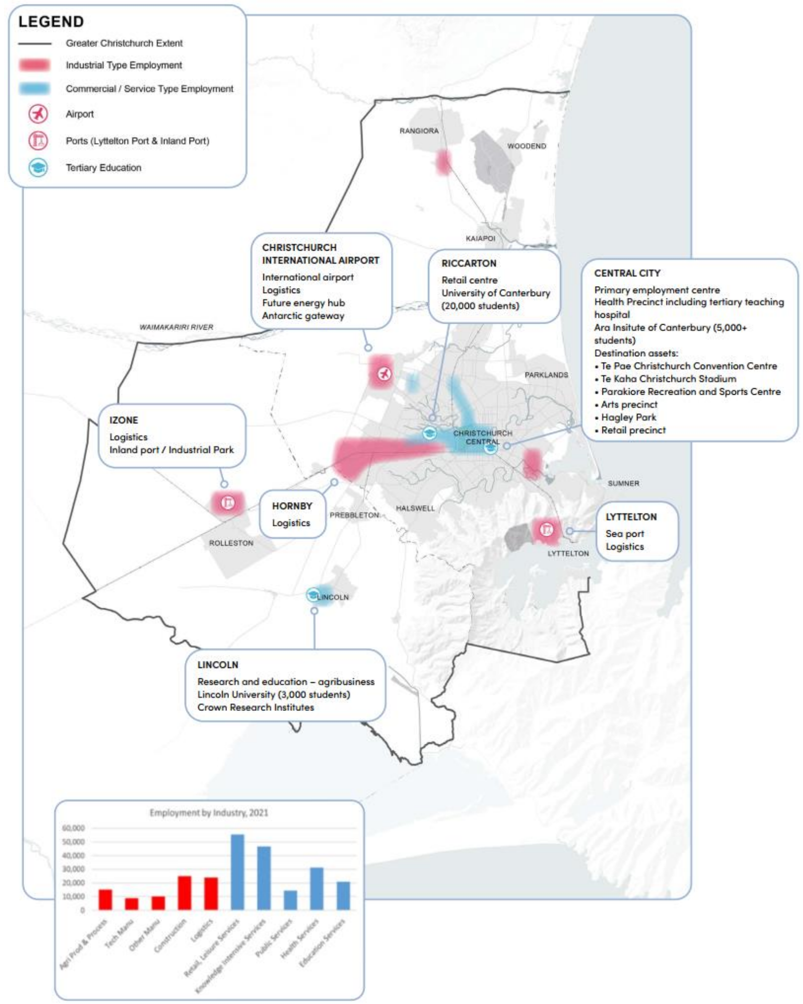
Key strategic infrastructure



Environmental areas and features



Key employment areas and economic assets



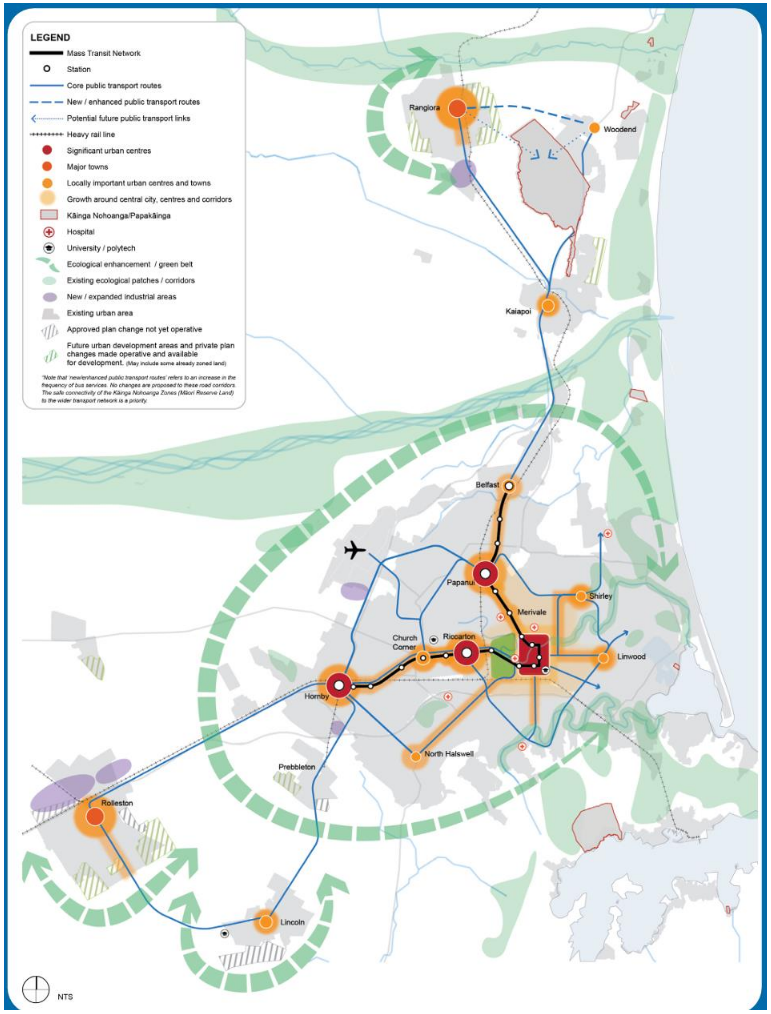
Transport network

Greater Christchurch Spatial Strategy

Opportunities:

- Culture & heritage: Protect places of heritage and Māori significance.
- Climate resilience: Make communities safer from natural hazards and climate change.
- Natural environment: Restore ecosystems and strengthen biodiversity connections.
- Housing: Deliver diverse, affordable housing in well-connected locations.
- Economy: Support business and jobs in a low-carbon future.
- Transport: Shift to low-emissions transport that improves access.

Each opportunity supported by policies and specific actions.



33

Waitara Spatial Plan

Land use map

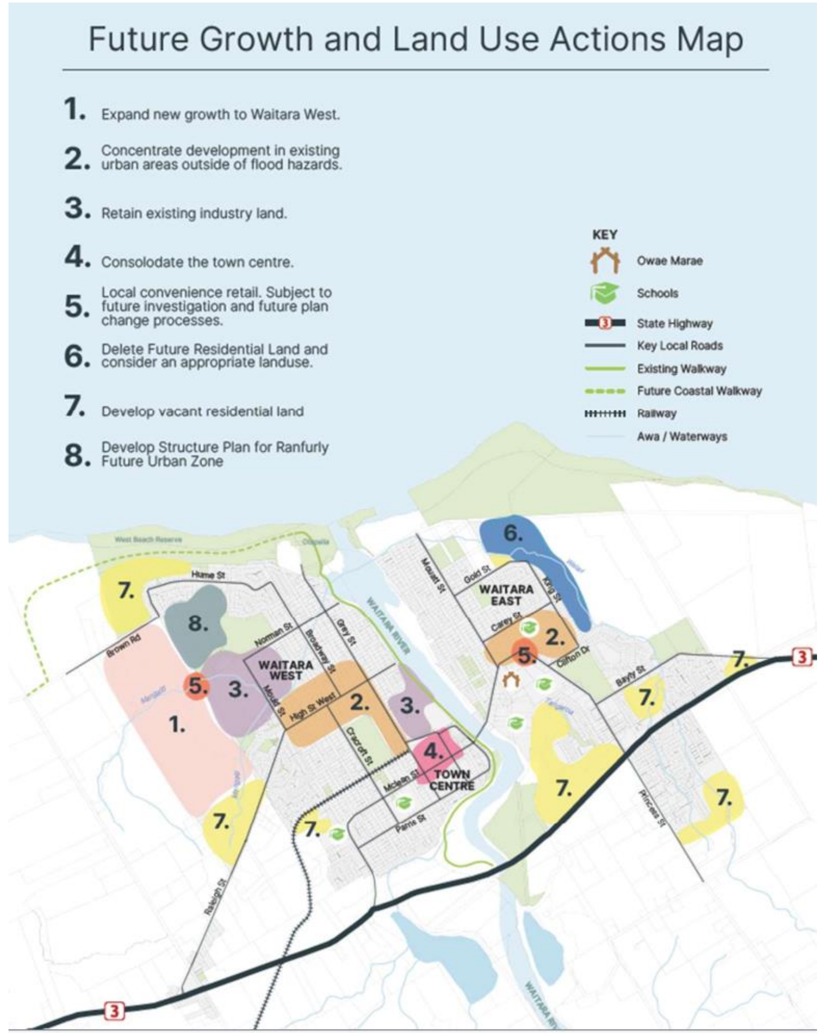

KEY
Owae Marae
State Highway 3
Key Local Roads
Existing Urban Areas
Highly Productive Land
Noise Control Boundaries

Sites of significance

Hazards


KEY
Owae Marae
State Highway 3
Key Local Roads
Risk of Wastewater Overflows
Existing Urban Areas
Existing Open Space and Parks
Possible Liquefaction Risk
Hazardous or Noxious Facilities
HNF Buffer
Near Shore Reefs
Coastal Erosion Hazard Area
Volcanic Hazard Area

Growth planning



Proposed meeting schedule

Meeting	Topics to discuss
7 July	• Engagement approach (central government, infrastructure providers, sector groups, communities, and neighbouring regions) • Context discussions: Economy, land supply • Update on Select Committee report back
18 August	• Giving effect to Treaty settlements and engaging with iwi authorities • Context discussions: Environment, connectivity, community
29 September	• Foundation report • Proposed operational and governance structure • Opportunities for integration of land use and natural environment plans
10 November	• Draft process agreement

Memorandum

To:	Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group
Title:	Reporting Back Approach
Author:	Finbar Kiddle, Strategy Lead TRC
Approved by:	Abby Matthews, Director Environment Quality TRC
Document:	TRCID-803681965-1210
Date:	3 June 2026

Purpose

1. To discuss the best way for discussions of the Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group (Steering Group) to be reported back to each council.

Recommendation(s)

a. **Support** the proposed approach to reporting back set out in this memorandum.

Background

2. Transparency is essential for the success of resource management reform and spatial planning in Taranaki. Accordingly, it is important that what is discussed at the Steering Group be reported back to each council and enters the public record.

Discussion

3. A simple and transparent approach is proposed where all material presented to the Steering Group, and minutes of the discussion, is made public through Taranaki Regional Council's Policy & Planning Committee. This material would also be provided to the other councils to report through their own committee structures.
4. Prior to sending out the above material and reporting to the Policy & Planning Committee, the minutes would be circulated via email to the Steering Group members to confirm their accuracy.

MONTHLY REPORT
District Mayor

F25/96/004 – D26/25704

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 14 July 2026
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report – June 2026

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

1. Simplifying Local Government joint meeting

The planned workshop meeting of elected members from Stratford and South Taranaki, held in Eltham on 22 June 2026, was very well attended. Councillors spent the morning discussing the options around council amalgamations in the region and gaining a better understanding on how services could be delivered in the future.

There was a remarkable degree of consistency of thought between those present, which highlighted the similarity of values and issues that exist across both councils. The views expressed gave guidance to our staff and consultants to push on with developing a proposal for further consideration in late July. The meeting also decided to extend an invitation to New Plymouth and Regional councillors to participate in a regional meeting to share information and socialise the proposals being developed in the north and south.

2. Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)

Obviously, there have been many discussions on the governments Simplifying Local Government reforms and at the forefront of providing information and advice has been LGNZ. Their support has been invaluable, with the regular on-line briefings being particularly noteworthy. Being able to tap into professional advice on amalgamation and learn from the experiences of others who have been through a similar process in the past, has been especially useful towards shaping our opinions on the current re-organisation proposals. We are fortunate to have a support organisation of this calibre to he[p us through the reforms.

3. Opening of the East Wing at Base Hospital

I had the privilege of attending the formal opening of the new East Wing at Taranaki Base Hospital. This is a six story, $462 million facility that will address capacity pressures by consolidating acute clinical services under one roof. Patient spaces are boosted on site with bed numbers increasing from 96 to 151, waiting times will reduce and crowding will ease through the increased capacity.

The consolidated care model houses the emergency department, intensive care unit, radiology, maternity, neonatal and primary birthing services. An added feature is the roof top helipad landing deck located six stories up, that has immediate transfer to the emergency services housed below.

After a tour through the facility and experiencing the sheer size of the development, I can absolutely agree with the sentiments of all of those involved directly with the project, Taranaki has a first class, state of the art medical facility that will serve us well in the decades to come.

4. Alcohol Policy – South Taranaki

Last month I was invited to speak about Local Alcohol Policies at the South Taranaki District Councils’ Policy and Strategy meeting. In my role as a Licensing Commissioner. I was able to share experiences and offer support for the council to develop a Local Alcohol Policy. The Medical Officer of Health was also supportive of this course of action. I was pleased to learn that later in the day, elected members resolved to develop a local alcohol policy and do so in conjunction with the regions other two territorial authorities. There is a great deal of merit in taking a regional approach to this and I thank the councillors for taking this step forward.

5. Water Services Committee

This new committee held its inaugural meeting on 30 June 2026. The minutes from the meeting are included within today’s agenda. This meeting was a milestone step in the delivery plan for the new Water Services Entity as we work towards the “go live” date of 1 July 2027. The new general manager is in place, and we are currently on track to report to the DIA solid progress on the delivery plan development and on target with the timeline for implementation.

6. The Broadway Enhancement Group

This new group held its inaugural meeting on 3 June 2026. On the agenda was the appointment of a chairperson and Councillor Dudley has been confirmed in this role. The Terms of Reference for the group were adopted and receipt of the data on the current state of the buildings was also accepted. General discussion on the focus of the group and setting the direction followed. This group will meet regularly from now on with the end goal being a much-improved appearance of our main street.

7. Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee meeting

The Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee met on 4 June 2026. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website. Included in the meeting was the adoption of the 2026-2027 Annual Plan, the budget forecast for 2026-2027, a review of the advisory group terms of reference and the TEMO Quarterly Report Q3 – FY25/26.

8. Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group

The Taranaki Resource Management Reform Steering Group met on 3 June 2026. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website. Included in the meeting was the appointment of the chairperson (Councillor Jonathon Young) and Deputy Chairperson (Councillor Andy Beccard). Also included was a discussion on the road ahead for resource management reform and the responsibilities for reporting back to councils.

9. Taranaki Mayoral Forum meeting

The Taranaki Mayoral Forum met on 4 June 2026. Items included in the meeting agenda were the confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting and presentations from the Toi Foundation on the TSB merger, the Taranaki Biogas Collective, the Commissioner on the Public Service Regional Priorities and a Future of Local Government update from Steve Ruru. The meeting was also attended by representatives of eight Taranaki iwi who spoke about Te Topuni Ngarahu, the strategic focus and the Future of Local Government.

10. Taranaki Regional Transport Committee meeting

The Taranaki Regional Transport Committee met on 11 June 2026. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website. Included in the meeting was an update on progress on developing the Regional Land Transport Plan 2027, on Te Utanganui Central NZ Distribution Hub and a verbal report from KiwiRail. Also on the agenda was NZTA and council updates, and a Public Transport Operational Report.

11. Taranaki Passenger Transport Joint Committee meeting

The Taranaki Passenger Transport Joint Committee met on 2 June 2026. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website. Included in the meeting was an update on public transport from TRC staff and from the NZTA Regional Director. Taranaki territorial authorities provided verbal updates.

Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – June 2026.
- Stratford Community House Trust - Submission to the Toi Foundation
- Joint meeting request to Mayor Brough and Chair Williamson– Simplifying Local Government reforms.
- Mayoral Forum Letter - Disability Support Services.

Some Events Attended

- Attended – meeting of the Taranaki Passenger Transport Joint Committee
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford District Youth Council (x1)
- Attended – meeting of the Resource Management Reform Steering Group
- Attended – meeting of the Broadway Enhancement Group
- Attended – meeting of the Taranaki Mayoral Forum and Iwi Chairs
- Attended – meeting of Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee
- Attended – the public meeting on the TSB / Heartland Bank merger proposal
- Attended - the MTFJ update meeting for Mayors (by Teams)
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Park Steering Group
- Attended – meeting of Te Kopuka
- Attended – LGNZ briefing on functions of regional councils (by zoom)
- Attended – meeting of the Ostlers Trust
- Attended - meeting of the Regional Transport Committee
- Attended – LGNZ briefing on lessons from Auckland’s amalgamation (by zoom)
- Attended – LGNZ briefing with the DIA on Head Start Pathway (by zoom)
- Attended – meeting of the LGNZ National Council (x1) (by zoom)
- Attended – meeting of the Citizens Awards Committee
- Attended – meeting with Stratford and South elected members on Head Start Pathway
- Attended – meeting of the South Taranaki District Council Policy and Strategy Committee – spoke on Local Alcohol Policy
- Attended – LGNZ briefing with Minister Simon Watts (by zoom)
- Attended - the Annual General Meeting of the Stratford Fire Brigade
- Attended – the Stratford Business Association BA5 – guest speaker
- Attended – the official opening of the new building at Base Hospital
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Health Trust (x2)
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Health Trust and Age Care Central
- Met – with Taranaki Mayors and Chairs (x1)
- Met – with Carl Bates and Barbara Kuriger – National, Members of Parliament
- Met – with Kerry Boielle, Chief Executive of the TSB Bank
- Newspaper - Stratford Press Interviews (multiple)
- Newspaper - Daily News / Stuff (multiple)
- Access Radio – Conversation with Mayor Interview (x1)
- Attended - Regional Mayors and Chairs weekly meeting (x3)
- Attended - Council Pre-Agenda meetings (x3)
- Attended – Council Workshop (x2)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x3)

Niel Volzke JP
District Mayor **Date**: 3 July 2026

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Callouts June 2026

The Stratford Fire Brigade responded to 18 calls in May 2026

01-06-26 Brigade tanker required scrub fire 142 Awai Road Tarurutangi Road assist Inglewood and New Plymouth fire brigades stood down before arrival
03-06-26 Alarm activation Mitre 10 Stratford
05-06-26 Tanker required cowshed fire Waiteika Road Opunake assist Opunake fire brigade stood down before arrival
07-06-26 Assist ambulance with medical call Hamlet Street
08-06-26 Alarm activation War Memorial Hall Miranda Street
08-06-26 Motor vehicle accident car vs. car East Road /Skinner Road assisted by the Toko and Eltham fire brigades
11-06-26 Motor vehicle accident SH3 /Hills Road assisted by the Eltham fire brigade
12-06-26 Rural appliance required vegetation fire Junction Road Burgess Park stood down and redirected to
12-06-26 Rural appliance required at vegetation fire Mangati Road Bell Block
12-06-26 Alarm activation Stratford Primary School Regan Street
12-06-26 Motor vehicle accident Broadway car vs. wall stood down before arrival
14-06-26 Investigate rubbish fire Mountain Road Midhirst
18-06-26 Chimney Fire Hamlet Street
22-06-26 House fire Mahoe Street Inglewood assist Inglewood and New Plymouth fire brigades stood down before arrival
26-06-26 Brigade van Moir Street Eltham assist Eltham fire brigade light socket smoking stood down before arrival
28-06-26 Cowshed fire Waingongora Road assisted by the Eltham and New Plymouth fire brigades
28-06-26 Rubbish bin fire Victoria Park attended by the Toko fire brigade whilst Stratford was at the cow shed fire
30-06-26 Assist ambulance with medical call Miranda Street

Submission to the Toi Foundation

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposal to merge with Heartland Bank. I am submitting these thoughts on behalf of the Stratford Community House (SCH) Trustees who discussed this proposal at their last monthly meeting.

SCH Trustees have expressed concern around two areas (in particular) of the proposal.

The first is that while our trustees accept the information supplied which indicates the challenges the bank is facing; the proposal focusses only on the commercial aspects of the deal and the potential financial gains (and therefore greater funds for distribution) to the Toi Foundation. The SCH Trustees have been able to identify little in the proposal that responds to the fundamental community spirit and need that drove previous community leaders to retain local ownership of the bank thirty or so years ago. The SCH Trustees do not consider it to be appropriate to accept this proposal solely on the expectation that it will bring in more funding for community groups. There is a bigger issue at stake which relates to the quality and range of banking services and the ongoing ability to be able to influence that. While the proposals provide assurance that levels of service will be maintained, Trustees are unaware of the mechanisms to ensure this once local control has been significantly diluted.

The second concern relates to what looks to be a very uneven distribution of risk in the proposal. Notwithstanding that it feels to the Trustees more like a sell-off than a true merger, with TSB selling to Heartland for a heavily discounted price and also providing lending at very reasonable rates, it would appear from the information supplied that only $50m of the $620m deal is guaranteed – and that is coming to the Foundation directly from TSB bank!

SCH Trustees are aware of the community's reaction to the announcement and a perceived lack of opportunity for meaningful public input. Trustees have found that the view being expressed across their own networks is predominantly that further information and scrutiny are needed before the community can feel comfortable with the current proposal.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit on the proposal and await with interest the results of your deliberations following this consultation process as to the future of our province's once very successful community owned bank.

Mary Bourke on behalf of the Stratford Community House Trust

26 June 2026

30 June 2026

His Worship the Mayor
New Plymouth District Council
max.brough@npdc.govt.nz

The Chair
Taranaki Regional Council
craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz

Kia ora Mayor Brough and Chair Williamson

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH ELECTED MEMBERS

On 22 June 2026, elected members of Stratford District Council and South Taranaki District Council met to discuss the Government's proposed Simplifying Local Government reforms. During that meeting, there was a shared view that it would be valuable to meet with the elected members of New Plymouth District Council. We would also like to extend this invitation to the elected members of Taranaki Regional Council.

We are therefore writing to request an opportunity for a joint meeting between our respective elected members. The purpose of this meeting would be to:

- Discuss the proposed local government changes and their potential implications
- Share regional context and insights, including conversations that have taken place to date
- Strengthen collaboration and alignment between our councils as we consider these matters.

We believe collaboration between neighbouring councils is important to ensure a well-informed and regionally aligned perspective for Taranaki.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and propose Monday, 13 July 2026, in the evening, with the venue and meeting format to be confirmed should this date be suitable.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

We look forward to your response.

Ngā mihi,

Neil Volzke JP
District Mayor of Stratford

Phil Nixon
District Mayor of South Taranaki

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu New Plymouth District Council | Taranaki Regional Council | Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga South Taranaki District Council | Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi Stratford District Council

Taranaki Mayoral Forum

5 June 2026
Document: TRCID-791869150-49

Hon Lousie Upston
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By Email: L.Upston@ministers.govt.nz

Disability Support Services

Tēnā koe Minister Upston

We write to you on behalf of the Mayoral Forum of Taranaki, representing the South Taranaki District Council, Stratford District Council, New Plymouth District Council, and Taranaki Regional Council, at the urgent request of our ratepayers and of Enabling Good Lives Taranaki.

We wish to be clear: we support the Government's objective of providing a clear legislative foundation for Disability Support Services. We also understand the fiscal pressures that have shaped this Bill. However, the legislation as currently drafted will produce unintended consequences that fall disproportionately on Taranaki, and on the families, communities, and local councils of our province. We respectfully urge you to consider the amendments outlined in this letter before the Bill progresses further through Parliament.

Why this matters to Taranaki

Our region is not a typical case. Taranaki faces a demonstrably higher disability and informal care burden than the national average:

- 28% of New Plymouth's population lives with a disability (NPDC Accessibility Strategy) — well above the national average.
- 18% of South Taranaki residents are informal, unpaid carers (Toi Foundation).
- In Stratford and the Eastern Districts, geographic isolation means formal providers are already scarce, and families are filling the gap.

Any legislative changes that reduce Crown funding obligations or shift care responsibilities to families will have an outsized, immediate impact on our communities.

Our specific concerns

We raise four issues for your attention:

1. **The 'family responsibility' provision must include an explicit savings clause.**

   The Bill's language that families and whānau have 'responsibility for the wellbeing of their members in the first instance', without qualification, risks legislatively entrenching unpaid family care as the default. This is in tension with the Enabling Good Lives framework's commitment to self-determination and independent living, and with New Zealand's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We ask that the Bill be amended to include a clear savings clause confirming that this provision does not diminish entitlement to state-funded support or the right to independent living.

2. **Core policy settings must be in primary legislation, not regulations.**

   The Bill delegates eligibility criteria, funding levels, and service definitions to Ministerial regulation. This means future governments can fundamentally alter the disability support system with minimal parliamentary scrutiny. For a system affecting tens of thousands of New Zealanders, this is an inappropriate transfer of power to the executive. Core settings should be legislated, with any regulatory changes subject to affirmative Parliamentary resolution and mandatory public consultation.

3. **The Bill must not shift Crown costs onto local ratepayers.**

   Capping central expenditure does not eliminate the need for care, it shifts it. When families reach breaking point, costs fall on hospital emergency departments, community organisations, and local councils through increased demand for accessible infrastructure and ratepayer funded social services. Our ratepayers should not subsidise fiscal discipline that is properly a Crown responsibility. We ask that the Bill include a cost-shifting prohibition and that a regional fiscal impact assessment be completed before the Bill’s third reading.

4. **Local government and regional providers must be included in future consultation.**

   Enabling Good Lives Taranaki and our constituent councils were not meaningfully consulted during the drafting of this framework. This is a structural gap. We ask that local government bodies and Enabling Good Lives regional groups be formally included in consultation on any regulations made under this Act.

   Our Requests:

   - Amend the ‘family responsibility’ provision to include an explicit savings clause preserving the right to independent living and state-funded support, consistent with Enabling Good Lives principles and New Zealand’s obligations under the UNCRPD.
   - Move core policy settings (eligibility principles, funding floors, and service definitions) into primary legislation rather than leaving them to Ministerial regulation.
   - Require affirmative Parliamentary resolution and mandatory public consultation for any regulations that alter funding levels or eligibility criteria.
   - Include a cost-shifting prohibition and mandate a regional fiscal impact assessment (including local government effects) before the Bill’s third reading.

Nāku noa, nā

Craig Williamson
Chair
Taranaki Regional Council (Forum Chair)

Max Brough
Mayor
New Plymouth District

Phil Nixon
Mayor
South Taranaki District Council

Neil Volzke
Mayor
Stratford District Council

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai	I draw in (to my being)
Ā hauora	The reviving essence
Ā haukaha	The strengthening essence
Ā haumāia	The essence of courage
Ki runga, Ki raro	Above, Below
Ki roto, Ki waho	Within, Around
Rire rire hau Paimārire	Let there be peace.

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