



Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/26182

2 April 2025

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the **Whangamomona Town Hall, Ohura Road, Whangamomona** on **Tuesday 8 April 2025** beginning at **3.30 pm**.

Timetable for 8 April 2025 as follows:

3.00pm	Public Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stratford A&P Association- Stratford Business Association
3.30pm	Ordinary Meeting

Yours faithfully

Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

2025 - Agenda - Ordinary - April

08 April 2025 03:30 PM



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AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council



F22/55/05 – D25/10436

Date: 8 April 2025 at 3.30 PM

Venue: Whangamomona Hall, Ohura Road, Whangamomona

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

Page 7

Attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

- 6.1 **Ordinary Meeting of Council – 11 March 2025**
D25/8014 Page 8

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

/
Moved/Seconded

- 6.1.1 Public Forum – 11 March 2025
D25/8020 Page 13

The notes from the public forum held on Tuesday 11 March were attached for council's information.

6.2 Audit and Risk Committee – 18 March 2025
D25/8796 Page 15

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3 Policy and Services Committee – 25 March 2025
D25/9722 Page 23

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 be adopted.

/
Moved/Seconded

6.3.1 Updated Water Demand Policy
D25/3215 Page 32

The updated policy following changes made by the Policy and Services Committee is attached for council's information.

6.3.2 Updated Water Supply to Rural Properties Policy
D25/2065 Page 34

The updated policy following changes made by the Policy and Services Committee is attached for council's information.

7. District Mayor's Report
D25/7233 Page 35

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

/
Moved/Seconded

8. Public Forum Response

Speaker: Ben Burgess and Paul Vanner, Royal A&P Show
Response:

Speaker: Matthew Dimock, Stratford Christmas Parade
Response:

9. Questions

10. Closing Karakia
D21/40748 Page 45



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.



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.

5. Attendance schedule for 2025 Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings.

Date	01/10/25	25/02/25	11/03/25	08/04/25	13/05/25	10/06/25	08/07/25	12/08/25	02/09/25	07/10/25
Meeting	O	E	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Neil Volzke	✓	✓	✓							
Steve Beck	✓	✓	✓							
Grant Boyde	✓	✓	✓							
Annette Dudley	✓	✓	✓							
Jono Erwood	✓	✓	✓							
Ellen Hall	✓	✓	✓							
Amanda Harris	✓	✓	✓							
Vaughan Jones	A	✓	✓							
Min McKay	✓	✓	✓							
John Sandford	✓	✓	✓							
Clive Tongaawhikau	A	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



F22/55/05 – D25/8014

Date: 11 March 2025 at 3.30 PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairperson), The Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communication Manager – Ms G Gibson, the HR & Governance Administrator – Mrs C Reynolds, the IT Support Officer – Mr R Goddard, the Property and Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, one member of the Media (Stratford Press) and two members of the public.

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed Elected Members, members of the public, staff and the media to the meeting.

The opening karakia was read.

The District Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Declarations of Members Interest

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

5. Attendance Schedule

The attendance schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 11 February 2025 D25/4531 Page 10

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

HARRIS/SANDFORD
Carried
CL/25/12

6.2 Extraordinary Meeting of Council – 25 February 2025
D25/5844 Page 14

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
CL/25/13

The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant undertook to make the following changes:

- Page 16, Second to last bullet point, amend Councillor to *Councillor Hall*
- Add Councillor Boyde to present.

6.3 Farm Committee – 25 February 2025
D25/5911 Page 23

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Farm Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Farm Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be adopted.

BOYDE/BECK
Carried
CL/25/14

6.4 Policy and Services Committee – 25 February 2025 - Hearing
D25/5904 Page 29

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Parking Control Bylaw, draft Restricted Access of Roads Bylaw and the draft Vehicle Crossing Bylaw, held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be received.

HALL/HARRIS
Carried
CL/25/15

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Parking Control Bylaw, draft Restricted Access of Roads Bylaw and the draft Vehicle Crossing Bylaw, held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be adopted.

McKAY/BOYDE
Carried
CL/25/16

6.4.1 Updated Parking Control Bylaw
D24/46769 Page 37

The updated bylaw following changes made at the Policy and Services Committee was attached for council's information.

6.4.2 Updated Vehicle Crossing Bylaw
D25/6412 Page 85

The updated bylaw following changes made at the Policy and Services Committee was attached for council's information.

6.5 Policy and Services Committee – 25 February 2025
D25/5846 Page 93

Recommendations

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be received.
2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be adopted.

McKAY/ERWOOD
Carried
CL/25/17

7. District Mayor's Report
D25/7233 Page 98

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT an Extraordinary Meeting be held on Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 3.00pm to approve and release the consultation document on the Water Services Delivery plan.

VOLZKE/WATT
Carried
CL/25/18

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
CL/25/19

The District Mayor noted Te Matatini and that it was truly extraordinary. He felt those who attended would remember this for the rest of their lives. Stratford District Council was really well received and organisers were very appreciative of the support given. A lot of people in our community enjoyed the event and our hospitality industry benefited from it as well.

8. Decision Report – Adoption of Standing Orders

D25/6646 Page 103

<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. <u>THAT</u> the report be received.</p> <p>2. <u>THAT</u> the 2022 Local Government New Zealand Standing Orders as adopted on 8 November 2022 be revoked.</p> <p>3. <u>THAT</u> the proposed 2025 Local Government New Zealand Standing Orders (Appendix 2) be adopted.</p> <p>Recommended Reason Standing orders contain the rules for the conduct of Council and Committee meetings with the updated version reflecting changes to procedures and legislation.</p>	<p>VOLZKE/SANDFORD <u>Carried</u> <u>CL/25/20</u></p> <p>HARRIS/BOYDE <u>Carried</u> <u>CL/25/21</u></p>
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Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Beck asked if there had been glaringly obvious changes? The Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant noted that the major changes were highlighted within the report, however these were largely to align with legislative changes. The other changes were putting the text in plain English so it would not change any operational elements but be simpler to follow.
- The District Mayor noted there was clear wording now around conflict of interest, pecuniary interest, bias and pre-determination. He noted the conflict of interest is to be determined by the individual and not the mayor or chair.

9. Public Forum Response

Speaker: Di Gleeson, Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust

Response:

The Director – Community Services was requested to provide a decision report to give an indication of the value of the work the trust does, details about what council does contribute and what impact it would have if we increased the funding (ranging up to \$15,000 increase suggested). It should also detail if this can be funded from existing budgets or if would impact rates.

10. Questions

- Councillor Hall questioned if the public forum response was in the appropriate location in the agenda. She felt it was not very public friendly and would be better at the top to allow those presenting to stay for the response. The District Mayor noted he would discuss this with the Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive.

11. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 281

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 3.56 pm.

N C Volzke
Chairman

Confirmed this 8th day of April 2025

N C Volzke
District Mayor

PUBLIC FORUM

Notes



F22/55/05 – D25/8020

Date: 11 March 2025 at 3.00 PM

Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor M McKay, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, J M S Erwood, E E Hall, A K Harris, V R Jones, W J Sandford, C M Tongaawhikau and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the HR & Governance Advisor – Mrs C Reynolds, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communication Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Property and Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor and one member of the Media (Stratford Press) and four members of the public.

1. Welcome

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, members of the public, staff, and the media.

2. Speakers

Speaker: Di Gleeson

Topic: Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust

Points noted in the presentation:

- It has been approximately six months since the trust presented to council an update on activities undertaken by the trust. There are a busy few months coming up with neighbours day and new neighbourhood support signs, tamper proof plates in April, AED training for the community and looking into the upgrade of the round-a-bout and town cameras later this year.
- The 2025 learn to swim programme has just been completed which has been running since 2018. In 2023 adult swim classes were introduced for adults who have had no training, they have been so thankful and the feedback received has been great.
- Swimming lessons are funded by contact energy however because of the increased costs the trust has had to decrease the amount of lessons offered. This has led to the request today that elected members consider increasing the funding to the trust in the next Annual Plan.
- The amount funded (\$15,000) was last increased in 2011. Council was a founding member and have had a strong working relationship the whole time. Council also relies very heavily on the trust's volunteers for civil defence emergencies especially in the rural communities. There have been significant changes in the trust since 2011 which includes increased projects, increased volunteers and paid staff and taking over the administrative tasks which were originally provided by council.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Mrs Gleeson clarified that the trust currently receives \$15,000 from council each year. Ideally she would like to double that but the trust is realistic and would be thankful for any help.
- The District Mayor noted the list of things the trust does is very impressive and he has heard great feedback regarding the AEDs.
- Councillor Hall questioned if there was a funding component when the trust took over the administrative duties from council? Ms Gleeson noted that it was \$15,000 plus the administration work, however the funding amount was not changed when the trust took that work over.
- Councillor Dudley questioned how many had to be cut from the swimming programme? Mrs Gleeson noted that there were 194 children last year, and just under 80 this year.

- The District Mayor questioned if something had changed in the funding streams to ask council for extra and what would be consequence if extra funding was not obtained? Mrs Gleeson noted that it puts the pressure on the community support and potentially reducing projects. Funding is harder to get now and the trust has been very fortunate in the past with funding support, however as it has grown the costs have increased and they felt it was time to reassess.
- Councillor Boyde questioned how much the funding was when the trust started in 2009. Mrs Gleeson noted it was increased to \$15,000 in 2011 but she was not sure what the original funding amount was.
- Councillor Beck questioned if the Stratford Business Association helped with funding at all as the cameras must help them? Mrs Gleeson noted they did not. Councillor Beck asked if the trust has approached any of the bigger businesses for support? Mrs Gleeson noted that they have and also for bigger projects they have a good list of funders that they work through, but each new project requires a new funder.
- Councillor Hall questioned the Director – Community Services how many hours had been provided to the trust when it was established? Ms Whareaitu noted it was approximately 15 hours a month to cover secretarial services including the agenda and minutes, meeting room and financial requirements (GST, PAYE etc).
- The Deputy Mayor questioned if an increase in funding would be for overall operational costs or specific projects? Mrs Gleeson noted that increased funding for operational costs would be great, but she would also be grateful if council considered funding the swimming costs as an alternative.

The meeting closed at 3.16pm

MINUTES

Audit and Risk Committee



F22/55/06 – D25/8796

Date: Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 2pm
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

Mr P Jones (the Chair), the District Mayor N C Volzke, the Deputy Mayor M McKay and Councillor G W Boyde

In attendance

Councillors: A K Harris, C M Tongaawhikau, A M C Dudley, E E Hall.

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Advisor and Executive Assistant – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Property and Project Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Health & Safety/Emergency Management Advisor – Mr D Pemberton (*part meeting*), the IT Manager – Mr B Coles (*part meeting*), the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, and one member of the public.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

The Chair welcomed the District Mayor, Councillors, staff and the media to the meeting.

The Chair reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor V R Jones.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/25/1

3. Announcements

There were no announcements

4. Declarations of Members Interest

The Chair requested councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

Councillor Dudley declared an interest in the Percy Thomson Trust Reports (items 13 and 14)

5. Attendance Schedule

Attendance schedule for Audit and Risk Committee meetings was attached.

6. Programme of Works

D21/42807 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the Audit and Risk Committee's rolling programme of works up to September 2025 be received.

McKAY/VOLZKE
Carried
A&R/25/2

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified the Insurance Strategy would be brought as an information report to the committee. If anything arises during the renewal process then it can be brought as a decision report. The Deputy Mayor noted council needed to strategize around what kind of cover it is looking and considering reduction of insurance or self insurance. The Director – Corporate Services noted this can be part of the discussion at the next committee meeting and a decision go to the Policy and Services if required. The Chair and the Director will explore the risks and mitigations before that discussion, he noted that working towards self insurance is a long process. The Deputy Mayor noted that it is a good discussion to start now to lead into the next LTP process.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Audit and Risk Committee – 19 November 2024

D24/53107 Page 12

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

P JONES/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/25/3

8. Matters Outstanding

D18/27474 Page 19

There were no items on matters outstanding.

9. Information Report – Health, Safety and Wellbeing
D25/7080 Page 20

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/P JONES
Carried
A&R/25/4

The Director – Corporate Services introduced Mr Pemberton to the committee.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- It was clarified that any incidents on the council farm may be reported both to this committee and the farm committee depending on the context, if it is considered a risk then it should be brought to the audit and risk committee.
- It was clarified that the minor injuries to staff figures did not quite add up as some were included in other incidents – such as a staff member slipping when doing a rescue.
- The District Mayor noted he quite frequently witnessed abusive behaviour at the front counter and asked what council's policy and strategy was for when staff encounter this behaviour? He noted it occurred via phone calls as well. Mr Hanne noted there were a number of options available to staff and council provides de-escalation training to front line staff. He noted there were different degrees of sensitivity with staff members in these situations but they are able to end a conversation. He noted that in some situations it will result in the member of the public being trespassed. The District Mayor commended the front counter staff for the way they handle these situations but noted they should not have to put up with it in the first place. Mr Pemberton noted that the minute an employee stops feeling safe it triggers the level to either end the conversation or hang up on the phone.
- Mr Pemberton noted he was currently investigating lone worker devices as the current devices will not work from December 2025 with the end of the 3G network.
- The chair noted at the Tāituarā Risk Forum councils were collectively seeing threatening behaviour and had been advised by police to provide the customers details so they can build a pattern of behaviour. They might not be able to attend the incident but by calling 111 it adds the situation to the database. No sort of threatening behaviour should be accepted.
- The Chair noted he wanted to see contractor audits undertaken regularly to ensure they are doing what they have said they will be doing. It is important to not just rely on health and safety systems because if those systems are not working someone could suffer a serious injury or death.

10. Information Report – Risk Management
D25/6583 Page 24

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

McKAY/VOLZKE
Carried
A&R/25/5

Recommended Reason

To provide an update to the Audit and Risk Committee of any risk events or threats in relation to significant risks on Council's risk register, as part of Council's risk management processes.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The Chair noted his concern that with a change in the position of Minister for Local Government it is uncertain what his new priorities are.
- Mr Hanne noted that the changes to the civil defence legislation aren't yet clear, so this will remain under risk 76 (government policy impacting on local government) until this information is available. He noted that the improvement programme was largely to improve how we collectively respond to an event.

The Health & Safety/Emergency Management Advisor and IT Manager left the meeting at 2.30pm.

11. Information Report – Capital Works Programme – Key Projects Update
D25/6176 Page 31

Recommendations

THAT the report be received.

McKAY/BOYDE
Carried
A&R/25/6

Recommended Reason

To provide an update on the progress of our main capital projects for the 2024/25 financial year and assess Council's ability to complete them on time and within budget.

It was noted that the additional works required at Prospero Place, to complete the sales conditions, were now completed.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- It was clarified that unspent budgets will be brought to council to approve these being carried over. These budgets are kept separate to the Annual Plan budgets for the year.
- It was clarified the overspend on the Wastewater project was due to the discovery of earth damage resulting in a high risk of the two ponds collapsing. This work was unplanned but it will go against that budget and overspends.
- It was clarified that the non-compliance issues at the TET Multisports Stadium were due to both historical problems and new legislation establishing new benchmarks. A lot of these issues should have been found during a building warrant of fitness or safety system check. It was acknowledged that the facility was owned and managed by a community group prior to being in council ownership.
- It was clarified that the desludging of the waste water ponds had been brought forward from Year 4 as the recent non-compliance of discharge is due to not having enough depth in the ponds. It is a complex project and there are a few elements to work through, Mr Taylor did not think that there were any regional council delays.
- The Chair asked what the risk was for the water meters when they are in place. Mr Hanne noted the plan was always to have the water meters in the ground for a year and to send out information to users in a non-billing sense so there is understanding when they are to be used. He noted that until council knows if it's water service delivery will be in a regional or in-house model there cannot be any tariff discussions.

12. Information Report – Audit Matters Outstanding – Deloitte Annual Report
D25/7817 Page 40

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

P JONES/McKAY
Carried
A&R/25/7

Recommended Reason

This report informs the Committee of the issues identified in the final Deloitte Audit Management Report for the 2023/24 Annual Report.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- This management report was received by council in December when it adopted the Annual Report. This was a clean unmodified audit opinion.
- As part of the audit process they provide the management report to provide focus points for council and the report to day is to provide an update where council is progressing with their recommendations.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The Chair noted his concern over not having an engagement letter before the current audit process started, especially as elected members had not had the opportunity to debate it.
- It was clarified that the proposal for revaluations will be to bring the asset revaluations to this committee in the future for review and approval around the annual report time. Mrs Johnson noted there are issues with timing and alignments of meetings and they will go to the Policy and Services Committee if not possible to bring here, in this instance the Audit and Risk Chair will also be consulted with. With the revaluations being done by the end of June it is hoped these can be brought to the Audit and Risk meeting in July.
- It was recommended to engage valuers to give an opinion on material change and movement to help with the fair value valuations this year.

13. Information Report – Annual Plan 2025/26 Update
D25/6542 Page 73

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
A&R/25/8

Recommended Reason

This report provides the Committee with an update on the status of the draft Annual Plan 2025/26, and an opportunity to comment on associated risks.

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- There is significant risk with the Annual Plan adoption as it is a requirement to adopt by 30 June to be able to strike the rates.
- This report updates the committee on how officers are progressing to achieve that deadline.
- The workshop with elected members held last week provided the 6.9% rates overall rates increase for 2025/26 financial year.
- Officers are working towards adopting the annual plan in May.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The District Mayor questioned the interest rates for both borrowing and investments given the changes in the last 12 months, and potential future changes. Mrs Johnson noted that it may not seem as high as it needs to be but this is largely due to a lot of the debt not maturing in the coming year and investments have seen a drop. The District Mayor noted the A&P loan had enjoyed lower interest rates since its inception and the changes will have a major impact on them.

Councillor Dudley left the table.

14. Information Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Half Yearly Report as at 31 December 2024
D25/4933 Page 77

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Council receive the half yearly report for Percy Thomson Trust as at 31 December 2024.

VOLZKE/McKAY
Carried
A&R/25/9

Recommended Reason

In terms of Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002 the Percy Thomson Trust, being a council controlled organisation, must deliver to Council a half yearly report (as at 31 December 2024) before 1 March 2025.

Councillor Hall, as the Chair of Percy Thomson Trust, noted this report shows a theme of a lot of change and progress over the last 6 months.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The Chair asked how long the trust can afford to have these losses? Councillor Hall clarified there is enough money in the bank and in investments at the moment, since October the trust has been going through a period of re-building and trying to resolve a number of issues – particularly around finances. It is tracking towards a loss this financial year.

15. Decision Report – Percy Thomson Trust – Draft Statement of Intent 2025-2028
D25/6910 Page 98

Recommendations

1. ~~THAT the report be received.~~
2. ~~THAT Council adopt the draft Statement of Intent for Percy Thomson Trust for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028, or~~
~~THAT Council respond with alternatives.~~

Recommended Reason

In terms of Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 Percy Thomson Trust, being a Council Controlled Organisation, must deliver a draft Statement of Intent on or before 1 March 2025. This draft was delivered to the Mayor and Chief Executive on 28 February 2025.

Councillor Hall, as the Chair of Percy Thomson Trust, noted the following points:

- Performance measures have had some slight changes to wording. The way the arboretum is currently managed is through council's facilities management contract so the role of the Trust is to oversee and supervise this. There is a trustee delegated to working with the Parks and Reserves Officer.
- The Investment Policy was last reviewed in 2021. It is currently under review and a new policy will be adopted at the trust meeting on Thursday.
- Craigs Investments have been engaged to look after the investment portfolio.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The District Mayor noted he was pleased to see the intention to realise their property portfolio and invest in a different way for more diversification. He asked if the updated investment policy ruled out property investment in the future? Councillor Hall noted property was still included as an option, currently it is not sitting within the current policy as it required the option for liquidity which means the trust has not been working within its current investment. There are a number of options with Craig Investments around how the portfolio will be built including property.
- Councillor Hall noted they had spoken with Craig Investments about the Trust's requirements as a charitable trust and a CCO to ensure they are able to meet the reporting requirements at the end of the financial year. It is hoped this will result in a lower audit fee, however a change in these fees has not been included until Year 3.
- Councillor Boyde noted his concern that although the intent shows the financials are going to improve he was worried about the assumptions of receiving external funding for building maintenance and no allowance within the budget if funding is not received. Councillor Hall noted that the Trust now has a ten year maintenance plan and the initial budgets of what this may look like. They will attempt to receive external funding for repair and maintenance as there are options available. If this can't be funded through external funding then it will need to be funded by the trust.
- It was clarified that the \$20,600 paid to council was for the financial responsibilities such as payment of staff, invoices, financial reporting, agendas and minutes and building management. There is a cost to council of approximately \$15,000 to clean the public toilets and another \$15,000 for the arboretum work which is provided on top of the \$50,000 grant.
- The Deputy Mayor noted her concern of adopting the draft Statement of Intent (SOI) with a significant piece of that missing (Investment Policy). Mr Hanne noted the process is that the CCO provides a draft SOI and council is then given the opportunity to respond if it disagrees with the draft statement or felt something was missing. However if feedback is to be given it needs to be signalled now.
- The Deputy Mayor acknowledged there was a lot of change and progress going on at the moment, and council has highlighted in the letter of expectation what our expectations are going forward but noted that the current investment policy philosophy was to maintain the income level to achieve the trust objectives which is currently not happening. The District Mayor agreed

that council needed the opportunity to consider the new version of the policy before signing this off.

- It was agreed that the committee would receive the draft SOI but request the final investment policy is to be provided to council to be able to adopt the final version.

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT Committee receives the draft Statement of Intent for Percy Thomson Trust for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028,
3. THAT Council request the trust to provide an alternative investment policy.

BOYDE/McKAY
Carried
A&R/25/10

Recommended Reason

In terms of Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 Percy Thomson Trust, being a Council Controlled Organisation, must deliver a draft Statement of Intent on or before 1 March 2025. This draft was delivered to the Mayor and Chief Executive on 28 February 2025.

Councillor Dudley returned to the table following the closure of discussion.

16. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

17. General Business

There was no correspondence.

18. Questions

There were no questions.

19. Closing karakia

D21/40748 Page 121

The closing Karakia was read.

The Meeting closed at 3.29pm.

P Jones
Chairman

Confirmed this 13th day of May 2025.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

MINUTES

Policy and Services Committee



F22/55/05 – D25/9722

Date: Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 3.00PM
Venue: Council Chambers, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford

Present

The Deputy Mayor M McKay (the Chairperson), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors: S J Beck, G W Boyde, A M C Dudley, V R Jones, A K Harris, E E Hall, J M S Erwood, W J Sandford and M J Watt.

In attendance

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Assets Mrs V Araba, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs R Johnson, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Committee Secretary – Ms E Coulton, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Roading Manager – Mr S Bowden, the Parks and Projects Manager – Mr S Taylor, the Communications Advisor – Ms S Clarkson (*part meeting*), the Parks and Reserves Officer – Ms M McBain (*part meeting*), the Property Officer – Ms R Reader (*part meeting*), the Education Officer - Waste and Water – Mr P McNamara, Venture Taranaki – Ms J Patterson (*part meeting*), one member of the media (Stratford Press) and one member of the public.

1. Welcome

The opening karakia was read.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media.

The Deputy Mayor reiterated the health and safety message and emergency procedures.

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor C M Tongaawhikau.

Recommendation

THAT the apologies be received.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/25/30

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. There were no conflicts of interest.

5. Attendance Schedule

The Attendance schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings, including Hearings, was attached.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Policy and Services Committee –25 February 2025 (Hearing) D25/5904 Page 11

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025, to hear and consider submissions to the draft Parking Control Bylaw, draft Restricted Access of Roads Bylaw and the draft Vehicle Crossing Bylaw, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

WATT/HALL
Carried
P&S/25/31

The Committee Secretary undertook to make the following amendments:

- The Deputy Mayor pointed out that the Chairperson listed on page 18 should be corrected, as it states that the District Mayor was the Chairperson when it was the Deputy Mayor was chairing the meeting.
- It was noted that page 15 requires updating as there is an issue with pronouns and titles in the final paragraph.

6.2 Policy and Services Committee –25 February 2025 D25/5846 Page 19

Recommendation

THAT the minutes of the Policy and Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

ERWOOD/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/25/32

The Committee Secretary undertook to make the following amendments:

- The Deputy Mayor pointed out that the Chairperson listed on page 23 should be corrected, as it states that the District Mayor was the Chairperson when it was the Deputy Mayor was chairing the meeting.

7. Matters Outstanding

D16/47 Page 24

Recommendation

THAT the Matters Outstanding be received.

DUDLEY/JONES
Carried
P&S/25/33

8. Quarterly Report – Economic Development Report – Q3

D258402

Page 25

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/McKAY
Carried
P&S/25/34

Mrs Patterson (Venture Taranaki) noted the following points:

- Mrs Patterson noted that due to Venture Taranaki being a CCO of NPDC it is their responsibility to report quarterly to their CCO Committee between 2 – 2 ½ months after the end of a quarter and before releasing and presenting the full report to the other councils. She noted that this can pose some difficulties with timelines as it is dependent on NPDC and their meeting schedules. To remedy the high volume of wait time for other councils to receive the report, Venture Taranaki has been creating location specific presentations on the last quarter to share with the other councils. She clarified that this presentation is a snapshot and that the full report will be presented in due course after the meeting at NPDC.
- The dashboard provided to Elected Members is available online and is updated within a couple of weeks of the end of the quarter.
- It was highlighted that the Regional Business Partner Programme has seen a drop off in quarter 3, Mrs Patterson noted that this is due to the programme being placed under review and Venture Taranaki being asked to cut back on spending and business engagement. She noted that there was a sense of uncertainty regarding funding, however it has been confirmed that the programme will be extended through to the end of 2025.
- Venture Taranaki is seeing an increase of interest from startup clients and have reinstated in person startup client meetings in Stratford located at Wai o Rua. They have also been facilitating drop in clinics at the Stratford Library with flexible topics dependent on demand from attendees.
- Season 5 of the Power Up podcast has aired and focuses on discussions with local business owners, it was noted that there is a potential episode with a Stratford business for season 5.
- Venture Taranaki is participating in discussions on the offshore renewable energy bill. Its Chief Executive will travel to the UK, funded by the British High Commission, to explore best practices from the UK offshore wind delegation.
- Venture Taranaki participated in an EDA exchange with agencies from Northland, Southland, and the East Coast. The exchange took place last week and included a regional tour.
- The Branching Out project has recently collaborated with Ngāti Maru to grow Astragalus root, a high-value medicinal plant.
- Hemp trials under Branching Out have been progressing well, showing strong growth in Taranaki. Processing is set to begin later this year, with exploration into HempCrete (hemp concrete) also underway.
- Branching Out has also seen success with garlic, angelica, gin, and fragrance production.
- In the destination sector, Venture Taranaki is working with cruise operators to extend visits beyond a few hours, encouraging passengers to explore further than New Plymouth.
- Venture Taranaki merchandise has been officially released. Councillor Harris inquired about availability in Stratford businesses. The Director - Community Services noted that efforts are underway to stock the merch in the i-SITE.
- Venture Taranaki has secured a partnership with Kia Ora magazine, with Taranaki set to feature in the next issue.
- Curious Minds has now been completed in Q2, and the Applied Innovation Centre project is now underway.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked whether the timing of these meetings was appropriate or if changes were needed. Mrs Paterson responded that it largely depends on cycles—sometimes the timing works with NPDC and sometimes it doesn't. Councillor Boyde suggested that NPDC might need a nudge, as there is a strong desire to see the data. Mrs Paterson asked if a written report would be preferable. Councillor Boyde noted that while he appreciates these discussions, it is difficult to assess whether the initiatives being promoted are moving in the right direction. Mrs Paterson stated

that more detailed reporting, including a breakdown of inputs versus outputs, should be available towards the end of the year.

- The District Mayor questioned if the 2024 Growth Percentage listed on page 25 is a comparison to 2023. Mrs Paterson confirmed that yes it refers to a calendar year.

Mrs Patterson left the meeting at 3.32pm.

9. Decision Report – 2025/26 Annual Plan Approach

D25/8531

Page 31

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
P&S/25/35

2. THAT the requirements of Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002 are adhered to in the preparation of the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

3. THAT it is determined that there are no significant or material differences proposed for the 2025/26 Annual Plan from the content of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan.

4. THAT it approves the preparation and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Plan without any further public engagement or consultation in accordance with Section 95 (2A) of the Local Government Act 2002.

HARRIS/DUDLEY
1 against
Carried
P&S/25/36

Recommended Reason

To adopt the streamlined processes in Section 95 (2A) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the preparation and adoption of the 2025/26 Annual Plan, as the proposals and budgets have already been fully consulted on through the preparation and adoption of the 2024/34 Long Term Plan. This involves adopting the 2025/26 Annual Plan with no further public engagement or consultation.

The Director - Corporate Services noted that due to the minimal changes from the Long Term Plan, the recommendation is to proceed with adoption without public consultation.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned if the change in the roading funding is classed as significant. The Director – Corporate Services noted that it is not classed as significant as it was not council's decision and that a vast majority of councils are in the same boat.
- The District Mayor questioned that if the annual plan is approved as it is now without going through the public consultation process, how community groups will apply for funding, and how their requests will be heard and revised. The Director – Corporate Services clarified that community groups applying for funding should not impact the annual plan to the extent that public consultation would be required, she highlighted alternative opportunities for engagements such as public forums or deputations.

10. Decision Report – Proposed Road Closure of Miranda Street for ANZAC Day Service
D25/2759 Page 37

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

HALL/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/25/37

2. THAT pursuant to Section 342(1) (b) in accordance with Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, Stratford District Council approves the closure of the following roads between the hours 5.30am to 10.00am on Friday 25 April 2025:

- Miranda Street between Fenton Street and Regan Street – 5:30am to 10:00am
- War Memorial Car park access to be closed from Miranda Street
- Fenton St from Broadway to Malone Gates and Portia St to the TET carpark

for the purpose of the ANZAC Day Dawn Service

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/25/38

Recommended Reason

In order for the Stratford District Council to hold ANZAC Day commemorations, it is necessary to close the roads listed above for the safety of the public gathering for the dawn service at the Cross of Sacrifice on Miranda Street. The proposed road closures require formal approval by a Council resolution.

The Roading Manager noted that this decision report remains unchanged from previous ANZAC Day commemorations.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- The District Mayor sought clarification on whether Portia Street is included within the road closures. It was clarified that Portia Street is included.

11. Decision Report – Policy Reviews – March 2025
D25/8918 Page 43

Recommendations

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/DUDLEY
Carried
P&S/25/39

2. THAT the following, updated and new policies, being the:

1. Water Supply to Rural Properties
2. Water Demand Policy
3. CCTV Policy
4. Waste Levy Contestable Fund Policy

be adopted.

BOYDE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/25/40

Recommended Reason

This is part of council's rolling review of policies. Policies require review from time to time to ensure they still reflect current legislation and best practice, as well as elected members' views and meet the business needs of the organisation. Any policies recommended for withdrawal have either been found to be not required, amalgamated into an existing policy or replaced by a new policy as outlined in the body of this report.

Water Supply To Rural Properties Policy:

- The Chief Executive noted that this policy is decades old and remains unchanged aside from the updated format.
- Councillor Boyde questioned if this policy is necessary due to the bylaw. The Chief Executive clarified that this policy focuses on rural properties who can opt in to connect to the water supply network if the mains align.
- Councillor Boyde noted his concern for rural business.
- Councillor Jones questioned if this policy applies to new or old connections. It was clarified that this is for new connections.
- Councillor Harris questioned whether rural properties, when built and coincidentally have water lines running through them, are informed that if they opt into the town water supply, they are not a priority and could lose water if the supply is low. The Chief Executive confirmed that they are made aware of this. It was emphasized that this policy has never had to be used before.
- Councillor Harris noted that the policy may require some wording changes as the current tone of the policy is harsh. The Director – Assets suggested that the policy can be edited to add in some better wording and extra clauses for explanation, however it is important that the policy remains clear.
- Councillor Jones questioned if there is a policy for water connections. The Director – Assets clarified that there is a bylaw pertaining to water supply however no water connection policy. Councillor Jones questioned if this should be a bylaw rather than a policy. The Chief Executive reiterated the purpose of policies and noted that policies offer more explanation and are easy to consume,
- Councillor Beck noted that he is happy with the wording and as a rural person does not expect to have town supply water as it is a privilege to have this option rurally.
- Councillor Hall questioned as to how many rural properties this policy would currently affect. The Chief Executive noted that it would affect approximately a couple of dozen.
- Councillor Erwood remarked that elected members are overcomplicating the issue, as the policy has never been used before.
- The Deputy Mayor sought appetite for wording changes. It was unanimously agreed that the policy will be word smithed to add clarity and improvements prior to adoption by council.

Water Demand Policy

- The Chief Executive noted that this is a new policy elaborating and expanding on council's water resource consent. He noted that it was felt that there was a missing step in between levels 1 and 3. The additional level provides a more logical flow between levels and is a mirror image of the water restriction at NPDC.
- The District Mayor noted that he liked the policy and the clarity of the steps making it easy to follow. He noted that it only refers to Pātea River and not the back up water supply, he questioned if this was done purposely. The Chief Executive noted that for alignment with resource consents the Pātea River is the only water supply included.
- The Chief Executive elaborated on the tabled documents, which outline the commercial exemptions for businesses that operate require water to operate.
- Councillor Harris noted the exemption for water delivery operators and asked if we could request information on where the water is being delivered to ensure it's only supplied within our district. It was clarified that this would be an operational aspect of the policy and does not need to be included within the policy itself. Councillor Beck emphasised that he would like this to be an operational consideration as it would be good to know only our rate payers are receiving it.
- Councillor Jones questioned if the restriction applies to both Midhirst and Toko areas as well as urban. It was clarified that it applies to the whole Stratford District.
- It was unanimously decided that option 1 will added into the policy from the tabled document.

CCTV Policy

- The Chief Executive noted that this is an existing policy with updates to improve efficiency. The current policy states that IT staff are the only staff able to access CCTV footage which can create efficiency issues for the likes of field workers such as parks and animal control. The Chief Executive clarified that the Percy Thompson Trust cameras are not council owned or operated, and therefore this policy does not cover them.
- The District Mayor asked whether the cameras along Broadway are council-owned and if we have access to them. The Chief Executive clarified that these are council owned, however the cameras are operated by the Police and Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust.
- The Deputy Mayor sought clarification on section 7.3 which notes that the IT team will on occasion access the cameras to make sure that they are working as they should, she questioned if maintenance such as this should be scheduled. The Chief Executive explained that while general maintenance is scheduled, the team may need to access the cameras outside of the schedule in response to severe weather events or reported issues.

Waste Levy Contestable Fund Policy

- The Chief Executive noted that this policy is unchanged in intent and the changes are largely a tidy up and the addition of resources added for efficiency and understanding.
- There was confusion surrounding the section noting exclusions. Councillor Beck questioned if the rural trailers that received funding previously will be excluded from re-applying. It was clarified that the exclusion applies only to those seeking funding for ongoing or operational costs. However, applicants who have previously received funding may reapply for project expansions, such as an additional trailer.
- Councillor Hall questioned the reason for not accepting funding applications for operational costs. The Education Officer noted that it can often spiral and lead to inconsistencies, he noted that we will fund infrastructure, project or event however operational is too large of an aspect to monitor.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that as part of the committee, not having operational costs involved makes it easier to compare projects to award the funding.

12. Monthly Reports

12.1 Assets Report
D25/6824 Page 61

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

VOLZKE/WATT
Carried
P&S/25/41

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Harris expressed her disdain for the updates on page 65, calling them outrageous and questioning the reasoning behind the decision. The Roading Manager explained that the Minister has changed the pothole reporting and repair process, now requiring potholes to be fixed within 48 hours of being reported. He noted that this KPI change disrupts efficient scheduling, as our roading network extends 2–3 hours from town. Sending a crew to fix a single pothole that far away is not economical, as it consumes an entire workday.

The Communications Manager left the meeting at 4.23 pm.

- Councillor Hall questioned what the consequences are for not repairing the pothole within the required timeslot? The Roading Manager noted that we would fail the KPI.
- A general sense of frustration was shared among elected members. Councillor Harris pointed out that as workers travel to repair potholes in the roading network, they will likely encounter even more along the State Highway.

The Communications Advisor left the meeting at 4.34 pm.

- The District Mayor sought approval to write a letter to the Minister, conveying the outrage and frustration shared by elected members. There was unanimous agreement.
- Councillor Dudley questioned why council workers had dug up lawn berms along Pembroke Road West. The Roading Manager explained that this is standard practice to ensure water can drain from the road. This is routine work prior to resealing.
- Councillor Boyde commented that while there has been an increase in illegal dumping in urban areas, rural areas are also being targeted, and the rural community has been dealing with it. He noted that it is becoming a massive problem.
- Councillor Erwood suggested that a temporary camera could be set up to capture instances of illegal dumping.

12.2 Community Services Report
D25/7725 Page 86

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/McKAY
Carried
P&S/25/42

The Parks and Reserves Officer & the Property Officer left the meeting at 4.42pm.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that he has received fantastic feedback from members of the community on Wai o Rua Swim School. He emphasised that it is great to see a large volume of enrolments and that the effort put in by staff is impeccable. The Director - Community Services noted that there are many key team players at Wai o Rua uplifting Wai o Rua Swim School values and helping push it towards the large volume of enrolments seen.
- Councillor Harris noted that the Swim School Coordinator is fantastic in her role and displays a passion for the school and does her best to accommodate every child's needs.
- The District Mayor elaborated on page 87 that the MTFJ contract has undergone changes. Previously, the contract required "sustainable" outcomes, defined as 91 days in employment. However, the updated contract now specifies that full-time permanent employment placements without the 91-day requirement are eligible for this target to be met. The target for outcomes by June 30 2025 is 30 permanent full-time roles, which has been met.

12.3 Corporate Services Report
D25/8367 Page 94

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/HALL
Carried
P&S/25/43

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde questioned as to what the Community Hub project is noted on page 99. The Chief Executive clarified that this project is a way of enabling the community to help themselves and others during a civil defence emergency and bade time before civil defence arrives. He noted that whilst this project is underway, it is in early stages.
- The Deputy Mayor questioned the outstanding debt noted on page 111 from Wai o Rua of - \$42,967. The Director – Corporate Services clarified that this is extra income generated by Wai o Rua such as term fees paid in advance.

12.4 Environmental Services Report
D25/5619 Page 112

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/WATT
Carried
P&S/25/44

The Roding Manager & the Parks and Projects Manager left the meeting at 4.54pm.

13. Questions

There were no questions.

14. Closing Karakia

D21/40748 Page 120

The closing karakia was read.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

M McKay
Chairman

Confirmed this 29th day of April 2025.

N C Volzke
District Mayor

POLICY



Policy:	Water Demand Management
Department:	Assets
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
Effective date:	April 2025
Next review date:	2027/2028
Document Number:	D25/3215

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To set out the actions that Council will take to manage the demand for water and clarify water restriction levels and requirements during periods of reduced source water supply.

2. Background

- 2.1 Water supply sources run limited in supply due to reduced river flows and there is a limit to how much water that can be abstracted to ensure river habitats are protected.
- 2.3 At reduced source water flows, Council's resource consent 0195-3 requires that Council implements water conservation measures to reduce water demand. The consent specifies priority supply, as the amount necessary to maintain the health of people and animals.

3. Council Actions

- 3.1 When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than 780 litres per second, Council will take action, referring to powers in the Water Supply Bylaw 2019 (the bylaw).
- 3.2 In accordance with the clauses 15.4.3 and 15.4.4 of the bylaw, Council reserves the right to implement and lift water restriction via public notice-as necessary.

4. Restriction Levels

- 4.1 Council will implement four water restriction levels based on the amount of available source water in the Pātea River. Council considers community groups or clubs as commercial entities.
- 4.2 **Level 1** – When the flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **780 litres per second**, Council will implement an odds and evens street address system for residential users to allow the use of hand held hoses, including water blasters on applicable days, however, unattended hoses, sprinklers and irrigation systems are not permitted. Council permits the use of hand held hoses, including water blasters, sprinklers and irrigation systems strictly for commercial purposes.
- 4.3 **Level 2** – When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **650 litres per second**, Council will implement a total ban on the **residential and commercial** use of handheld hoses and water blasters, sprinklers and irrigation systems unless an exception is granted at Councils discretion. **Commercial activities that rely on water as part of their core operations are exempt from this ban.**
- 4.4 **Level 3** – When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **556 litres per second** at any point over three consecutive days, **all residential and commercial users** are restricted to essential water use only.
- 4.5 **Level 4** – When flows in the Pātea River reduce to less than **300 litres per second**, Council will consider this a crisis level. **All residential and commercial users** are

restricted to essential water use only and Council will work with **all residential and commercial users** to further reduce water usage where possible, in accordance with clause 15.4.1 of the bylaw.

5. Exceptions

- 6.1 The council may make exceptions in extraordinary circumstances, considering environmental conditions, economic as well as human and public health aspects at the time.

POLICY



Policy:	Water Supply to Rural Properties
Department:	Assets
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
Effective date:	April 2025
Next review date:	2027/2028
Document Number:	D25/2065

1. Purpose

- 1.1 As the district has a limited supply of water, this policy has been created to clarify water provision priorities.

2. Policy

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the council water supply is service residential and commercial users within the urban area.
- 2.2 Existing rural connections will remain connected unless a disconnection request is submitted by the property owner or there are extraordinary circumstances making the ongoing supply impractical or financially non-viable.
- 2.3 Rural properties adjoining existing reticulation, may be connected to an existing main, either located on a legal road or covered by an easement for access in favour of Council at the property owner's request.
- 2.4 Applications for new rural connections will be considered subject to the practicalities, costs and risks of connecting to the existing infrastructure and in compliance with Council's Water Supply Bylaw 2019.
- 2.5 Water will be supplied through a meter, with charges as set by Council, through the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan process.

MONTHLY REPORT

District Mayor



F22/55/04-D25/10898

To: Council
From: District Mayor
Date: 8 April 2025
Subject: District Mayor Monthly Report – March 2025

Recommendation

THAT the report be received.

/
 Moved/Seconded

1. SH43 Sealing Project

March 20 2025 was a significant day in the history of the Forgotten World Highway and the Stratford District. It marked the official completion of the sealing project of the last 12 km's of highway through the Tangarakau Gorge, meaning the road is now sealed along its entire length from Stratford to Taumarānui. The 160 year old highway is steeped in history and over the last 60 plus years, successive Mayors have been calling for this final stretch to be sealed. The job is now done!

Over the years, there have been several business cases prepared to support the seal extension project but ultimately none succeeded in attracting the funding necessary to allow the project to proceed. This was largely due to the low traffic count and the funding formula used to prioritise projects throughout the country. Things changed when, in 2018 the Provincial Growth Fund was established with different funding criteria, and a progressive, imaginative Minister Shane Jones in charge, the potential was able to be realised. In addition to the seal extension other significant improvements have been made on the highway including a new two lane bridge at the Kopuatama Cemetery near Stratford. Overall the highway project has been an investment of around \$30 million. It will now allow a more pleasant, safer journey while providing more resilience to our roading network and most importantly, enabling a much broader mix of road users.

The most recent formal study of the highway usage highlighted its potential as a tourist route. Enabling visitors to travel directly between the centre of the island and the Taranaki region. Anecdotal evidence in recent weeks already indicates a significant increase in visitors with an increase in camper van numbers being particularly noticeable. The link between the popular Tongariro Crossing and the newly developed Taranaki Crossing is a standout opportunity to market our region and grow our visitor numbers, this will be a key focus going forward.

2. Civil Defence Group and NIWA meeting

Early in March the regional Civil Defence group met on-line with NIWA weather guru Chris Brandolino. The discussion focussed on the present dry spell, rainfall statistics looking back and projections looking forward, and the impact this is having on people, particularly our farming community. The rainfall stats tell an alarming story and that our rainfall patterns have changed considerably in recent years with longer, more frequent drier spells than previously experienced. The rainfall in the present dry spell has been trending downwards since 2023 and has become much more acute in recent months. As we know, the dry spell has now reached critical levels and although some relief will be forthcoming in the winter months, it will take much more than a few weeks of wet weather to restore ground water levels and aquifers to their normal levels.

The severe rainfall shortage directly impacts farmers but it also affects councils ability to provide drinking water in our urban area's. We are totally reliant on regular rainfall as the source our drinking water and while our storage tanks act as a short term buffer for water demands, there is a much bigger question to be answered here. At the March meeting of the Mayoral Forum rainfall, drought and water availability was discussed. There is concern that if the present rainfall patterns continue, what are the implications and how will we manage the water that we do have available. The Taranaki Regional

Council holds a range of data relevant to this discussion and they have agreed to provide a report to the next meeting that will help us understand the current state of play and enable a more informed discussion to follow.

3. Citizenship Ceremony

Over my term as District Mayor. I have had the privilege and pleasure of presiding over many citizenship ceremonies where people from foreign places swear or affirm their allegiance to his Majesty King Charles III and to the New Zealand government, thereafter becoming citizens of New Zealand. The March ceremony was a special occasion in that it was the largest ceremony we have hosted, with 17 people becoming Kiwi's on the day. This number included people from South Africa (5), Fiji (1), England (3), Thailand (1), the United Kingdom (4) and the Philippines (3).

4. Taranaki Civil Defence Joint Committee meeting

The Taranaki Civil Defence Management Joint Committee met on 6 March 2025. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website.

5. Taranaki Regional Transport Committee meeting

The Taranaki Regional Transport Committee met on 13 March 2025. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Taranaki Regional Council website.

6. Youth Member of Parliament

Recently I was invited to be a member of the selection team tasked with selecting a young person from the Wanganui electorate, to be the Youth member of Parliament in 2025. On the face of it, you might think this was a fairly straight forward task but in reality, it was just the opposite. There were six applicants including one from Stratford, who made it through to the interview stage and what an amazing group of talented, confident and capable young people they were. Being spoiled for choice, it was not an easy decision but there was only one position available. The successful applicant will be announced in coming days. Congratulations to all applicants, it is a very competitive world out there.

7. Ethnic Extravaganza

In March the annual Ethnic Extravaganza event was held in New Plymouth. The event started with a street parade up Devon Street that featured many people dressed in traditional costume and carrying the national flag from their country of origin. It was quite a visual spectacle with hundreds of people participating and over twenty countries represented, with the regions three Mayors leading the way. The diversity across the region has broadened steadily for many years now and Stratford is very part of that regional mix.

8. Race Unity Speech Awards

The Race Unity Speech Awards are a competition organised annually for young people across New Zealand to participate in a speech competition in support of national race relations day. The Taranaki event is co-ordinated by the Baha'i Faith Community. This year there were seven participants that included two students from Stratford. The speech topic was "The Great Ocean of Diversity". As a guest judge I found the afternoon very interesting as most of the speakers tended to weave their own life experiences and journeys into the speech content. Examples they gave of the racism some had personally experienced was quite alarming and you couldn't help but feel the emotion and harm caused by these occurrences. I congratulate the participants on their courage and for the passion they displayed. The winner was Chelsea Babalcon, who attends Taranaki Diocesan school

9. Correspondence

- Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Call Outs – March 2025
- Te Kāhui Maunga – Letter of thanks
- Media release – Water Security a key focus for Taranaki Mayoral Forum
- Media release – Taranaki Council seek government deal to become Strategic Energy Zone
- Project update SH43 – Forgotten World Highway – NZTA

10. Some Events Attended

- Attended – meeting of Civil Defence Group and NIWA
- Attended - meeting of the Stratford District Youth Council and AGM
- Attended – meeting of Taranaki Mayoral Forum
- Attended – meeting of Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee
- Attended – Multi Ethnic Extravaganza Parade
- Attended – meeting of the Taranaki Regional Transport Committee
- Attended – meeting of the Stratford Health Trust (x1)
- Attended – the completion event for SH43 sealing project
- Attended - Race Unity Speech Awards (as Judge)
- Attended – hosted Citizenship Ceremony
- Met - with Chairperson of the Stratford Health Trust
- Met – with Audit New Zealand representatives
- Met – with Carl Bates, Member of Parliament for Wanganui (x1)
- Met - with candidates for the Youth Member of Parliament
- Met – with representatives from Stratford A&P Association
- Met – with the Chairperson of the Marire Society Inc
- Radio Interview - Access Radio (x1)
- Radio Interview – Radio New Zealand (x1)
- Newspaper - Stratford Press Interviews and Articles (multiple)
- Newspaper - Daily News (multiple)
- Attended - Regional Mayors and Chairs weekly meeting (x2)
- Attended - Council Pre-Agenda meetings (x2)
- Attended – Council Workshop (x1)
- Attended – Public Forum (x1)
- Attended - Council Meetings (x3)



N C Volzke JP
District Mayor

Date: 2 April 2025

Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade Callouts March 2025
The Stratford Fire Brigade responded to 15 calls in March 2025

- 01-03-23 Water tanker and rural appliance, vegetation fire Ohura Road Tahora also attended by the Toko and Taumarunui Fire Brigades
- 01-03-25 Assist ambulance with medical call Juliet Street
- 06-03-25 Investigate vegetation burn off Wingrove Road assisted by the Toko Fire Brigade no action required by brigades
- 06-03-25 Rubbish fire Broadway North
- 08-03-25 Rural appliance, tree stump on fire Ohura Road Tahora, also attended by the Toko and Taumarunui Fire Brigades
- 10-03-25 Water tanker, shed fire Lower Te Kiri Road Te Kiri stood down before arrival
- 11-03-25 Alarm activation Juliet Motel Juliet Street
- 13-03-25 Alarm activation Stratford High School Swansea Road
- 17-03-25 Alarm activation Juliet Motel Juliet Street
- 22-03-25 Alarm activation Maryann Rest Home Brecon Road
- 22-03-25 Diesel spill on road Mangaoapa Road Matau, assist Toko Fire Brigade
- 28-03-25 Cover move to Hawera Fire Station stood down before arrival
- 28-03-25 Diesel spill on road Skinner Road
- 30-03-25 Motorbike fire Manganui Road
- 30-03-25 Vegetation Fire Orlando Street



Ngā mihi to our sponsors

Tēnā koutou Te Kaunihera-ā-rohe o Whakaahurangi, i ngā āhutanga o te wā. Huri atu te pō, nau mai te ao!

Ka rere ngā mihi ki a koutou, i tere ai te manu Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga, ki ngā taumata e wawatahia e o tātau mātua tupuna. Kua tutuki; kua ea; nō reira tēnā koutou tēnā tātou.

On behalf of the entire team at Te Kāhui Maunga, Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and Te Ranga Tupua, we want to again express our gratitude for your generous support and sponsorship of Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga. As we close out one of the biggest events our rohe has ever seen, we wanted to thank you for all you have done.

Your impact

Your contribution played a crucial role in making this event a remarkable success. Thanks to your support, we were able to bring together whānau, celebrate our rich cultural heritage, and create an unforgettable experience for all attendees. Your unwavering support is truly appreciated.

Our success together

This year's festival was a testament to what can be achieved when communities and businesses come together in support of a common goal. With your help, we were able to increase our offerings as hau kāinga (hosts), reach a wider audience and enhance the overall experience for everyone involved.

Looking forward

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and look forward to working together in the future. Your involvement in Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga has made a lasting impact for years to come.

Stratford District Council, thank you for your invaluable support. We would love to hear any feedback you might have on this year's event, and we can pass this onto the Te Matatini team as they strive to make each year better than the last.

Ngā manaakitanga, nā

Elijah Pue
Chairperson – Te Kāhui Maunga

Wharehoka Wano
Māngai – Ngā Iwi o Te Kāhui Maunga





Taranaki Mayoral Forum Media Release

Our Reference
F22/55/007-D25/9040

18 March 2025

Water Security a Key Focus for Taranaki Mayoral Forum

The Taranaki Mayoral Forum has asked for help from the Taranaki Regional Council to analyse rainfall data to get a better picture of the regions water security challenges.

Mayoral Forum Chair, Neil Volzke says the issue of water security in Taranaki has been a key topic of discussion at recent forum meetings, made more urgent by the current dry conditions affecting the region.

"The situation is especially dire along the coast in South Taranaki, where a prolonged lack of rainfall has led to critically low groundwater levels," says Volzke.

"In particular we're concerned about the cumulative effect of an 18-month dry period, and the impact this has had on groundwater reserves. So, to better understand the extent of the issue and identify potential solutions, the forum has asked the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) if they could compile and analyse existing data on rainfall patterns and groundwater trends. By using these datasets, we hope to get a clearer picture of the region's water security challenges and help guide future decision-making," he says.

Volzke pointed out that although Taranaki typically gets sufficient rainfall, its timing and distribution don't always align with demand. Further, while many farmers benefit from the security of council-managed and private water schemes, a substantial portion of the community remains vulnerable.

"Households and properties outside these schemes which rely on wells and bores, are really struggling with dwindling water levels or, in some cases, completely dry sources," he says.

"We need to have proactive water management strategies that can help mitigate the impact of prolonged dry spells and ensure a sustainable water supply for all communities in the region. The findings from TRC's investigation will play a crucial role in shaping these strategies, reinforcing the importance of long-term planning and resilience in the face of changing weather patterns."

ENDS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Volzke".

Mayor Neil Volzke (Forum Chair)
Stratford District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Nixon".

Mayor Phil Nixon
South Taranaki District Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Holdom".

Mayor Neil Holdom
New Plymouth District Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Williamson".

Craig Williamson
Taranaki Regional Council Chairperson

Taranaki Mayoral Forum
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Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
**New Plymouth
District Council**



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
**WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Taranaki Mayoral Forum Media Release

Our Reference
F22/55/007-D25/9498

24 March 2025

Taranaki Councils seek government deal to become Strategic Energy Zone

Taranaki's councils have put forward a proposal under the Government's City and Regional Deals initiative, highlighting the benefits of closer collaboration to accelerate key actions in *Tapuae Roa – Taranaki's Economic Development Strategy*. The proposal includes recognising Taranaki as a strategic energy zone for New Zealand.

New Plymouth, Stratford, and South Taranaki District Councils, alongside the Taranaki Regional Council, are seeking a strengthened partnership with central government to harness the region's strengths, unlock economic growth and investment, and enable region-wide planning for housing, infrastructure, industry, energy, and sustainable food and agriculture. The proposal builds on the region's well-established energy sector, existing infrastructure, and skilled workforce.

With its abundant natural energy resources, Taranaki has significant potential to drive both regional and national economic growth. Large-scale renewable energy development could attract investment, create new jobs, and enhance skill development opportunities. Recognising the region's strategic economic role would also support long-term, integrated planning to ensure future infrastructure and workforce needs are met.

"The initial proposal builds on the *Tapuae Roa* regional economic strategy, aiming to work closely with central government on initiatives that will turbo-charge our regional economy for the benefit of the entire country," said Taranaki Mayoral Forum Chair and Stratford District Mayor, Neil Volzke.

Key opportunities outlined in the proposal include advancing the Applied Innovation Centre Taranaki, with a focus on green gas, biogas, and biomethane research and production. The centre would attract scientific and engineering talent while fostering emerging biotechnology companies.

The proposal also highlights the success of [Branching Out](#), a regional diversification initiative led by Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki. Branching Out has made significant progress in developing high-value products such as medicinal plants, hemp fibre for construction, and sustainable vegetable and grain crops. A long-term funding partnership with central government could accelerate investment, unlock underutilised land, and support regulatory reviews to remove barriers to hemp production and export.

The Government will assess city and regional proposals against the City and Regional Deals Strategic Framework, with the first regional deal expected to be finalised in late 2025.

Fast Facts

- Taranaki's economy (gross domestic product) was valued at about \$11.3 billion last year ([Infometrics](#)).
- With about 130,000 people, Taranaki had a per capita GDP of \$80,000, compared with \$75,300 nationally ([Stats NZ](#)).
- Taranaki has about 16,500 businesses and 64,000 people in work ([Infometrics](#)).
- The average household income is almost \$114,000 ([Infometrics](#)).
- Dairy farming and processing, and oil and gas together make up 34% of Taranaki's economy ([Stats NZ](#)).

ENDS

Mayor Neil Volzke (Forum Chair)
Stratford District Council

Mayor Phil Nixon
South Taranaki District Council

Mayor Neil Holdom
New Plymouth District Council

Craig Williamson
Taranaki Regional Council Chairperson

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[View online](#)



SH43 Forgotten World Highway

Project update

2 April 2025



Done and dustless – Tangārakāu Gorge is sealed

Journeys along the iconic Forgotten World Highway are now safer, more accessible and a lot less dusty with the Roads of Regional Significance project to seal the Tangārakāu Gorge now complete.

The project site was recently blessed by Iwi at an event to mark completion of the iconic 3 year project to seal the 12km section of road, one of the last remaining unsealed sections of highway in the country.

With the sealing now complete, more people will be able to experience the beauty of the Forgotten World Highway and locals are already reporting an increase in vehicles on the road.

NZTA Senior Project Manager Complex, Sree Harsha Nutulapati says sealing the road was just one part of the project.

"Crews have also built four new retaining walls and installed more than ten culverts to carry water under the road, improving the resilience of the road.

"More than 50 thousand tonnes of metal was trucked in to complete the pavement and 1500 square metres of rock walls were built.

"While the project was challenging due to the remote and constrained environment, contractor Inframax whose crew stayed onsite for the duration of the project, have completed the work on time and within budget," says Sree.

"On behalf of NZTA, I'd like to thank the contractors, local businesses, community members, and our Iwi and council partners for your ongoing support and cooperation while the project has been completed."

The final component of the \$30 million programme of improvements for the highway, a series of sculptures developed by Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hāua and Ngāti Ruanui Iwi, will be erected on the highway towards the middle of the year.

Rare plant thriving in the gorge

A key priority of the SH43 sealing project was protecting the pristine natural environment so when an extremely rare native plant was discovered in the Tāngarākau Gorge, local Iwi jumped into action.

The nationally endangered plant, *Brachyglottis Turneri* or Manawa Kawa as it has been named by Iwi, is similar to an orchid with a heart shaped leaf and small yellow flower that blooms from November to December. It can only be found in 11 locations in Taranaki and a handful of places in Whanganui.

To ensure the population wasn't impacted by the sealing project, in December 2023 Iwi representatives carefully took cuttings from the plants under the expert guidance of horticulturist Phillip Smith from Totorā Glen Nurseries in Palmerston North.

Phillip then reared the cuttings over several months ready for replanting in the gorge. He describes the plant as interesting but very particular.

"In the wild, they grow under waterfalls and near drains and seepages. It's very easy for them to dry out so they require constant care," says Phillip.

In September 2024, Ngāti Maru and Ngāti Hāua Iwi representatives, accompanied by Department of Conservation (DoC) rangers replanted over 40 new plants on the mossy banks in the Tāngarākau Gorge.

Ngāti Maru, Tumu Whakarae (CEO) Anaru Marshall says the plants love damp, low light conditions so are right at home in the gorge.

"The new plants are thriving with many of them having flowered over the summer months.

"This is a special plant that is only found in Taranaki and Whanganui, so it was amazing to discover it growing in the Tāngarākau Gorge and to be able to protect and help increase the population." he says.

DoC documented the locations of the plants, and will continue to monitor the population.

Image below: Joe Allen of Ngāti Hāua Iwi planting Manawa Kawa



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Our reference
F19/13/03-D21/40748

Karakia

Kia uruuru mai
Ā hauora
Ā haukaha
Ā haumāia
Ki runga, Ki raro
Ki roto, Ki waho
Rire rire hau Paimārire

I draw in (to my being)
The reviving essence
The strengthening essence
The essence of courage
Above, Below
Within, Around
Let there be peace.