ORDINARY MEETING

of

Council

AGENDA

Time: 9:30 am

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Venue: Masterton District Council,
161 Queen Street, Masterton

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Bex Johnson (Chairperson)

Councillor Craig Bowyer
Councillor Gary Caffell
Councillor Waireka Collings
Councillor Brent Goodwin
Councillor David Holmes
Councillor Andrea Jackson
Councillor Stella Lennox
Councillor Tim Nelson

RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED

Values

1. **Public interest:** members will serve the best interests of the people within the Masterton district and discharge their duties conscientiously, to the best of their ability.
2. **Public trust:** members, in order to foster community confidence and trust in their Council, will work together constructively and uphold the values of honesty, integrity, accountability and transparency.
3. **Ethical behaviour**: members will not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, will not behave improperly and will avoid the appearance of any such behaviour.
4. **Objectivity:** members will make decisions on merit; including appointments, awarding contracts, and recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.
5. **Respect for others:** will treat people, including other members, with respect and courtesy, regardless of their ethnicity, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Members will respect the impartiality and integrity of Council staff.
6. **Duty to uphold the law:** members will comply with all legislative requirements applying to their role, abide by this Code, and act in accordance with the trust placed in them by the public.
7. **Equitable contribution:** members will take all reasonable steps to ensure they fulfil the duties and responsibilities of office, including attending meetings and workshops, preparing for meetings, attending civic events, and participating in relevant training seminars.
8. **Leadership:** members will actively promote and support these principles and ensure they are reflected in the way in which MDC operates, including a regular review and assessment of MDC's collective performance.

These values complement, and work in conjunction with, the principles of section 14 of the LGA 2002; the governance principles of section 39 of the LGA 2002; and our MDC governance principles:

Whakamana Tangata	Respecting the mandate of each member, and ensuring the integrity of the committee as a whole by acknowledging the principle of collective responsibility and decision-making.
Manaakitanga	Recognising and embracing the mana of others.
Rangatiratanga	Demonstrating effective leadership with integrity, humility, honesty and transparency.
Whanaungatanga	Building and sustaining effective and efficient relationships.
Kotahitanga	Working collectively.

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The Chairperson will open the meeting with the karakia

Karakia timatanga

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a te mea ngaro	Let the strength and life force of our ancestors
ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o tātou	Be with each and everyone of us
Kia mahea te hua mākihikihi	Freeing our path from obstruction
kia toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te aroha, toi te Reo Māori	So that our words spiritual, power, love and language are upheld
kia tūturu, ka whakamaua kia tīna! Tīna!	Permanently fixed established and understood
Hui e, Tāiki e!	Forward together

At the appropriate time, the following karakia will be read to close the meeting

Karakia whakamutunga

Kua mutu ā mātou mahi	Our work has finished
Mō tēnei wā	For the time being
Manaakitia mai mātou katoa	Protect us all
Ō mātou hoa	Our friends
Ō mātou whānau	Our family
Āio ki te Aorangi	Peace to the universe

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

2 APOLOGIES

The Chair invites notice from members of:

- leave of absence for future meetings of Masterton District Council
- apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows:

Matters requiring urgent attention as determined by resolution of the Council

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

Minor matters relating to the general business of Council

No resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of Masterton District Council for further discussion.

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

File Number:

Author: **Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 16 September 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 16 September 2026

MASTERTON
WHAKAORIORI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Order Of Business

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3 Public Forum 3
4 Items not on the Agenda 3
5 Confirmation of Council Minutes 3
5.1 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 August 2026 3
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MINUTES OF MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL, 34 CHAPEL STREET, MASTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 9:30 AM

PRESENT: Mayor Bex Johnson, Deputy Mayor C Bowyer, Councillors G Caffell, W Collings (on Teams from 12.00pm), B Goodwin, D Holmes, A Jackson, S Lennox, and T Nelson

IN ATTENDANCE: Iwi representative Robin Potangaroa, Chief Executive, Director Commercial, Group Manager Strategy, Group Manager Infrastructure, Group Manager Corporate and Community, Roading Services Manager, Strategy and Policy Manager, Economic Development Lead, Senior Policy Advisor, Governance Team Lead

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Goodwin declared an interest in relation to Item 7.5 Updated Use of Public Places by Adjoining Business Premises Policy.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2026/80

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor G Caffell

That apologies for lateness from Councillor Waireka Collings and from iwi representative Mihirangi Hollings for non-attendance be received and accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no late items

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 AUGUST 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/81

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer

1. That the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 August 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

5.2 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/82

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor S Lennox

That the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 9 September 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE, RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 AUGUST 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/83

Moved by Councillor D Holmes
Seconded by Councillor G Caffell

That Council

1. Confirms the report of the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee held on 12 August 2026 and the resolutions in that report.
2. Adopts the Treasury Management Policy (Finance Risk and Assurance Committee Minutes Report 5.1 Minutes Attachment under separate cover)
3. Approves the Tax Governance Framework (Finance Risk and Assurance Committee Minutes Report 5.2 Minutes Attachment under separate cover)
4. Approves the Risk Management Policy (Finance Risk and Assurance Committee Minutes Report 5.3 Minutes Attachment under separate cover)

CARRIED

7 REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 JUNE/JULY 2026 WEATHER EVENT

The report seeking Council approval to fund the delivery of the recovery works needed after the June/July 2026 weather event was presented by the Roading Manager.

In response to questions it was advised that in relation to Mataikona that Council was working with the community to identify options and the timeframe would be reported back to Council along the way.

RESOLUTION 2026/84

Moved by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer
Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

That Council:

1. receives the June/July 2026 Weather Event – Recovery Funding Approval report;
2. acknowledges that NZTA Waka Kotahi has approved central Government funding assistance towards the costs of the response and recovery efforts for the June/July 2026 weather events, being $1,438,739 approved at a 56% funding assistance rate and $2,155,716 approved at 76%;
3. approves progressing the remaining recovery works, estimated at $2,932,366;
4. approves the further drawing on the Flood/Storm Damage Fund to source Council's share of recovery costs, opening balance at 1 July 2026 $-572,934. Closing balance 30 June 2027, assuming no further drawing on the Fund, estimated at $-1,223,351.

CARRIED

7.2 REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY REVIEW 2027-37: FUNDING NEEDS ANALYSIS AND PROPOSED POLICY DIRECTION

The report seeking Council's direction on the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy, being reviewed as part of the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan process, before a draft policy is prepared for Council's adoption for consultation was presented by the Senior Policy Advisor and the Director Commercial.

In response to questions raised in relation to the Morrison Low Roading Report, it was advised that a workshop with Morrison Low would be organised and if Council wanted to progress the findings in the report that could be incorporated into the LTP consultation next year.

RESOLUTION 2026/85

Moved by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer
Seconded by Councillor G Caffell

That Council:

1. **receives** the report;
2. **notes** the funding needs analysis and overall impact assessment (as required by section 101(3) of the Local Government Act 2002), is attached as Attachment 1;
3. **notes** that the proposed Revenue and Financing Policy does not consider or propose changes to service levels, levels of investment, asset standards, or the scope of services provided by the Council;
4. **notes** that water services activities will be removed from the proposed Revenue and Financing Policy due to these services transferring to Waitī Waters;
5. **agrees** that officers prepare a draft Revenue and Financing Policy on the basis of the following:
    a. revise the urban/rural population split from 79 percent urban and 21 percent rural to 78.3 percent urban, 21.7 percent rural in alignment with the latest population data;
    b. allocate funding for the Roading - Storm Damage funding activity from 70 per cent rural and 30 per cent urban to align with the proposed urban/rural population allocation above of 78.3 percent urban and 21.7 percent rural;
    c. change the rates-funded component of Rural Solid Waste activity from a Targeted

Uniform Charge to a Capital Value-based rate;

d. change the rural share of Parks, Reserves and Cemeteries activities from a Targeted Uniform Charge to a Capital Value-based rate;

e. change the urban/rural allocation of the rates-funded component of Animal Control activity costs from population data of 79 percent urban properties and 21 percent rural properties to 90 percent urban properties and 10 percent rural properties;

6. **agrees** to an additional Council meeting on 7 October 2026 for officers to report to Council with the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, proposed consultation material and recommended consultation approach for approval prior to consultation commencing.

CARRIED

7.3 ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026 UPDATE

The report presenting draft aspects of Council's 2025/26 financial result prior to Audit New Zealand review, and providing an update on Annual Report progress, was presented by the Director Commercial.

The options for applying the surplus were discussed. Members agreed that $500,000 should be applied to help pay back the internal borrowing undertaken to smooth rates in the 2021-31 LTP, following COVID, which was expected to need to be paid back over the coming five years through small rates increases in each of those years.

Members also supported applying the $130,000 from the Environmental Initiatives underspending to go into the storm/flood damage reserve as that was in deficit. Those who didn't support applying the underspend to the storm/flood damage fund thought that the whole amount should go towards paying back rates smoothing.

RESOLUTION 2026/86

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor G Caffell

That Council

1. Receives the update on the draft 2025/26 Annual Report financial results, including draft rates requirement summary statements and a summary of the non-financial performances measures; and

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026/87

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor G Caffell

That Council

2. Approves carry forward funding of $500,000 from the Building Control surplus to go towards rates smoothing and $130,000 from the Environmental Initiatives underspending to be applied to storm/flood damage reserve; and

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026/88

Moved by Councillor G Caffell
Seconded by Councillor S Lennox

That Council

3. Notes that delays due to workload and resourcing within of the Finance team have led to the audit and adoption date of the Annual Report for 2025/26 being pushed out by four weeks, with revised adoption date of 25th November 2026.

CARRIED

7.4 AMENDMENT TO THE WAIRARAPA CONSOLIDATED BYLAW PART 6A: TRAFFIC BYLAW SCHEDULES

The report seeking Council adoption of amendments to the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedules, to extend the no-stopping area on Russell Street outside the Wellington Free Ambulance Station was presented by the Economic Development Lead.

RESOLUTION 2026/89

Moved by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer
Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

That Council:

1. **amends** the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedules by amending Schedule 2F1: No Stopping Areas on Streets, to extend the no stopping zone on the southwestern side of Russell Street from 18 metres to 60.5 metres:

   Schedule 2F1: No Stopping Areas on Streets

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Russell Street	Queen Street	The southwestern side of Russell Street, commencing at the intersection of Russell Street and Queen Street, extending in a southeastern direction for a distance of ~~18.0~~ 60.5 metres.	16 September 2026

2. **notes** that the request has come from Wellington Free Ambulance following issues regarding access for ambulances.

CARRIED

Councillor Goodwin left the meeting at 10.30 due to his declared conflict

7.5 UPDATED USE OF PUBLIC PLACES BY ADJOINING BUSINESS PREMISES POLICY

The report presenting the revised draft Use of Public Places by Adjoining Business Premises Policy (the Policy), and proposed associated charging framework, for adoption was presented by

the Strategy and Policy Manager who noted that an addition to the Policy was required, to provide that a requirement of holding an alcohol licence was that a business also needed a licence to occupy. With the agreement of the meeting a new 4(e) was added to the recommendations to reflect that change.

Councillor Jackson was proposed as the Councillor member of the sub-committee.

Members discussed the options. There was some support for Option 1 on the basis that Council leased land to a lot of other people and needed to be consistent and that the businesses taking advantage of additional space would be GST registered.

Those who did not support Option 1 thought that Option 2 would encourage more vibrancy in the town centre.

RESOLUTION 2026/90

Moved by Councillor S Lennox
Seconded by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer

That Council:

1. **Receives** the report, and:
2. **Approves** the Use of Public Places by Adjoining Business Premises Policy
3. **Agrees** in alignment with Clause 32, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, to:
    a) Establish a Use of Public Places by Adjoining Business Premises Policy sub-committee.
    b) Appoints the GM Strategy and GM Infrastructure and Councillor Jackson to that sub-committee.
    c) Delegate authority to the sub-committee to, by resolution publicly notified, amend Part 6A (Traffic Bylaw Schedule) of the Ngā Ture ā-Rohe Tōpu o Wairarapa - Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw to reflect any changes required in response to the approval of a Licence to Occupy that is within scope of the Policy.

CARRIED

MOTION

Moved by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer
Seconded by Councillor G Caffell

That Council

4. **Approves** Fees Option 1 and includes the following fees in the Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27:
    a) Written Authorisation: No charge
    b) Licence to Occupy Application Fee: $135
    c) Licence to Occupy Annual Area Occupation Charge: $90/m² per annum
    d) Parking Occupation Charge: $2,236 per parking space per annum.

LOST

RESOLUTION 2026/91

Moved by Councillor S Lennox
Seconded by Councillor T Nelson

That Council

4. **Approves** Fees Option 2 and includes the following fees in the Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27:
    a) Written Authorisation: No charge
    b) Licence to Occupy Application Fee: $135
    c) Licence to Occupy Annual Area Occupation Charge: $0/m² per annum
    d) Parking Occupation Charge: $2,236 per parking space per annum
    e) adds to the Policy that "the use requires a licence to serve alcohol" to the application pathway requirements
5. **Agrees** to the commencement date of the Policy being 1 October 2026.
6. **Agrees** to an initial review of the Policy 12 months after its commencement date, 1 October 2027.

CARRIED

Councillor Goodwin returned to the meeting at 10.50am

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITY REPORT

The report providing Council with an update from the Infrastructure Group was presented by the Group Manager Infrastructure.

Requests were made for more information on budget tracking and timelines for the larger projects and for more information on the Library Project.

[*Note to minutes: information on the Library Project was provided to members on 23 September 2026*]

RESOLUTION 2026/92

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

That Council receives the update from the Infrastructure Group.

CARRIED

8.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORT

The report providing Council with an update from the Corporate and Community Group on key projects and activities was presented by the Group Manager Corporate and Community.

Requests were made for the Refugee Steering Group to be added to the update and for information on the daylighting of the Mākoura Stream.

[Note to minutes:

- *GM Corporate and Community discussed the Refugee Resettlement Group reporting following the meeting and it was agreed that as this was a Red Cross programme that is not run or reported on by the Council, that Cr Lennox would report back on that group's activities through her verbal updates to Council*
- *information on the daylighting of the Mākoura Stream was provided to members on 17 September 2026]*

RESOLUTION 2026/93

Moved by Councillor S Lennox
Seconded by Councillor A Jackson

That Council receives the update from the Corporate and Community Group on key projects and activities.

CARRIED

8.3 STRATEGY, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Strategy, Policy and Governance Teams (see Attachment 1).

Members discussed the volume of LGOIMA requests and were supportive of charging for staff time in responding to requests. The Group Manager Strategy noted that there were Ombudsman guidelines around charging and there was also the ability to provide information over a longer time frame for large requests.

RESOLUTION 2026/94

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor T Nelson

That Council receives the update from the Strategy, Policy and Governance Teams.

.**CARRIED**

8.4 MEETING REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillors are appointed to a number of external groups and organisations as representatives of Masterton District Council. This agenda item allows Councillors to report back on meetings attended in that capacity.

Deputy Mayor Bowyer advised he had attended meetings of the Wairarapa Road Safety Council, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Aratoi Electoral College, The World's Shortest Parade, Waitī Waters Stakeholders Forum, the Regional Transport Committee and a Citizenship Ceremony.

Councillor Holmes had attended a meeting of the Wellington Region Waste Management and

Minimisation Joint Committee.

Councillor Jackson had attended a meeting of the Te Āwhina Board who were preparing for their AGM.

Councillor Lennox had attended a meeting of the Refugee Steering Group, and noted that they were now meeitng quarterly.

Councillor Caffell had attended a Disability Advisory Group who were working on a survey to go out to various organisations

Councillor Nelson had attended a meeting of the Pukaha Board and noted that Council should be reassured by the Board and their focus.

8.5 MAYOR'S REPORT 5 AUGUST 2026 TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

RESOLUTION 2026/95

Moved by Councillor A Jackson
Seconded by Deputy Mayor C Bowyer

That Council receives the information contained within the report.

CARRIED

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2026/96

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

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

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Agenda Item No: 9.1 Public Excluded Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 August 2026	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage,	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

	negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	
Agenda Item No: 9.2 Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting - 12 August 2026	s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied s7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
Agenda Item No: 9.3 Procurement Direction for Town Hall Development	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
Agenda Item No: 9.4 Property Disposal	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
Agenda Item No: 9.5 Nikau Heights Tank Replacement Contract Award	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under

		section 6 or section 7
Agenda Item No: 9.6 Waiti Waters Ltd - LGFA Accession and Guarantee	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

I also move that Adrienne Young-Cooper, Waitī Waters Board Chair, Katherine Meerman, Waitī Waters Transition Programme Director, be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed in Report 9.6.

.**CARRIED**

The meeting moved into public excluded at 11.43am

The Meeting closed at 1.42pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 October 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON

5.2 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2026

File Number:

Author: **Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 October 2026 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 October 2026**

MASTERTON
WHAKAORIORI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 7 October 2026

Order Of Business

1 Conflicts of Interest **3**
2 Apologies **3**
3 Public Forum **3**
4 Items not on the Agenda **3**
5 Confirmation of Council Minutes **3**
There were no minutes for confirmation.
6 Committee Reports **3**
There were Committee Reports.
7 Reports for Decision **3**
7.1 Revenue and Financing Policy: adoption of consultation materials 3
8 Reports for Information **4**
There were no reports for information.
9 Public Excluded **4**
9.1 Procurement Strategy for Town Hall/ Performance Space 5

MINUTES OF MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL, 34 CHAPEL STREET, MASTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2026 AT 2:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Bex Johnson, Deputy Mayor C Bowyer, Councillors G Caffell, B Goodwin, D Holmes, S Lennox, T Nelson, W Collings and A Jackson

IN ATTENDANCE: Iwi representatives Mihirangi Hollings and Robin Potangaroa, Chief Executive, Director Commercial, Group Manager Strategy, Group Manager Infrastructure, Senior Policy Advisor, Governance Team Lead.

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2026/97

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor C Bowyer

That the apology received from Councillor Nelson be accepted

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no late items

5 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

There were no minutes for confirmation.

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were Committee Reports.

7 REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 REVENUE AND FINANCING POLICY: ADOPTION OF CONSULTATION MATERIALS

The report seeking Council's adoption of the draft Revenue and Financing Policy Kaupapa Here Moniwhiwhi me te Ahumoni, Statement of Proposal, and consultation material for public consultation in accordance with sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 was presented by the Senior Policy Advisor and the Director Commercial.

In response to questions it was advised that: people could provide feedback on the entire policy and weren't limited to the changes outlined and that there was space on the submission form for that;. in relation to the housing for the elderly the figures didn't add up to 100% as Council wasn't fully funding all the costs, and that it was a decision for the Council LTP discussion re whether more rates were put into that activity or whether there was a better way to deliver that service; the revised population data, with more people in the rural area, would mean that rural areas were paying a slightly higher portion; the proposal for rural waste and parks & reserves costs to be based on CV rather than a rural targeted uniform charge would mean that higher value rural properties would pay more; the engagement plan was mainly online but staff were available to speak to groups. It was noted that community meetings in Tinui had been valuable in the past.

RESOLUTION 2026/98

Moved by Councillor G Caffell
Seconded by Councillor B Goodwin

That the Council:

1. **receives** the report;
2. **approves** the Statement of Proposal (Attachment 1) and draft Revenue and Financing Policy (Attachment 2) for consultation;
3. **agrees** that consultation on the draft Revenue and Financing Policy be undertaken in accordance with sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 from 12 October to 12 November 2026;
4. **notes** the hearing and deliberations will take place on 9 December 2026; and
5. **authorises** the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial, formatting or administrative amendments required to the consultation material prior to publication.

CARRIED

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

There were no reports for information.

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2026/99

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor D Holmes

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

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution

Agenda Item No: 9.1 Procurement Strategy for Town Hall/ Performance Space	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026/100

Moved by Mayor B Johnson
Seconded by Councillor S Lennox

That Caroline Boot, Procurement Specialist, NZ Procurement and Probity, be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of *the Procurement Strategy for the Town Hall/Performance Space* agenda item.

CARRIED

The Meeting moved into public excluded at 2.17pm

The meeting moved out of public excluded at 2.52pm

The Meeting closed at 2.52pm

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 October 2026.

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CHAIRPERSON

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

7 REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 LONG-TERM PLAN 2027-37: GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE ASSUMPTIONS

File Number:

Author: **Karen Yates, Group Manager Strategy**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the draft Growth Assumptions (Attachment 1) and Climate Change Assumptions (Attachment 2) that underpin the development of the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan (LTP) for Audit review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. **Adopts** the draft Growth and Demand Assumptions (Attachment 1) and draft Climate Change Assumptions (Attachment 2) that underpin the development of the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan for Audit review;
2. **Notes** that that should significant new information become available, or changes result following Audit review, the Growth and Climate Change assumptions will be updated and changes reported to Council as part of the adoption of supporting information for the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan Consultation Document; and
3. **Notes** that financial, economic and other significant assumptions will be finalised and presented for Council consideration later in the Long-Term Plan process.

CONTEXT

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Long-Term Plan (LTP) every three years. The LTP outlines Council's long-term vision, and details what Council intends to do over the ten-year period to work toward that vision.

Forecasting assumptions are one of the building blocks for the LTP. Forecasts of growth and demand, as well as climate change projections, provide the foundation for forecasting future demand, infrastructure requirements, service delivery needs and financial implications.

The LTP must disclose all significant forecasting assumptions and risks, the level of uncertainty associated with each assumption, and the potential effect of that uncertainty on financial estimates.

Significant forecasting assumptions must be:

- realistic
- evidence-based
- internally consistent with other assumptions
- applied consistently across the LTP and supporting documents (unless there is good reason not to and the difference in treatment and reason are both explained).

Assumptions inform components of the LTP, and supporting documents, including operational and Asset Management Plans; the Infrastructure Strategy; and financial modelling.

Audit is required to express a view on the quality of the forecasting assumptions in their report on both the consultation document and the final LTP.

Council's Significant Assumptions consist of three parts:

- **Part 1** - Growth Assumptions, including population and household growth, and demographic change – see Attachment 1
- **Part 2** – Climate Change Assumptions – see Attachment 2
- **Part 3** – Financial and Other Assumptions – to be finalised later in the LTP process.

The draft Growth and Climate Change assumptions that are presented for adoption have been workshopped with elected members. The workshop provided an opportunity for elected members to consider the draft assumptions and basis for these (discussed further in the analysis and advice section).

This report seeks approval of the draft Growth and Climate Change Assumptions for Audit review, noting these assumptions, and their evidence bases, are unlikely to change. The financial, economic and other assumptions are more volatile and will be presented to Council for adoption later in the LTP process.

Also provided as Attachment 3 to this report is the May 2026 Infometrics Report *Wairarapa population projections for Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council.*

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE

The Growth assumptions represent Council's best assessment of the most likely scenario for growth in population and housing, as well as demographic change. These factors are key drivers of future demand for Council services and infrastructure.

The Climate Change assumptions outline the most likely climate change scenario based on current data and evidence. These assumptions will form the basis of our planning for adaptation and resilience, influencing service and infrastructure decisions.

The Growth and Climate Change Assumptions reflect the latest evidence and information available at the time of writing (see detail in relevant sections below) and establish a consistent basis for planning across Council's activities.

With any projection, uncertainty exists. The draft assumptions outline the level of uncertainty associated with the most likely scenario and discuss the implications and risks associated with that if alternative scenarios played out.

Growth Assumptions and Actual Growth

Growth assumptions are an important planning tool and represent Council's best estimate of future growth based on the information available at a particular point in time. However, projections are not predictions and actual population, and household growth, can vary from year to year due to factors such as economic conditions, migration trends, housing availability, government policy settings, and significant local or national events.

Comparison of previous LTP growth projections with actual growth demonstrates that while forecasts generally provide a reasonable basis for long-term planning, actual growth outcomes can

fluctuate over shorter periods. This reinforces the importance of regularly reviewing assumptions and updating forecasts as new information becomes available.

		2021 LTP	2024 LTP	2027 LTP
Population Growth	Forecast (average % p.a.)	1.00%	1.50%	0.80%
	Actual Growth (average % p.a.)	0.9% (Average of 2021-23) 2021 - 1.1% 2022 - 1.1% 2023 - 0.4%	1.0% (Average of 2024/25) 2024 - 1.4% 2025 - 0.7%	
Household Growth	Forecast (average % p.a.)	1.25%	1.60%	0.80%
	Actual Growth (average % p.a.)	0.9% (average of 2021-23) 2021 - 1.3% 2022 - 1.0% 2023 - 0.4%	0.9% (Average of 2024/25) 2024 - 1.1% 2025 - 0.6%	

Growth Assumptions

The Growth Assumptions have been informed by demographic and household forecasting commissioned from Infometrics specifically to support development of the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan. This work provides an evidence-based assessment of likely growth scenarios and future demand drivers for the district and has been used as the primary basis for growth-related assumptions. The Infometrics report, Wairarapa Population Projections, is included as Attachment 3.

In developing the forecasts, Infometrics considered historical trends, migration patterns, population change, household growth, labour market factors and economic conditions. They projections provide a consistent basis for planning across Council activities and services.

Growth forecasts influence a wide range of Council planning and investment decisions, including:

- future infrastructure requirements;
- land use planning;
- demand for services and community facilities;
- asset renewal and investment planning;
- funding requirements; and
- future rates and revenue projections.

It is proposed Council adopt the Infometrics medium scenario growth projections.

Climate Change Assumptions

The Climate Change Assumptions have been informed by the Earth Sciences Report *Wellington climate change and variability: CMIP6 projections for the Wellington Region*[1], and the NZ SeaRise project[2]. These reports draw on national guidance, climate science, relevant legislation and policy settings, regional information, and Council's existing climate adaptation and resilience planning.

The assumptions based on this national and regional guidance are intended to support long-term decision-making and ensure climate risks and opportunities are appropriately considered across Council's planning activities. In particular, for considering:

- resilience and adaptation requirements;
- infrastructure planning;
- emergency management;
- natural hazards;
- asset risk and vulnerability;
- emissions reduction initiatives; and
- environmental outcomes.

It is recommended Council adopt the proposed Climate Change assumptions noting they are based on the midrange SSP 2-2.6 scenario. While uncertainty remains regarding the timing and scale of some impacts, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that climate-related risks will continue to increase over time and therefore should be incorporated into Council's long-term planning and investment decisions.

Review of Assumptions

The assumptions included in Attachments 1 and 2 represent Council's current planning position and are based on the best information available now. The nature of these assumptions, and the underlying evidence base, is unlikely to change prior to adoption of the LTP Consultation Document. Adopting now enables Council to confirm these assumptions and use them to develop other elements of the LTP. Should new information or Audit feedback require changes to these assumptions, there will still be an opportunity for this to be reported back to Council prior to the adoption of the LTP Consultation Document.

The financial, economic and other assumptions are more likely to change prior to the Consultation Document being adopted and will therefore be presented to Council for adoption later in the LTP process.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A summary of the options considered is included in the table below.

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Adopt the Growth and Climate Change Assumptions for Audit	• Allows Council to finalise earlier the Growth and Climate Change assumptions	• No significant disadvantages have been identified, noting should some

[1] https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2025/09/GWRC_CMIP6_Report_Final.pdf
[2] https://searise.nz/

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
	Review	for Audit review, noting there is low likelihood of change. • This enables staff to use them to develop other elements of the LTP and may enable Audit to undertake an earlier review of this component of work. • Confirms Council's assumption regarding key growth and climate-related matters underpinning the plan, noting this is a key component of the LTP planning process. • Provides a consistent planning framework for LTP development. • Enables staff to proceed with development of the LTP using a common set of assumptions across the organisation. • Supports progression of activity management planning, infrastructure planning and financial modelling based on these assumptions	unexpected change impact the assumptions, they can be updated and any change reported back to Council.
2	Do Not adopt Growth and Climate Change Assumptions for Audit Review at this time	• Should any changes be required in response to new information this can be built into the	• Delays adoption of the Growth and Climate Assumptions. • Increases the risk of

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
		Growth and Climate Change assumptions prior to adoption for Audit Review (noting this is not anticipated).	inconsistent activity planning, infrastructure planning and subsequent financial modelling. • Increases the risk of inconsistencies across planning documents and workstreams.
3	Partially Adopt the Assumptions	• The advantages listed in Option 1 would apply to the component that is adopted. • The advantages listed in Option 2 would apply to the component that is not adopted.	• The disadvantages listed in Option 1 would apply to the component that is adopted. • The disadvantages listed in Option 2 would apply to the component that is not adopted.

RECOMMENDED OPTION

Option 1 is recommended.

Adopting the Growth and Climate Change assumptions now enables Council and staff to finalise this component of the 2027-37 LTP for Audit review, noting the likelihood of change to these assumptions is low. This may also enable Audit to commence work on reviewing components of the LTP earlier.

At the same time, if new information does result in the need to revise these assumptions, there is still time to make change (noting this is not anticipated).

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic, Policy and Legislative Implications

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to prepare a LTP and to be transparent about significant forecasting assumptions, and assessments of uncertainty and risk associated with those assumptions. The Growth and Climate Change assumptions contained in Attachments 1 and 2 provide an evidence-based foundation for development of the 2027-37 LTP, Infrastructure Strategy, activity management plans and associated financial modelling. Adoption of these assumptions supports a consistent planning framework across Council activities and assists Council to meet its legislative obligations in relation to long-term planning and decision-making.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

This decision to adopt the Growth and Climate Change Assumptions for Audit Review has been assessed as having low to moderate level of significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

The decision to adopt these assumptions does not in itself change levels of service, commit Council to specific projects or expenditure, or amend existing Council policies. However, these assumptions do underpin the development of the Long-Term Plan.

The Audit review will provide an opportunity to 'test' the assumptions. If any changes are required in response to Audit feedback, or any new information, this will be reported to Council prior to adoption of the LTP Consultation Document, scheduled for adoption at the end of March 2027.

The assumptions have been discussed with elected members through a Council workshop. The community will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the assumptions, as well as any consultation issues identified, through consultation on the Long-Term Plan

Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial implications arising from adoption of the assumptions themselves. However, the assumptions will inform future infrastructure investment planning, service planning, funding requirements and LTP financial modelling. Actual financial implications will be considered through development of the LTP and the adoption of financial and other assumptions later in the process. The assumptions provide an important foundation for ensuring future financial forecasts are evidence-based and internally consistent.

Implications for Māori

Growth, development and climate change have the potential to affect Māori communities, whānau, marae, and Māori land interests across the district through changes in population, housing demand, infrastructure requirements and climate-related risks. Implications in relation to specific decisions or consultation issues will continue to be considered throughout development of the LTP.

Communications/Engagement Plan

Should Council adopt the draft Growth and Climate Change assumptions for Audit review, relevant staff will be advised. As noted, the assumptions will be used to support development of the LTP and will form part of the supporting information made publicly available alongside the LTP Consultation.

Environmental/Climate Change Impact and Considerations

The Climate Change Assumptions specifically support consideration of climate-related risks and opportunities across Council activities. They provide a framework for resilience and adaptation planning and will inform infrastructure planning, asset management, natural hazard planning and emergency management activities. Adoption of the assumptions will help ensure climate considerations are consistently incorporated into development of the 2027-37 LTP.

Next Steps

Following Council adoption of the Growth Assumptions and Climate Change Assumptions, officers will continue development of the 2027-37 LTP using these assumptions as the agreed planning framework.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 Growth Assumptions ⇩**
2. **Attachment 2 Climate Change Assumptions ⇩**
3. **Attachment 3 - Infometrics Wairarapa Projections Report ⇩**

Growth Assumptions

Introduction

Infometrics were commissioned to prepare population forecasts for Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils. Their report, published in May 2026 and appended, has informed our assumptions for:

- Population growth
- Household growth
- Demographic Change

Infometrics developed three scenarios (low/medium and high) for population and housing growth. Each scenario reflects potential growth outcomes based on different fertility, mortality and net migration rates. The scenarios signal rates of growth and indicate the probability, or likelihood, of growth occurring at that level.

Infometrics (P9) state "it is more likely that growth will lie near the medium scenario than the high or low scenarios". They recommend planning based on either the medium or high scenario.

Where we refer to Infometrics in the discussion of our assumptions, we are referring to the May 2026 report, unless we state otherwise.

1. POPULATION GROWTH

Our Assumption - The Most Likely Scenario:	**0.8% average growth per annum to 2037** **0.8% average growth per annum to 2057** Based on Infometrics medium growth projection for the Masterton district. This equates to an additional 7,927 people by 2057, with 2,795 of those in the first ten years to 2037. Looking back: Over 2015-25, our population growth averaged 1.5% per annum, however growth was higher in the first five years with peak growth of 3.0% in 2020. Between 2021-25, our population growth averaged 0.9% per annum. This suggests population growth over the lifespan of the 2027-37 LTP is likely to continue at a similar level to the last five years.

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	Our district remains an attractive place to live, supported by its quality lifestyle, strong sense of community, access to outdoor recreation, comparatively affordable housing options relative to other larger urban centres, and strong connections to Wellington and the wider lower North Island. Based on these factors, Masterton is expected to continue to experience steady population growth over the life of this LTP and beyond. Infometrics state population growth is heavily influenced by net migration into our district, noting that our natural increase (the difference between births and deaths) is forecast to decline. Migration trends are influenced by a range of factors that are beyond Council's control, such as economic conditions. The current economic climate, for example, has seen demand for workers decline and New Zealanders exploring opportunities overseas. For the Wairarapa, migration is generally internal (from within New Zealand, and predominantly other parts of the Wellington region) rather than international. Though in 2023 and 2024, at the peak of international migration into New Zealand, international migration was a contributor to growth locally. Infometrics expect lower levels of international migration through until approximately 2030 but sustained positive net migration over the longer term. They note there will be a need to attract new workers to replace retirees (see discussion re aging population trends that follows), but don't expect to see the high influxes that we experienced in the last decide given global competition for migrants. Council has assumed the medium growth scenario as the most likely scenario to base our planning on. It reflects growth whilst recognising the impact of the current economic climate (short term) and global competition for working age people (longer term).
High Growth Scenario:	**1.4% average growth per annum to 2037** **1.2% average growth per annum to 2057** Based on Infometrics high growth projection for the Masterton district. The high growth scenario projects population growth at a level closer to what we have experienced over the previous decade, where growth averaged 1.5% per annum, noting this included the peak growth of 3% in 2020 which was influenced by COVID-19. Since 2021 growth has averaged 0.9% per annum. The higher growth scenario could occur if factors such as migration into the district, economic growth and residential development activity exceeded

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	Infometrics forecast. Factors like the improved rail connections between Masterton and Wellington, from 2029, could also influence growth, particularly if central government policies that reduce the cost of travel were introduced. Infometrics state there is a 75% chance growth will be lower than their high projection, and more likely to align with the medium growth scenario. Noting there has been a downward trend in growth over the past five years, Council has based planning on the medium projection.
Low Growth Scenario:	**0.1% average growth per annum** **0.2% average growth per annum to 2057** Based on Infometrics low growth projection for the Masterton district. Lower growth could result if we were to experience weaker economic conditions, reduced migration, lower residential development activity, changing housing market conditions or fewer employment opportunities than anticipated under the medium growth scenario. Changes in work from home patterns could also influence growth outcomes. For example, requiring in-office attendance and/or fewer remote working opportunities may affect the attractiveness of commuting from regional locations, particularly if the cost of travel was to increase and/or housing in Wellington became more affordable. Infometrics state there is a 75% chance growth will be higher than their low projection, and more likely to align with the medium growth scenario. Noting we have continued to experience growth (albeit at a lower level) over the past five years despite economic downturn, Council expects growth will be more aligned with the medium than low projection.
Level of Uncertainty	**Moderate Uncertainty** Our assumptions are based on research undertaken by Infometrics, which provides an evidence base. However, all forecasts have a level of uncertainty. Population growth is influenced by a range of factors, such as migration trends, economic conditions, government policy settings and changing workforce trends. Global trends and events also influence these factors. Given there are many moving parts, and uncertainty regarding how some of these factors will play out, there is a moderate level of uncertainty in our population growth assumption.

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Risk	Infometrics state there is a 50% chance of growth being higher or lower than the medium scenario of 0.8% per annum.
Financial Implications if we get it wrong:	***A higher growth scenario:*** Masterton has capacity for growth within its key infrastructure and services. Our 2021 Asset Management Plans (AMPs) indicated we could accommodate growth of up to 1.8% per annum over ten years without significant impacts[1]. If growth was lower, the period we could accommodate growth for, would be longer. Actual growth over the 2021-25 period has averaged 0.9%[2], and based on the medium projection, growth over the period of this LTP is forecast at 0.8% per annum. Taking actual growth into consideration, the 2021 assessment indicates there is still sufficient capacity within our infrastructure to accommodate the level of growth forecast for the period of this LTP. An infrastructure capacity assessment is being completed as part of the Development Plan process and will test this assumption and inform future planning. If there was a significant and sustained rise in population above this level, it could increase demand for Council infrastructure and services and potentially impact levels of service and put pressure on infrastructure. This could require additional investment to accommodate growth, which could lead to higher than planned debt, rate increases, or should rates capping be confirmed, impact other activities and services. If we were to experience higher growth, Council services that would be most likely to experience increased demand include: • Transport infrastructure – e.g. roads, footpaths and active transport facilities such as walking trails and cycling lanes. • Parks, reserves and recreational assets. • Community facilities and public amenities. • Planning, building and development-related services. Council may need to bring forward capital projects, increase investment levels or reprioritise expenditure to ensure infrastructure capacity keeps pace with population growth. If growth occurs significantly faster than anticipated and infrastructure investment cannot be delivered at the required pace, levels of service may come under pressure and growth-related constraints may emerge. At the same time, higher rates of growth would boost economic activity and grow our rating base, enabling the cost of development to be spread over a

[1] *Long-Term Plan 2024-34 -Tō Wāhi, Tō Mahere: Your Place, Your Plan*
[2] Infometrics Website accessed 14 October 2026

	larger population and seeing an increase in rates revenue. However, infrastructure would be needed to support that growth, and infrastructure investment is often required before the full revenue benefits are realised. This may create affordability and financing pressures in the short to medium term. As a shareholder of Waitī Waters, Council will need to plan for timely water related infrastructure investment as and where required to support growth and development. The timing and availability of water infrastructure may influence development sequencing, housing supply and the district's ability to accommodate growth in particular locations. The Development Plan will consider the most likely areas for growth, and the infrastructure needed to support that growth, assisting Council and Waitī Waters to plan for and schedule works at the right time and pace. The Development Plan will also support Waiti Waters to plan for water related infrastructure needs. ***A lower growth scenario:*** Lower growth, especially if this continued longer term, could have financial implications for Council and our community. Over time with population growth, our rating base grows too enabling the cost of infrastructure and service provision to be shared across more properties. If we don't grow, or grow more slowly, this could contribute to affordability challenges and ultimately impact levels of service. It could also mean some projects that might help facilitate growth, or enhance our town, can't happen as quickly. In the short to medium term, lower population growth is less likely to impact our rating base given the trend toward fewer people per household as our population ages. However, an aging population also means more people on fixed incomes who may have less capacity to absorb future rate increases. In broader terms, lower growth would impact demand for housing, shops and services, and would likely reduce investment confidence in our district, ultimately impacting our local economy.
What are we doing to reduce that risk? (Mitigation)	We need to balance the risk of over-investing in infrastructure and services against the alternative risk of not positioning ourselves well for growth and to attract investment in our district that can create a more vibrancy, business activity, employment opportunities etc. Council monitors population growth, and a range of related indicators, to identify emerging trends and ensure Council investment is aligned with growth trends and community needs.

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	Council works closely with infrastructure providers, developers, iwi, government agencies and regional partners to ensure growth is well understood and growth-related investment is coordinated. Council's Development Plan – Masterton's Vision to 2050; and work on the Regional Spatial Plan will provide a blueprint for sustainable growth and development for our community. This includes an Infrastructure Assessment to support future planning. As a shareholder of Waitī Waters, Council will plan for infrastructure investment that supports anticipated growth patterns and enables development to occur in a coordinated and sustainable manner. Where growth outcomes differ materially from current assumptions, Council can review project timing, reprioritise investment programmes and adjust future planning assumptions through subsequent planning cycles.

2. HOUSEHOLD GROWTH

Our Planning Assumption - The Most Likely Scenario:	**0.8% average growth per annum to 2037** **0.7% average growth per annum to 2057** Based on Infometrics medium growth projection for the Masterton district. This equates to an additional 2,866 households by 2057, with 1,056 those in the first ten years to 2037. Looking back: Over 2015-25, household growth averaged 1.2% per annum with higher growth in the first five years. Between 2021-25, our household growth has averaged 0.9% per annum 11,277. This suggests household growth over the lifespan of the 2027-37 LTP is likely to continue at a similar pace to the last five years. Infometrics forecast growth will be higher in rural areas in the short term (2025-2037), particularly Opaki and Upper Plain. However, over the longer term (2037-2057), this trend shifts, with higher growth anticipated in the urban areas. Household growth is influenced by population growth, household size and demographics shifts. Masterton currently has smaller household sizes compared to the New Zealand average, with 2.44 people per household compared to 2.68 nationally. This is often attributed to our aging population meaning more households with singles or couples without children. At the same time, internal migration can attract families, especially for those looking for more affordable housing options relative to other areas within the Wellington region.

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	Infometrics has noted that the trend for Masterton is different to other Wairarapa towns in that household size in Masterton is expected to grow slightly, reaching an average of 2.49 people per household in 2057. These trends indicate demand for diverse housing options to accommodate different needs. This was also signalled in feedback through engagement to inform Council's Development Plan[3]. As noted under our discussion of population growth, infrastructure capacity assessments for the 2021 LTP, along with the rate of growth over the past five years (0.8%) and forecast growth for the period of this LTP (0.8%), suggest there is sufficient capacity to accommodate growth at the level forecast for the duration of this LTP. Household growth will remain an important driver of infrastructure planning and future investment decisions across the district. The Development Plan and the new Infrastructure Capacity Assessment being completed as part of that, will consider where growth is most likely to occur and what infrastructure is needed to support and enable that. From 1 July 2027 responsibility for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure will sit with Waitī Waters. As a shareholder of Waitī Waters, Council will continue to advocate for timely infrastructure investment where required to support planned growth and development. Council has adopted the medium growth scenario as its planning assumption and will use this projection to inform infrastructure planning, growth planning, financial forecasting and asset management planning.
High Growth Scenario:	**1.2% average growth per annum to 2037** **1.1% average growth per annum to 2057** Based on Infometrics high growth projection for the Masterton district. The high growth scenario projects household growth at a level closer to what we have experienced over the previous decade, where growth averaged 1.2% per annum, noting there was higher growth in the first five years and lower levels of growth in the last five years. Similar to population growth, the higher growth scenario could occur if factors such as migration into the district, economic growth, housing market and residential development activity exceeded Infometrics forecast. The improved rail connections between Masterton and Wellington, from 2029, could also make Masterton more attractive and influence growth. If central government policies that reduce the cost of travel were introduced, this could be another influencing factor.

[3] OFOS_Consultation_Document_March_2026_Final_Page_2.pdf

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	Infometrics state there is a 75% chance growth will be lower than their high projection, and more likely to align with the medium growth scenario. Noting that, and the fact there has been a downward trend in growth over the past five years, Council has based planning on the medium projection.
Low Growth Scenario:	**0.3% average growth per annum to 2037** **0.2% average growth per annum to 2057** Based on Infometrics low growth projection for the Masterton district. Lower household growth could result if we were to experience weaker economic conditions, reduced migration, lower residential development activity, changing housing market conditions or fewer employment opportunities than anticipated under the medium growth scenario. As noted in discussion of population growth, work from home trends could also influence, particularly if Wellington based organisations required more 'in office' working and people chose to locate closer to work rather than commute. This could be further amplified if the cost of travel was to increase and/or housing in Wellington became more affordable. Infometrics state there is a 75% chance growth will be higher than their low projection, and more likely to align with the medium growth scenario. Noting we have continued to experience growth (albeit at a lower level) over the past five years despite economic downturn, and with improved train services being delivered from 2029, Council expects growth will be more aligned with the medium than low projection.
Level of Uncertainty	**Moderate Uncertainty** Our assumptions are based on research undertaken by Infometrics, which provides an evidence base. However, all forecasts have a level of uncertainty. Household growth is influenced by a range of factors, such as population growth, migration trends, economic conditions, government policy settings, changing workforce trends and lending conditions. Global trends and events also influence these factors. Given there are many moving parts, and uncertainty regarding how some of these factors will play out, there is a moderate level of uncertainty in our household growth assumption.
Risk	Infometrics state there is a 50% chance of household growth being higher or lower than the medium scenario of 0.7% per annum.

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Implications if we get it wrong:	***A higher growth scenario:*** Implications would be like those discussed under the higher population growth section. In summary: Our 2021 asset management plans signalled sufficient capacity to accommodate the growth we have experienced since then, and the growth that is forecast over this LTP period. The infrastructure capacity assessment being completed for the Development Plan will test this and inform future planning. The Development Plan will help ensure sustainable development for our community. Higher than anticipated household growth could increase demand for infrastructure, services and activities. Council services that would be most likely to be affected by increased household growth include: • Roads, footpaths and active transport infrastructure. • Parks, reserves and public open spaces. • Community facilities and public amenities. • Planning, building and regulatory services. Council may need to bring forward investment programmes, reprioritise projects or increase investment levels to maintain expected levels of service and to support development. This may increase borrowing requirements and place upward pressure on rates in the short to medium term. Demand for water services, managed by Waitī Waters from 1 July 2027, would also increase, and the timing and availability of water infrastructure may influence development sequencing, housing supply and the ability to accommodate growth in particular locations. As a stakeholder in the new entity, Council will be planning for infrastructure investment as and when/where needed to support household growth. Additional pressure may also be placed on housing affordability if housing supply, infrastructure provision and development capacity were unable to keep pace with demand. ***A lower growth scenario:*** Implications would be like those discussed under the lower population growth section. Lower growth, especially if this continued longer term, could have financial implications for Council and our community. With household growth, our rating base grows too, enabling the cost of infrastructure and service provision to be shared across more properties. Lower than anticipated growth could contribute to affordability challenges, level of service impacts or impact the timing and/or delivery of renewals or other projects. We could end up with assets that are under-utilised and/or have more capacity than we required. Lower growth may also affect the viability, timing

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	or scale of planned growth-related investment to service residential development, including investment planning undertaken by Waitī Waters. While Waitī Waters investments sit outside Council's balance sheet, they remain important in shaping future development opportunities and growth outcomes within the district. In addition, lower household growth could affect housing choice, urban development opportunities and broader economic development outcomes, particularly if residential development activity remained subdued over a prolonged period.
What are we doing to reduce that risk? (Mitigation)	We need to balance the risk of over-investing in infrastructure and services against the alternative risk of not positioning ourselves well for growth and to attract investment in our district. Where growth requires additional infrastructure (e.g. subdivisions), Council can currently require financial contributions for this work. Any costs beyond the level funded by financial contributions could result in additional Council expenditure, which would likely be loan funded. The financial implications for Council should be able to be managed in alignment with the LTP in the short to medium term but may need longer term responses if growth is substantially more or less than assumed. Council's Development Plan, Masterton's Vision to 2050; and work on the Regional Spatial Plan will provide a blueprint for sustainable growth and development for our community. This includes an Infrastructure Assessment to support future planning. These plans will help mitigate the risk of over or under investment. As a shareholder of Waitī Waters, Council will plan for infrastructure investment that supports projected growth patterns and enables residential development to occur in a coordinated and sustainable manner. Ongoing collaboration with Waitī Waters will be important to ensure future water infrastructure investment aligns with anticipated growth areas and supports long-term housing and development objectives across the district. Council monitors household growth, population trends, housing demand, building consent activity, land supply and residential development patterns to understand how growth is occurring and whether assumptions remain appropriate. Where growth outcomes differ materially from current assumptions, Council can review project timing, reprioritise investment programmes and adjust future planning assumptions through subsequent planning cycles.

3. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE

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Our Planning Assumption - The Most Likely Scenario:	**Our population will continue to age faster than the NZ average.** This is based on Infometrics forecasts for population by age and general demographic data and trends. Our median age is 42.7 compared to 38.1 for the rest of New Zealand; and 22.7% of our population are aged 65+ compared to only 16.6% of the New Zealand population[4]. Looking Back: Since 2015, the 65+ population of Masterton has grown by an average of 3.2% per annum. This compares to an average growth of 1.1% for the 15-64 age group, and 0.9% for the 0-15 age group. Infometrics state that the 65+ age group has been the fastest growing age group in Masterton. Looking forward, growth in the 65+ age group will slow from 2030 as the youngest 'baby boomers' reach 65. However, growth in our younger age groups will also slow. By 2037, 25% of Masterton's population will be aged 65+. This reflects established demographic trends, increasing life expectancy and the existing age profile of the district. An ageing population will influence future demand for services, infrastructure and community facilities and remains an important consideration in Council's strategic, financial and asset management planning. Changing demographics may also influence housing preferences, workforce participation, economic activity and community expectations regarding Council services and levels of service.
Slower Ageing Scenario:	**The population ages more slowly than projected.** Given Masterton's close proximity to Wellington, relative affordability and with current acceptance of remote working, Masterton can be an attractive option for working-age residents and families. Scheduled improvements in transport connectivity from 2029 may enhance our appeal, especially if central government policies to reduce or cap the cost of public transport are implemented. In addition, growing employment and education opportunities, housing choice, community connections, vibrancy and quality-of-life could also encourage younger people to stay in or return to Masterton. If we were to retain or attract more younger people, our population would age more slowly. Under this scenario, the age profile of the district becomes more balanced, increasing workforce participation and broadening the district's economic base. A larger proportion of working-age residents may

[4] Infometrics Regional Economic Profile, based on Census 2023

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	improve affordability outcomes, support business growth and provide greater capacity to fund community infrastructure, facilities and services over time. More younger people in our district, may also create demand for different services, activities and facilities.
Faster Ageing Scenario:	**The population ages more quickly than projected.** A range of factors could accelerate our aging population trend, including lower birth rates than forecast, more young people choosing to leave the district, fewer working age people coming into the district or increased inward migration of people aged 65+. A more rapidly aging population would see more people on fixed incomes, which could exacerbate affordability challenges. A smaller working-age population may also contribute to labour shortages, constrain economic growth and reduce the proportion of residents contributing to the local economy and rating base. Over time, this may influence both the demand for services and Council's ability to sustainably fund infrastructure renewal and future investment.
Level of Uncertainty	**Low-Moderate Uncertainty** Globally (for western nations) and nationally it is widely accepted that the population is ageing. Masterton, like many other rural provincial towns in New Zealand, is ageing faster than the New Zealand average. Without intervention, this trend is unlikely to change. A low-moderate uncertainty rating reflects strong confidence that the population will continue to age, while recognising there is some uncertainty around the pace and extent of demographic change over time which could influence this trend.
Risk	There is a low risk that our population will age differently to what we expect – this could be ageing faster or slower than anticipated.
Implications if we get it wrong:	***A slower ageing scenario:*** If Masterton is more successful in attracting and retaining younger residents and families than projected, the district may benefit from a larger working-age population, stronger labour force participation and a broader economic base. This could improve affordability outcomes by increasing the proportion of residents contributing to the local economy and if this is coupled with growth, the rating base. It may also strengthen Council's financial resilience

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	and capacity to fund infrastructure renewal, community facilities and future investment. A younger age profile may increase demand for more affordable and for family housing, childcare-education-related services and youth/family-oriented community amenities and recreation facilities, ***A faster ageing scenario:*** If the population ages more quickly than anticipated, affordability challenges may be exacerbated as a larger proportion of residents rely on fixed incomes such as New Zealand Superannuation; and the proportion of working age people declines. Demand may increase for housing suitable for aged persons, accessibility improvements, age-friendly public spaces, safer transport networks, and community facilities and services that support older residents to remain active and connected to their communities. This could also have broader economic implications, with an impact on labour availability and business growth. Potentially this combination of factors could negatively impact the district's rating base over time.
What are we doing to reduce that risk? (Mitigation)	Council will continue to work alongside iwi, community organisations, government agencies, education providers, employers and regional partners to better understand demographic change and support positive social, economic and community outcomes across the district; and to ensure our aging population and their needs are considered. Council will also continue to advocate for and support initiatives that contribute to Masterton being an attractive place to live, work and invest to help retain and/or attract younger residents to the district to 'balance' our population profile. The Development Plan and Regional Spatial Plans will help to identify and prioritise projects, infrastructure, facilities and services.

4. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: POPULATION DIVERSITY

Our Planning Assumption - The Most Likely Scenario:	**Our population will continue to become more diverse, with our Māori, Pacific and Asian populations continuing to grow.** While Masterton remains predominantly European, the district has become increasingly diverse over recent decades. Our Māori population has grown, and is projected to continue growing, following national trends related to a younger age structure and higher birth

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	rates [5]. By 2043, Māori are expected to make up 28.4% of our population, compared to 23.6% in 2025[6]. Māori will continue to comprise a significant and growing proportion of the district's population and will play an increasingly important role in the social, cultural and economic development of the district. Growth in our Pasifika, Asian and other ethnic communities is also expected to continue, influenced by natural population increases (births out numbering deaths) and migration[7]. The proportion of our population who identify as Asian is forecast to almost double by 2043, from 5.6% in 2025 to 9.6% in 2043; and similarly, the proportion of our population who identify as Pasifika is also set to increase (from 4.5% in 2025 to 6.2% in 2043). Increasing cultural diversity within Masterton will see a broader range of perspectives, skills, experiences and opportunities across the community. On a per annum basis, growth by ethnicity between 2025 and 2043, projects 3.8% average growth per annum for our Asian population; 2.6% for Pasifika, 1.8% for Māori and 0.1% for European[8]. Greater diversity may contribute to workforce growth, business development, entrepreneurship, innovation and stronger connections beyond the district. A broader range of skills, experiences and perspectives may strengthen community resilience and support economic development outcomes. Greater diversity may also support population growth and economic development objectives by making Masterton an increasingly attractive place to live, work, invest and raise a family. An increasingly diverse population will influence how Council engages with the community, plans services, delivers facilities and supports community needs.
A More Diverse Scenario:	**The diversification of our population occurs more quickly than projected.** If population diversity occurs at a faster rate than anticipated, our community could benefit from the opportunities that greater diversity presents. To maximise this benefit, it is important we continue to grow an equitable and inclusive community. Under this scenario, Council may benefit from stronger community participation, a larger working-age population, greater cultural activity and a more diverse local economy.

[5] Statistics NZ, 2025
[6] Informtrics accessed October 2026 - Population Projections | Masterton District | Ethnicity
[7] Infometrics, 2025
[8] Infometrics accessed October 2026 - Population Projections | Masterton District | Ethnicity

A Less Diverse Scenario:	**The diversification of our population occurs at a slower rate than projected.** If birth rates and migration trends are different to what is expected and/or the district becomes less successful at attracting and retaining people from a range of backgrounds, our population diversity may occur more slowly than anticipated. Under this scenario, the district may be less well positioned to realise the economic, social and cultural benefits associated with a growing and diverse population. Workforce shortages may become more pronounced, population ageing may accelerate and opportunities for innovation, business growth and cultural exchange may be reduced.
Level of Uncertainty	**Low Uncertainty** Nationally it is accepted that the population is becoming more diverse. Our Māori population is younger and growing faster than other ethnicities. We have also seen more 'new' New Zealanders. Masterton is also a refugee resettlement location. While there is a high level of confidence that Masterton's population will continue to become more diverse over time, the rate and composition of that change may be influenced by migration patterns, economic conditions, housing availability and broader population trends.
Risk	There is a low risk that Masterton's population will become less diverse over time. The greater uncertainty relates to how quickly the district's demographic profile changes and the implications this may have for service delivery, community facilities, workforce needs and community expectations. However, planning for a more diverse and inclusive community can only benefit Masterton.

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Financial Implications if we get it wrong:	Masterton's population has become increasingly diverse over recent decades, and we expect this trend to continue. However, the pace and extent of future change may differ from current projections. Unlike some other assumptions, the key consideration is not whether the forecast is precisely correct, but whether Council is planning appropriately for a changing and increasingly diverse community. Initiatives that support inclusion, participation and equitable access to services will benefit the community regardless of whether population diversity increases faster or slower than anticipated. If Council underestimates the importance of diversity and inclusion, there is a risk that parts of the community become less connected and experience poorer social, economic and wellbeing outcomes. Over time, this could contribute to lower educational achievement, reduced workforce participation, poorer health outcomes and increased demand for social and community services. These outcomes can have indirect financial implications for the wider district by reducing economic participation, constraining local growth and limiting the community's overall resilience. Conversely, creating a welcoming and inclusive community can strengthen social cohesion, support workforce growth and make Masterton a more attractive place to live, work and invest. This can help attract and retain residents, including new New Zealanders and people relocating from elsewhere in New Zealand, support economic development opportunities and contribute to a broader rates base over the long term.
What are we doing to reduce that risk? (Mitigation)	Council will continue to monitor demographic trends, population data and community needs to ensure we respond appropriately. Demographic change will continue to be considered through Long-Term Plan development, strategic planning, community development initiatives, economic development activities and service planning processes. Council will work alongside iwi, community organisations, government agencies, employers, education providers and regional partners to support a welcoming, inclusive and connected community. Council will seek to ensure its engagement approaches, facilities, services and programmes remain responsive to the needs of a changing population and support participation, inclusion and community wellbeing across the district.

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Climate change assumptions

Our Assumption (The most likely Scenario):	Climate change impacts will continue to be experienced over the period of the Long-Term Plan, and beyond, in the Masterton District. The Earth Sciences Report *Wellington climate change and variability: CMIP6 projections for the Wellington Region*[1], prepared for Greater Wellington Regional Council in October 2025 projects a range of potential pathways for climate change. The midrange Shared Social Pathway Scenario (SSP2-4.5) is the pathway the world is currently on, and the path that is most likely to continue if we follow current policy settings. Given that, Council has based the majority of it's planning on this scenario. On this path we are on track to experience a 2.7°C warmer world by the end of this century. This will result in sea level rise in coastal areas, warmer weather, less rain, and fewer frosts. Along with these trends, any storms, floods, or temperature changes are likely to be more severe a result of the volatility that comes with a changing climate.
More Intense Change Scenarios	While we have based our projections around the most likely scenario, we need to consider the full spectrum of options, including more intense scenarios. More intense scenarios such as SSP3-7.0 (a 3.0°C warmer world) or SSP5-8.5 (>4°C warmer world, unlikely) will have more intense repercussions. A warmer world will trigger weather and events that are more severe, over shorter time frames. This includes more extreme sea level rise and temperature rise, and a more extreme reduction in rainfall and frosts. As a whole, consequences will be more severe. On 30 June 2026, Councils nationwide received a letter from the Minister of Climate Change regarding advice and expectations around the use of high-end scenarios. The advice stated that high-end scenarios such as SSP5-8.5 remain useful for testing resilience and understanding extreme risks. It also stated that Councils should be able to demonstrate that climate-related investments are necessary, proportionate, and represent the best use of public resources. On this instruction, high-end scenarios such as SSP5-8.5 will be used to stress test the resilience and understanding where there is extreme risk, and could result in risk to life. The high-end scenario will be acted on where necessary, proportionate, and where this represents the best use of resources.
Less Intense Change Scenario	Less intense scenarios, such as SSP1-1.9 (1.5°C warmer world – aspirational and not recommended for adaptation planning) and SSP2-2.6

[1] https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2025/09/GWRC_CMIP6_Report_Final.pdf

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	(2°C warmer world – unlikely) will result in less severe repercussions from climate.
Level of uncertainty:	Moderate – SSP2-4.5 is the path we are currently on.
Risk:	There is sufficient scientific evidence to support Climate change and preparing for an increasingly extreme climate. However, there could be some uncertainty regarding the rate and timings of climate change implications.
Implications of Risk:	If the severity of climate change impacts are worse than expected, and/or happen in a shorter timeframe, Council could be under resourced to respond. There could be more damage and impact to our community, infrastructure and assets. This could mean we need to invest with short notice, resulting in reactive and unbudgeted spend in response to extreme events. This could result in significant social and economic impacts on the district; compromises to infrastructure, services and the levels of service that council provide; and financial repercussions. At the other end of the spectrum, while unlikely, if climate change impacts are lower than expected, it could result in over-investment in our infrastructure and assets. This would mean we are insulated and prepared for a less probable risk.
Council response:	Council are working to embed climate change into decisions, processes and projects, starting with its overall strategic direction: • A vision that specifically focuses on the future • Community outcomes that prioritise a sustainable, healthy environment, a resilient economy and efficient effective infrastructure • Priorities that specifically focus on responding to climate change and building resilience. We are currently working with the localised community on a coastal adaptation project that is considering the repercussions of climate change, and what the future impacts will be. Furthermore, we are working on a Regional Adaptation Project alongside other Councils in the Wellington Region. Since the last Long-Term Plan, we have been working to fulfil the actions of our outward-facing Climate Action Plan and internal-facing Emission Reduction Plan, both currently under review. We have consciously considered climate change in our work programmes, Asset Management Plans, and our significant construction projects. Lastly, Council are working to increase resilience for the district, through measures such as the Combined District Plan, the Development Plan, and our continued commitment to natural disaster/emergency

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	management response through the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO). We will continue to monitor climate progress and allow flexibility to adapt our plans to meet emerging needs as appropriate.
Evidence:	Climate projections have been sourced from Earth Sciences Report *Wellington climate change and variability: CMIP6 projections for the Wellington Region,* prepared for Greater Wellington Regional Council in October 2025. The full report is accessible on the Masterton District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council websites[2]. Sea level rise information is based on the NZ SeaRise Project. This information and maps is available at www.searise.nz Longer term, the World Economic Forum *Global Risks Report 2026* lists the top 10 global risks in the short (two years) and long (ten years) term. In the long term, five of the top 10 global risks are categorised as environment and climate change. The report is available online: www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2026/

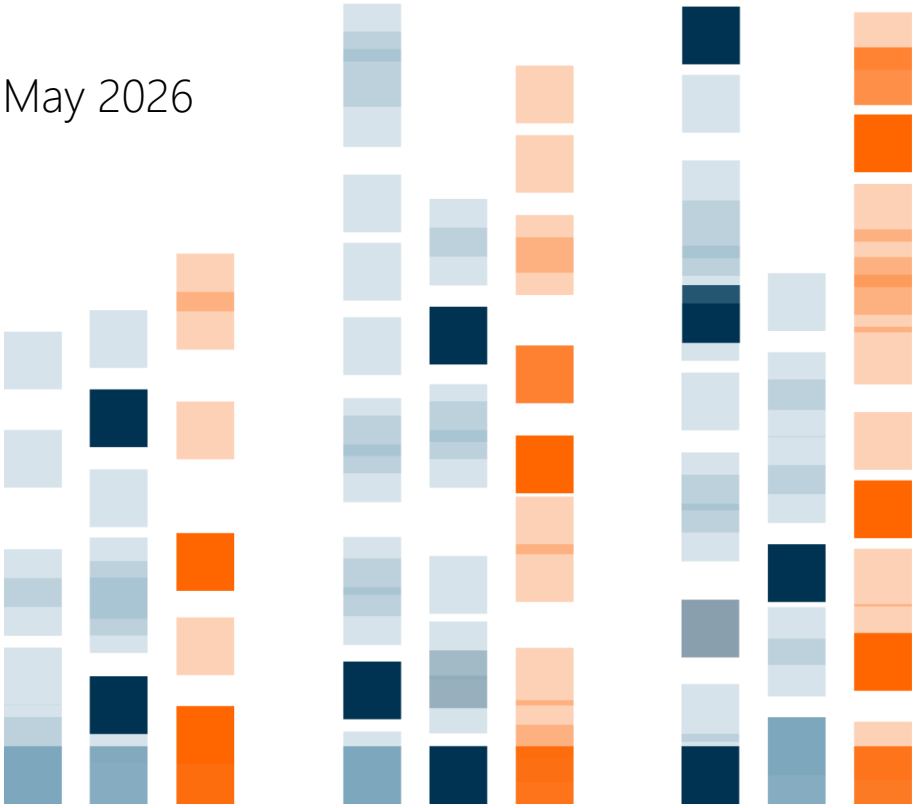
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[2] https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Documents/2025/09/GWRC_CMIP6_Report_Final.pdf

Wairarapa population projections

for Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council

May 2026



Infometrics
Economics put simply

Authorship

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Executive summary

Introduction

Infometrics has been commissioned by Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council to produce population projections to support their 2027-2037 Long Term Plans and other planning processes. This report outlines our approach and details the projections.

Our approach

The key point of difference for our population projections is that our employment forecasts inform part of projected net migration. First, we forecast employment in each territorial authority, considering local historical trends and national industry forecasts. Then, we project population following a traditional cohort component projection approach in which the starting population is broken up into age and gender cohorts. Each cohort is analysed and projected separately – considering the probabilities of different life events for each cohort in each five-year period. We compare the employment forecasts with labour force projections to identify which parts of the country are in greatest need of labour, which informs our net migration projections.

Internal migration drives Wairarapa growth

The primary driver of population growth in the Wairarapa is internal migration, which is predominantly made up of migration from other parts of the Wellington region. Natural increase (the difference between births and deaths) is projected to decline over the projection period, meaning that net migration will be necessary to prevent population decline.

Population growth to slow considerably

Population growth nationally and in the Wairarapa is projected to slow considerably from recent highs. Under the medium scenario, national population growth is projected to slow from 1.5%pa over the past decade to 0.6%pa from 2025 to 2057. For Wairarapa, population growth is projected to slow from 1.6%pa over the past decade, to 0.7%pa from 2025 to 2037, then 0.7%pa from 2037 to 2057. Within Wairarapa, population growth is projected to range from 0.7%pa in Carterton, and 0.8%pa in Masterton and South Wairarapa, on average from 2025 to 2037.

Growth led by the 65+ age group

The 65-years-and-older (65+) age group has been the fastest growing in Wairarapa, growing 3.8%pa between 2013 and 2023, rising from 19% to 23% of the population. The 65+ group will remain the fastest growing, growing 1.7%pa between 2027 and 2037, followed by 0.5%pa for the 15-64-year-old group and 0.2%pa for the under-15-years age group.

Household growth comes off recent highs

Household growth across the Wairarapa reached a peak of 3.0%pa in 2020, but has since eased to under 1%pa in 2025. Modest growth is projected for the Wairarapa, with all three districts growing at less than 1%pa to 2057 in the medium scenario.

- Masterton households are projected to grow by 0.8%pa between 2025 and 2037, and 0.7%pa between 2037 and 2057.
- Carterton households are projected to grow 0.7%pa between 2025 and 2037, easing to 0.6%pa between 2037 and 2057.
- South Wairarapa households are projected to grow 0.9%pa between 2025 and 2037, easing to 0.6%pa between 2037 and 2057.

Projections for each community

This report includes population and household projections for each community in the Wairarapa, including the suburbs of Masterton and the main towns of Carterton, Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough.

Introduction

Infometrics has been commissioned by Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council to produce population projections to support their 2027-2037 Long Term Plans and other planning processes.

This report explores these projections – explaining the methodology, analysing historical trends, and detailing the projections at a district and sub-district level.

This report is accompanied by our online Population Projections product, which provides a user-friendly interface for exploring the projections, and a pivot table spreadsheet which provides a highly detailed and flexible tool for extracting the projections for further analysis.

Our approach

Latest inputs used

We have used the latest inputs available in our projections. The starting point for our population projection is 2025 population estimates from Stats NZ. Fertility, mortality and net migration projections are based on the 2023 Census. Household projections are based on 2018 Census household formation rates, as these have not yet been updated using the 2023 Census.

Consideration of each life stage and cohort

Our population projection approach follows a traditional cohort component projection method, in which the starting population is broken up into age and gender cohorts. Each cohort is analysed and projected separately – considering the probabilities of different life events for each cohort in each five-year period. The life events include fertility, mortality, migration, household formation, and labour force participation. We also consider how these probabilities have changed over time and how they may change in future – for example, how labour force participation has risen among older age groups as life expectancy has extended over time.

Our projection approach is described in greater detail in *Appendix 1 – our approach in detail*.

Employment forecasts drive net migration

The key point of difference for our population projections is that our employment forecasts inform projected net migration. We consider employment growth and labour force participation to assess labour force shortfalls in each region, which indicates how net migration will be distributed within the country. Consequently, these population projections are essentially informed by the economic prospects of each district. Reflecting the unique nature of the Wairarapa, we have also considered commuting patterns – particularly commuting from Masterton to Carterton for work, and from the Wairarapa into metropolitan Wellington.

Districtwide first, then sub-district

We project population at a districtwide scale first, in consideration of demographic processes and employment growth. Then, we project population at a sub-district Statistical Area 2 (SA2) scale. The sub-district projections are informed by discussions with council staff and information provided, such as spatial plans, to consider development capacity, known developments, and likely uptake.

Low, medium and high scenario

We have developed projections across three scenarios – low, medium and high – and present high-level figures for all three scenarios in this report. The scenarios illustrate a range of potential outcomes for each area based on different rates of fertility, mortality and net migration.

The scenarios represent not just a range of growth rates, but also a range of probabilities. In the medium scenario, there is a roughly 50% chance of growth being stronger than projected, and a 50% probability of growth being weaker than projected. In other words, it is more likely that growth will lie near the medium scenario than the low or high scenarios. The high scenario represents a stronger rate of growth, and there is a roughly 75% probability that growth will be weaker than the high scenario, with only a 25% probability that growth will be stronger than the high scenario. The low scenario represents a lower rate of growth, and there is roughly a 25% probability that growth will be weaker than the high scenario, with a 75% probability that growth will be stronger than the low scenario.

Considerations for choosing a scenario

There are a range of considerations in selecting a scenario to use as the basis for long term planning. Adopting a high scenario would generally lead the council towards a higher level of investment in infrastructure, with the benefit of reducing the constraints on growth and supporting housing supply and affordability. However, a high level of investment comes with a risk that if the expected growth does not transpire, the higher level of investment would have to be supported by a smaller ratepayer base.

Conversely, adopting a low scenario would generally lead the council towards a lower level of investment in infrastructure. A lower level of investment can mean a lower burden on ratepayers, in the short term at least. However, a lower level of investment comes with a risk that the district will be unprepared if stronger growth eventuates, with infrastructure constraining growth, limiting housing supply and diminishing housing affordability.

This report focuses on medium scenario

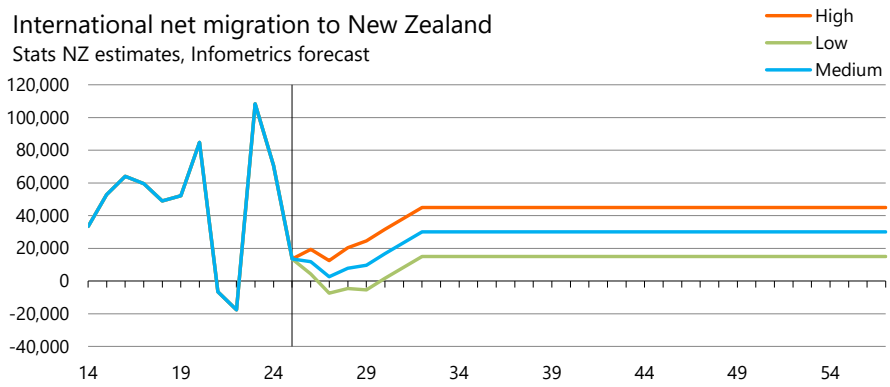
Considering the risks and benefits associated with adopting each of the scenarios, we recommend planning on the basis of the medium or high scenario. In planning for the medium or high scenarios, it is important to acknowledge that both are reliant on net migration to the district, and are therefore sensitive to factors outside the council's control. This report focuses on the medium scenario for detailed breakdowns.

Population

Weak international migration in near term

International net migration to New Zealand has been extraordinarily volatile in the past decade (see Graph 1). COVID-19 border restrictions drove migration into negative territory in 2021 and 2022. Once New Zealand's borders were reopened, migration surged to a record high of 108,400 in 2023. More recently, a national recession has reduced the need to draw in migrant workers and has encouraged the departure of New Zealand citizens. Migration tumbled to a relatively low 13,500 in 2025 and is expected to persist around this level through to 2030 (in the medium scenario), as New Zealand's labour market is expected to remain comparatively weak.

Graph 1

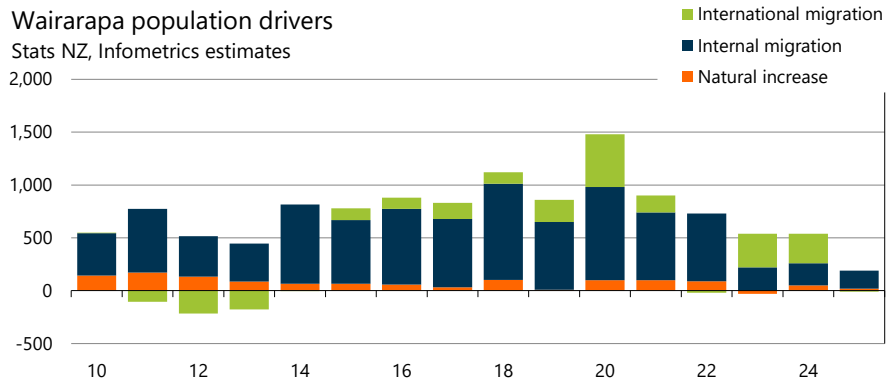


Over the medium to long term, we expect migration to revert to an average level of 30,000 per year (medium scenario). We assume migration of 45,000 per year in the high scenario, and 15,000 per year in the low scenario. We expect sustained positive net migration to New Zealand over the long term, reflecting steady employment growth and demand for new workers to replace those retiring. Although New Zealand does not currently have a long-term immigration strategy, we expect that labour market pressures will persuade future governments to enable sustained, moderate net migration flows through favourable migration settings. However, we do not expect net migration to return to the highs observed in the past decade, given the highly competitive global market for migrants, as many countries face an ageing population.

Internal migration drives Wairarapa growth

The primary driver of population growth in the Wairarapa is internal migration, which is predominantly made up of migration from other parts of the Wellington region. Graph 2 shows that internal migration has been the largest driver of population growth in nearly every year, except in 2023 and 2024 when international net migration spiked nationally. International migration has made large contributions to Wairarapa population growth in some years, but over time its contribution is modest.

Graph 2

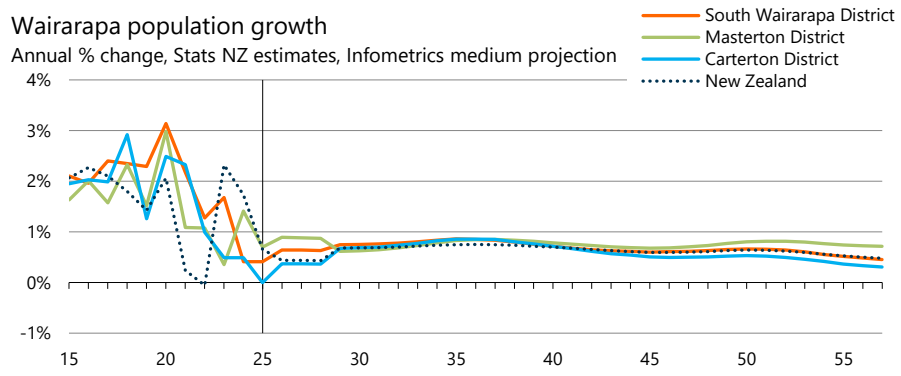


Natural increase is the margin between births and deaths. With an ageing population in the Wairarapa, deaths have been increasing faster than births, reducing natural increase over time. Natural increase is projected to decline over the projection period, meaning that net migration will be necessary to prevent population decline.

Population growth to slow considerably

Population growth nationally and in the Wairarapa is projected to slow considerably from recent highs, reflecting several years of abnormally high international migration and ongoing ageing of the population. Under the medium scenario, national population growth is projected to slow from 1.5%pa for the past decade to 0.6%pa from 2025 to 2057 (see Graph 3). For Wairarapa overall, population growth is projected to slow from 1.6%pa in the past decade, to 0.7%pa from 2025 to 2037, then 0.7%pa from 2037 to 2057.

Graph 3



Population growth in Masterton is projected to average 0.8%pa from 2025 to 2037, then 0.8%pa from 2037 to 2057. For Carterton, population growth is projected to average 0.7%pa from 2025 to 2037, followed by 0.5%pa growth from 2037 to 2057. For South Wairarapa, population growth is projected to average 0.8%pa from 2025 to 2037, followed by 0.6%pa from 2037 to 2057.

Population projected to total 64,400 in 2057

Under the medium scenario, Wairarapa's population is projected to grow from 51,400 in 2025 to 56,200 in 2037, and 64,400 in 2057 (see Table 1). Wairarapa's population could range as high as 75,700 in 2057 under the high scenario, or 53,400 under the low scenario, barely higher than 2025 levels.

Table 1

Wairarapa population growth

Infometrics projection

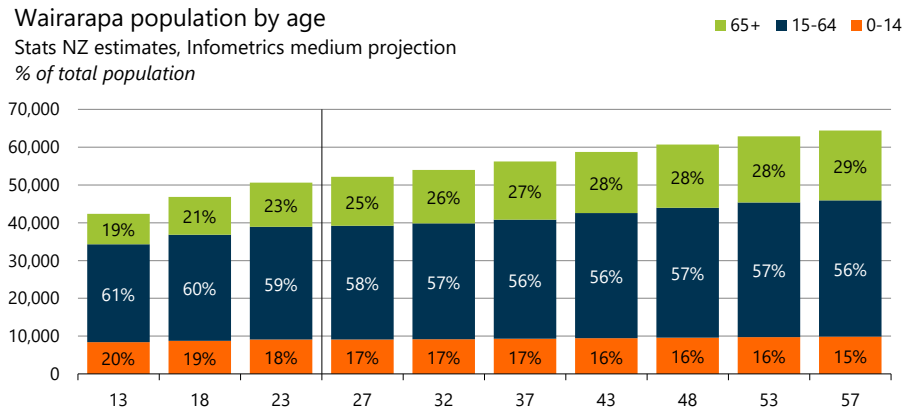
	Population			Annual average growth	
	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Masterton district					
Low	28,900	29,331	30,490	0.1%	0.2%
Medium	28,900	31,695	36,827	0.8%	0.8%
High	28,900	34,130	43,436	1.4%	1.2%
Carterton district					
Low	10,300	10,353	10,058	0.0%	-0.1%
Medium	10,300	11,161	12,410	0.7%	0.5%
High	10,300	11,990	14,848	1.3%	1.1%
South Wairarapa district					
Low	12,200	12,614	12,894	0.3%	0.1%
Medium	12,200	13,363	15,140	0.8%	0.6%
High	12,200	14,133	17,459	1.2%	1.1%
Wairarapa					
Low	51,400	52,298	53,442	0.1%	0.1%
Medium	51,400	56,219	64,377	0.7%	0.7%
High	51,400	60,253	75,743	1.3%	1.2%

Under the medium scenario, Masterton's population is projected to grow from 28,900 in 2025 to 31,700 in 2037, then 36,800 in 2057. Carterton's population is projected to grow from 10,300 in 2025 to 11,200 in 2037, then 12,400 in 2057. South Wairarapa's population is projected to grow from 12,200 in 2025 to 13,400 in 2037, then 15,100 in 2057.

Growth led by the 65+ age group

The 65-years-and-older (65+) age group has been the fastest growing in Wairarapa, growing 3.8%pa between 2013 and 2023, rising from 19% to 23% of the population (see Graph 4). Growth in the 65+ group is projected to slow to 1.7%pa between 2027 and 2037 in the medium scenario, as the last of the baby boomer generation transition from the 15-64-year-old age group into the 65+ age group by 2030. Despite a slowdown, the 65+ group will remain the fastest growing, as the 15-64-year-old group is projected to grow just 0.5%pa between 2027 and 2037, and the under-15-years age group to grow by just 0.2%pa. Slower growth in the under-15 and 15-64-year-old age groups means that their share of the population will decline.

Graph 4



By 2037, the 65+ group is projected to make up 27% of the Wairarapa's population overall. All three districts are projected to age in a similar way, though ageing is less pronounced in Masterton. By 2037, the 65+ population will make up 25% of Masterton's population, 29% of South Wairarapa's population, and 31% of Carterton's population.

Households

Household projections are theoretical

A household is a grouping of individuals and/or families living in the same dwelling and sharing facilities with each other. The number of households and average household size are estimated based on projected changes in the sex and age structure of the population (such as a growing older-age population) and trends in household formation (such as women deferring childbirth). These trends provide a theoretical estimate of the number of households.

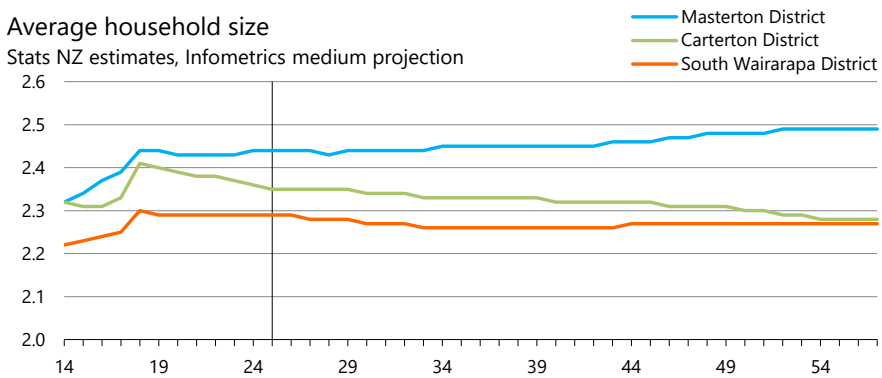
However, the actual number of households will depend on a sufficient number of dwellings being available. If fewer dwellings are made available, for example due to lower levels of new dwelling construction, then fewer households will be able to form, and the average household size may be higher. As a practical example, we might expect a couple with one child to form their own single-family household, consisting of three occupants. However, if the couple is unable to obtain a suitable dwelling, they may move in with one of their sets of parents, forming a multi-family household with five occupants.

Average household size below national average

All three Wairarapa districts have an appreciably lower average household size than the national average. The average household size nationally is 2.68 people per household, but in the Wairarapa it ranges between 2.29 in South Wairarapa to 2.44 in Masterton (see Graph 5).

Masterton is distinct in that its household size is projected to grow slightly over the projection period from 2.44 in 2025 to 2.45 in 2037, then to 2.49 in 2057, in the medium scenario. A growing average household size means that the population will grow faster than households, and therefore faster than dwelling growth.

Graph 5

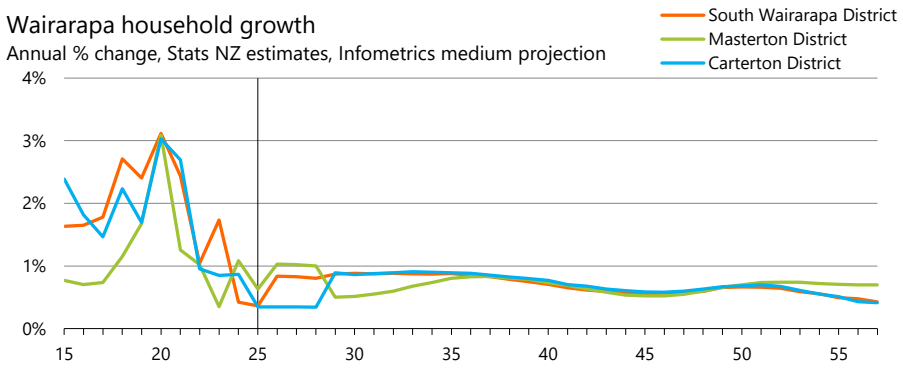


Average household size is projected to ease in both South Wairarapa and Carterton, driven by an ageing population forming smaller households. South Wairarapa's average household size is projected to ease from 2.29 in 2025 to 2.26 in 2037, then rise slightly to 2.27 in 2057. Carterton's average household size is projected to fall from 2.35 in 2025 to 2.33 in 2037, then ease further to 2.28 in 2057.

Household growth comes off recent highs

Household growth across the Wairarapa reached a peak of 3.0% in 2020, but has since fallen back to under 1% in 2025. Modest growth is projected for the Wairarapa, with all three districts growing at less than 1%pa to 2057 in the medium scenario. Graph 6 shows that Masterton households are projected to grow by 0.8%pa between 2025 and 2037, easing to 0.7%pa between 2037 and 2057. Carterton households are projected to grow 0.7%pa between 2025 and 2037, easing to 0.6%pa between 2037 and 2057. South Wairarapa households are projected to grow 0.9%pa between 2025 and 2037, easing to 0.6%pa between 2037 and 2057.

Graph 6



Households projected to total 26,500 in 2057

In the medium scenario, the number of households in Wairarapa is projected to grow from 21,200 in 2025 to 23,300 in 2037, and 25,900 in 2057 (see Table 2). The number of households in 2057 could range from 22,500 in the lower scenario, to 30,600 in the high scenario.

In the medium scenario, the number of households in Masterton is projected to grow 0.8%pa from 2025 to 2037, and 0.7%pa from 2037 to 2057, growing from 11,600 in 2025 to 14,500 in 2057. The number of households in Carterton is projected to grow 0.7% from 2025 to 2037, and 0.6%pa from 2037 to 2057, growing from 4,300 in 2025 to 5,400 in 2057. The number of households in South Wairarapa is projected to grow 0.9% from 2025 to 2037, slowing to 0.6%pa from 2037 to 2057, growing from 5,300 in 2025 to 6,600 in 2057.

Table 2

Wairarapa household growth

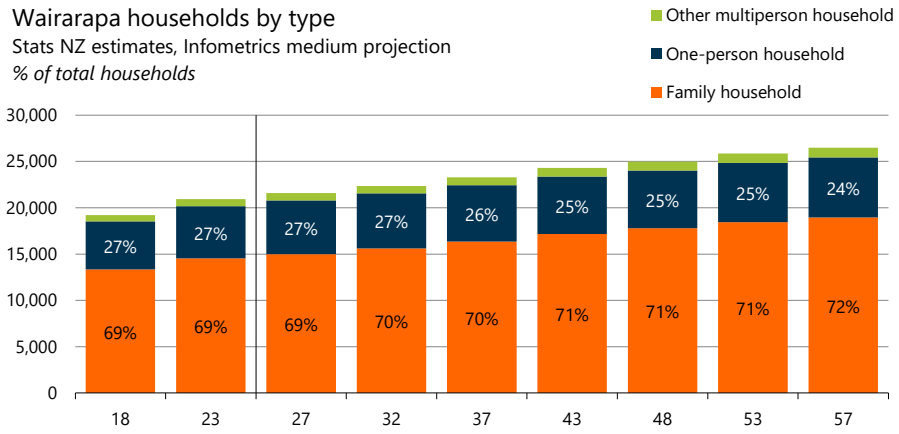
Infometrics projection

	Population			Annual average growth	
	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Masterton district					
Low	11,629	11,876	12,286	0.2%	0.2%
Medium	11,629	12,733	14,547	0.8%	0.7%
High	11,629	13,623	16,875	1.3%	1.1%
Carterton district					
Low	4,319	4,423	4,452	0.2%	0.0%
Medium	4,319	4,724	5,359	0.7%	0.6%
High	4,319	5,036	6,288	1.3%	1.1%
South Wairarapa district					
Low	5,266	5,558	5,741	0.5%	0.2%
Medium	5,266	5,834	6,585	0.9%	0.6%
High	5,266	6,120	7,445	1.3%	1.0%
Wairarapa					
Low	21,214	21,857	22,479	0.2%	0.1%
Medium	21,214	23,291	26,491	0.8%	0.6%
High	21,214	24,779	30,608	1.3%	1.1%

Family households most common

Family households are the most common household type, accounting for 69% of households in the Wairarapa in 2023, and are projected to grow further to 70% of households in 2037, then 72% in 2057 (see Graph 7). Family households include couples living with or without children, and one-parent families. One-person households are the second most common household type, accounting for 27% of Wairarapa households in 2023, and projected to ease to 24% by 2057. One-person households often include older persons living alone, such as widows or widowers. Other multi-person households (colloquially known as flatting) are projected to account for 4% of Wairarapa households throughout the projection period.

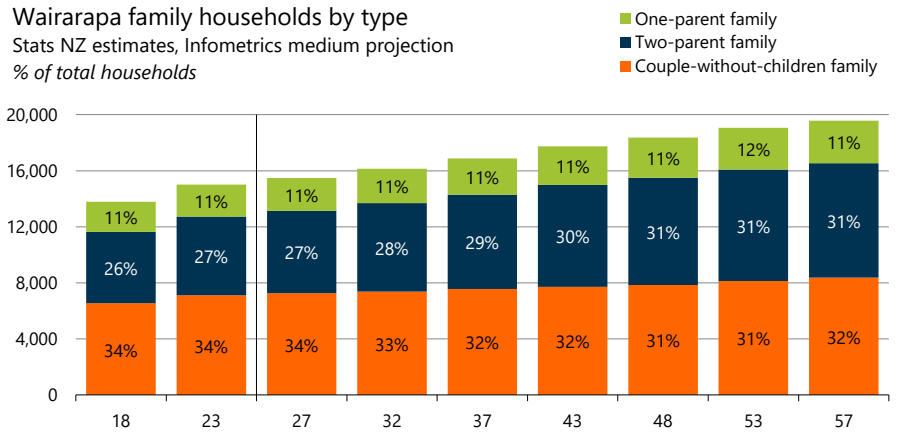
Graph 7



Couples are the most common family type

Couples are the most common family household type, including two-parent families and couples without children (see Graph 8). Couple-without-children families account for 34% of Wairarapa family households in 2023, and are projected to ease to 32% by 2037, and maintain this share to 2057. Two-parent families are projected to grow from 27% of family households in 2023 to 29% in 2037 and 31% in 2057.

Graph 8



The family households referred to above can consist of multiple families, therefore the number of families in Graph 8 is slightly higher than the number of family households in Graph 7. Percentages in Graph 8 are given as a proportion of total family households, rather than total families. For example, consider a young couple with children that live with their older parents. They form a single household together, but there are two distinct family units within the household.

Sub-district projections

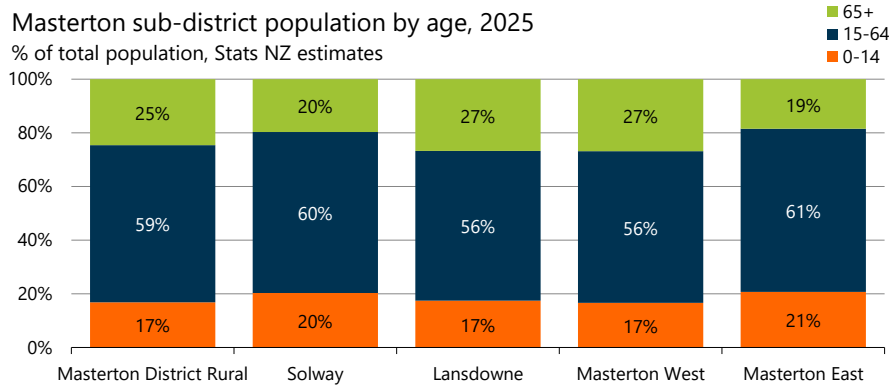
Local insights inform sub-district projections

The sub-district, statistical area 2 (SA2) projections use the same cohort component demographic approach as used for the districtwide projections. This takes into account the age structure of the current population and modelling of demographic processes that will affect that population over time.

Youngest population in Masterton East

The age structure of Masterton's population is relatively even within the district, although there is a slightly younger population in Solway and Masterton East. Graph 9 shows that under-15-year-olds made up 20% of the population in Solway and 21% in Masterton East, in 2025. This share compares to 17% across the remainder of urban Masterton (Landsdowne and Masterton West) and the rural part of the district. Similarly, the 65+ population makes up 20% of the population in Solway and 19% in Masterton East, compared to 27% across Landsdowne and Masterton West.

Graph 9



Masterton West leads population growth

Table 3 shows projected population growth within Masterton district in the medium scenario, in terms of SA2 areas, and their overarching SA3 areas. Masterton West is projected to be the fastest growing SA3 area, growing at 1.1%pa between 2025 and 2057. Within Masterton West, Ngaumutawa and Kuripuni lead growth at 1.2%pa between 2025 and 2037. Masterton District Rural and Landsdowne are also projected to grow strongly, at 0.9%pa between 2025 and 2037.

Table 3

Masterton sub-district population growth

Infometrics medium projection

	Population			Annual average growth	
SA3 area | SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Masterton District Rural	**6,266**	**6,988**	**7,954**	**0.9%**	**0.6%**
Whareama	1,500	1,474	1,387	-0.1%	-0.3%
Upper Plain	1,305	1,519	1,834	1.3%	0.9%
Homebush-Te Ore Ore	1,241	1,392	1,585	1.0%	0.7%
Opaki	1,170	1,517	2,048	2.2%	1.5%
Kopuaranga	1,050	1,085	1,100	0.3%	0.1%
Masterton West	**6,130**	**7,011**	**8,671**	**1.1%**	**1.1%**
Douglas Park	2,072	2,345	2,815	1.0%	0.9%
Ngaumutawa	1,731	2,001	2,614	1.2%	1.3%
Kuripuni	1,666	1,922	2,360	1.2%	1.0%
Masterton Central	661	744	883	1.0%	0.9%
Lansdowne	**5,028**	**5,577**	**6,837**	**0.9%**	**1.0%**
Lansdowne East	3,132	3,499	4,371	0.9%	1.1%
Lansdowne West	1,897	2,078	2,466	0.8%	0.9%
Masterton East	**4,250**	**4,269**	**4,377**	**0.0%**	**0.1%**
Cameron and Soldiers Park	2,292	2,291	2,304	0.0%	0.0%
McJorrow Park	1,958	1,978	2,073	0.1%	0.2%
Solway	**7,226**	**7,849**	**8,987**	**0.7%**	**0.7%**
Solway South	4,474	4,982	5,747	0.9%	0.7%
Solway North	2,753	2,867	3,240	0.3%	0.6%
Masterton District	**28,900**	**31,695**	**36,827**	**0.8%**	**0.8%**

Masterton Rural leads household growth

Household growth reflects not only population growth but also demographic shifts, such as an older population forming smaller households. Table 4 shows a slightly different pattern for household growth within Masterton than for population growth. Masterton District Rural is projected to have the fastest household growth, at 1.1%pa between 2025 and 2037, led by Opaki SA2 at 2.6%pa. Masterton West is the second fastest growing SA2, projected to grow at 1.0%pa between 2025 and 2037, with Douglas Park, Ngaumutawa and Kuruipuni all growing at a similar rate. Although household growth projected for Solway is comparatively slower at 0.7%pa, Solway is still projected to contribute materially to household growth. Between 2025 and 2037, the number of households in Solway is projected to grow by 259, accounting for 24% of household growth across the district.

Table 4

Masterton sub-district household growth

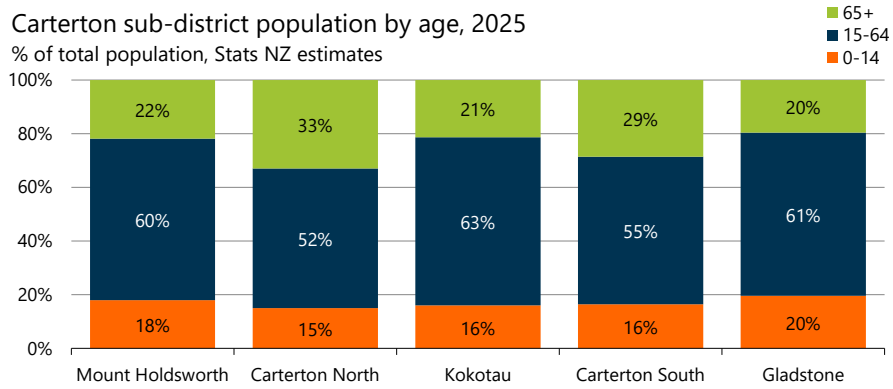
Infometrics medium projection

	Households			Annual average growth	
SA3 area | SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Masterton District Rural	**2,603**	**2,953**	**3,180**	**1.1%**	**0.4%**
Whareama	629	614	549	-0.2%	-0.6%
Upper Plain	534	646	735	1.6%	0.6%
Homebush-Te Ore Ore	518	579	625	0.9%	0.4%
Opaki	490	663	842	2.6%	1.2%
Kopuaranga	432	451	429	0.4%	-0.2%
Masterton West	**2,538**	**2,859**	**3,450**	**1.0%**	**0.9%**
Douglas Park	826	936	1,103	1.0%	0.8%
Ngaumutawa	726	816	1,040	1.0%	1.2%
Kuripuni	707	808	960	1.1%	0.9%
Masterton Central	279	299	347	0.6%	0.7%
Lansdowne	**2,077**	**2,243**	**2,743**	**0.6%**	**1.0%**
Lansdowne East	1,309	1,406	1,752	0.6%	1.1%
Lansdowne West	768	837	991	0.7%	0.8%
Masterton East	**1,605**	**1,614**	**1,650**	**0.0%**	**0.1%**
Cameron and Soldiers Park	946	908	901	-0.3%	0.0%
McJorrow Park	659	706	749	0.6%	0.3%
Solway	**2,804**	**3,063**	**3,523**	**0.7%**	**0.7%**
Solway South	1,719	1,930	2,262	1.0%	0.8%
Solway North	1,085	1,133	1,261	0.4%	0.5%
Masterton District	**11,629**	**12,733**	**14,547**	**0.8%**	**0.7%**

Carterton town oldest population in Carterton district

Carterton town has an appreciably older population than the wider Carterton District. Graph 10 shows that people aged 65+made up 33% of the population in Carterton North and 29% of the population in Carterton South in 2025. Across the remainder of Carterton district, the 65+ population made up 20-22% of the population. The youngest population is found in Gladstone, with 20% of the population under the age of 15.

Graph 10



Carterton South leads population growth

Within Carterton District, similar population growth is projected for most SA2 areas under the medium scenario, the only exception being Gladstone which is projected to grow appreciably slower at 0.3%pa between 2025 and 2037. Table 5 shows that growth across Mount Holdsworth, Carterton North and South, and Kokotau is projected to range from 0.6%pa to 0.8%pa.

Table 5

Carterton sub-district population growth

Infometrics medium projection

	Population			Annual average growth	
SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Mount Holdsworth	2,077	2,252	2,424	0.7%	0.4%
Carterton North	2,714	2,922	3,345	0.6%	0.7%
Carterton South	3,217	3,538	4,058	0.8%	0.7%
Kokotau	1,311	1,432	1,549	0.7%	0.4%
Gladstone	980	1,016	1,034	0.3%	0.1%
Carterton District	**10,300**	**11,161**	**12,410**	**0.7%**	**0.5%**

The population of Carterton North and South is appreciably larger than the other Carterton SA2s, meaning that the majority of population growth by number will take place in Carterton town. From 2037 to 2057, population growth is projected to slow across rural parts of the district, as Carterton North and South continue to lead growth at 0.7%pa.

Mount Holdsworth leads household growth

Household growth reflects not only population growth but also demographic shifts, such as an older population forming smaller households. Table 6 shows that from 2025

to 2037, the strongest household growth is projected for Koktau at 1.2%pa, reflecting shifts towards smaller households more so than underlying population growth.

Table 6

Carterton sub-district household growth

Infometrics medium projection

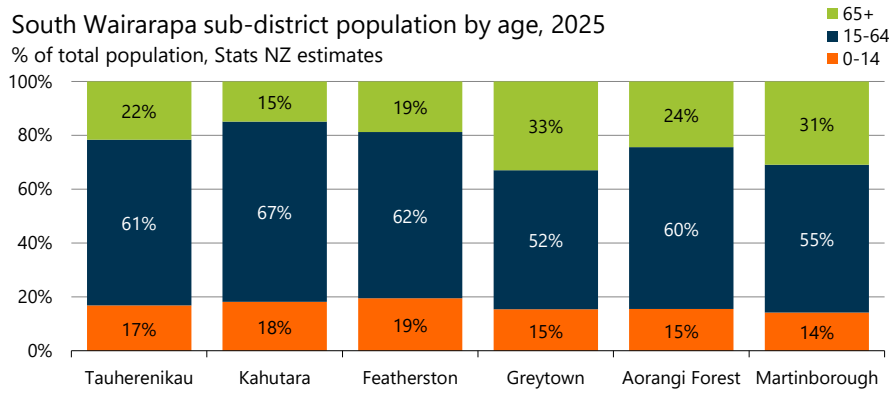
	Households			Annual average growth	
SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Mount Holdsworth	860	951	1,032	0.8%	0.4%
Carterton North	1,183	1,252	1,473	0.5%	0.8%
Carterton South	1,371	1,498	1,783	0.7%	0.9%
Kokotau	523	607	663	1.2%	0.4%
Gladstone	383	415	408	0.7%	-0.1%
Carterton District	**4,319**	**4,724**	**5,359**	**0.7%**	**0.6%**

The rate of household growth is projected to pick up in Carterton, with Carterton North rising from 0.5%pa over 2025-2037 to 0.8%pa over 2037-2057, and Carterton South rising from 0.7%pa to 0.9%pa.

Greytown oldest population in South Wairarapa

Within South Wairarapa district, Greytown has the oldest population, with 33% aged 65+ (see Graph 11). The next oldest is Martinborough, where 31% of the population is aged 65+. The most youthful population in South Wairarapa is in and around Featherston, with 19% of Featherston's population under the age of 15, followed by 18% in Kahutara and 17% in Tauherenikau.

Graph 11



The working age 15-64-year-old population is most significant in Kahutara, making up 67% of the population.

Featherston, Tauherenikau and Martinborough lead population growth

Within South Wairarapa, the strongest population growth is projected for Featherston, Taurherenikau and Martinborough, with all three projected to grow at 0.9%pa between 2025 and 2037 under the medium scenario (see Table 7). Growth in Tauherenikau reflects urban growth on the edges of Featherston and Greytown, as the Tauherenikau SA2 abuts both towns. Over the longer term, from 2037 to 2057, growth is expected to concentrate in South Wairarapa's three towns, including spillover into Tauherenikau.

Table 7

South Wairarapa sub-district population growth

Infometrics medium projection

	Population			Annual average growth	
SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Tauherenikau	1,655	1,840	2,013	0.9%	0.5%
Kahutara	1,210	1,305	1,308	0.6%	0.0%
Featherston	2,870	3,201	3,675	0.9%	0.7%
Greytown	2,889	3,092	3,742	0.6%	1.0%
Aorangi Forest	1,679	1,813	1,834	0.6%	0.1%
Martinborough	1,897	2,112	2,569	0.9%	1.0%
South Wairarapa	**12,200**	**13,363**	**15,140**	**0.8%**	**0.6%**

Population growth is expected to pick up in Martinborough and Greytown over time as wastewater connection constraints are lifted. Stronger growth in Martinborough over time is also expected to contribute to lower development of lifestyle properties in the rural area surrounding Martinborough, which is in the Aorangi Forest SA2.

Featherston fringe leads household growth

Household growth reflects not only population growth but also demographic shifts, such as an older population forming smaller households. Table 8 shows that from 2025 to 2037, the strongest household growth is projected in Featherston and adjacent areas in Kahutara and Tauherenikau, with all three areas growing at 1.1%pa. From 2037 to 2057, the strongest growth is projected for the three urban SA2s, with Featherston and Martinborough households growing 0.8%pa, and Greytown growing 0.9%pa.

Table 8

South Wairarapa sub-district household growth

Infometrics medium projection

	Households			Annual average growth	
SA2 area	2025	2037	2057	2025-2037	2037-2057
Tauherenikau	699	801	866	1.1%	0.4%
Kahutara	475	539	559	1.1%	0.2%
Featherston	1,173	1,330	1,565	1.1%	0.8%
Greytown	1,319	1,402	1,666	0.5%	0.9%
Aorangi Forest	734	811	806	0.8%	0.0%
Martinborough	866	952	1,123	0.8%	0.8%
South Wairarapa	**5,266**	**5,834**	**6,585**	**0.9%**	**0.6%**

Appendix 1 – our approach in detail

This appendix expands on the brief methodology described earlier in *Our approach*, explaining our approach to each facet of the projection, including key assumptions that we have made.

Employment forecast

Infometrics forecasts regional employment through a combination of three models. Our macro-economic model provides forecasts of national employment on an annual basis up to 2031. Our general equilibrium model forecasts national employment by industry over the long-term. Finally, our regional forecasting model breaks these forecasts down to industries in each region.

Macro-economic model

Infometrics maintains a macroeconomic forecasting model that underpins our five-year forecasts of activity across the national economy. Our model accounts for the relationships between different sectors of the economy and their responsiveness to one another. These include the labour market, households, businesses, government, the international trade sector, and financial markets.

In times of economic upheaval, we refine the output from the model based on expert input from our forecasting team, their knowledge of rapidly changing trends in the economy, and the insights we gain from our interactions with central government, Councils, Economic Development Agencies, and private sector clients.

Overseeing the forecasting process and model is Gareth Kiernan, who has been forecasting the New Zealand economy for more than 20 years. The framework provides quarterly forecasts of GDP, employment, unemployment, and a range of other macroeconomic indicators up to 2031.

General equilibrium

Infometrics general equilibrium (GE) model enables us to produce long term national forecasts of employment by 55 industries. To obtain projections for a 30-year horizon requires an approach that is based on structural issues such as technological change, industry productivity, demographics, evolving demand for different consumer goods and services, and New Zealand's international competitiveness. The model presents a picture or scenario of the economy for the target years (in our case 2030 and 2050) based on plausible assumptions of economic factors including international commodity prices, population growth, carbon price, automation, changes in energy efficiency, and substitution between four energy types (coal, oil, gas and electricity).

Long term forecasts should ideally be presented as scenarios given the uncertainty of the future. In this project we will present a central scenario which is based on a central view of a range of factors that can influence employment outcomes over the long term.

Infometrics GE model is maintained by one of New Zealand's foremost econometricians, Dr Adolf Stroombergen.

Regional Forecasting Model

The Regional Forecasting Model (RFM) is an econometric model which breaks national employment forecasts to detailed industry and regional level. It draws on Infometrics 20-year quarterly time series of employment by detailed industry by territorial authority. The model uses a mix of top-down and bottom-up approaches. It simultaneously provides forecasts for all industries in all territorial authorities that are constrained to be consistent with Infometrics macroeconomic forecasts for the national economy in the medium term and the outputs of the GE model in the long term.

A number of sub-models which use a bottom-up approach feed into the Regional Forecasting Model. We build sub-models for industries that we have detailed insights into, and we forecast drivers of employment in those industries. Currently we use four industry sub-models.

Construction sub-model

The construction sub-model provides forecasts of employment in each of the 24 construction sub-industries in each territorial authority. It is an econometric model which is largely driven by Infometrics forecasts of work put in place (WPIP) which are presented to clients via our Regional Construction Outlook product. Our WPIP forecasts are driven by population growth, household formation, and large construction projects which have been signalled. Employment is assumed to respond in a lagged manner to changes in WPIP. The length and magnitude of those lagged responses differs across industries.

Education sub-model

The education sub-model provides forecasts of employment for the following sub-industries: early childhood education, primary education, secondary education, tertiary and vocational education. The model develops a relationship between age cohorts and demand for services from each sub-industry and draws on our age-specific population forecasts to estimate the demand for services from each sub-industry. For example, the size of the population of 0- to 4-year-olds drives the demand for early childhood education. In some cases, we assume that student to staff ratios will keep falling and these have also been incorporated into our estimates for long-term demand. We then estimate the speed at which employment will converge to long-term demand. The model accounts for trends in international education which are driven by different factors compared to domestic education.

Healthcare sub-model

The healthcare sub-model disaggregates into healthcare industries (hospitals, dental services, etc) and social service industries (aged care, childcare). We use regional population projections to estimate long-term demand for these services. Where relevant, we combine these regional population projections with estimates of demand for healthcare services by age group. For example, demand for hospital workers incorporates data on the number of hospital bed days by age group.

Retail and hospitality sub-model

The retail and hospitality sub-model disaggregates into retail industries and hospitality industries (accommodation and food services). Forecasting is a two-stage process. First, we forecast regional retail and hospitality sales, taking into account the different components of sales: local spending, domestic tourism and international tourism. This allows us to account for the regional variations in the impact of COVID, which include lower international tourism but higher amounts of local spending and domestic

tourism. Second, we use econometric models to forecast the impact of retail and hospitality sales on employment.

Other industries

For industries with no sub-model the RFM draws on historic trends, patterns and relationships, and projects these into the future. RFM draws on a 20-year quarterly time series of employment by 500 industries in each territorial authority. It creates multiple forecast models for every territorial authority and industry combination and, using machine learning techniques, selects and applies the model which has proven to have best predictive ability. Using these techniques, it produces forecasts of employment across 500 industries for each territorial authority over the long term.

Population projection

Population base

As a rule, the appropriate population to use for Council Long Term Planning (LTP) purposes is the estimated resident population (ERP). This represents all individuals who permanently reside in an area and could be considered a 'maximum' population because a percentage of these individuals are likely to be away at any given point in time.

Consequently, we use the Stats NZ 2024 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as the basis for the population projections. This estimate is produced by Stats NZ with the most recent available Census (2023) data, and births, deaths and migration that have been recorded since.

Given that the majority of population projection parameters from Stats NZ are published for five-year intervals, our projection model also operates at five-year intervals, from 2023 to 2058. We then make use of a cubic-spine statistical process to interpolate population to single years. We make adjustments to reflect the fact that with data up to 2025 currently available, we have data for two out of five years in the 2023 to 2028 period. We repeat this process every year to account for Stats NZ's annual publication and revision of subnational population estimates.

Fertility

Stats NZ projects regional, age-specific fertility rates for five-year age groups, which we apply to our estimates of population by age and gender cohorts, in order to estimate the number of births in each five-year period. Throughout the projection period, we adopt Stats NZ's assumed gender ratio of 105.5 males per 100 females born – this is based on the historic average ratio at a national level. This phenomenon is commonly observed around the world, and is understood to be a function of slightly higher miscarriage rates for female babies, rather than of selective abortion.

Mortality

Projected age- and gender-specific mortality rates by region or territorial authority, as calculated by Stats NZ, are applied to accurately project the number of deaths. These rates vary over time to reflect observed trends such as extended life expectancy.

Migration

We build up our projection of net migration in two stages. First, we consider overall volumes of international net migration to New Zealand. This contributes to the total pool of net migrants – international and internal – which we apportion to each territorial authority.

International net migration volumes

The population projections draw on Infometrics' short- and long-term international migration forecasts (Graph 1).

Regional distribution of migration

Migration is apportioned to territorial authorities using a mix of two approaches. Firstly, historical migration trends are applied to forecast the volume of non-employment-driven migration, such as people moving at retirement. Secondly, forecast labour market shortfalls are used to forecast the volume of employment-driven migration, such as people moving to take up employment opportunities. Employment-driven migration is also adjusted somewhat to account for commuting patterns between districts.

For non-employment-driven migration, we apply the age and gender profile of Stats NZ's subnational net migration projections. For employment-driven migration, we apply a bespoke age and gender profile, based on Stats NZ's projection with adjustment made around older age groups and groups with net negative migration. Analysis of net migration by age reveals that migration flows of persons aged 80 years and older are relatively unresponsive to economic conditions, as this group is generally not involved in the labour market and migration is driven by non-economic factors such as moving closer to family or healthcare. Therefore, we only model employment-driven migration in age groups up to the age of 79 years. We do model migration of children (0-14 years of age) as being responsive to the employment market as this is evident in historic data, which reflects families moving in pursuit of employment opportunities for the parents. For areas which receive additional employment-driven migration, we assume that this is concentrated in age-gender groups with positive migration flows, as we expect a strong labour market would accentuate positive regional labour flows and not extend negative flows.

Labour Market Shortfalls

Labour market shortfalls exist when employers' requirement for labour exceeds the number of workers available at current wage rates. When labour market shortfalls exist in an area, additional labour (and hence population) is attracted to that area.

Infometrics estimates future labour market shortfalls by separately considering the projected supply of labour and the projected demand for labour (as measured by employment) and comparing these two factors.

As the starting point for estimating labour supply, Infometrics makes use of Stats NZ's published population projections by 5-year age group and gender.

Labour force participation rates (LFPRs) by age and gender are projected based on Stats NZ's national labour force projections. In addition, historical LFPRs for each region are analysed to identify their deviation from the national average. This deviation is applied to the national LFPR by age, to project regional LFPR by age. Historical averages for the unemployment rate in each region are analysed and projected forward. Projected LFPR

by age is applied to the Stats NZ population projection, and the projected unemployment rate is applied to this, in order to estimate labour supply.

This projection is undertaken for each region or territorial authority, enabling the balance between labour supply and demand (as measured by employment) to be assessed within each area. In periods of insufficient labour supply within a territorial authority or broader regional labour market to meet projected labour demand, the area is projected to receive additional migration.

This additional migration is apportioned to regions or territorial authorities based on their respective share of the national labour market shortfall. At the same time, however, additional migration may be constrained by the Infometrics international net migration forecast, meaning that a particular region may not necessarily receive sufficient inward migration to entirely eliminate its labour market shortfall.

Similarly, the projected LFPR and unemployment rates are applied to the additional migration, reflecting the fact that it is rarely possible to import only workers – instead these workers often come with family members, who may not necessarily be economically active. Examples in this regard might include stay-at-home parents, children and aged dependents. Furthermore, in some instances, migrants may not immediately gain employment following their move.

Sub-district population

We project sub-district population by considering the current population in each SA2 area, historical trends in each SA2, overall growth of the district, and the development capacity in each SA2 area. This process is carried out through a full cohort-component model for each SA2 area. Stats NZ generally designs SA2 areas to have a population of 1,000 to 3,000, with the geographic size varying depending on population density.

Household projection

The number of households at SA2 or district level is projected by applying household formation, or Living Arrangement Type Rates (LATR) to the projected population. Stats NZ projects LATR to 2043 from the 2018 Census figures for each territorial authority. These rates reflect localised differences based on local population composition. For example, some non-European ethnic groups exhibit a greater propensity to form multi-generational households, leading to larger household sizes. These projected rates also consider trends such as delayed childbearing, growing numbers of childless couples, decreased rates of single parenting, and improvements in life expectancy which enable older individuals to live independently for longer periods. This means that the LATR used in the projections follow a trend up to 2043, and then remain constant at 2043 rates up to 2058.

Applying LATR to the population provides an estimate of the number of people in each living arrangement type; this is then translated into the number of households based on expected family structures – for example, couple households consisting of two individuals. For other multi-person households, we follow the standard Stats NZ assumptions, and assume 2.6 persons per household. Projected population figures are accordingly divided by the number of households to project average household size.

The projected household size calculated in these projections varies somewhat from the 2018 Census measures. This is because Census counts are randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of 3, or supressed entirely, so as to ensure confidentiality of Census

respondents. Census outputs such as average household size are however based on actual data, meaning that it is impossible for third parties to precisely replicate these outputs. Projection outputs can also vary from Census measures due to short-term changes such as increased housing occupancy in response to increasing housing costs.

7.2 AMENDMENT TO THE WAIRARAPA CONSOLIDATED BYLAW PART 6A: TRAFFIC BYLAW SCHEDULES

File Number:

Author: **Karen Yates, Group Manager Strategy**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council agreement to amendments to the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedules to:

- establish new no-stopping restrictions at a number of KiwiRail level crossings throughout Masterton (where markings have already been put in place); and
- establish new no-stopping restrictions associated with Cashmere Oaks Drive and access roads serving the Summerset retirement village development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. **amends** the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedules by updating *Schedule 2F1: No Stopping on Streets* as follows to include the no stopping areas associated with KiwiRail level crossings:

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Akura Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Herewini Street	The northern side of Akura Road, commencing 350.7 metres east from the intersection with Herewini Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 58.4 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Akura Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Herewini Street	The southern side of Akura Road, commencing 366.4 metres east from the intersection with Herewini Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 48.5 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
College Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Renall Street	The western side of College Street, commencing at the intersection with College Street, extending in a southern direction for a distance of 46.1 metres	TBC (Pending Adoption)
College Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Renall Street	The eastern side of College Street, commencing at the intersection with College Street, extending in an southern direction for a distance of 46.1 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Renall Street	College	The northern side of Renall Street,	TBC (Pending

[KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Street	commencing 70.9 metres west from the intersection with College Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 115.1 metres.	Adoption)
Renall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	College Street	The southern side of Renall Street, commencing 70.9 metres west from the intersection with College Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 115.1 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Cornwall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The northern side of Cornwall Street, commencing 53.6 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 58.3 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Cornwall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The southern side of Cornwall Street, commencing 53.6 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 58.3 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Hillcrest Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The northern side of Hillcrest Street, commencing 11.7 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 49.7 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Hillcrest Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The southern side of Hillcrest Street, commencing 11.7 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 59.0 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Ngaumutawa Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Upper Mania Road	The northern side of Ngaumutawa Road, commencing 35.7 metres north from the intersection with Upper Mania Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 70.9 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Ngaumutawa Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Upper Mania Road	The southern side of Ngaumutawa Road, commencing 42.2 metres north from the intersection with Upper Mania Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 109.6 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Upper Mania Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The northern side of Upper Mania Road, commencing from the intersection with Upper Mania Road, extending in an western direction for a distance of 12.5 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Upper Mania Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The southern side of Upper Mania Road, commencing from the intersection with Upper Mania Road, extending in an western direction for a distance of 12.5 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

2. **notes** that the KiwiRail level crossing no-stopping restrictions are already marked on the road network and are being incorporated into the Traffic Bylaw Schedule to support enforcement and ensure consistency between on-road markings and Council's regulatory schedules.

3. **amends** the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedules by updating *Schedule 2F1: No Stopping on Streets* adding the following no-stopping restrictions associated with the Cashmere Oaks Drive turning head and access roads serving the Summerset retirement village development:

Location		**Description**	**Date of Resolution**
Primary	**Secondary**		
Cashmere Oaks Drive [Summerset Development]	Unnamed Road	The western side of Cashmere Oaks Drive Road, commencing from the intersection with the yet to be name road, extending in a southwestern direction for a distance of 74.6 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Cashmere Oaks Drive [Summerset Development]	Unnamed Road	The eastern side of Cashmere Oaks Drive Road, commencing from the intersection with the yet to be name road, extending in a southwestern direction for a distance of 74.6 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

4. **notes** that that the Summerset restrictions arise from approved engineering and traffic management plans associated with the relevant Resource Consent and require inclusion in the Traffic Bylaw to be enforceable.

CONTEXT

The three Wairarapa District Councils have a consolidated Bylaw including Part 6: Traffic. This sets the requirements for parking and control of traffic on any road in the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa districts, including state highways located within the urban boundaries.

Under clause 22 of Part 6: Traffic, each council is responsible for maintaining schedules of traffic control measures in their district and has the power to amend their Bylaw schedules by resolution, publicly notified under clause 21.

Masterton District Council’s schedule is known as Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedules. Schedule 2F lists all no stopping areas in the District, with Schedule 2F1 covering no stopping areas on streets.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE

Analysis

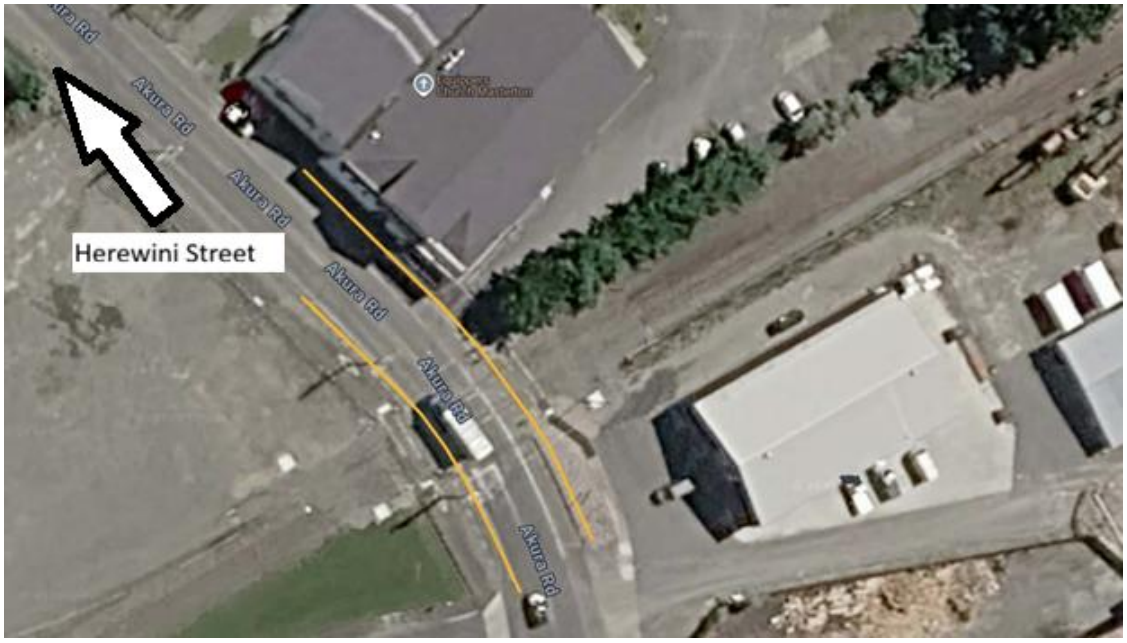
KiwiRail Level Crossing Restrictions

Council's Roading Team has reviewed the no-stopping markings that have been added around a number of level crossings in Masterton, following the recently completed level crossing upgrade work. These no-stopping areas are intended to maintain visibility of approaching trains, preserve safe sight distances for road users, and ensure vehicles do not queue or park in locations that could interfere with the safe operation of railway crossings.

While the road markings were painted as part of the KiwiRail work, the restrictions need to be added to the Traffic Bylaw Schedule to be enforceable. Inclusion within Schedule 2F1 will ensure Council's records accurately reflect existing traffic controls.

The affected locations, and changes are shown below:

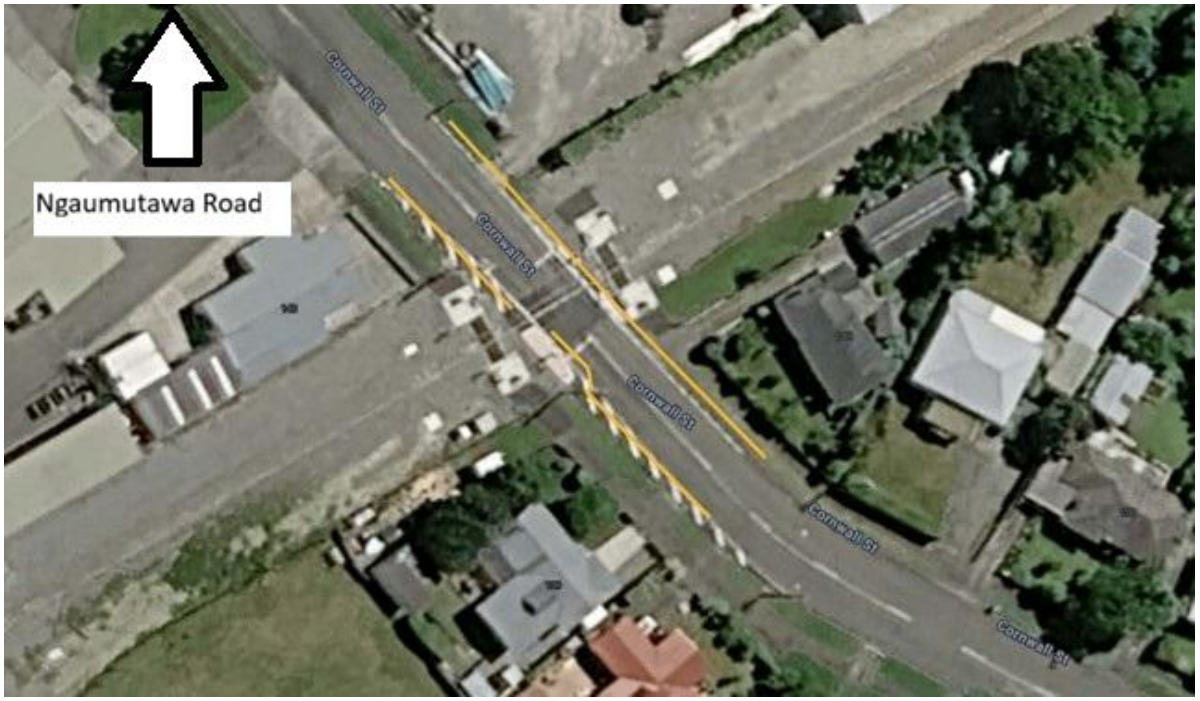
Akura Road: *proposed no stopping markings are noted in yellow.*



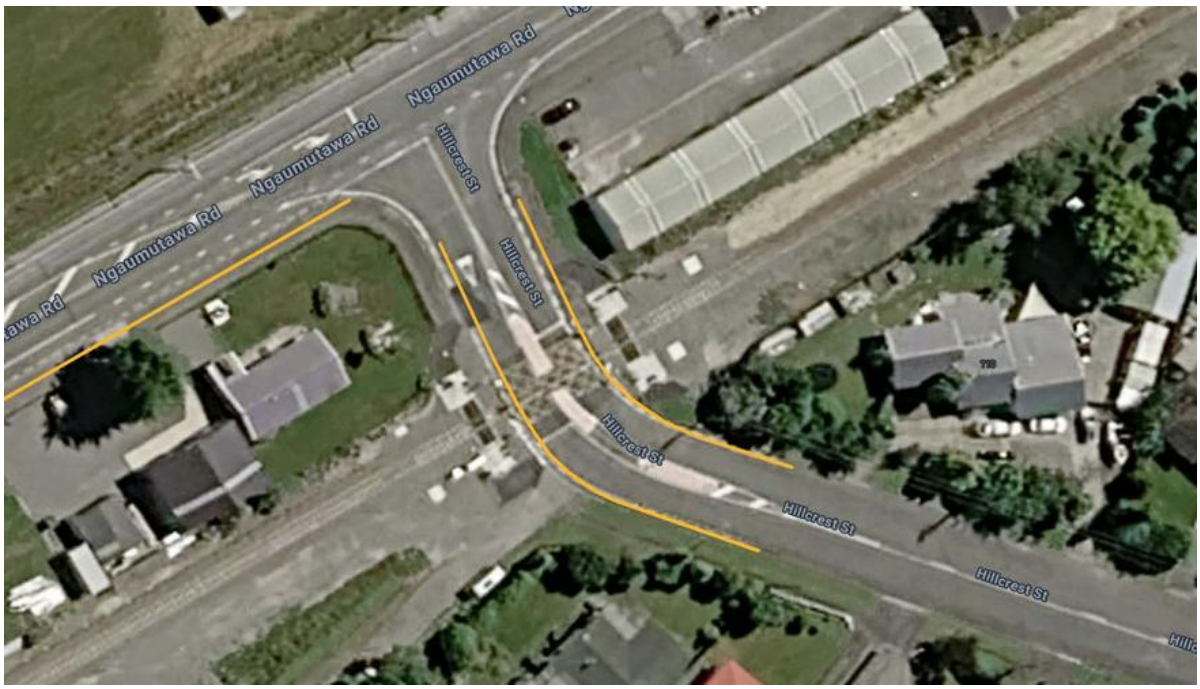
Renall Street and College Street: *proposed no stopping markings are noted in yellow.*



Cornwall Street: *proposed no stopping markings are noted in yellow.*



Hillcrest Street: *proposed no stopping markings are noted in yellow.*

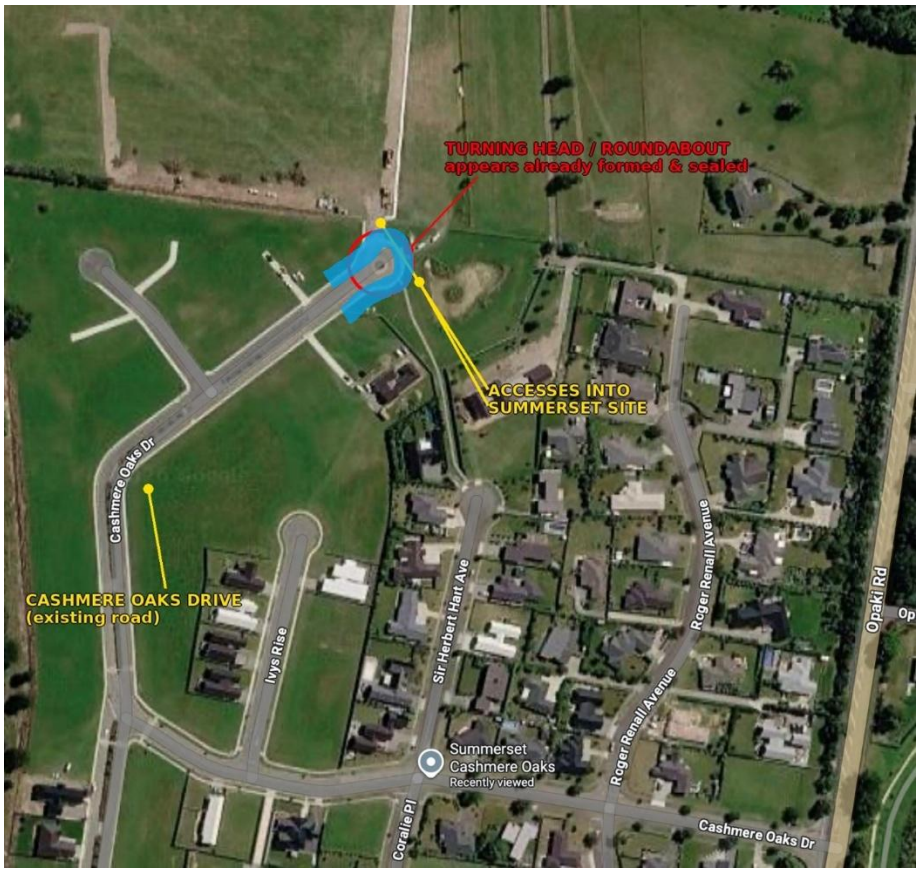


Ngaumutawa Road and Upper Manaia Road: *proposed no stopping markings are noted in yellow.*



Cashmere Oaks Drive/Summerset Development

As part of the approved engineering plans for the Summerset retirement village development on Cashmere Oaks Drive, Council required the installation of no-stopping restrictions around the turning head and associated access roads. The area is marked in blue.



The purpose of these restrictions is to:

- maintain safe turning movements for larger vehicles;
- preserve access for emergency services;
- ensure adequate sight distances;
- reduce the potential for parking to obstruct the roadway; and
- support the safe and efficient operation of the retirement village entrance.

Council officers determined that parking restrictions were necessary due to the anticipated volume of visitor traffic, mobility transport, service vehicles and emergency vehicles associated with the facility.

The signs and markings plan has now been approved; however the no stopping restrictions must be included in the Traffic Bylaw Schedule before they can be enforced.

Advice

It is recommended that Council amend Schedule 2F1 to include the identified restrictions across all sites.

These changes will:

- improve road safety around rail level crossings;
- support compliance with approved traffic management designs;
- improve visibility and manoeuvrability at key locations;
- support enforcement of parking restrictions;
- reduce the risk of vehicles obstructing roadways;
- support safe access for emergency, service and mobility vehicles; and
- ensure Council's Traffic Bylaws accurately reflect road controls.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The following additions are proposed to Schedule 2F1: No Stopping Areas on Streets to give effect to the changes set out above.

KiwiRail Level Crossing Locations

Akura Road

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Akura Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Herewini Street	The northern side of Akura Road, commencing 350.7 metres east from the intersection with Herewini Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 58.4 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Akura Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Herewini Street	The southern side of Akura Road, commencing 366.4 metres east from the intersection with Herewini Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 48.5 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Renall Street/College Street

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
College Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Renall Street	The western side of College Street, commencing at the intersection with College Street, extending in a southern direction for a distance of 46.1 metres	TBC (Pending Adoption)
College Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Renall Street	The eastern side of College Street, commencing at the intersection with College Street, extending in an southern direction for a distance of 46.1 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Renall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	College Street	The northern side of Renall Street, commencing 70.9 metres west from the intersection with College Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 115.1 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Renall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	College Street	The southern side of Renall Street, commencing 70.9 metres west from the intersection with College Street, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 115.1 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Cornwall Street

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Cornwall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The northern side of Cornwall Street, commencing 53.6 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 58.3 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Cornwall Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The southern side of Cornwall Street, commencing 53.6 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 58.3 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Hillcrest Street

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Hillcrest Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The northern side of Hillcrest Street, commencing 11.7 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 49.7 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Hillcrest Street [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The southern side of Hillcrest Street, commencing 11.7 metres east from the intersection with Ngaumutawa Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 59.0 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Ngaumutawa Road/Upper Manaia Road

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Ngaumutawa Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Upper Mania Road	The northern side of Ngaumutawa Road, commencing 35.7 metres north from the intersection with Upper Mania Road, extending in an eastern direction for a distance of 70.9 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
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Upper Mania Road [KiwiRail Level Crossing]	Ngaumutawa Road	The southern side of Upper Mania Road, commencing from the intersection with Upper Mania Road, extending in an western direction for a distance of 12.5 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

Cashmere Oaks Drive

Location		Description	Date of Resolution
Primary	**Secondary**		
Cashmere Oaks Drive [Summerset Development]	Unnamed Road	The western side of Cashmere Oaks Drive Road, commencing from the intersection with the yet to be name road, extending in a southwestern direction for a distance of 74.6 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)
Cashmere Oaks Drive [Summerset Development]	Unnamed Road	The eastern side of Cashmere Oaks Drive Road, commencing from the intersection with the yet to be name road, extending in a southwestern direction for a distance of 74.6 metres.	TBC (Pending Adoption)

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A summary of the options considered is included in the table below.

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Amend the Traffic Bylaw Schedule	• Improves road safety. • Enables enforcement of restrictions. • Formalises existing road controls. • Supports safe operation of railway crossings. • Supports safe operation of the Summerset retirement village access. • Maintains consistency between traffic controls and Council records	• Minor administrative costs associated with updating Council records and schedules.
2	Do Not Amend the Traffic Bylaw Schedule	• No immediate administrative costs.	• Creates potential inconsistencies between physical markings and statutory records. • May reduce enforceability of restrictions. • Increases safety risks associated with parking near railway crossings and key access points. • Fails to give effect to approved engineering requirements for the Summerset development.
3	Amend the Traffic Bylaw Schedule in part	• May reduce immediate implementation and	Depending on what was adopted or not, may: • Create ongoing

		administrative requirements.	inconsistencies between some traffic controls and Council records. • May lead to confusion for road users where only some controls are formally adopted. • May not fully address enforcement issues across all locations. • Delay implementation of approved traffic management measures and associated safety benefits

RECOMMENDED OPTION

Option 1 is recommended. The proposed amendments support a safe and efficient transport network, formalise existing traffic controls around KiwiRail level crossings, and enable enforcement of approved parking restrictions associated with the Summerset retirement village development. These changes are considered appropriate, proportionate and consistent with good traffic management practice.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic, Policy and Legislative Implications

The proposed amendments are consistent with the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6: Traffic and are authorised under clause 22.1, which enables Council to amend traffic schedules by resolution.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

The proposed changes are operational in nature, relate primarily to road safety and formalise existing or previously approved traffic controls. Therefore, separate consultation is not considered necessary.

Financial Considerations

Any costs associated with updating schedules, signage or road markings can be accommodated within existing operational budgets.

Implications for Māori

No specific implications for Māori have been identified.

Communications/Engagement Plan

Communication is covered in the 'Next Steps' section of this report, below.

Environmental/Climate Change Impact and Considerations

No environmental/climate change impacts have been identified in relation to this decision.

NEXT STEPS

Following adoption of the amendments to the Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw Part 6A: Traffic Bylaw Schedule notification will be made on the Council's website.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7.3 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2027 AND AMENDMENT TO 2026 SCHEDULE

File Number:

Author: **Karen Yates, Manager Strategy and Governance**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval of the schedule of Council and Committee meetings for 2027 and for an amendment to the Schedule of Council and Committee meetings for 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council meetings are set on a six-week schedule with additional meetings added to the schedule when needed and the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meets quarterly. The Hearings Committee does not have scheduled meetings but meets when required.

Adoption of a schedule of meetings for the coming year allows for reasonable public notice of meetings to be given in accordance with statutory requirements and for the planning of other commitments around Council and Committee meetings.

The 2026 Schedule of Meetings needs to be further amended as an additional Council meeting is needed on 25 November 2026 to adopt the 2025-2026 Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. approves the schedule of Council and Committee meeting dates for 2027 as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.
2. approves an amendment to the 2026 Schedule of Council and Committee Meetings to add an additional Council meeting on 25 November commencing at 9.30am.

CONTEXT

The meeting calendar for 2027 follows roughly the same schedule as the 2026 calendar, with Council meetings on a six-weekly cycle and the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting quarterly (see Attachment 1).

As a general rule, Council meetings will commence at 9.30am and Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meetings at 1.00pm. All meetings have been scheduled on Wednesdays.

In addition to the scheduled Council and Committee meetings, additional and extraordinary meetings may be added as required during the year. Elected members will be advised of these dates as soon as they have been set.

Adoption of a schedule of meetings for the coming year allows for reasonable public notice of meetings to be given in accordance with statutory requirements and for the planning of other commitments and the scheduling of work programmes around Council and Committee meetings.

Council approved the 2026 Schedule of Meetings at its meeting on 10 December 2025. Approval of the proposed amended schedule, with the addition of the 25 November Council meeting, will allow the website to be updated with the latest version (see Attachment 2).

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A summary of the options considered is included in the table below.

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Approve the proposed schedule for Council and Committee meetings for 2027 and the amendment to the 2026 schedule.	Elected members and staff will have certainty around meeting dates for 2027. The decision will allow meeting dates to be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act and the latest version of the schedule to be available on the Council website.	None identified.
2	Adopt an amended 2027 Schedule	Elected members and staff will have certainty around meeting dates for the remainder of the current triennium. The decision will allow meeting dates to be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act	None, unless changes are to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee dates which may affect the availability of the Independent Chair.
3	Do not approve a schedule of meetings for 2027	No advantages identified	Elected members and staff will not have certainty around meeting dates for the remainder of the triennium, although meetings will still be notified monthly as required by the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act.

RECOMMENDED OPTION

Option 1 is the preferred option.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic, Policy and Legislative Implications

While not a requirement, the decision to adopt a schedule of meetings is referred to in the Local Government Act and meeting notification timeframes are set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

Decisions to adopt a schedule of meetings for 2027 and to update the 2026 schedule do not amount to significant decisions in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as they are administrative in nature.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations in the decision to adopt the 2027 schedule of meetings or the amended 2026 schedule.

Implications for Māori

No implications specific to Māori have been identified in the decisions sought.

Communications/Engagement Plan

No communication or engagement plan is required. Meetings will be publicly notified in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Environmental/Climate Change Impact and Considerations

There are no environmental or climate change impacts or considerations arising from the approval of the schedule of meetings for the 2027 year and the amended 2026 schedule.

NEXT STEPS

If the 2027 schedule is adopted as recommended, invitations for the 2027 meetings will be sent out.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **2027 Schedule of Meetings** ⇩
2. **Amended 2026 Schedule of Meetings** ⇩

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2027
Masterton District Council

	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		
MON			1		1																1				MON
TUE			2		2						1										2				TUE
WED			3		3						2						1				3		1		WED
THU			4		4		1				3		1				2				4		2		THU
FRI	1	New Year's Day	5		5		2				4		2				3		1		5		3		FRI
SAT	2	Day after NY's Day	6	Waitangi Day	6		3		1		5		3				4		2		6		4		SAT
SUN	3		7		7		4		2		6		4		1		5		3		7		5		SUN
MON	4	Day after NY's Day (observed)	8	Waitangi Day (observed)	8		5		3		7	King's Birthday	5		2		6		4		8		6		MON
TUE	5		9		9		6		4		8		6		3		7		5		9		7		TUE
WED	6		10		10		7	COUNCIL	5	FINANCE RISK AND ASSURANCE	9		7		4	COUNCIL	8		6		10		8	COUNCIL	WED
THU	7		11		11		8		6		10		8		5		9		7		11		9		THU
FRI	8		12		12		9		7		11		9		6		10		8		12		10		FRI
SAT	9		13		13		10		8		12		10		7		11		9		13		11		SAT
SUN	10		14		14		11		9		13		11		8		12		10		14		12		SUN
MON	11		15		15		12		10		14		12		9		13		11		15		13		MON
TUE	12		16		16		13		11		15		13		10		14		12		16		14		TUE
WED	13		17	FINANCE, RISK AND ASSURANCE	17		14		12	COUNCIL – LTP Hearings	16		14		11	FINANCE, RISK AND ASSURANCE	15	COUNCIL	13		17		15		WED
THU	14		18		18		15		13	COUNCIL – LTP Hearings	17		15		12		16		14		18		16		THU
FRI	15		19		19		16		14		18		16		13		17		15		19		17		FRI
SAT	16		20		20		17		15		19		17		14		18		16		20		18		SAT
SUN	17		21		21		18		16		20		18		15		19		17		21		19		SUN
MON	18		22		22		19		17		21		19		16		20		18		22		20		MON
TUE	19		23		23		20		18		22		20		17		21		19		23		21		TUE
WED	20		24	COUNCIL	24	ADOPT LTP CONSULTAION DOC	21		19	COUNCIL	23		21		18		22		20		24	FINANCE, RISK AND ASSURANCE	22		WED
THU	21		25		25		22		20		24		22		19		23		21		25		23		THU
FRI	22		26		26	Good Friday	23		21		25	Matariki	23		20		24		22		26		24		FRI
SAT	23		27		27		24		22		26		24		21		25		23		27		25	Christmas Day	SAT
SUN	24		28		28		25	ANZAC Day	23		27		25		22		26		24		28		26	Boxing Day	SUN
MON	25	Wellington Anniversary			29	Easter Monday	26	ANZAC Day (observed)	24		28		26		23		27		25	Labour Day	29		27	Christmas Day Holiday (observed)	MON
TUE	26				30		27		25		29		27		24		28		26		30		28	Boxing Day Holiday (observed)	TUE
WED	27				31		28		26	COUNCIL – LTP Deliberations	30	COUNCIL ADOPT LTP	28		25		29		27	COUNCIL			29		WED
THU	28						29		27				29		26		30		28				30		THU
FRI	29						30		28				30		27				29				31		FRI
SAT	30								29						28				30						SAT
SUN	31								30						29				31						SUN
MON									31						30										
TUE															31										
	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		

KEY	COUNCIL	FINANCE RISK AND ASSURANCE	HEARINGS COMMITTEE	Weekends/Public Holidays	LTP Related	School Holidays

AMDENDED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2026
Masterton District Council

	October		November		December		
MON							MON
TUE					1		TUE
WED					2		WED
THU	1				3		THU
FRI	2				4		FRI
SAT	3				5		SAT
SUN	4		1		6		SUN
MON	5		2		7		MON
TUE	6		3		8		TUE
WED	7		4		9	COUNCIL	WED
THU	8		5		10		THU
FRI	9		6		11		FRI
SAT	10		7		12		SAT
SUN	11		8		13		SUN
MON	12		9		14		MON
TUE	13		10		15		TUE
WED	14		11	FINANCE, RISK AND ASSURANCE	16		WED
THU	15		12		17		THU
FRI	16		13		18		FRI
SAT	17		14		19		SAT
SUN	18		15		20		SUN
MON	19		16		21		MON
TUE	20		17		22		TUE
WED	21		18		23		WED
THU	22		19		24		THU
FRI	23		20		25	Christmas Day	FRI
SAT	24		21		26	Boxing Day	SAT
SUN	25		22		27		SUN
MON	26	Labour Day	23		28	Boxing Day Holiday	MON
TUE	27		24		29		TUE
WED	28	COUNCIL	25	COUNCIL	30		WED
THU	29		26		31		THU
FRI	30		27				FRI
SAT	31		28				SAT
SUN			29				SUN
MON			30				
TUE							
	October		November		December		

19 October 2026

7.4 APPROVAL OF THE SUBMISSION POLICY KAUPAPA HERE TĀPAETANGA

File Number:

Author: **Karen Yates, Group Manager Strategy**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the proposed Submission Policy Kaupapa Here Tāpaetanga. The Policy is intended to provide the community with clarity on the scope of a formal submission as part of council consultation processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

1. **receives** the report;
2. **notes** officers have reviewed the Submission Policy Kaupapa Here Tāpaetanga and recommend updates to reflect current Council practices, accessibility expectations, privacy requirements and digital engagement tools; and
3. **adopts** the Submissions Policy Kaupapa Here Tāpaetanga (Attachment 1).

CONTEXT

Submissions are an important part of the local government decision-making process. A submission is formal feedback from an individual or an organisation/group in response to a Council proposal. These submissions can be written or verbal. It is one of the main ways Council can gain better understanding of community views on an issue and factor them into our decision-making.

The Council undertakes consultation with the community on a range of topics and decisions. The level of engagement Council undertakes is either driven by legislation, or the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Council endeavours to engage with the community on significant issues in an authentic way. Masterton District Council has had a policy on submissions since 2023. Since then, submission policies or at least policy positions on submissions are becoming more common amongst councils[3]. In most cases the key driver to develop a policy is to provide clarity for both community and staff about the submissions process so each process runs consistently.

Since 2023 the Council has found the policy to be a useful tool to support the submission processes. It has not hindered or impacted the process or dissuaded the community from making a submission. Submission levels have remained consistent.

The Local Government Act 2002

Key principles for consultation are outlined under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) (section 82). When undergoing consultation with our community, the council must:

[3] Examples include Rotorua Lakes Council, Northland Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council, Waikato District Council, Invercargill City Council, Waitaki District Council and Whakatāne District Council.

- inform the community of the scope of the decisions and proposed options;
- provide the opportunity for the community to present their views;
- encourage our community to present their views; and
- receive the views with an open mind and give them due consideration when making the decision.

The Act does not prescribe what counts and does not count as a submission; this is at the discretion of councils. The proposed policy aligns with these principles and our Significance and Engagement Policy.

Scope of the Policy

The Submission Policy Kaupapa Here Tāpaetanga (the Policy) relates to the receipt, assessment and management of submissions made through Council consultation and engagement processes undertaken under the LGA, including Annual Plans and Long-Term Plans. The principles in the Policy may also be applied to other consultation processes where appropriate. The Policy does not apply to submissions made under planning or environmental legislation, where separate statutory processes and requirements apply.

The Policy provides clarity for both submitters and Council by outlining the minimum information required for a valid submission, accepted submission methods and formats, hearing opportunities, privacy expectations, and the circumstances in which information may be redacted. The Policy helps ensure submissions are received, processed and published in a consistent, transparent and fair manner.

The Policy also provides guidance on the management of submissions that contain:

- information outside the scope of the consultation;
- offensive or derogatory language; or
- personal information relating to third parties.

This supports consistent decision-making regarding publication and redaction, while balancing transparency, privacy obligations, and the wellbeing of staff and elected members.

The Policy recognises that formal submissions are only one way Council can seek community views.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE

Summary of the review

The Policy has been reviewed as part of Council's scheduled policy review programme. The review considered:

- operational experience gained through consultation processes over the past three years,
- changes in community engagement practices,
- the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and consultation platforms,
- accessibility requirements,
- privacy obligations,
- legislative considerations, and

- benchmarking against other local authorities with standalone submission policies.

The review found that the overall purpose and intent of the Policy remain fit for purpose and continue to provide a clear framework for the receipt, management and publication of submissions. As a result, no fundamental changes are proposed. The review also identified an opportunity to improve transparency regarding the use of AI within Council processes. Given AI is an emerging tool, the revised Policy includes principles to guide its responsible use, ensure appropriate human oversight, and maintain the privacy and protection of personal information throughout the submissions process.

The review concluded that the Policy continues to provide an appropriate framework for managing submissions as part of Council's decision-making processes.

Key Updates to the Policy

While no significant changes are proposed, a number of amendments have been made to improve clarity, accessibility and administrative efficiency, and to reflect Council's current consultation and engagement practices.

Key updates include:

- Improved accessibility provisions, including greater recognition of alternative submission formats such as audio, video, New Zealand Sign Language, and submissions made in te reo Māori.
- Updates to reflect current engagement channels and submission management processes, including the use of Council's engagement platform (currently What's Up Whakaoriori).
- Additional guidance on the collection and publication of submission information, including strengthened privacy and redaction provisions.
- Clarification of how submissions received through different channels are recorded and managed to support consistent reporting and analysis.
- Introduction of principles for the responsible use of AI tools to assist with administrative and analytical aspects of the submissions process, while maintaining human oversight and decision-making.
- Updated references to legislation and Council organisational structures.

The proposed amendments are largely administrative and operational in nature. They are intended to provide additional clarity for submitters and staff, support the consistent application of the Policy, and ensure the Policy continues to reflect current best practice and Council processes.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

A summary of the options considered is included in the table below.

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Adopt the updated Submission Policy (Recommended)	Maintains a clear and consistent framework for receiving, managing and publishing submissions. Provides transparency and increased understanding of the	No disadvantages have been identified.

Option		Advantages	Disadvantages
		submissions process for both the community and Council. Reflects current Council practices, accessibility expectations, privacy requirements and digital engagement tools. Supports consistent administration of future consultation processes, including the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan processes. Provides clear expectations for submitters, elected members and staff.	
2	Retain the existing Policy	No advantages have been identified.	The Policy would not incorporate the proposed improvements identified through the review. Current gaps relating to accessibility, privacy and administrative processes would remain. Misses the opportunity to ensure the Policy remains fit for purpose and aligned with current practice.

RECOMMENDED OPTION

Option one is recommended. This ensures that Council will have a clear and transparent submission process for upcoming consultation with our community.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic, Policy and Legislative Implications

The proposed Policy aligns with the consultation principles set out in section 82 of LGA, which require local authorities to provide reasonable opportunities for people to present their views and for those views to be considered as part of decision-making processes. The Policy supports these principles by providing a clear and consistent framework for the receipt, management and reporting of submissions.

The Policy complements Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, which establishes how Council determines the significance of matters and the appropriate level of engagement with the community. It provides the operational framework for managing submissions received through those engagement and consultation processes.

The review also considered consistency with relevant legislative and organisational requirements relating to privacy and information management. The proposed amendments strengthen existing

privacy provisions and support compliance with the Privacy Act 2020 by providing greater clarity around how personal information is collected, used, published, redacted and retained as part of consultation processes. The Policy also supports Council's obligations under the Public Records Act 2005 and aligns with Council's privacy statements and information management practices.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

The Policy provides the operational framework for managing submissions received through Council engagement and consultation processes.

Officers have assessed the proposed decision against the criteria in the Significance and Engagement Policy and consider it to be of low significance.

The proposed amendments do not reduce opportunities for public participation, affect strategic assets, or result in significant social, economic, environmental, or cultural impacts. The changes are primarily administrative and operational in nature and are intended to improve the clarity, accessibility, consistency and effectiveness of existing consultation processes. Accordingly, officers do not consider further consultation on the Policy review to be necessary.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications of this decision. The Policy has been reviewed within existing budget baselines.

Implications for Māori

The revised Policy does not change Council’s existing processes for engaging with Māori or Mana Whenua. These engagement processes will continue to be guided by the nature of the matter under consideration and Council’s relevant statutory obligations and engagement policies.

Communications/Engagement Plan

We will inform our community of the Policy through a media statement.

The Policy will be published on our website and will be noted in future consultation processes for the community to refer to.

Environmental/Climate Change Impact and Considerations

There are no impacts.

NEXT STEPS

Following Council agreement, the Policy will be published on our website. Further supporting information may be published alongside the Policy.

The Policy will be presented to all staff at our next available all of staff meeting and will be supported by internal guidance from the Governance and Policy teams.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1: Kaupapa Here Tāpaetanga Submission Policy** ⇩

Kaupapa Here Tāpaetanga

Submission Policy



1

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Policy Reference: MDC049	
First Adopted	2 August 2023 (Council)
Latest Version	Version 2
Adopted by:	Council
Review Date	2032/33

Horopaki | **Context**

Submissions made by the community to Masterton District Council (the Council) are an important part of Local Government decision-making processes. The Council receives submissions in response to a proposal or matter that is being consulted on with the community.

Pūtake | **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Council's submissions process and minimum requirements for submissions content.

Whānuitanga | **Scope**

This Policy relates to the receiving and processing of submissions through a Council engagement process, including submissions received under the Local Government Act 2002 (including Annual and Long-Term Plans). The principles in this policy may also be used for other areas of legislation. It does not cover submissions under the Resource Management Act 1991, Planning Act 2026, and Natural Environment Act 2026 where a separate process is required by legislation.

He aha rā te tāpaetanga?| **What is a submission?**

A submission is formal feedback to the Council from an individual or an organisation/group in response to a proposal or matter upon which a decision is required by the Council. It is one of the main ways the Council can be better informed of community views on an issue and consider them as part of their decision making.

For avoidance of doubt, a submission does not include ad hoc or informal feedback provided to the Council. This includes comments received on Council social media platforms or comments made in the wider media or non-council social media platforms. See Other Ways to Have Your Say section in this Policy.

Ko wai mā e taea ana te tuku tāpaetanga? | **Who can make a submission?**

Anyone can make a submission regardless of their age or place of residence. You don't need to be a ratepayer to make a submission. Submissions can be made by individuals or representatives of an organisation, group, or agency.

Sometimes the Council only seeks the views of certain affected individuals or groups, and we make this clear when we consult.

He puka tūmatanui ngā tāpaetanga | **Submissions are public documents**

Submissions are public documents. While personal contact details and demographic information may be removed from any publicly available copy, the submitter's name will be published.

Only relevant staff members will have access to un-redacted versions of submissions in accordance with our Privacy Statement. Submissions will be kept in accordance with the Public Records Act 2005.

If a submitter contacts the Council with extenuating circumstances for withholding their name prior to the submission closure date, we may remove their name from publication. This is at the discretion of the Group Manager Strategy.

Te mōkito o ngā paearu o ngā tāpaetanga | **Submission minimum criteria**

To be considered and valid, all submissions must include:

- First and last name (the name you are known by).
- Organisation, if you are submitting on behalf of your business or organisation.

We ask for this information to ensure that it is a fair and transparent process. For example:

- We need to know if someone is trying to have more than one opportunity to have their say to ensure the results can be presented as accurately as possible.
- It would be considered a conflict of interest if an elected member (or their organisation/ business) was to submit on a proposal then participate in the decision on the proposal.

The Council encourages all submitters to provide contact details so that you can be contacted if we have a question about your submission.

We sometimes require your address or location, so we know what parts of our community we are hearing from. This is so we know if affected individuals or groups are providing feedback.

We need your contact details if you want to be heard at the Hearing

The Council Hearing process is an opportunity to be heard by the Council or speak to your submission in some consultation processes.

The Council needs to be able to contact you if you want to participate in a Council Hearing process you will need to at least provide an:

- email address; and/or
- telephone number.

This will enable us to contact you to schedule a hearing time and provide you with a copy of our hearing procedure.

Regional Submissions

From time to time the Council consults on topics jointly with other district, city or regional councils or council-controlled organisations. Where a regional submission process is taking place, further information may be required to align with the policies of the other councils we are consulting with.

He kōwhiringa pārongo | **Optional information**

In Council submission forms, we sometimes ask optional questions about age, gender, ethnicity, location, and whether a person lives with impairments or long-term health conditions or identifies as tāngata whaikaha/disabled.

Responses to these types of questions help us understand, which parts of our community are providing the Council with feedback. It helps us to improve our engagement approach with key groups from our community. In some instances, it may indicate that further engagement is needed with the community.

This demographic information will not be made public with your submission (via our website or in a Council meeting agenda). Only collated (anonymised) demographic data will be reported to the Council in line with our Privacy Statement.

The format of our demographic questions aims to allow submitters to identify themselves in ways that best reflect who they are.

Ngā momo taera tāpaetanga me ngā reo e whakaaetia ana | Accepted submission formats and languages

The Council will accept submissions in the following formats:

- Written submissions.
- Verbal submissions.
- Audio recordings.
- Video recordings.

Submitters may also provide supporting material, including photographs, images, maps, plans, drawings, or other visual documents where relevant to their submission.

Submissions may be made in:

- Te reo Māori.
- New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL).
- English.

The Council can provide assistance for people who need help to make a submission. Guidance on the content of the submission cannot be provided.

Submitters are encouraged to advise the Council in advance if they wish to make a submission in te reo Māori or NZSL, or require interpretation, translation, or other accessibility support.

Note: Submitters should be aware that the Council may have limited ability to redact personal information from audio or video recordings.

Processing of submissions across multiple formats

Some consultations may receive submissions across multiple formats or platforms (for example, handwritten, verbal and online). In these cases, all submissions are entered into a single online platform (currently What's Up Whakaoriori) by Council officers. This ensures information is presented consistently to Elected Members and supports efficient analysis.

Where a handwritten or verbal submission is transcribed into the online platform, a copy of the typed submission will be provided to the submitter, provided they have supplied an email address.

Ngā tikanga tāpaetanga e whakaaetia ana | **Accepted submission methods**

The Council provides submission forms in a range of formats for completion. In most cases a submission form will be available in online and/or physical (hardcopy or electronic) format.

Submissions will be accepted by means of:

- Online via our website, or our engagement platform (currently What's Up Whakaoriori)
- Post to Masterton District Council, Freepost 112477, PO Box 444, Masterton 5840
- Hand delivered to our Customer Service Centre, 161 Queen Street, Masterton
- Email sent to submissions@mstn.govt.nz or other specified email address.
- Orally by phone (06) 370 6300
- Orally at a hearing (notified through a submission form)

We do not accept submissions via social media platforms.

He pārongo hei āpitihanga | **Supplementary Information**

After making a submission, and within the consultation period, you may provide supplementary information to add to your submission (this will not be treated as an additional submission). This must be provided in the methods and formats indicated above. If you provide supplementary information outside the consultation period, this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and depending on whether the hearings and deliberations have occurred.

Te maunu i tō tāpaetanga | **Withdrawing your submission**

If you wish to withdraw your submission you should do so within the consultation period. If you wish to withdraw your submission after the consultation period has closed this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and depending on whether the hearings and deliberations have occurred.

Ngā tāpaetanga tōmuri | **Late submissions**

A late submission is any submission received after the specified consultation closing date and time. For postal submissions, this is any submission post-marked after the consultation's closing date.

Acceptance of late submissions will be at Council's discretion. Accepting or refusing a 'late submission' will take into consideration:

- the submission is received at a practical point in the process (e.g. before hearings begin); and/or
- the submitter will have an unfair advantage over others.

The Group Manager Strategy will sign off any refusal or acceptance of late submissions.

Where a 'late submission' is refused, and where it's possible to do so, the submitter will be advised.

Ngā tāpaetanga arowhānui | **Pro forma submissions**

Pro-forma submissions, (e.g. multiple submissions with identical content), will be presented to decision makers as a single submission with all submitters' names and a tally at the top. These submissions may not all be made publicly available on the Council website, rather a single version of the submission with a tally and submitter names will be displayed. However, all submissions will still be counted individually.

He kōwhiringa kia rangona ai | **Option to be heard**

When required, the Council will provide an opportunity to be heard at the completion of the submission period. Speaking at a hearing allows submitters to highlight the main points of any written submission, as well as allowing the Council the opportunity to ask the submitter questions.

- Hearing dates (if applicable) will be advertised as part of the consultation information available during the consultation period.
- Persons wishing to speak to their submission must indicate this to the Council and provide their contact details.
- Speakers will be given the opportunity to present in person or online (via Microsoft Teams).
- Hearings will be open to the public and will be livestreamed via a relevant platform (currently YouTube).

Speakers will be given a set length of time to cover off the main points of their submission. Additional time will not be granted to individual submitters or organisations, however where an individual has made a submission as part of a group or organisation and as an individual, they may be able to speak to their separate submissions at separately allocated times.

Ngā herenga o ngā tāpaetanga | **Submission content conditions**

The Council reserves the right to remove from publication, any submission (in part or in full) that contains content that is determined to be of the following nature:

1. Contains offensive language.
2. Discriminatory, defamatory, or derogatory.
3. Personal threats or harassment of Council or staff members.
4. Would be an abuse of the hearing process to allow the submission (or part thereof) to be taken further.

In addition:

- If specific staff members names are used in the submission, other than the Executive Leadership Team level, they will be redacted. Role titles will not be redacted.
- Where a submission includes the name or personal details of another identifiable individual, those details will be redacted unless the information is already publicly available or the individual has consented to its inclusion. This includes an individual's contact details, address, or other personal information. This does not apply to information that is already publicly available, such as authors' names on published articles, journals, reports, or other publicly available documents.

- If the submission does not make specific reference to the topic/s outlined in the consultation document or statement of proposal, or if they are not relevant to the topic/s being consulted on in any annual plan or other relevant consultation, they will be considered 'out of scope' and will be redacted.
- All submissions must be legible, and staff won't be held responsible for misinterpreting a semi-legible submission (e.g. a handwritten submission with spelling errors that makes it difficult to interpret).

Submitters will not be denied the opportunity to make genuine submissions. Where there is uncertainty, the default position will be to allow the submission with every effort made to preserve as much of the content as possible.

The Council's Group Manager Strategy will be responsible for the final decision on whether any submission or part thereof should be removed from publication.

Pro-forma submissions, (e.g. multiple submissions with identical content), will be presented to decision makers as a single submission with all submitters' names and a tally at the top. These submissions may not all be made publicly available.

Sensitive or confidential information

The Project Owner[1] will use their discretion and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 to determine whether further information should be withheld from publication.

If there is information that is confidential or sensitive that is included in your submission, it is recommended you specify this in your submission.

Te whakamahinga o AI i ngā tāpaetanga | The use of AI and submissions

All submissions, as written by the submitter (subject to the content conditions above), are provided to decision-makers (including elected members) as part of engagement processes. These form the basis of any analysis undertaken by the Council.

The Council aims to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools ethically, with caution, and safely. AI may be used to assist with the analysis of submissions where appropriate.

AI will not be used where the Council determines that the nature of the submissions, privacy considerations, cultural considerations, or other factors make its use inappropriate.

Council officers will read all submissions (as submitted), and review any analysis produced using AI tools before information is relied upon for decision-making.

Where AI is used:

- personal information will be removed or otherwise protected in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and Council policies;
- only approved Council AI tools may be used; and
- all AI-generated outputs will be subject to human review.

[1] The Project Owner is the person ultimately responsible for the project and will be specifically defined for all consultation projects.

Ngā hua uiui me ngā whakataunga | **Results of consultation and decision**

Once a decision is made, the Council will make the decision and any supporting information available to submitters and the wider community.

Information will be shared in the most appropriate way for the consultation. This may include publication on the Council website, Council agendas and minutes, direct communication with submitters, or other communication channels.

Ētahi anō ara e tuku ai i ō kōrero | **Other ways to have your say**

The Council will encourage our community to make submissions when the Council is engaging on an issue or matter.

Where relevant and appropriate during the consultation period, Council may provide additional opportunities for the community to have their say. This may include community drop-in sessions, workshops, or suggestion boxes. These opportunities are dependent on the type of engagement required as outlined in the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Arotake Kaupapa Here | **Review of Policy**

This Policy will be reviewed every three years.

Tuhinga Hāngai | **Related Documents**

- Significance and Engagement Policy
- Masterton District Council Privacy Statement
- Social Media Policy

Ngā Tohutoro | **References**

- Local Government Act 2002
- Privacy Act 2020 and Masterton District Council Privacy Statement
- Public Records Act 2005
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Whakahaere Kōnae | **Version Control**

Version	Date	Summary of Amendments	Approved By
1	2/08/2023	Version 1 Approved	Council
2	2026[TBC]	Policy reviewed and updated to reflect current submission practices, accessibility requirements, privacy considerations, hearing processes, AI-assisted analysis, and legislative and operational improvements.	Council [TBC]

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: **Tyler Ross, Group Manager Infrastructure**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an update from the Infrastructure Group (see Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Infrastructure Group.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 Infrastructure Group Activity Report** ⇩

Roading

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Summary Update

- **New maintenance contract:** We are in the procurement planning phase, and tender release is still planned for November 2026.
- **Structures inspection contract:** This three year contract has been awarded for $306,050 to WSP. Seven tenders were received, showing good competition.
- **Cost escalation (fuel):** The fuel crisis is pushing up fuel, material and contract costs, we are assessing what the budget will deliver this year. We are sharing the escalation costs 50/50 with our the maintenance contractor and watching spend closely to protect essential maintenance and safety work.
- **Routine maintenance (August):** 149 potholes repaired, 118 km graded, ~1,380 t of metal placed, 10 signs replaced, 23 km of high cutting and all accessible sumps cleaned.
- **Reseals:** Designs are approved and resealing is programmed from late October 2026 to February 2027. Rural pre-reseal repairs are complete and urban repairs are underway.
- **Road side trees:** NZ Forest Works has been appointed forest manager for forest programme.

Top Issues and Risks	Impact Details	Mitigations	Impact
Budget, cost escalation (fuel) & weather	Higher fuel and material costs mean less work for the same budget; delays, reduced scope/quality	Monitor spend vs budget monthly; 50/50 cost fluctuation share agreed with the contractor; reprioritise programme; seek further NZTA funding	
Asset deterioration	Consequential damages to vehicles Increase in complaints Increase in backlog	Review programme Reallocation of Council road safety improvement budget into other roading maintenance, operations & renewals (MOR)	
Further deterioration EW sites and ground movement /consenting delays	Cost, approvals, work programme scheduling, resourcing	Monitor & report. Seek Geotech expertise if significant	

PROJECTS

1. Roading Renewals — Overall Status:

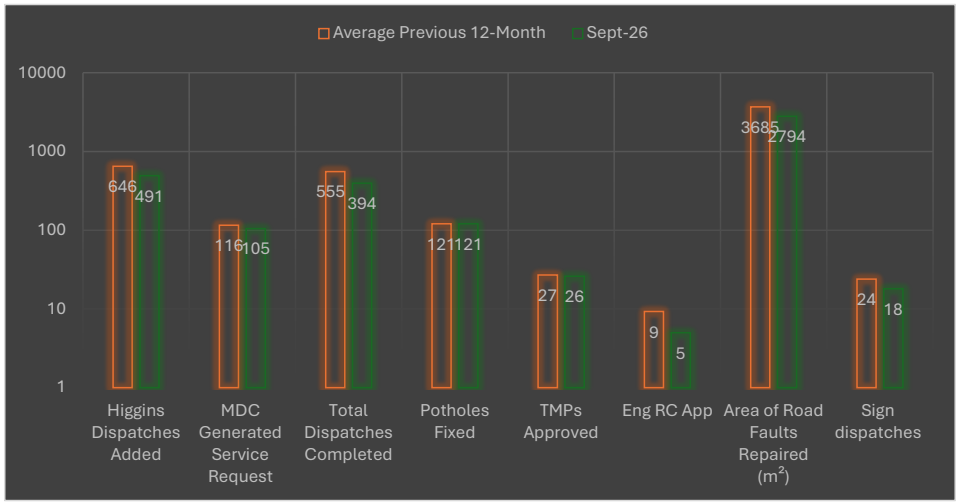
- **Road Resurfacing:** The programme is set (dates are weather dependent). Upcoming sites are Opaki Kaiparoro and Whangaehu Valley Roads (late Oct–Nov); Kitchener Street, Solway Crescent, Rugby Street, Kibblewhite Road and Upper Plain Road (Nov); Te Whiti and Blairlogie Langdale Roads (Dec); and Tinui Valley and Masterton Castlepoint Roads (Jan 2027).
- **Footpath Renewals:** Herbert Street was completed in September and Makoura Road is underway (to late Oct). Cole Street (Mar 2027) and South Road (Apr 2027) will follow. Bannister, Derby, Devon Streets, Surrey Street. Dixon, Mary and McKenna Sites are on hold due to budget.
- **Urban Drainage:** The Kibblewhite Road kerb and channel contract has been awarded to Pope & Gray, starting in late October ahead of the reseal.
- **Pavement Rehabilitation:** Granular pavement works are underway at the Paierau Road and Masterton Castlepoint Road sites. Still to come are Dreyers Rock Road (Dec), Masterton Castlepoint Road at Tauweru and Te Ore Ore Bideford Road (Feb 2027), and Te Whiti Road (Apr 2027). Investigation and design for the 2027–30 rehab sites is underway.
- **Unsealed Roads:** 118 km was graded in August. The remaining dust seals will be completed by the end of this summer.
- **Culverts:** Culvert clearing continues, and an additional drainage inspector has started.

2. Capital Improvements — Overall Status:

- **Bridge Works:** The Grahams Rd bridge is complete, and the Upper Waingawa Bridge is complete apart from the road approaches. The Stoddarts Bridge repair is complete and a deck replacement is being scoped. Annedale Bridge repairs are underway, with handrails in fabrication, and are due by the end of October.
- **Stormwater Resilience:** Phases 1 and 2 are complete. Phase 3 (Blairlogie Langdale Rd) goes to tender in late November.
- **Fernridge School Kea Crossing:** The upgrade to a formal school patrol crossing on Upper Plain Rd is in planning, with installation expected by the end of the year.
- **Masterton North Improvements:** We have started looking at improvements to support development along SH2 in Masterton North. This will be progressed through a high-level corridor strategy agreed with NZTA.

Roading

Reporting Period: August - September 2026



Roading Dashboard

Higgins Dispatches Added: Below average (491 vs. 646). Volumes fell back from the July peak as emergency response work eased.
MDC Generated Service Requests: Slightly below average (105 vs. 116). Public reporting has eased since the winter weather events.
Total Dispatches Completed: Below average (394 vs. 555). Crews were focused on pre-reseal repairs, recovery works and footpath renewals, which are larger jobs.
Potholes Fixed: On average (121 vs. 121).
TMPs Approved: On average (26 vs. 27), showing steady activity on the network.
Engineering RC Applications: Below average (5 vs. 9), within normal month-to-month variation.
Area of Road Faults Repaired: Below average (2,794 m² vs. 3,685 m²), as pre-reseal repairs moved to smaller urban sites.
Sign Dispatches: Below average (18 vs. 24), but up on last month as sign work resumed after the emergency response.

Emergency/Resilience & Strategy	Overall Status:

- **Mataikona River Slip:** The retaining wall and anchoring are complete. The rock rip-rap is on hold pending a consent variation.
- **Mataikona Resilience Works (Crown funded):** The road realignment is complete, and so are the Sandy Bay improvements around the sand dunes. The global consent with Greater Wellington (groynes and rip-rap maintenance) is in its final stages, with Eco-Reef proposed as the preferred protection at Middle Settlement. The river works depend on the consent and the remaining funding.
- **February and April 2026 Events:** Response works are complete, and the April event recovery works are nearing completion.
- **June and July 2026 Events:** NZTA has approved recovery funding. 1GEO was awarded the dropout repairs on Mataikona Road (RP 1.0, 1.3, 1.458 and 1.522) and Masterton Castlepoint Road (RP 39.260), and they are progressing well. Five dropouts on First Hill are complete. Repair works on two more dropouts on Mataikona Road Second Hill (RP 4.301 and 4.32) are yet to be completed. Suicide Point needs a geotechnical investigation before progressing any repair design. The Mataikona Road culvert replacement (RP 2.236) has been awarded to Pope & Gray. Risk: consenting delays could push works into the next financial year.
- **Dropout Site Monitoring:** 65 sites are monitored (27 high, 26 medium and 12 low priority), with 78% in the Tinui and Bideford areas. We intervene where movement affects the operating lane or road safety. This is recorded in the roading risk register.

I & A – Utilities

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

Water Supply – Operations & Projects

Overall Status

Water Projects

- **Nikau reservoir tank** –Paper to be presented to Council regarding approval of contractor price. Contract being finalised for contractor start in November.
- **District Metered Area (zoning) -** Delivery of meters due in Sept. Engineering design completed, Preparing tender. Physical works will take place in late 2026 and into 2027.
- **Water Storage –**Co-location of additional raw and treated water storage at Upper Plain Road. Geotechnical assessments are completed. Procurement documentation in preparation.
- **High Street Water Rider Main** (Fleet Street – Vivian Street)– 100% completed. Preparing engineering design & tender for the final stage, Vivian St to Intermediate St
- **Derby Street water main** – 99% completed.
- **Millard Ave water main** – Install 500m x 100mm dia of water main. Contract has been awarded. Physical works will start in December.

Unplanned Maintenance Analytics (Citycare work)

Overall Status:

The current wastewater & stormwater service requests have significantly decreased after the weather event at end of June and July.

- Water – 172 (August) v 76 (September)
- Waste – 11 (August) v 11 (September)
- Stormwater – 8 (August) v 18 (September)

Service Requests

Completed Service Requests	July		August		September	
Water	95	↑	172	↑	76	↓
Wastewater	58	↑	11	↓	11	—
Stormwater	29	↑	8	↓	18	↑
Open Service Requests	3	↓	5	↑	1	↓

Green Arrow = Positive Trend / Red Arrow = Negative Trend

Stormwater – some work of interest

The following stormwater work has been completed or is in progress:

- **Gordon Street** - 600mm dia. x 100m bypass pipe is being installed. 95% completed.
- **Waterhouse Street** – retaining wall in waterway being installed. 100% completed. Stage 2 will start 2nd week of October.
- **Oxford Street –** Clearing out 2nd stage of waterway about to start this week.
- **Stormwater Analysis** – Stormwater Management Report on Lansdowne has been received. Implementation and Planning for the recommended short-term and long term mitigation measures have started respectively.

Wastewater – some work of interest

Overall Status:

- **Waipoua Bridge** – replacing and upsizing steel wastewater pipes at both ends - under the bridge, from 150mm to 225mm dia – North side is completed. 400mm South side pipe in planning stage for renewal
- **Homebush** Wastewater Treatment Plant irrigation flow meter has failed; replacement has been ordered. Flow currently calculated by alternative means. Physical works is 95% completed
- **Taranaki St Sewer Lateral Lining** - to start in November 2026
- **Taranaki St Inspection Box Installation –** project duration from October to November 2026

Top Issues and Risks	Impact Details	Mitigations	Impact
Health & safety	Incidents & injuries	Update procedures, implement audit programme and H & S operational training	
Failure of critical assets	Loss of service delivery	Asset Management System, Condition Assessments, Demand Management NOTE – This moves from red to Amber as we progress with uploading asset data into the new Asset Management System	
Approving new supplies without understanding network capacity	Scope creep, poor quality & over budget	PM methodology and contract management process being reviewed	

I & A Utilities

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Waste Management Minimisation - Regional Projects

Progress updates on the major regional and projects have been provided below. These are the four current major projects that the Wairarapa Councils are directly involved in are:
(R = Regional, RC = Regionally Consistent, SR = Sub Regional)

	Project	Status
R4	Regional Data Framework	Completed
R5	Waste Management in Emergencies	G
R6	Future of Residual Waste Pathways	G
SR4	Recycling Processing Investigation	G

Progress Update – Year 3 of the Action Plan

We are currently in the third year of the six-year action plan, which means there has been a mid-term review presented to WMMP Joint Committee. **RC1 Regional Resource Recovery Network Expansion** ongoing throughout 2023-2029 WMMP.

- **RC3 Regional Solid Waste Bylaw implementation (C&D)** still progressing
- **RC4 Regional Business Engagement Approach –** Wairarapa will be taking a regionally consistent approach when we have the capacity of resources to do so.
- **SR4 Regional Recycling Processing Investigation –** Wellington Region are currently using two MRF, with possibly only one in the future. This Project was initially one Wairarapa was not involved in.
- **Event Waste Guidelines –** A new guideline is being updated by Non-Stop Solutions to be regionally consistent.
- **WMMP Regional Advisor** newly appointed in August (Ria Goble).
- **SWAP – Solid Waste Analysis Protocol** awaiting final report from Sunshine Yates Consultancy due Oct 2026. Draft report was received end of July. This audit was conducted for both kerbside and Transfer Station waste materials. The data will be used to inform Councils waste minimisation and operational planning for both the transfer stations and kerbside. Recording volumes of varying waste materials and minimising diversion to landfill.

Solid Waste

The following work in relation to the solid waste function has been undertaken or in progress:

- **The Wairarapa Waste Management and Minimisation Contract** has completed negotiations and accepted by the preferred tenderer. Update by the contract project team.
- **A new digital gate display sign** with prices at Kiosk entrance is currently progressing to get the signage structure moved and installation to begin.
- **Replacement 20ft Refrigeration Container** is getting installed at the Masterton Transfer Station.
- **Capping of the closed landfill** is still ongoing.
- **Nationwide Kerbside Recycling Campaign** procurement process has awarded project to Hot Mustard Consultancy alongside Waste-Ed with Kate. Campaign launch April 2027.
- **Genesis Lightbulb exchange initiative,** to begin in November, will be available to all Masterton residents to swap their old bulbs for more energy efficient ones. 10,000 LED light bulbs will be available. All exchanged bulbs will be recycled at MDC Transfer Station.
- **Kerbside recycling audits for** August 2.7% and September 2.5% are at record lows due to efficiencies with collecting data.
- **Enviroschools 21st Celebrations** Event planning for partnership with Wairarapa Councils 21 years of Enviroschools in ore region. Evening Event 21st October 5.30pm Wairarapa Events Centre. Report FY 25/26 received.
- **ERRST** – Paper for Trees and Zero Waste Education reports received FY 2025/26.

Tables on right show refuse volumes at Masterton Transfer Station for the last two months.

August 2026 – Totals at Mstn Transfer Stn

Incoming Waste (tonnes)		
Cleanfill	267.1	↑
Domestic Kerbside	16.0	↓
Construction & Demolition	16.0	↓
Urban Recycling	76.8	↓

Outgoing Waste (tonnes)		
eWaste	2.6	↑
Paint	1.3	↑
Glass	29.9	↓
Kraft	137.9	↑
Paper	82.1	↓
Metal	58.2	↓
Plastic	64.3	↑

September 2026

Incoming Waste (tonnes)		
Cleanfill	908.0	↑
Domestic Kerbside	17.3	↑
Construction & Demolition	253.6	↑
Urban Recycling	95.5	↑

Outgoing Waste (tonnes)		
eWaste	4.4	↑
Paint	1.3	—
Glass	86.1	↑
Kraft	131.5	↓
Paper	117.7	↑
Metal	88.9	↑
Plastic	49.7	↓

Green Arrow = Positive Trend / Red Arrow = Negative Trend

I & A Compliance & Assets

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Compliance	Update	Status:
Resource Consents	Note; Changes to legislation which came into effect on 15 December have extended the duration of all Consents to 31 December 2027. **Opaki Water Race –** Staff maintaining the Race as per the SOP shared with users. Finalising Closure Management Plan in preparation for the closure next year. **Global Stormwater Consent** – Support still required for Stormwater Management Strategy to be developed later this year but initial work commencing. Stage 2 consent likely to sit with Waiti Waters. **Wastewater Consents** – Annual Compliance reports completed. **Henley and QE Park** – engaging Planning Consultant to develop new water take applications.	
Drinking Water Standards	Masterton and Tinui compliance reporting for Taumata Arowai completed. No non-compliances noted. Taumata Arowai 2025 Regulation Report released. No issues for MDC. NB: Taumata Arowai now has new reporting requirements which come into effect on 1 July 2027, at which time it will be Waiti Waters responsibility to comply.	
	Wainuioru Mixed Use Scheme – Moving to comply with Acceptable Solution. Further work on investigations and data capture required by committee is ongoing. Meeting with Taumata Arowai scheduled to discuss outstanding compliances. **Note:** This risk has been maintained at Amber. Reliant on Wainuioru Committee to meet TA requirements as management devolved to them.	

Top Issues and Risks	Impact Details	Mitigations	Impact
Accuracy of planning and funding documents	Inaccurate due to low level of data collection or confidence.	Asset Management Plans being developed with external support (Solid Waste, Parks & Open Spaces, Property and Facilities). Progressing.	
Waters Asset Data captured	New assets not captured in the AMS for revaluation purposes	Note 3 waters Asset Management Plans being developed by Waiti Water, not individual Councils. GIS project – Migration to Online GIS format ongoing. Back capture of 3 Waters Asset data complete and full updated dataset provided for revaluation process.	
Orphaned systems post-3 Waters changes.	Parks Asset team looking at option for post -3 Waters.	Staff progressing option for future asset management system.	
Critical Assets	AM work to increase confidence in critical stock items.	Revaluation process for Water Assets occurring outside of the AMS, but the AMS data supporting this process.	
Commerce Commission Information Disclosure	New requirements for reporting to the Commerce Commission for three waters assets.	Information passed to Commerce Commission for the requirements due this year. Future information requirements will be the responsibility of Waiti Water.	

I & A Projects

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

On track/low impact | At risk/ medium impact | Behind plan/ high risk

Civic Facility	Overall Status:

- Procurement Strategy approved by Council 7 October.
- Advanced notice of opportunity resulted in 10 responses. Selection of tenderers to invite to begin from 12 October.
- Procurement plan in development for approval by 16 October.

Breathing New Life Into our Whare Pukapuka	Overall Status:

- Agreement reached and all documents signed by Dubanelle and MDC.
- Work on site past two weeks:
  - ✓ Sewer replacement work underway.
  - ✓ Grading of extension area in progress.
  - ✓ Mansard roof cavity system started.
- Work on-site in next two weeks:
  - ✓ Continue with sewer and stormwater upgrade.

Queen Street Municipal Building	Overall Status:

- Whakawātea held on 12 October.
- Customer Services open to the public on 13 October.

Kids Own Playground	Overall Status:

- Tender EOI released on 15 September, closed 6 October. 11 responses received.
- Evaluation underway.
- Rotary have established a Give A Little donation page, this has raised $1,835.00 so far.

CBD Infrastructure Upgrade	Overall Status:

- Phase 3 is progressing well:
  - ✓ Pouring of concrete is ongoing.
  - ✓ Water main installation at the Queen/Park intersection is in progress.
  - ✓ Kerb & channel installation is ongoing.

Raw and Treated Water Storage	Overall Status:

- Lutra and Engineering Geology (EGL) are developing the concept design & principal's requirements.
- Draft documents for treated water are expected 16 October. Draft documents for raw water are delayed due to staff changes at EGL, discussing with them week of 12 October.
- Procurement docs for design/build tenders are being drafted.
- SLR are working on treated water resource consent requirements & water take consent – some feedback received 8 October.
- **Risk:** project amber due to delay with raw water storage documents, return to green once a delivery timeline is confirmed.

Parking Infrastructure Replacement	Overall Status:

- Draft Master Services Agreement has been developed, now in negotiation.
- Meter installation TBD, pending contract signing. Follow up installation for phase 3 of CBD works early in 2027.
- Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) will be picked up in 2027 following information security & privacy work.
- **Risk:** project amber due to delays in contract development. Return to green once the contract is in place and order for meters is confirmed.

Top Issues and Risks	Impact Details	Mitigations	Impact
• Price volatility due to fuel crisis	• Reputation • Long Term Plan project • Exceed budgets	• PM framework, recurring PM mtgs and oversite by GM. Frequent internal reporting.	

I & A Facilities & Open Spaces

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

Summary Update

Facilities

- Work to widen the concrete path networks within the Senior Housing villages is underway to make movement on mobility devices safer.
- Work to replace a corroded internal gutter on the THRC Stadium roof is currently in progress.
- A new roof has been installed on a Manaia Road general rental property after failing a condition inspection.
- A new Wairarapa business has been trialled to recondition existing general rental metal driveways; the process reduces the need to purchase more metal by repurposing the existing material.
- Mawley Holiday Park utilisation continues to track positively with a 25% increase in revenue for September compared to the same period in 2025. The 2026-27 first Quarter is tracking at a 13% uplift compared to 2025.
- Fencing renewals at Memorial Park have been completed.

Open Spaces

- Tree maintenance work in park spaces in response to malicious acts of wilful damage has continued through this latest reporting period. Henley Lake and the Waipoua River recreation trail are the most recent.
- An upgrade to the CBD CCTV system on Dixon Street near the Skate Park has been completed as a crime prevention measure to cover the sheep sculptures and pending installation of the new Whakaoriori - Masterton sign.
- PowerCo have completed the pole transformer upgrade at Henley Lake, so the upgraded metered power supply to run events on the overflow car-park is all set to go.
- A power upgrade to make the QEP Park Island more capable of supporting community events has been completed.
- The old Sexton's Hut near Pioneer Cemetery has had the exterior refurbished and refreshed.

Upcoming work

- Ongoing review of Council's building and property portfolio for potential disposals.
- Strategic plans and policy updates in progress.
- Commencement of review and update of Asset Management Plans for the next LTP.
- Kids Own Playground community engagement review, formulate key themes for the RFP development.

Top Issues and Risks	Impact details	Mitigations	Impact
Wilful Damage of park assets, and toilet facilities.	Vehicle damage to reserve areas, trees, graffiti and attempted arsons.	Placing of bollards and lime boulders. Quick reporting and removal of graffiti. Notification's to Wairarapa Police, and Masterton CPNZ for preventative patrolling support.	

PROJECTS

THRC – Solar Power — **Overall Status:**

The Tender process to install new Solar Power onto the rear five lane pool new roof is nearing the close off date. This project is to offset power costs to run the THRC facility.

Riverside Cemetery - 'Potaerau' space — **Overall Status:**

Earthworks have been completed in a northern part of Riverside Cemetery, to clear the area set aside to recognise the former Potaerau Pa site. Quotes are still being obtained to add landscaping features and for fencing repair talks with neighbours.

QEP Swing-bridge refurbishment — **Overall Status:**

Work to the Swing-bridge is progressing well, the bridge remains closed to enable work to be carried out safely, alternative bypass routes have been implemented, a large proportion of the timber elements have been replaced, on track for an early December re-opening.

Ngati Te Korou Reserve — **Overall Status:**

The Hapu plans for Phase Two are being formalised with support from Boffa Miskell, the Waharoa entrance installation at Fourth Street is still to be scheduled. The native planting has been completed, lime path repairs are scheduled as a result of wet weather impacts on the surfaces.

Panama Land – Disposal — **Overall Status:**

EOI document has been reviewed, further changes are being made to simplify the process to two stages, the Geo Technical Report and the Traffic Impact Assessment for Ngaumutawa Road have now been completed.

Climate Action Plan & CCERP - UPDATE

Climate Action Plan
Action 9 – 18,200 natives planted at Southern Reserve (2023–25) and 350 at Northern Reserve for stream bank stabilisation.
Action 10 – Solway Residents Assn linked with GWRC for pest eradication; traps made by Men's Shed, Henley Trust are also supporting pest control at Henley lake.
Corporate Carbon Emission Reduction Plan
Action 9 – Solar panel feasibility for THRC; EECA have no current subsidies. Quotes received for AP guidance.
Action 23 – Belgravia have adopted Emplive App at THRC for paperless HR processes.
Action 23 – Cleaning Contractor – OCS providing Environment & Sustainability reporting.
Action 26 – Regenerative Turf Study completed; recommendations being implemented.
Action 37 – eRoad tech added to Park Contractor vehicles for route efficiency.

Emergency Management Wairarapa

Reporting Period: September - October 2026

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Summary Update

Emergency Management (EM) Wairarapa Capability Strategy 2025-2030

- Adopted MDC May 2026.
- Aligns with the Emergency Management Act 2026 that came into force 4 September 2026.

Global Fuel Disruption

- MBIE is lead and country at phase 1 of 4 (Watchful/Monitoring)
- This remains active for New Zealand due to global volatility and potential impact on New Zealand supplies.

H5 Bird Flu

- MPI is lead. Dealing direct with councils.
- 3 reported cases in Wairarapa since July 2026. No evidence of widespread transmission or cases.

WELA (Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Assn)

- Mayor Fran Wilde elected new Chair for 26-27 term. Lawrence Stephensen (CDC) elected Deputy Chair

Severe Weather Events

- 16 February 2026 (EOC activated)
- 20-24 April 2026 (EOC activated)
- 26-30 June 2026 (EOC activated)
- 12 April 2026 (EOC monitoring)
- 8-10 June 2026 (EOC activated)

EM Wairarapa is supporting and coordinating a Wairarapa Regional Recovery Document, consolidating the combined impact across all listed events

El Niño

- FENZ will be taking the lead and working with agencies and councils on roles and responsibilities during an event that is beyond their capability to manage. Of concern to Wairarapa is the wild fire risk.

Upcoming work

Wellington Region preparing for Emergency Management exercise Atiru, 25 November 2026

- Using scenario based exercise similar to Cyclone Giselle in 1968
- Involving key stakeholders from across Wairarapa, incl. Iwi, NZ Police, FENZ, Ambulance, MPI, Corrections & Rural Support Trust.

Top Risks	Trend	Mitigations	Impact
• Extreme Weather frequency	• Increasing strain on system	• Capability Strategy Readiness activities	
• Fuel Disruption	• Stable/Monitor	• MBIE phase monitoring	
• Bird Flu	• Emerging	• MPI monitoring	
• Workforce capability	• Improving	• Training programme	

PROJECTS

Year 1 (25/26) – Establish baseline for EM Risk reporting to council — **Overall Status:**

- Introduced region wide risks as part of reporting
- Defining shared risk reporting format

Year 1 (25/26) – Establish baseline for workforce strategy — **Overall Status:**

- Each council developing own plan for individual EM training to meet EOC resource needs
- Revised approach to exercise training successfully trialled in July 2026

Year 1 (25/26) – Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability (HVRA) Assessment — **Overall Status:**

- Working with NEMA on new assurance framework tool for use across NZ

Year 1 – (25/26) Early ICT and Common Operating Picture (COP) design — **Overall Status:**

- Aligning with WREMO ICT and COP delivery 2026-27
- To pilot new COP capability in November 2026
- Working with NEMA on new operating platform due to initial release 2029 (EMS-OS platform)

Years 2-3 (26/28) — **Overall Status:**

- EM Risk for Wairarapa embedded into council *(to be aligned with Adaption and EM delivery)*
- Workforce strategy implemented *(In process)*
- CIMS specialist roles developed *(in process with WREMO training)*
- COP developed, tested and deployed *(Ongoing development, Pilot Nov 2026, deploy from February 2027)*
- EM ICT Roadmap in place *(In process)*

Years 4-5 (29/30)

- Policy alignment embedded
- Continuous improvement cycle operational
- Demonstrated maturity uplift to Level 4 (Managed) from current Level 2 (Baseline)

Waitī Water

Reporting Period: August - September 2026

On track/low impact | At risk/medium impact | Behind plan/high risk

Summary Update

Transition and Establishment Context:

The Water Service Entity – WTW is being developed by the WTW Programme Team. The Programme team consist of a Programme Director, Programme Manager and six workstream leads. In MDC we have the corresponding Workstream Leads. While WTW handles the establishment of the entity, the role of the MDC Leads are to support, provide information and influence on behalf of our community.

Board of directors:

Adrienne Young-Cooper (Chair), Clive Rundle, Jo Hayes, Maria Robertson, Sir Paul Collins,

WTW Programme Team:

The Programme team has grown numbers and capability with most workstream leads appointed:

1. Programme Director: Katerine Meerman
2. Programme Manager: Pat Randles
3. Communications: Lee Cowan (Avalon)
4. Operations and Service Delivery: Tim Hammond
5. Finance and Corporate: Mike Chatterley (Martin Jenkins)
6. People and Capability: Jessie Larsen (Martin Jenkins)
7. Digital and Systems : Rebecca Chenery (Blue Beacon)
8. Governance, Regulatory and Partnerships: Jetta Hikuroa

MDC Internal Workstream Leads:

MDC is fortunate to have a capable and experienced team that is looking after the interest of Masterton, MDC employees and supporting the establishment off, and transition to the WTW.

The Leads are as follows:

1. Transition Manager: Johannes Ferreira
2. Communications: Lewis Young
3. Operations and Service Delivery: Steve Watt
4. Finance and Corporate: David Paris
5. People and Capability: Gina Imlach
6. Digital and Systems: David Mundy
7. Governance: Karen Yates
8. Partnerships: Deborah Davidson

Key Milestones achieved

- **Staff offers –** Staff on direct offer pathway received offers.
- **Executive Leadership Team Recruitment** – Recruitment for the executive leadership is well on the way:
  - General Manager, Finance and Commercial – in negotiation
  - General Manager Infrastructure – advertised
  - General Manager Service Delivery – advertised
  - General Manager Strategy, Regulatory and Governance – advertised
  - General Manager Customer, People and Safety – advertised
- **LGFA** - All 4 councils approved the LGFA Accession.
- A **change and operational readiness framework** has been developed. The framework, focuses on a range of outcomes that a required for "go-live" as well as the dependent actions preceding 1 July 2027.
- The draft Stormwater Scope of service has been captured.

Upcoming

- Development of Service Level agreement between WWL, Council, NZTA and GQRC for the Stormwater Service.
- Finalisation of **transfer agreement** including Debt and Assets.
- Approval of LGFA accession terms and conditions.
- Finalising the Contract for Digital systems.
- Development of Water Service Strategy.
- Finalisation of the Financial Strategy.
- Finalisation of the Revenue, pricing strategy & tariff design.
- Day 1 Contingency planning for any function that is not ready to be 100% housed by WWL.

Overall Programme Status

Overall Status:

Even though the programme is on track, demand on MDC workstream leads and Waitī Waters programme Team is increasing. Transition is not at risk, however, might be dependent on interim service level agreements to address any capacity/capability gaps.

8.2 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: **Matt Boulton, Group Manager Corporate & Community**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Corporate and Community Group on key projects and activities (See Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Corporate and Community Group on key projects and activities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 Corporate and Community Group Activity Report** ⇩

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REPORT - 28 OCTOBER 2026

Library and Archive

Archive Activity (September 2026)		
Visits (in person)	256	↓13.8%
Visits (online)	214	↑8.1%
Visits (phone)	89	↑23.6%
Social Media Engagement	0	↓100%
Interviews	14	↑7.7%
Publications (newspapers or magazines)	8	↓42.9%
Presentations (speaking engagements)	5	↑66.7%
Picture Wairarapa (additions to searchable database of images)	43	↓81.4%
Items Digitised	3,794	↑279.8%
Donations	24	↓7.7%
Public Computers (hours)	23	NA
Total Archive Use	**4,470**	**↓7.5%**

Other Information

- **Archive Activity** - Social Media engagement metrics that have been used in the past are no longer available from the social media platforms. The decrease in Picture Wairarapa is due to the migration to Recollect. To prepare for Recollect, we are focusing on digitising items, as seen in the 279% increase.
- **Library Activity** - Social Media Engagement metrics that have been used in the past are no longer available from the social media platforms. Library physical visits are lower compared to the same period last year as we were still located in the old library. Website and App use has increased along with homebound deliveries.

Library Use (September 2026)		
Issues (Physical)	35,848	↓18.2%
Issues (e-Items)	9,029	↑7.9%
Issues (e-Resources)	9,878	↑51.5%
Wi-Fi Access	900	↓95.7%
Public Computers (connections)	687	↓54.8%
Total Library Usage	**56,342**	**↓30.7%**

Library Visits (September 2026)		
Physical Visits	24,549	↓24.0%
Website Visits	37,093	↑48.2%
Library App Use	13,279	↑19.1%
Social Media Engagement	0	↓100%
Homebound	243	↑34.7
Total Library Visits	**75,164**	**↑2.4%**

Programmes (September 2026)	Number	Attendance
Early Childhood	16	194
Children	7	187
Adult	6	119
Seniors	26	513
Impact Area	**Number**	**Attendance**
Social Impact	49	939
Cultural Impact	6	74
Economic Impact	0	0
Total Programmes and Attendees	**55**	**1013**

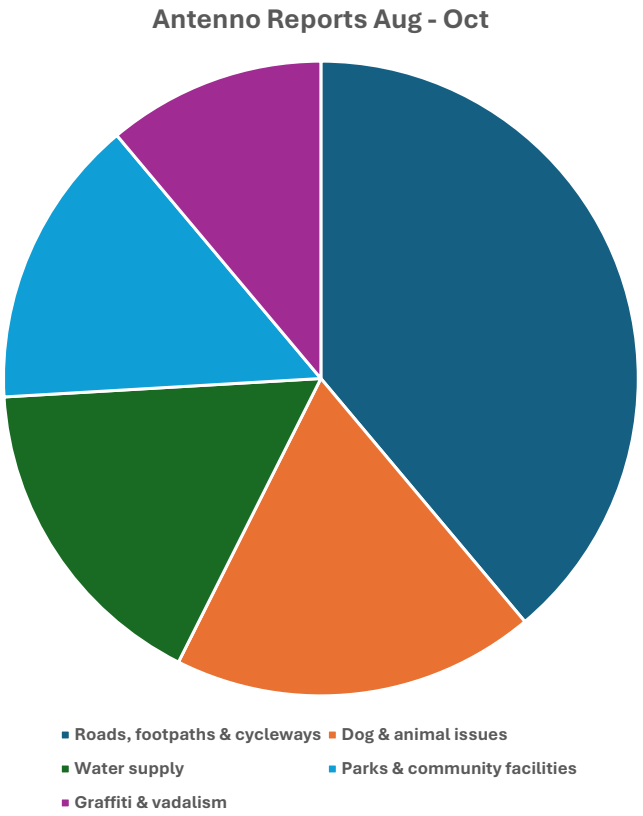
Library and Archive (continued)

What's On: October – November 2026

- **School Holiday Programme** – During the school holidays, the library hosted four events for children and families, offering a range of creative and hands-on activities, including repurposed Ooshie crafts and seed-bomb making. More than 130 children participated in the library's school holiday programme.

- **Little Yarns Festival of Reading** – The library hosted the kick-off event, Family Read-a-thon, for the Little Yarns Festival of Reading on 10 October, with 35 kids and their family attending. The Little Yarns Festival of Reading celebrates stories and the printed book, with a focus on inspiring a love of reading and enriching the lives of people across the Wairarapa. On 15 October, the library welcomed authors Sarina Clark and Shelley Burne-Field, who shared stories featuring dragon adventures and animal-loving kid detectives, providing an engaging and entertaining experience for young readers. The festival is brought to the community with funding from Hedley's Booksellers and Masterton Trust Lands Trust.

Customer Services



Customer Services and Call Centre Team

Customer Services

- 1,264 team-raised Service Requests (SRs) from 7 August to 7 October 2026, including:
  - 245 – General Inspectorate
  - 233 – Animal Services
  - 182 - Water services
  - 108 – Health
  - 107 - Roading

Call Centre

- 1,275 calls were received in the main call centre
- 76 breached calls (6% breach ratio*)

Call enquiries have been an average of 2 minutes and 20 seconds in duration, with an average wait time of 14 seconds.

Walk-ins

- General theme over the period has been enquiries related to building, planning and health. Rates rebate applications continue to trickle in over the counter too.

After Hours Call Centre

- Noise and dog related calls continue to be the trend over the reporting period. Calls related to the untreated water fountain on Mānuka Street peaked while this was/is out of action.

** Call breaches relate to calls either not being answered or being terminated by the caller within the initial 20 seconds of connecting to the call centre. Unanswered calls with a voice message during business hours will be returned within an hour, or the next working day for afterhours voice messages.*

Communication and Engagement

Update summary

- Waiti Waters quarterly planning and collaboration to support the initial stages of engagement and communications coming from the new entity.
- Project support with signage and window frosting at the new Queen Street customer service location.
- A range of support for engagement and documents for strategy and policy, including adoption of use of public spaces outside shops and upcoming engagement for revenue and financing policy and use of recreational spaces strategy.
- Ongoing engagement with Genesis with LED bulb swap initiative, set to go live at the beginning of November.
- Supported the launch of the Peter Laing grant round, advertising support for Halloween events including the launch of Hallowhere? Sign up page on What's Up Whakaoriori.
- Opening of art submissions for the new Library bookshelf ends.

Media activity

Media enquires include;

- Damage to road signs on the Masterton/Castlepoint Road
- Concerns around cones and signage for water mains work across Colombo Road
- Mayoral comment on the dumping of rubbish at Hospice Wairarapa
- Queen Street Stage 3 and resealing
- Activation space and the Rotary Christmas Fair
- Head Start decision to take additional time
- Trees in the activation space.

Media Releases Include;

School mural unveiling, Cultural Festival advertising, Town Centre improvement fund round two, speed limit signs for Riversdale and Castlepoint, EOI for Kids Own Playground and resident satisfaction survey findings.

Support for strategic projects

- **Queen Street upgrade** – Support with contractor as we move into stage 3, updates to the What's Up Whakaoriori page, creation of signage for shops in stage 3, questions around the resealing of stage 2 that will happen later in the year, and beginning discussions around the reopening of the area.
- **161 Queen Street office relocation** – All frosting and signage installed, moving back communications went live and will continue for several days following the move back being complete.
- **Town Hall activation space** – Media release on Council decision to build the new town hall, ongoing reactive media. Final videos in production looking at the Town Hall history.
- **Kids Own Playground** – Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Kids Own Playground went live, continue building out the Discover Whakaoriori site to support pointing to other playgrounds.
- **Masterton District Library** – Round one of murals are live and very well received, launch of call for designs for the bookshelf ends, supporting ongoing proactive communications around the library progress and what to expect.
- **Parking meters** – What's Up Whakaoriori page active, ongoing support as required.
- **Nikau Heights reservoir** – What's Up Whakaoriori page active, ongoing support as required.

Community Development

Events

- **Te wiki o Te Reo Māori** – We successfully secured $2,650 in funding from Te Taura Whiri to support Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Wairarapa's annual hikoi for Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. This funding allowed for bus transport for the younger students to and from the hikoi, as well as sausages and ice-creams for 150+ students. Having the Ngāti Kahungunu hoiho as part of their hikoi to Parliament to deliver their petition was a highlight. We also hosted internal opportunities for staff to learn and practise te reo Māori through bingo, te reo Māori games and a shared morning tea with those currently enrolled in our te reo Māori classes.

Community

- **Refugee Meeting** – The group met on 14 September to discuss a leadership project under the Meaningful Refugee Participation Funding to support refugee communities. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment provided an update on Phase 2 of the Refugee Survey, including its focus and how it builds on the previous survey, which covered education, employment and participation. Members discussed what worked well previously and what could be built on for the next phase. The group also shared updates on current work and discussed challenges facing refugee communities, including the lack of available doctors and access to healthcare.

- **Youth Council** – The Youth Council met on 18 September at the Youth Hub. The meeting fell during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, and members marked the week with an interactive quiz in te reo Māori. A local Year 9 student also attended to share her ideas for dog-friendly facilities in Masterton and to learn how young people can bring ideas like this to Council. Members talked with her about the process and how the Youth Council can help young people have their say. Members discussed the Youth Council's social media management and equipment needs, using schools' direct communication channels to promote activities and Youth Grants, and providing younger people with a way to raise ideas and issues.

Upcoming Events

- **The Genesis Energy Great Lightbulb Switch** – Council are partnering with Genesis Energy to giveaway 10,000 LED lightbulbs to our Masterton residents. More information about this campaign can be found here: https://www.genesisenergy.co.nz/campaigns/greatlightbulbswitch. The campaign will run from 2 November to the beginning of December 2026.

- **Halloween** – Our community event will take place on 31 October from 4pm – 7pm at Queen Elizabeth Park. Due to the instalment of the new accessibility bridge, we are able to include the park island in this year's activities. We are also continuing our support of the Wairarapa Theatre Company's Haunted House for 2026.

- **Masterton Christmas Parade** – Registrations are coming in for this year's parade taking place on 21 November 2026. We have again secured sponsorship from Trust House to cover the category prizes. Due to the current central business district upgrade, this year's parade will be taking place along Dixon Street (heading north from the Bannister Street intersection).

Climate and Environment

- **Makoura Eco Stream Project** - We are now in communication with Russell Hooper Consulting about the possible daylighting of part of the Mākoura Stream. We also met with freshwater expert Stu Farrant and the managers of UCOL Masterton and Palmerston North to discuss the concept work for Te Waiwaka. Everyone is supportive of this important work, and Stu is working through the details before work can potentially begin over summer while there are no students on site.

Community Development … continued

Community

- **Disability Advisory Group** – The group held a community connect meeting at Mahi Tahi Tātou on 9 September. Work is underway on an accessibility survey to help identify barriers people experience getting around Masterton, including footpaths, crossings and public spaces. The survey will help council understand what makes it difficult for people with disabilities, limited mobility or those using prams to access the town and inform future planning and improvements. The first phase will focus on physical accessibility around the town centre, with a second phase gathering broader community feedback. The next formal group meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2026.

Pou Arataki

- **Tuia Programme** – The final wananga is coming up in Wellington on 20 - 22 November. Mayors, Councillors and council staff are invited to a pōhiri on Saturday 21 November at 10am. Unfortunately, this clashes with our Christmas Parade. Rose will be presenting to the council meeting, 9 December 2026.

- **External engagement** – Continued engagement with iwi regarding the grass carp release and relocation application, with Chris Williams from the Department of Conservation requesting background information on iwi consultation. He will now make direct contact with iwi. Offered support with the meaning behind the Solway Reserve name, Te Tāpui Whenua o Whakamairu, and connections for the Mataikona working group.

- **Internal capability** – Three Te Tiriti wānanga have now been completed, with positive feedback from all attendees on the delivery and content. We are exploring a possible follow up wānanga focused on how staff can apply their new knowledge in their roles at council. Term 4 te reo Māori classes are almost full, with two beginner classes and one intermediate class planned. Supported operations with iwi involvement in the reopening of the Queen Street office, including a whakawātea for the new Kahikatea room, which will be used as the council chambers and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

Grants and Funding

- **Youth Grants** – The Masterton District Youth Council Youth Grants closed on 30 September 2026. Five grants of $500 each are available for young people aged 12 to 24 to support youth led projects, workshops, events and initiatives that benefit young people and the wider Masterton community. 1 application was received.

- **Climate Action Fund** – Council received nine applications requesting $118,461 in funding against $133,855 available for 2026/27. Funding of $36,655 was allocated to eight applicants. One application was unsuccessful as it did not meet the criteria.

- **Community Wellbeing Grant** – Council received 47 applications from organisations and community groups requesting $378,209 in funding for projects. This was a 20.5% increase on last year's applications. Funding of $99,696 was allocated to 36 organisations with grants ranging from $500 to $20,000. Eleven organisations were unsuccessful this year.

- **Community Events Fund** – Council received 23 applications from organisations and individuals requesting $136,566 in funding for events. Funding of $66,918 was allocated to 20 applicants with grants ranging from $500 to $12,000. Three applicants were unsuccessful this year.

- **Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme** – Round 2 opened on 12 October and closes on 20 November 2026. Funding available for this round is $11,085. The assessment committee will met on 3 December to consider the applications and allocate funding.

8.3 STRATEGY, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number:

Author: **Karen Yates, Group Manager Strategy**

Authoriser: **Kym Fell, Chief Executive**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update from the Strategy, Policy and Governance Teams (see Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the update from the Strategy, Policy and Governance Teams.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 Strategy Policy and Governance Activity Report ⇩**

STRATEGY, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY REPORT

MASTERTON WHAKAORIORI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Central Government Reform

1. On 24 September the Government announced they would defer any decisions on amalgamation (the Head Start proposals) until after the General Election. This delays the next decision point for councils participating in the programme, including the Wairarapa unitary authority proposal. We expect it will be early 2027 before any updates are received.

2. The Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 received Royal Assent on 17 September 2026. The Act refocuses the purpose of local government, increases performance reporting and transparency requirements, and introduces a range of governance and accountability changes. The Act provides the legislative authority for several supporting reforms that are currently being implemented. This includes the development of new regulations prescribing mandatory groups of activity, which are expected to be released shortly from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.

3. The Planning Act 2026 and Natural Environment Act 2026 received Royal Assent on 29 September 2026, replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 framework. The Planning Act establishes a system focused on enabling development, infrastructure, housing growth, and efficient land use while managing effects on neighbouring properties and natural hazards. The Natural Environment Act establishes a system focused on the use, protection, and enhancement of the natural environment. Officers are monitoring the development of implementation guidance, national direction and transitional arrangements, and assessing the implications for Council's planning and regulatory responsibilities.

4. The Local Government (Management of Local Authorities) Amendment Bill proposes changes to the Local Government Act 2002 to strengthen elected members' ability to direct and supervise council activities and clarify the respective roles of elected members and chief executives. Public submissions closed on 18 September 2026, and the committee is due to report back to the House on 4 February 2027.

5. Parliament was dissolved on 1 October 2026 ahead of the General Election on 7 November. While enacted reforms will continue to be implemented, consideration of several proposed legislative changes will now be carried over to the next Parliament. Officers will continue to monitor post-election developments and report on any changes that may affect Council's governance, planning or financial responsibilities.

Corporate Planning

2025/26 Annual Report

6. The 2025/26 Annual Report is scheduled to be adopted at an additional Council Meeting on 25 November following the completion of the audit undertaken by Audit New Zealand.

Strategic Planning

Wairarapa Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Spaces and Places Plan

7. The Wairarapa Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Spaces and Places Plan is progressing. Nuku Ora ran a community survey that was open from 16 September to 5 October 2026. Three workshops with local sports clubs and associated organisations have been scheduled across the Wairarapa, with the Masterton meeting to be held on 27 October 2026.

8. In addition to the work being led by Nuku Ora, MDC is undertaking community engagement to understand how Masterton sports and recreation facilities are being used and how our community rate these facilities now. The MDC survey is open until Wednesday 4 November 2026. Feedback from this survey will help to inform Council's LTP decision making.

Our Future Our Story: Masterton's Vision Towards 2050

9. Thirty-year development capacity and infrastructure assessments are underway for the Masterton township and identified greenfield areas on the edge of the urban area. These areas were discussed at the EM workshop on 9 September. The infrastructure assessment will inform recommendations for inclusion in the draft Development Plan, which will be consulted on alongside the LTP early in 2027.

10. A mana whenua workshop was held on 9 October with iwi representatives from Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust, Papawai & Kaikokirikiri Trust and Te Rangimarie Marae. The key issues raised were the need to:

- work in genuine partnerships with Council, Iwi and Hapū;
- create opportunities to develop Iwi/Hapū/Trust land for business, health and education purposes;
- improve business and transport connections between Masterton and Wellington;
- enable resilient and diverse housing and employment growth, and
- embed Māori identity and the natural environment throughout Masterton.

Regional Spatial Plan (RSP)

11. Officers continue to work with all Wellington Region councils to consider appropriate governance and resourcing options for the proposed RSP. A process

agreement between the Councils on how we will work together is expected to be in place by March 2027.

12. Officers have started working with CDC and SWDC to assemble key Wairarapa specific evidence that will be needed for the RSP.

Economic

Infometrics Update

13. **Inflation and Cost Pressures**: Inflationary pressures remain elevated, largely reflecting higher global energy prices and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty. However, cost increases are no longer occurring at the pace seen earlier in the year. Recent Infometrics commentary indicates supplier cost growth has moderated across a number of sectors, suggesting inflation is becoming more contained, although businesses continue to face higher operating, freight, energy, and construction costs than in previous years.

14. **Fuel and Transport Costs:** Fuel and transport costs remain a key risk for businesses and households. Infometrics note that international oil prices have moved back above US$100 per barrel, contributing to higher fuel costs and placing pressure on transport-dependent industries. Elevated fuel prices continue to affect freight costs, discretionary household spending, tourism activity, and business confidence.

15. **Economic Growth and Demand:** Economic activity continues to expand, supported by strong regional and primary sector performance. However, growth remains uneven, with household spending and broader consumer demand still relatively subdued. Infometrics' recent analysis points to ongoing uncertainty in the economic outlook, driven by global market conditions, exchange rate volatility, and geopolitical risks, which may continue to influence business investment decisions.

16. **Labour market trends:** Labour market conditions remain mixed. While employment growth has been modest, Infometrics report increasing vacancies in lower-skilled occupations, suggesting emerging labour shortages in some parts of the economy. Businesses in a number of sectors continue to report challenges attracting and retaining suitable staff, despite broader labour market softness.

17. **Primary sector outlook**: The primary sector remains one of the strongest contributors to New Zealand's economic performance and continues to underpin growth across many regional economies. Seasonal conditions and export demand remain generally supportive, although Infometrics note that weather-related risks, including potential El Niño impacts, and ongoing global uncertainty continue to create challenges for export-focused industries and commodity markets.

Dark Sky Reserve Update

18. The Dark Sky Reserve application is close to submission. Once submitted, the application will go through the assessment process. We expect to hear the outcome of that assessment early in 2027.

Environment

Local

2025 Climate Action Fund project updates

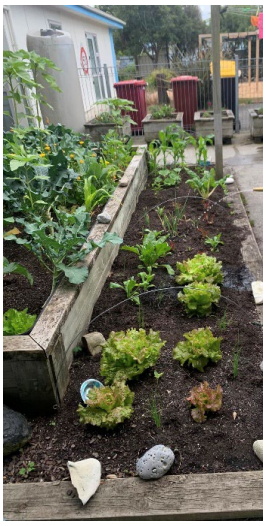
19. At the Council Meeting on 9 September, an update on the 2025 Climate Action Fund recipients was requested by Elected Members. Eight applicants were allocated funding in the 2025 funding round:

	Applicant (alphabetical order)	**Amount**	**Status**
1	Awatotara Project	$3,500	Accountability Report completed
2	Bennetts Hill	$5,000	Have not invoiced for funds
3	Good Lives Wairarapa	$5,300	Project delay – accountability report due December 2026
4	Ko te Aroha Children's Centre	$4,155	Accountability Report completed
5	Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust	$25,000	Awaiting Accountability Report
6	Tinui Whareama Catchment Community Group	$12,677.20	Project delay – report due December 2026
7	Trust House	$6,000	Accountability Report completed
8	Wairarapa Community Centre Trust	$4,512	Accountability Report completed
	Total	**$66,144.20**	

20. The Awatotara Project have reported that the funding they received was a great help to achieve goals they have been working on for some time. The group used the funding to purchase 74 trees and 200 guards to continue their planting. Once these are planted, the group will have planted 2100 trees – a huge achievement. They also used the money to purchase macrocarpa timber, then a volunteer constructed a picnic table with it, adding recreation value to the area.

21. Ko te Aroha Children's Centre were grateful to receive funding to support their gardening programme. Spurred on by an enthusiastic programme lead and passionate belief in the programme, the project resulted in shared kai available to the community through the Pātaka Kai, and education for whānau as to what can be achieved with a small garden.





Some of the photos supplied by Ko te Aroha Children's Centre of their gardening project.

22. **Trust House** have reported that the funding they received was used to create an evidence-based roadmap for improving the environmental performance of its housing portfolio. The work identified opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve water efficiency, and reduce operating costs for future developments and existing homes.

23. **Wairarapa Community Centre** used the funding to set up a tunnel house, donated to their community garden by Remutaka Prison. The tunnel house extends their growing season and protects crops from adverse weather conditions. It also provides a hands-on learning opportunity for 25-30 weekly gardeners to learn new skills and share their own.

2026 Climate Action Fund Recipients

24. Elected Members also requested an update on the two 2026 fund recipients that received less funding than they requested and whether those projects will progress with the reduced funding. Neither of the applicants are in a position to answer this question at this stage. An update will be provided to Elected Members in due course.

Policy

Regional

Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw: Water Bylaws

25. The enactment of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 requires councils to review existing water services bylaws by August 2027 to ensure they remain consistent with the new legislation and to determine whether they should be retained, amended, replaced, or revoked.

26. Officers are developing a programme of work to progress this, which includes engaging with our partner Councils (CDC, SWDC and Tararua DC), before water services are transferred to Waitī Waters. This work will help ensure the district has a

clear, up-to-date and practical regulatory framework in place to support both current operations and a smooth transition to the new regional model.

Review of Acquisition, Retention and Disposal of Property Policy

27. On 21 October, councillors participated in a workshop on the review of the Acquisition, Retention and Disposal of Property Policy. Feedback and direction from the workshop will inform a final policy proposal to be presented to councillors for consideration on 9 December.

District

Use of Public Places by Adjoining Business Premises Policy

28. Following Council's approval of the Use of Public Places by Adjoining Business Premises Policy on 16 September, officers have commenced working with businesses with new interests, to support them through the application process and are following up with existing businesses regarding transition. Further progress updates will be made through this report.

Revenue and Financing Policy Review

29. The Revenue and Financing Policy outlines the Council's funding mechanisms for all its activities, such as animal control, refuse disposal, community development, economic development and parks, reserves and sports fields. It is a required policy under the LGA in association with the preparation of the Long-Term Plan.

30. The policy is currently out for community consultation, which will close on 12 November 2026. A hearing and deliberations meeting will take place on 9 December.

Governance

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act Requests

31. For the period 29 August to 20 October 2026 Council received a total of 28 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) requests.

Requests in Progress as at 20 October 2026

Subject	Requester	Date Received	Due Date
Wairarapa Scrap Metals	Individual	2/09/2026	16/11/2026
Animal Control Enforcement Policies	Individual	14/09/2026	23/10/2026
Dog Control Processes	Individual	18/09/2026	23/10/2026
Water leaks and water loss	Stuff	22/09/2026	20/10/2026
Telecommunication facility – Pre consent application records	Individual	29/09/2026	28/10/2026

Subject	Requester	Date Received	Due Date
New Dwelling Consent Register	Individual	29/09/2026	28/10/2026
Information under Clause 14.1(b) Wairarapa Consolidated Bylaw	Individual	01/10/2026	29/10/2026
Noise complaint documents	Individual	05/10/2026	03/11/2026
Seizure of Dogs	Individual	08/10/2026	06/11/2026
Accessibility at a café	Individual	08/10/2026	06/11/2026
Release of seized dogs	Individual	12/10/2026	10/11/2026
Road Boundaries and Vehicle Turning Facilities	Individual	12/10/2026	10/11/2026
Grant Funding data 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026	Fundsorter	15/10/2026	13/11/2026
National Code of Practice for Utility Operators Access to Transport Corridors (Code) compliance return 2025-26	NZ Utilities Advisory Group (Inc)	16/10/2026	13/11/2026
Information on the Revenue and Financing Policy Consultation	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	19/10/2026	17/11/2026
Parking Costs	Masterton Trust Lands Trust	19/10/2026	17/11/2026
Employee Benefits	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	19/10/2026	17/11/2026

Requests Completed Since Last Report

Subject	Requester	Date Received	Days to respond
Hood Aerodrome Show - Meeting Notes	Individual	17/08/2026	10
Licensed premises	Heart Starter NZ	4/08/2026	19
Dog registration costs 2026-27	Individual	30/07/2026	22 (within extension timeframe)
Parking Infringement	Individual	27/07/2026	25

Subject	Requester	Date Received	Days to respond
			(Within extension timeframe)
June 2026 Storm Event	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	27/07/2026	25 (within extension timeframe)
Workforce Information	PSA Policy Team	04/08/2026	20
Ōpaki Water Race – Route and Water Source	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	04/08/2026	20
Building Consents 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024	Individual	27/07/2026	26 (One day over extension timeframe)
Kapiti Coast District Council position on Head Start	Individual	10/08/2026	17
Noise levels from childcare centre	Individual	10/08/2026	19
Rating sales under s77 LG Rating Act 2016-2026	Stuff	25/08/2026	9
Storm water, sewer and lateral pipes survey from 10 years ago	Individual	17/08/2026	15
Ōpaki Water Race – MRRA additional questions	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	14/08/2026	16
Info on Council IT systems	Azimuth	03/08/2026	25 (within extension timeframe)
Drinking water quality monitoring data – last 12 months	Individual	17/08/2026	16
Retention ponds and Ōpaki Water Race	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	13/08/2026	18

Subject	Requester	Date Received	Days to respond
Pedestrian Crossing Safety Audits	Individual	19/08/2026	16
Non-core activities	Tax Payers Union	01/09/2026	9
BC260158 records	Individual	09/09/2026	4
Cost of Head Start	Labour Leader's Office	18/08/2026	21
Rates relief and deferment requests	RNZ	21/08/2026	19
Parking infringement decision making	Individual	20/08/2026	21
Telecommunications facility – events assessments communications	Individual	10/08/2026	19
Town Hall Project Budget	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	18/09/2026	2
Town Hall procurement	Masterton Ratepayers and Residents Association	27/08/2026	20
Street tree incident	Individual	21/08/2026	25
Judds Road traffic islands	Toan Law	21/05/2026	92 [Released information in tranches]
Road Modelling Report 2026	Wairarapa Branch NZ Farm Forestry Association	03/09/2026	20
Hood Aerodrome and Expenditure New Site Runway	Stuff	07/09/2026	20
Bridge weight and height restrictions	Haulr	01/10/2026	3
Building and resource consents from 1 January 2026	Individual	05/10/2026	2
Head Start Programme Expenditure	Taxpayers Union	25/09/2026	9
Recreation Centre usage by area	Individual	28/09/2026	9

Subject	Requester	Date Received	Days to respond
Abandoned Rating Sale and Surplus Land	Individual	16/09/2026	17
Urban Water Supply Drinking Water Results Feb-Sept 2026	Gentell	21/09/2026	19

SUMMARY (by financial year)	**2026-2027** (year to date)	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**
Total Received	76*	167	133
% sent in timeframe (including extensions)	59 requests completed to date. 53 were sent within timeframe (88%)	86%	83%

*Compared with 46 requests received by 12 Nov 2025

Privacy Act Complaints

32. No Privacy Act complaints have been received for the period 29 August to 20 October 2026.

33. No Privacy Act requests have been received in the period 29 August to 20 October 2026.

Ombudsman Investigations

34. There is one investigation and two preliminary investigations in progress.

Report writers:

Tania Madden | **Policy and Strategy Manager**

Kylie Robinson | **Strategy Team and Environment Lead**

Josie Askin | **Corporate Planning Lead**

Matt Steele | **Economic Lead**

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Sophie Bradley | **Senior Policy Advisor**

Ash Guglielmoni | **Senior Policy Advisor**

Harriet Kennedy | **Governance Team Lead**

Approved by:

Karen Yates | **Group Manager – Strategy**

8.2 MEETING REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

File Number:

Authoriser: **Bex Johnson, Mayor**

PURPOSE

Councillors are appointed to a number of external groups and organisations as representatives of Masterton District Council. This agenda item allows Councillors to report back on meetings attended in that capacity.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

8.5 MAYOR'S REPORT 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 TO 27 OCTOBER 2026

File Number:

Author: **Bex Johnson, Mayor**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the information in the Mayor's report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Mayor's Report** ⇩

MAYORAL ACTIVITY
From 16/09/26 to 27/10/26

LGNZ online briefings x 6

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust meeting

Pasifika Health Day

Wellington Region Emergency Management Committee meeting

Mayors Taskforce For Jobs meetings x 2

Search and Rescue AGM

Age Concern Wairarapa AGM

Members of the Community meetings x 2

Federated Farmers Road Rates meeting

Mayoral Forum

New Zealand Extra Virgin Olive Oil Awards

Multi-Cultural Council AGM

Masterton Community Trust AGM

Wairarapa Mayors / Deputy Mayors / CEs meeting

Masterton Home and Lifestyle Show

Fiji Day Celebration

Blessing for Opening of refurbished 161 Queen Street

Opening of new Trust House housing at Matai Street

Wairarapa Times Age meeting

Local Government New Zealand Conference

NEMA Webinar – Emergency Management Act: Governance and Leadership Roles

Wairarapa College Sports Awards

Wairarapa Bush Rugby Union Annual Awards

9 PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Agenda Item No: 9.1 Public Excluded Minutes of Council Meeting held on 16 September 2026	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied s7(2)(c)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage,	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

	commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	
Agenda Item No: 9.2 Public Excluded Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 October 2026	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
Agenda Item No: 9.3 Chief Executive Report	s7(2)(c)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
Agenda Item No: 9.4 Chief Executive Review	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	s48(1)(a)(i)- the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7