



WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

AGENDA

Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting 31 July 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of Whanganui Rural Community Board will be convened on:

Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2019

Time: 3.30pm

**Location: Nagaizumi-cho Room
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui**

**Kym Fell
Chief Executive**

Whanganui Rural Community Board**Membership**

Mr David Matthews (Chairman), Messrs Grant Skilton (Deputy Chairman),
Bill Ashworth, Michael Dick, Alistair Duff, David Wells, Ms Sandra Falkner,
Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay, and Cr Murray Cleveland.
Youth Councillor Representatives – Haris Khan and Sophie Archer.

Terms of Reference

The Whanganui Rural Community Board is a body established by statute. Its responsibilities and powers are as delegated by the Whanganui District Council.

Purpose:

The role of the Whanganui Rural Community Board is to:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interest of its community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Whanganui District Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Whanganui Rural Community Board.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the Whanganui District Council within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to the Whanganui District Council for expenditure and levels of service within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to Horizons Regional Council for expenditure and levels of service within the District.
- Prepare submissions on Central Government legislation where there are implications for the rural community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- Exercise delegated authority to determine temporary rural road closure applications.
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Whanganui District Council.

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1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Whanganui Rural Community Board members will be provided with the opportunity to declare any disclosable pecuniary or other non-pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting, or declare any new conflicts that have arisen since last completing the Elected Members' Interests Register.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE WHANGANUI RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2019

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

References: 1. Unconfirmed minutes of the Whanganui Rural Community Board held on 19 June 2019

<p>Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.</p>
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Recommendation

1. THAT the Minutes of the Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting held on 19 June 2019 are confirmed as a true and correct record.



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

MINUTES

**Whanganui Rural Community Board
Meeting
19 June 2019**

Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting Minutes**19 June 2019**

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Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting Minutes

19 June 2019

**MINUTES OF THE WHANGANUI RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD IN THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 GUYTON STREET, WHANGANUI
ON 19 JUNE 2019 AT 3.30PM**

PRESENT: Chairperson David Matthews, Member Bill Ashworth, Member Alistair Duff, Member Sandra Falkner, Member David Wells, Member Michael Dick, Member Grant Skilton, Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay, Cr Murray Cleveland.

APOLOGIES: Nil

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Alan Taylor, Yth Cr Haris Khan, Bryan Nicholson (Chief Operating Officer), Justin Walters (Policy Analyst), Kirsty Milham (Policy Advisor), Angus Murray (Communications Officer), Louise Davies (Governance Services Officer).

The apologies from Marianne Cavanagh (Principal Advisor – Corporate), Constable Keith Butters (New Zealand Police), Yth Cr Sophie Archer, and Cr David Cotton (Horizons Regional Council) – for lateness, were noted.

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No new declarations of interest had arisen since Board members had last completed the Elected Members' Interests Register.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE WHANGANUI RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 MAY 2019

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Committee Resolution 2019/1

Moved: Member Grant Skilton

Seconded: Chairperson David Matthews

1. THAT the Minutes of the Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting held on 1 May 2019 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Nil.

Cr Murray Cleveland joined the meeting at 3.37pm.

5 REPORTS TO BOARD**5.1 ACTIONS ARISING**

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Discussion

Action 1: Rural Waste Bins – Ngāturi Bin Site: Following an informal discussion with Rangitikei District Council officials, the matter was to be followed up in writing. Work was being undertaken to ensure all other rural bins displayed appropriate signage for the disposal of non-domestic waste.

Committee Resolution 2019/2

Moved: Cr Murray Cleveland

Seconded: Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

THAT the information is noted.

CARRIED

5.2 WHANGANUI & PARTNERS - AGRIBUSINESS UPDATE

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Discussion

Mark Ward (Chief Executive – Whanganui & Partners) provided an update. Key discussion points included:

- Strategic Lead (S/L) – Agribusiness role: Marketed recruitment for the role is underway with a desired commencement date in early August 2019.
- Rural Enterprise Project (REP): Acknowledging that the REP was considered critical for the District, Mr Ward reported that progress to date had been unsatisfactory and feedback from the project's consultants had been requested accordingly. Offers of interim support to progress the REP had been made by the farming community,

consultants etc. pending the S/L Agribusiness appointment, and support was being sought from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to tap into other sources of expertise.

Committee Resolution 2019/3

Moved: Member Sandra Falkner

Seconded: Member Grant Skilton

THAT the information is noted.

CARRIED

5.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION OF REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Committee Resolution 2019/4

Moved: Chairperson David Matthews

Seconded: Member David Wells

THAT the information is noted.

CARRIED

5.4 STRATEGY AND POLICY UPDATE: JUNE 2019

Author: Kirsty Milham - Policy Adviser - Research and Engagement

Authoriser: Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Discussion

Repeater Installation – RB12 and MBSF: Advice had been received from the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) that a potential site had been identified in the Fordell area. Actual locations could would not be confirmed by RCG until engagement had been completed.

The Board's concerns regarding the remaining 'black spot' areas, including the lack of coverage in the Waitotara area, to be conveyed to RCG.

ACTION: Kirsty Milham

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill: It was agreed that the Board hold a workshop at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss its response to the Climate Change (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

Committee Resolution 2019/5

Moved: Cr Murray Cleveland

Seconded: Member Michael Dick

1. THAT the information is received.
2. THAT the Whanganui Rural Community Board hold a workshop to consider a response to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill and that any submission resulting from the workshop be approved by the Chair in consultation with the other Board members.

CARRIED

UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partner representatives were invited to provide a verbal update:

Horizons Regional Council – update provided by Cr David Cotton:

- One Billion Trees programme – Horizons' policy was to advocate for the right tree in the right place for the right reason rather than the blanket planting of trees on good sheep and beef properties.
- Sustainable Land Use Initiative Funding.

Youth Committee – update provided by Yth Cr Haris Khan and Cr Josh Chandulal Mackay:

- Update on Youth Hub.

New Zealand Police – update had been provided by Constable Keith Butters.

- Recent increase in rural burglaries particularly in the Kaitoke – Whangaehu areas.
- Reminder to be more vigilant, lock all sheds, and report any suspicious activity.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Whanganui Rural Community Board members provided a verbal update on their respective portfolios.

Zone 3 Community Boards' Conference:

- The Zone 3 Community Boards' Conference was being hosted by Whanganui District Council 21-22 June 2019. All Elected Members were welcome to attend.

5.1 RURAL ROADING INFORMATION REPORT FOR WRCB JUNE 2019

Author: Brent Holmes - Senior Roading Engineer

Authoriser: Mark Hughes - General Manager Infrastructure

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the decision is not significant.

Committee Resolution 2019/6

Moved: Chairperson David Matthews

Seconded: Member Alistair Duff

THAT the information is noted.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 4.54pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Whanganui Rural Community Board Meeting held on 31 July 2019.

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CHAIRPERSON

4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FORUM

5 REPORTS TO BOARD

5.1 ACTIONS ARISING

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

References: Nil

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.

Executive Summary

There are no actions arising.

5.2 COMMUNITY PARTNERS UPDATE

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

References: Nil

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.

Attending representatives of Horizons Regional Council, Tamaupoko Link, Federated Farmers and New Zealand Police will be invited to provide a verbal update.

5.3 WHANGANUI & PARTNERS UPDATE

Author: Louise Davies - Governance Services Officer

Authoriser: Kate Barnes - Senior Democracy Advisor

References: Nil

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.

Executive Summary

Mark Ward (Chief Executive Officer, Whanganui & Partners) will provide updates on the Strategic Lead Agribusiness role; Rural Enterprise Project, and the Toowoomba visit.

5.4 RURAL ROADING INFORMATION REPORT - JULY 2019

Author: Brent Holmes - Senior Roading Engineer
Authoriser: Mark Hughes - General Manager Infrastructure
References: Nil

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.

Recommendation

THAT the Whanganui Rural Community Board receive the report – Rural Roading Information Report - July 2019.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to ensure the Whanganui Rural Community Board (Board) is kept up to date on roading activities and proposed projects in the rural network.

Key information

The road maintenance contract is continuing under an Alliance model, with co-delivery by a singular Council-Contractor team.

Mowing got underway again in June with spring-like conditions, and plenty of grass growth coming through, however this has tapered off again in July with very soggy conditions now prevalent.

Maintenance Grading works to metal roads continue on our unsealed network. The grader has been working overtime to play catch up on rural roads, particularly in the Okoia area and the Kauarapaoa.

The Kauarapaoa area has been taking substantial punishment from logging operations and the subsequent metal cartage for preparation of skid sites to a number of logging sites. The unsealed carriageway has not been coping well in the wet weather coming through, with heavy transporting rutting the surface. Substantial metalling was undertaken in June by Downer to reinstate the surface from south of Wairangi back towards Papaiti Road.

A metal pit is about to be opened up adjacent to Melton Forest, in proximity to the Kauarapaoa, and can be accessed from the old Tokomaru East paper road. A deal has been struck with forestry which will reduce the burden of about 30 truck and trailer loads a week of activity off the general cartage from town up to the top of the Kauarapaoa. This is a great example of working together to create both efficiency for forestry cartage and mitigate ongoing damage to Council roading to some extent.



Photo 1: Crashed HPMV logging truck (No permit for route)

It has been noted that financial returns on logging have dropped by approximately 30% lately due to oversupply in China, causing some anxiety in the harvesting companies. The overheads are very high and the cartage run is long, so the decreased returns are expected to have an effect. One expectation is an increased demand for use of High Productivity Motor Vehicles (HPMV's) where cartage companies will desire to have 54 tonnes on each truck with an extra axle (over length) trailer, rather than the standard 44 tonne. Council's aging bridges and undulating geometry in the rural areas do not cope well with that overload so we are being vigilant to ensure the cartage companies are communicating their intentions and applying for permits so we can direct the routes safely. This is largely working well but there are occasions where owner/operator trucks from other provinces run the gauntlet away from their permitted route to attempt to cut their costs. Council roading is keeping in close contact with the Police Commercial Vehicle Safety Team, where we learn of HPMV's operating with invalid permits in order to prosecute and discourage illegal activity that may become unsafe for residents.



Photo 2: Damaged bridge on No. 3 Line over the Matarawa Stream following recent crash

Crash statistics have been collated for the 2018/19 financial year. There have been two fatalities (one rural) in the Whanganui District this year compared to three fatalities (all urban) in the 2017/18 financial year. However, serious injuries have increased from 12 in 2017/18 to 14 in 2018/19.

Annual chipseal reseals are long complete, with attention now turning to pre-reseal repairs in anticipation of the 2019/20 reseals.

Emergency Works – June 2015

The final project arising from the June 2015 weather event is now completed:

- Whanganui River Road Kauwaeroa dropout (RP48.4km) – This fill site slumped in the latter part of 2018. Work was halted to allow consolidation with ongoing monitoring by survey control. Recent indications that the earthworks are now stable meant that the last 2,500m³ of fill commenced in April 2019. Full restoration of the road carriageway to 5.5 metre (m) width is being undertaken now. A drilling rig was brought into site to install 30m long perforated horizontal pipes in a fanned pattern into the fill to bolster the drainage. A winter works permit was arranged through Horizons Regional Council to enable us to complete this project in May to ensure it was resilient for the coming winter. The batter slope has been sprayed with a polymer hydroseeding brew and strawmulched to allow best chance to reinstate vegetation. The road was reinstated to a width of 5.5m and two coats chipsealed in late June. This project is funded 100% by NZTA.



Photo 4: Completed sealed road surface, above Kauwaeroa Dropout site

Emergency Works – April 2017 (Cyclone Cook)

The final project arising from the April 2017 weather event has been deferred to the 2019/20 financial year:

- Whanganui Valley Road dropout (RP1.7km) – This fill site is to commence in September 2019 having achieved resource consent and iwi approval for amendments to an adjacent stream, to allow full restoration of the carriageway. Rip rap rock armouring is to be installed at the toe of the fill having previously been stockpiled near the site in readiness. This project is funded 61% by NZTA.



Photo 5: Whangaehu Valley Road Plan View of proposed fill site (April 2017 site)

Emergency Works – August 2018

Funding was finally approved by NZTA in early January 2019 for reinstatement recovery from a localised storm event back in August 2018. The first response clean-up was undertaken in the immediate month afterwards however Council has been waiting on confirmation of funding assistance to tackle two significant projects. These projects are to be designed and earmarked for completion in the latter part of 2019. They are:

- Whanganui River Road (immediately prior to Bridge 31 Jerusalem – Route Position 50.1 kilometres (RP 50.10)). Feasibility and options are currently being explored and costed in detail in order to select and appropriate treatment repair, in conjunction with a specialist river engineer. The likely option is a rock toe repair however this location is tenuous due to the acute angle of river flow with a vortex effect. Substantial survey is required to establish a hard foundation level to avoid the cost of rock toe blowing out in volume and cost. This project will be funded 61% by NZTA.
- Kauarapaoa Road 15.8 kilometres (RP 15.8) – The in-bend (west side) of this narrow carriageway section slumped away near the adjacent creek. The east side is flanked by steep papa cliffs limiting the usual retreat repair. Feasibility and options are currently being explored and costed in detail in order to select and appropriate treatment repair.



Photo 6: Taken standing on the August 2018 Jerusalem dropout, looking over to the June 2015 completed repair

Other weather events

A minor weather event took place on 5 July 2019 causing overnight closures to Marshalls Bluff on the Whanganui River Road, and 10km north of Mangamahu settlement on Mangamahu Road. Both were cleared by middle of the next day however there was criticism that the slips were not cleared overnight.

It is important to understand that the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 has reinforced harm protection on worker's health, safety and welfare so far as reasonably practicable. If lives are not at stake and a detour route is available, then sensible decisions will be made to undertake works following appropriate risk assessments and availability of appropriate equipment in the daytime.

No worker shall be instructed to put their lives at risk in a situation (especially isolated at night) between a raging river and an unstable bluff where they cannot adequately assess the hazards deep into pitch darkness and driving rain. Council has a primary duty of care to its workers as well as its residents.



Photo 7: Whanganui River Road small Slip – 5 July 2019. A local trying to clear it.

Key information

It was explained by the senior officials that despite more money than ever before being allocated to the NLTP fund by central government, the fund was under extreme pressure nationally. A “re-prioritisation” of monies had been made at a national level. In effect we were to receive cuts to our applications in funding for key roading projects, despite some of these projects meeting all necessary criteria.

Whanganui, Manawatu, Tararua, and Horowhenua District Councils, and Palmerston North City Councils were to feel the effects of this in provincial areas, with several projects being allocated as “unlikely to approve”.

The projects in that “unlikely to approve” category for Whanganui District Council are:

- Bridge 15 (Erni’s) Kauarapaoa Road Renewal.
- Aramoho Railway Bridge Shared Pathway Renewal.
- Heads Road, Beach Road, and Prince Street Intersection Improvements.

Bridge 15 (Erni’s) Kauarapaoa Road Renewal

This particular bridge is rated at 44 tonnes, and is located on a very prominent logging route 10km up the Kauarapaoa Road and is showing extreme signs of deterioration. It is being monitored rigorously with the intention to de-register the weight on the grounds of safety if necessary. Brent Holmes has met on three occasions with FOMS Forestry who have expressed concern at the hold up from NZTA for a stock standard programmed renewal and at their ongoing investment into Forestry blocks that rely on the long term viability of that bridge. The last correspondence with

FOMS and Forest 360 in mid-May was to advise that the NZTA would not fund the bridge renewal as a result of information received at this “re-prioritisation” meeting. The forestry industry are very worried and are struggling to understand the decision noting the “billion trees planting” initiative.

The effect of that decision and its repercussions are potentially:

- Whanganui District Council to fund the renewal bridge outright, to maintain access.
- FOMS to contribute to the bridge renewal.
- FOMS and others to cart the long way round Rangitatau East and back to Whanganui log yards on a route that becomes not viable for the harvest and replanting of these trees, thus a negative bearing on the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of logging harvests in our area (and other areas around the country also affected by the “re-prioritisation”).

Brent Holmes has requested FOMS and Forest 360 to do their sums on the basis of the bridge being renewed where they could potentially cart at 54 tonnes with a higher capacity renewal than the current 44 tonne that is damaging the existing bridge. FOMS to then consider a contribution to a new bridge on the basis of the extra efficiency found. We are waiting on the outcome of that business pondering, with a “proposal in principle” to be derived, before potentially bringing a business case to Council for consideration, once we have analysed the pros and cons of that heavier activity on the Kauarapaoa and Papaiti area.

Whanganui District Council had applied for four tiers of TEFAR across a range of Whanganui District Council projects in early January 2019, in line with central government mandates for supporting priority projects.

A receipt from NZTA was acknowledged on 8 January 2019 of our application, with the promise of the process to take 15 working days. To this day, Whanganui District Council have not received a letter to advise our TEFAR application. Whanganui District Council did not get any formal notice until the 11 June 2019 workshop that TEFAR was, in fact, gone.

Frustratingly, one of the most productive dry summers in several years was not fully utilised and has caused some needless carryovers into 2019/20 due to procrastination on NZTA funding decisions. This frustration was felt across the country with most Roding Managers, and will have likely contributed to a slow-down in growth due to many projects being placed on hold in the national market.

It was also mentioned to the attendees of the meeting that substantial funding was being allocated to Kiwirail, as also discovered in the recently announced Government budget 2019, being \$1B.

A number of letters have recently been sent to NZTA from Roding Interest Groups expressing significant disappointment and disapproval at the process of the way the re-prioritisation was carried out at a national level, by NZTA making cuts in Wellington without local stakeholder engagement to present a case as to exactly why these projects are required.

5.5 STRATEGY AND POLICY UPDATE: JULY 2019**Author:** Kirsty Milham - Policy Adviser - Research and Engagement

Justin Walters - Policy Analyst Legislative & Performance Management

Authoriser: Charlotte Almond - General Manager Strategy**References:**

1. Strategy and Policy Update- July 2019
2. Whanganui Rural Community Board submission on Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.

Recommendation

1. THAT the information is received.
2. THAT the Whanganui Rural Community Board note its submission to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

Executive Summary

The July 2019 Strategy and Policy update is attached (**Ref 1**). There have been some amendments to this report to more clearly indicate to members the 'new' progress updates, as well as any important background information for each project.

Following the Whanganui Rural Community Board (Board) workshop on the 31 July 2019 on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill a submission was drafted and approved by the Chair of the Board. The submission is attached for noting by the Board (**Ref 2**). Following the Board's submission it is noted that the Ministry for the Environment is consulting on the pricing of agricultural emissions and the Ministry of Transport is consulting on a discussion document relating to the reduction in the overall CO₂-e emissions from New Zealand's light vehicle fleet.

WHANGANUI LEADING EDGE

Strategy and Policy Update
July 2019

The Strategy & Policy Update provides information on current projects of the Strategy & Development Group is leading or assisting with. The following is the list of strategy, policy and regulatory work that Council intends to start, progress, and complete over the current Long-Term Plan period, reviewed 3 yearly.

Note: When the Council has adopted the Policy the information will be removed from this update.

Project & Description	Status	What's new?	Overview	Responsible Officer
Water Supply Bylaw This is a review of the Water Supply Bylaw 2014 which manages and protects Councils water supply network.	Underway	<i>Updated</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bylaw was adopted at the July 2019 Council meeting with a commencement date of 17 July 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing bylaw was reviewed by officers with only minor changes recommended. Public consultation closed on 12 April 2019 with no submissions. Deliberations on the proposed Water Supply Bylaw were held on 30 May 2019. 	Justin Walters
Housing Strategy The purpose of this strategy is to improve outcomes across the housing continuum.	Underway	<i>Updated</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation was being undertaken from 24 May to 5 July 2019. Hearings and deliberations were held on 30 July 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive pre-engagement has been undertaken with key stakeholders. A draft strategy went to the Council meeting on the 14 May for public consultation. 	Lauren Tamehana
Age Friendly Communities Plan The purpose of this plan is to ensure we are encouraging active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age	Underway	<i>Updated</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on this plan continues. A draft plan is planned to go to the Strategy and Finance Committee in August 2019 for approval for public consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-engagement is complete A draft plan is planned to go to the Strategy and Finance Committee 1 August 2019 for endorsement subject to minor amendments and approval by September Positive Ageing Forum 	Lauren Tamehana
Digital Strategy The purpose of this strategy is to have Whanganui recognised as a world-leading digital district	Underway	<i>Updated</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A final Digital Strategy was adopted by the Statutory Management Committee on 16 July 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops with internal and external stakeholders have been held. A draft strategy was approved by Strategy and Finance Committee on 30 April 2019 for approval for public consultation. Public consultation from 10 May to 21 June 2019 	Stephanie Macdonald-Rose / Marianne Archibald

Project & Description	Status	What's new?	Overview	Responsible Officer
<p>Earthquake Prone Building – Priority Thoroughfares</p> <p>This policy identifies the pedestrian and vehicle routes where the earthquake strengthening of buildings should have priority.</p>	Underway	<p><i>Updated</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A final Earthquake Prone Building – Priority Thoroughfares policy was adopted by the Statutory Management Committee on 16 July 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers have undertaken a review of the areas that meet criteria for earthquake prone building priority thoroughfares in conjunction with key stakeholders. Draft priority thoroughfares were approved for public consultation by the Strategy and Finance Committee on 30 April 2019. Public consultation from 6 May to 28 June. Public meeting was held on 27 May 2019. 	Greg Hoobin / Justin Walters
<p>Local Alcohol Policy</p> <p>Local Alcohol Policy applies to licensing matters, such as opening hours and licensed premises locations, to support alcohol-related harm minimisation.</p>	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The appeal period closed on 22 March 2019, with no appeals received. Council officers are determining next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has updated its provisional Local Alcohol Policy in line with ARLA's consent order at its meeting on 13 November. 	Warrick Zander
<p>Town Centre Regeneration</p> <p>Economic and social regeneration strategy focused on delivering improvements to the town centre.</p> <p>Work underway with mana whenua to develop a GIS cultural overlay layer to inform development and regeneration proposals.</p>	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designs for the exterior of the Block 4 toilet are continuing to be sourced. The Whanganui Walls Street Art Festival was held from 28-31 March, with professional street artists painting 8 large walls in the lower blocks of the town centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town centre regeneration steering committee established. Permanent installation of the Conversation Station has been completed Artwork has also been installed on the back of the space and blessed by local iwi The Ridgway Pop Up was successfully activated over the summer. 	Ellen Young
<p>Development Contributions Policy (Mill Road Manufacturing Zone)</p> <p>This policy will set out a framework for securing development contributions for the expected growth in the Mill Road manufacturing zone</p>	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft policy is planned to go to the Strategy and Finance Committee in June 2019 for consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-engagement sessions with key stakeholders have been undertaken. The draft policy is currently being prepared. 	Damien Wood
<p>Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>This strategy will guide Council's response to climate change, from both a mitigation and adaptation perspective</p>	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to prepare for community engagements. Rural groups and the rural community as a whole will have opportunities to engage with Council on this issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion document has been approved for community engagement. Feedback from community engagements will inform the development of a proposed Strategy. 	Charlotte Almond
<p>Review of Parks and Open Spaces Strategy</p> <p>This intent of this strategy is to ensure that Council provides quality parks that meets the needs of the current and future community.</p>	This project is on hold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further progress. This work is on hold. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops have been held with internal officers and external organisations. Evaluation of the current Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is ongoing, with background work currently being undertaken. The Policy Team is currently working with GIS and Parks to develop a Provisional Analysis of the district's open spaces as part of this review. 	Wendy Bainbridge

District Plan Updates – The district plan policy work programme and consultations are available on the Council’s Have Your Say page: <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/our-district/have-your-say>

Rural Broadband and Mobile Black Spots rollout

Repeater Installation – RBI2 and MBSF Rural Broadband and Mobile Black Spots rollout	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase Two of the network upgrade is going to be complete by 2021 (Business Partnership Agenda New Zealand Government, 28 August 2018). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update has been received the Rural Connectivity Group this month 	Kirsty Milham
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Consultation

Project	Engagement	Timeframe
Action on agricultural emissions: A discussion document on proposals to address greenhouse gas emissions for agriculture https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Climate%20Change/action-on-agricultural-emissions-discussion-document.pdf	Discussion Document	13 August 2019
2020-2030 Road Safety Strategy https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Import/Uploads/Our-Work/Documents/e97c3b3d0d/Road-to-Zero-consultation-document-july2019.pdf	Discussion Document	14 August 2019
Clean Cars (Ministry of Transport) https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Import/Uploads/Our-Work/Documents/f794fdd5c6/LEV-consultation-document-final.pdf	Discussion Document	20 August 2019



16 July 2019

Environment Committee

Via email: en@parliament.govt.nz

Re: Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

The Whanganui Rural Community Board (the Board) is a statutory body responsible for representing and acting as an advocate for the interest of the rural community within Whanganui District.

The Board **supports** a scientific, planned approach to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change provided that there is adequate support for regional and rural New Zealand to adapt and thrive in a low carbon economy. The Board is concerned that the nature and quantum of this support is absent from the Bill as currently drafted.

The Board **opposes** the proposed 2050 Target as it will have a disproportionate impact on regional New Zealand and affect the viability of rural communities. The Board is particularly concerned around two aspects of the targets:

- firstly that the target reductions for biogenic methane is a gross target without the ability to apply offsets from forestry that will impact heavily on our rural communities; and
- secondly, that the targets for biogenic methane are unnecessarily high given shorter lived nature compared to other greenhouse gasses.

The Board **recommends** that the 2050 Target be amended to focus on removing fossil fuel emissions from the economy with a zero emissions target for non-agricultural emissions and net reductions of between 10-22% for agricultural greenhouse gas emissions as recommended by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. This approach would allow additional time for research and mitigation tools to mature and reduce the adverse impacts of the climate change policies on the agricultural sector as a whole.

Setting a target higher than is necessary for the pastoral sector to no longer contribute to anthropogenic global warming will have the unintended consequence of moving animal protein production from New Zealand, which is a low carbon producer, to higher carbon intensity jurisdictions, and could significantly impact on New Zealand's food security.

Neither of these outcomes would achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement¹ nor the purpose of the Bill. Furthermore, the Board is concerned that requiring biogenic methane targets to be gross reductions will compound the impact of increased reliance on forestry on rural communities without

¹ Including Article 2(1)(b) – Food security; and Introduction – Recognition that there will be impacts from the introduction of measures to response to climate change.

being able to access the benefits to the pastoral sector. An increase in forestry will see a reduction in on farm employment² which in turn will lead to a hollowing out of rural communities and services, with lower rural school rolls, the loss of volunteers and impacts on local retailers. Forestry is currently having an impact on local rural roads which territorial authorities are struggling to maintain through rates. An increase in forestry would exacerbate this issue, as well as compound issues around food security.

The Board **supports** the requirement for the developing a National Adaption Plan. The Board **recommends** that the national adaptation plan provide increased funding for research and practices that reduce biogenic methane and increase farm productivity. The Board **recommends** that the national adaptation plan be required to detail how the Government will work with local government, the private sector and other agencies to give effect to the plan. Furthermore, there needs to be recognition that local government is unable to effectively fund local climate change and adaptation measures through rates and that significant Government funding will be required.

Yours sincerely



David Matthews
Chair
Whanganui Rural Community Board

² Fairweather, J. R., Mayell, P. J., & Swaffield, S. R. (2000). *A Comparison of the Employment Generated by Forestry and Agriculture in New Zealand* (Vol. 246, Studies in Land Use Change and Socio-economic Consequences), Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit - Lincoln University.

5.6 PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Whanganui Rural Community Board members will provide a verbal update on their respective portfolios

