



Tāneatua Community Board

Te Poari Hapori o Tāneatua

Monday, 30 March 2026
Mane, 30 Poutūterangi 2026

Tōrara Room, Whakatāne District Council
14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
Commencing at 4:00 pm



Chief Executive: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 25 March 2026

whakatane.govt.nz



A Membership - *Mematanga*

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Board Member Talei Bryant

Board Member Kerry Gosling

Board Member Phillipa Mason

Board Member Shane Page

Board Member Angie Rota

Board Member Vinoop Xaviour

Appointed Councillor Andrew Iles

Alternate Councillor Jesse Morgan-Ranui

B Role of the Community Board

B Role of the Community Board

1. Purpose

To receive applications for funding and issue funding grants from the respective Community Board funds.

To support Council engagement and consultation processes where required, and act as an advocate for the interests of Council.

To engage with their constituent communities and provide information to Council on matters of importance to those communities as they arise.

2. Specific Function, and Delegations to the Community Board

- a. Receive applications for funding from their constituent communities, deliberate and make funding grant decisions that are funded from the respective Community Board funding allocations.
- b. Consider and report on all matters referred to by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- c. Receive correspondence and reports.
- d. To engage with the community, community organisations and special interest groups to both represent the interest of Council and gather community feedback and themes.
- e. To prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community for projects that are specifically funded by the community
- f. To make submissions to the Council's Long-Term Plan and other consultation processes on behalf of the Communities it represents
- g. To authorise, within approved budgets, Board Members attendance at relevant conferences and/or training courses
- h. To make presentations verbally to the Council at the Board's discretion on matters of importance to the community or Board (Note: the ability to make presentations verbally to the Council or any Committee of Council is subject to the approval of the Mayor or chairperson presiding at that meeting).
- i. Community Boards are delegated the responsibility to develop and adopt a Strategic Plan as a Board. The Strategic Plan must articulate the collective aspirations, priorities, and objectives of the Board, serving as a guiding document for decision-making and advocacy. The plan may be developed in consultation with the community to ensure it reflects the community's needs, values, and future vision. Where an approved Community Plan exists, the Strategic Plan should reference and align with that document to maintain consistency and strengthen the connection between Board priorities and broader community objectives.

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1 Meeting Notices - *Ngā Pānui o te hui*

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1. Live Streaming

The Whakatāne District Council is livestreaming this Tāneatua Community Board meeting from the Tōtara Room, within the Council building. The webcast will live stream directly to Council's YouTube channel in real time. The purpose of streaming meetings live is to encourage transparency of Council meetings.

Welcome to members of the public who have joined online and to those within the public gallery.

By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent has been given if your presence is inadvertently broadcast. Please be aware the microphones in Totara Room are sensitive to noise, so please remain quiet throughout the meeting unless asked to speak.

2. Health and Safety

In case of an emergency, please follow the building wardens or make your way to the nearest exit. The meeting point is located at Peace Park on Boon Street.

Bathroom facilities are located opposite the Chambers Foyer entrance (the entrance off Margaret Mahy Court).

2 Declaration by Members

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Alphabetically by surname the Elected Members, followed by appointed Councillors, will make their declaration in the presence of, and witnessed by Mayor Tánczos:

Board Member Talei Bryant
Board Member Kerry Gosling
Board Member Phillipa Mason
Board Member Shane Page
Board Member Angie Rota
Board Member Vinoop Xaviour
Appointed Councillor Andrew Iles
Alternate Councillor Jesse Morgan-Ranui

2 Declaration by Members(Cont.)



TĀNEATUA COMMUNITY BOARD
DECLARATION BY MEMBER

I, Name Name

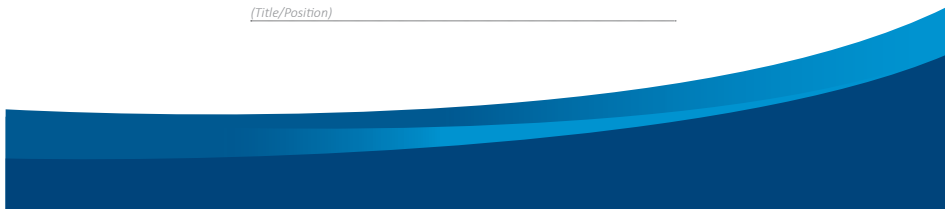
declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Tāneatua-Waimana community, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as a member of the Tāneatua Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

DATED AT WHAKATĀNE THIS 30TH DAY OF MARCH 2026

SIGNATURE: _____

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF: (Signature) _____

(Title/Position) _____



3 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

3 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

No apologies were recorded at the time of compiling the agenda.

4 Acknowledgements/Tributes - *Ngā Pānui*

5 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interests they might have. Elected Members are also reminded to update their register of interests when changes occur.

The register of interest is available on the [Council website](#).

1. Financial Conflict

- Members present must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.
- Members cannot take part in the discussion, nor can they vote on any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest, unless with an approved exception.
- Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table. If the meeting is public excluded, members should leave the room.

2. Non-Financial Conflict

- If a member considers that they have a non-financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter or any subsequent vote.
- Members with a non-financial interest must leave the table when the matter is considered but are not required to leave the room.

6 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

6 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

6.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

The Board has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum. Applicants seeking funding from the Board are encouraged to speak in support of their application at this time.

Board Members may ask questions of the speaker but these should be confined to obtaining further information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

6.2 Deputations - *Ngā Whakapuaki Whaitake*

A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Community Board on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to five minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a long time frame may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

- Andrew Corkill and Roger Brady - NZTA Pekatahi Bridge update.
- Sarah McCorkindale and Mawera Karetai - Bay of Plenty Regional Council Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.

7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

7 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028



To: **Combined Community Board Inaugural**

Date: **Monday, 1 December 2025**

Author: **S Perdia / Chief Executive**

Reference: **A3012890**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Boards with an overview of certain legal provisions that Members must be aware of to properly fulfil their role and avoid the risk of prosecution and/or disqualification from office.

There is a requirement to have these brought to your attention at the Inaugural meeting under Clause 21 (5) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

This report will highlight some of the key aspects of the following legislation:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968
- Crimes Act 1961 – Sections 99, 105 and 105A
- Secret Commissions Act 1910
- Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013
- Protected Disclosures Act 2000
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

2. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

There are a number of key pieces of legislation that Elected Members will need to be aware of, and have an understanding of, in their role as an Elected Member. This report does **not** highlight all of this legislation; the report specifically deals with legislation that Members **must** be aware of to avoid behaviour or activities that are illegal or improper and carry a risk of disqualification from office.

It is recommended Members familiarise themselves with the information within this report, any queries can be directed to the Governance Team.

3. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the report 'Legislative Advice to the Incoming Community Boards 2025-2028' report be **received**.

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

4. Issue/subject - *Kaupapa*

4.1. Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) defines local government's purpose, its general powers, its specific bylaw making powers and the principles and processes that councils must abide by when making decisions.

The LGA is based on the principle of general competency, which enables a Council to do whatever is necessary to fulfil its role. Within this framework, there is a considerable degree of flexibility in deciding what activities are undertaken and how they are carried out.

The LGA was amended in 2019 to reinstate the four well-beings (social, economic, cultural, and environmental). The purpose of local government is defined in section 10 of the Act, which states:

1. "The purpose of local government is:

(a) To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and

(b) To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future."

However, the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill proposes changes to the LGA that would remove all references to the 4 aspects of community well-being and amend the purpose of local government to focus on the cost-effective provision of good quality local infrastructure and public services. The Bill is currently before the Governance and Administration Select Committee and due for report back to Parliament by 18 November 2025.

In addition to its general power under the LGA the Council has many specific statutory powers in more than 30 statutes which provide councils with regulatory powers. Councils also have specific bylaw making powers, which are separate from their general power, and which may be contained in either the LGA or other legislation.

The LGA sets out high-level principles and requires the Council to act in accordance with these when exercising its powers. These can be summarised as the Council must:

- Act with transparency and openness and be democratically accountable
- Give effect to identified priorities efficiently and effectively
- Have regard to the views of all of its communities
- When making decisions, consider the diversity of the community and the interests of future as well as current communities, and the likely impact of any decision on these interests
- Provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes
- Collaborate and co-operate with other local authorities
- Act in accordance with sound business practices
- Periodically review the returns from investing in or undertaking commercial activities satisfy itself that the expected returns outweigh the risks

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

- Ensure prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of resources in the interests of the district including planning for the future management of its assets
- In taking a sustainable development approach, take into account the social, economic, and cultural interests of the people and communities, the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment and the needs of future generations.

If any of the principles or any aspects of well-being are in conflict, the Council must resolve that conflict in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner. These principles are helpful in determining the governance structure, as they are indicative of the spirit and intent of the LGA and govern the way in which the Council undertakes decision-making. A Council that is seen to act in conflict with these principles can be subject to judicial review.

Every decision made by the Council, including a decision not to take any action, must be made in accordance with the decision-making framework in sections 76 to 81 of the LGA. A higher standard of compliance with the decision-making process is required when the Council is making a significant decision. "Significance" is defined in the LGA and in the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

For more detailed information on decision-making processes, please refer to the Council's Code of Conduct.

Another requirement of the Act is that Council must publish a document outlining its functions and a general description of the information held by it. This material is published through the Local Governance Statement, which is required to be updated within six months following each triennial election. The Local Governance Statement is publicly available on the Council's website, but it will need to be updated following the Council's decision on its governance structure for 2025-2025-2028.

The Whakatāne District Council delivers more than 30 services, under 19 activity groups, and manages approximately \$1.6 billion worth of community assets. In Year 2 of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034, the total annual cost of delivering these activities is approximately \$120M in operating costs and approximately \$65M in capital costs. Council activities make an important contribution to our lifestyles, providing essential services and recreational opportunities that are used by the community every day.

As elected Council representatives, you are responsible for making key policy decisions that guide our activities and provide the direction for our District's future.

4.1.1. *Personal Liability of Elected Members*

Elected Members are indemnified in respect of their actions as a member of the Council. Section 43 of the LGA provides for this indemnity (by the Council) in relation to:

civil liability (both for costs and damages) brought by a third party if the Member is acting in good faith and in pursuance of the responsibilities or powers of the Council;

costs arising from any successfully defended criminal action relating to acts or omissions in their capacity as an Elected Member.

However, the LGA provides that an Elected Member may have personal exposure in certain circumstances if the Council has incurred an unrecovered loss by its actions or omissions (section 44). The loss must arise out of one of the following situations:

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

- the Council unlawfully spends money;
- the Council unlawfully sells or disposes of an asset;
- the Council unlawfully incurs a liability;
- the Council intentionally or negligently fails to enforce the collection of money it is lawfully entitled to receive.

If the Auditor-General has reported on a "loss", then that loss is recoverable as a debt due to the Crown from each Elected Member jointly and severally. However, as a Member of the Whakatāne District Council, you have a defence (section 46 LGA) if you can prove that the act or failure which led to the loss occurred:

- without your knowledge; or
- with your knowledge but against your protest made at or before the time when the loss occurred; or
- contrary to the manner in which you voted on the issue at a meeting of the Council; or
- in circumstances where you acted in good faith and relied on information, or professional or expert advice given by a Council officer or professional advisor on matters which you reasonably believed were within that person's professional or expert competency.

4.1.2. Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

LGOIMA provides for all local government activities to take place in an open and transparent environment. It also specifies that, generally, all information held by a local authority in any form should be available to the public. The purpose of LGOIMA is to enable more effective participation by the public in the actions and decisions of local authorities and to promote the accountability of local authority members and officials with a view to enhancing respect for the law and promote good local government in New Zealand. At the heart of LGOIMA is the principle of availability, which states that the information should be made available unless there is good reason for withholding it.

There are two aspects to this Act:

- Access to local authority information; and
- Local authority meeting procedures.

A brief overview of these provisions is provided in the following paragraphs.

4.1.2.1. Access to Local Authority Information

Generally, all information held by a local authority in any form should be available to the public. However, LGOIMA does provide that certain material does not constitute "information" for the purposes of the Act. This includes library or museum material, information acquired solely for reference or exhibition purposes, information held by the Council as agent for the purpose of safe custody, and correspondence with the Ombudsman relating to a matter under investigation by that office.

It also sets out certain reasons that a Council might rely on to withhold particular information, such as the protection of personal privacy, commercial advantage, protection of negotiations, and the like (these are set out in the Council's Standing Orders and in section 7 of LGOIMA).

LGOIMA provides for anyone to have the right to request information held by the Council. If any such request is refused the applicant has the right to complain to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will then consider the request; the nature and content of the information concerned, and the grounds

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

relied on for refusing to provide it. If the Ombudsman believes that some or all of the information should be released, the Ombudsman will recommend a course of action to the Council. It is then up to the Council to decide what to do. The Council's decision is reviewable by the High Court.

LGOIMA specifically provides that there will be no liability on Elected Members for any information released in good faith under the legislation pursuant to a request for official or personal information. It should be noted however that the Privacy Act 2020 places strict limitations on Council in respect of the release of information relating to private individuals and this must be seen as curtailing the general rule. The indemnity in the LGOIMA does not extend to the release of information in response to a request for a land information memorandum (LIM) under Part 6 of LGOIMA.

Under LGOIMA the authority to make decisions regarding whether information should be released is deemed to be that of the Chief Executive, and the Chief Executive has power to authorise another officer or employee of Council to make those decisions. However, if there is a complaint to the Ombudsman arising from such a decision, the consideration of any recommendation made by the Ombudsman for the release of that information is a matter for Council.

As a general rule, any information contained in the open section of any agenda is already in the public domain. Any information marked "public excluded" or "confidential" should not be released or discussed outside the meeting concerned. If, as an Elected Member, you are asked to provide any such information to a third party you should refer the request to either the Chief Executive or to the General Manager responsible for the report. If an Elected Member releases confidential information and the Council suffers any loss as a result, the member may become personally liable for that loss if it can be shown that they were not acting in good faith.

4.1.2.2. Local Authority Meetings

LGOIMA provides that all meetings of Council and its committees, and the meetings of community boards and their committees, shall be open to the public unless certain specified reasons can be satisfied for excluding them.

These reasons are basically the same as for withholding information (except for the provision that allows information to be withheld to protect the free and frank expression of opinions) and are set out within Section 48 of the Act. It is necessary for the meeting to be satisfied that any one or more of these reasons exist before the public is excluded. Staff will provide guidance and suggestions where it may be considered to be appropriate for the Council or for one of its committees to meet with the public excluded.

LGOIMA also enables the Mayor (or Chairperson in the case of committees and community boards) to introduce and deal with an item that is not on the agenda as long as there is a clear reason why the item is not on the agenda and why it cannot wait until the next meeting. A formal resolution, including reasons, must then be passed to receive and consider the item. This relates to major and urgent matters only. The Council is still subject to the requirements of the decision-making processes as set out in the LGA. LGOIMA states that in terms of minor matters that are not on the agenda, no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion. This requirement is not intended to make the decision-making process any more difficult or protracted than necessary, but rather to ensure transparency.

Agendas for Council and Committee meetings have to be made available to the public two clear working days before the day of the meeting. The agendas are published on the Council website www.Whakatane.govt.nz and available electronically to Councillors.

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

Other provisions of LGOIMA require meetings to be publicly notified and provide that any matter including defamatory matter published in any agenda, or oral statements made at any meeting are privileged unless proven to have been made with malice. This type of privilege is known as qualified privilege. It is a protection afforded by the law on certain occasions to a person acting in good faith and without any improper motive who makes a statement defamatory of another person. It is established in law that meetings of local authorities are privileged occasions. This includes community boards. The reason given by the Courts is that those who represent local government electors should be able to speak freely on any matter they believe affects the interests of their residents. The situation regarding statements made outside a formal meeting is not so clear and the statutory protections afforded by sections 52 and 53 do not extend to published matters outside of agendas or minutes, or to statements made outside of a meeting. What is required for qualified privilege to apply is a positive belief in the truth of what is said, and that there is no suggestion of personal spite or ill-will by the maker.

The Chairperson at a meeting can require a member of the public to leave a meeting if the behaviour of the person concerned is likely to prejudice the orderly conduct of the meeting. If an Elected Member's conduct prevents the orderly conduct of the meeting, that member can also be asked to leave by the Chairperson under the Council's Standing Orders.

The Council can hold forums or workshops that are not open to the public. This is because forums or workshops are not treated as formal Council meetings (as long as no decisions are made) and so they are not subject to Part 7 of LGOIMA, which applies only to local authority meetings. However, in recent years the Ombudsman has been critical of councils that routinely conduct forums or workshops that are closed to the public unless specified reasons can be satisfied for excluding them. As a consequence the default position has become that forums or workshops are open to the public, unless there is good reason for excluding them.

4.1.2.3. Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968

The Local Authority (Members' Interests) Act 1968 helps to protect the integrity of local authority decision-making by ensuring that Councillors are not affected by personal motives when they participate in Council decision-making and cannot use their position to obtain preferential access to contracts.

This Act deals with one form of "interest" known as pecuniary interest. Other forms of non-pecuniary interest are dealt with outside of the Act under the common law.

4.1.2.4. Pecuniary interest

The two specific rules in the Act are that members cannot:

1. Enter into contracts with their local authority worth more than \$25,000 (including GST) in a financial year unless the Auditor-General approves the contracts (referred to as the contracting rule). Breach of this rule results in automatic disqualification from office; and
2. Participate in matters before the Council in which they have a pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public (referred to as the participation rule). Breach of this rule is a criminal offence and conviction results in automatic disqualification from office

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

A pecuniary interest is one that involves money or a financial benefit or impact. This could be direct or indirect. It is sometimes difficult to decide whether an interest in a particular matter is pecuniary or some other kind. It is always the responsibility of Elected Members to make this decision, to declare any interest when appropriate and to ensure that as an Elected Member they comply with the Act's requirements at all times.

The Act generally provides that no person shall be capable of being a member of Council if that person is concerned or interested in any contracts with the Council where the total payments made by the Council in respect of such contracts exceed \$25,000 in any one financial year. The Act also provides that an "interest" exists where a member's spouse is involved and/or where a member or their spouse is a major shareholder or has control or management of a company which contracts with Council or where the company has a pecuniary interest in the decision. It may also apply where a member's family trust has a contract with the Council. The Act does provide that on application to it, the Office of the Auditor General may give specific approval to a member being concerned or interested in a particular contract, in which case the provisions of the Act will not disqualify the Councillor from remaining in office. The approval needs to be gained before the contract concerned is entered into.

The Act also requires that a member shall not vote or take part in the discussion of any matter in which he/she has any pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public. Though not an absolute requirement of the Act, the Council's Standing Orders require that, where a member declares an interest in the issue being debated, the member must withdraw from the Council Chambers. This interest is required to be declared by the member and is noted in the minutes.

The Office of the Auditor-General is the agency, which oversees this legislation, and it has the responsibility and power to institute proceedings against any member. The Act does not define pecuniary interest; however, the Office of the Auditor-General uses the following test:

"Whether, if the matter were dealt with in a particular way, discussing or voting on that matter could reasonably give rise to an expectation of a gain or loss of money for the member concerned."

In deciding whether you have a pecuniary interest you should consider the following factors:

- What is the nature of the decision being made?
- Do I have a financial interest in that decision – do I have a reasonable expectation of gain or loss of money as a result of making that decision?
- Is my financial interest one that is in common with the public?
- Do any of the exceptions in the Act apply to me?
- Could I apply to the Auditor-General for approval to participate?

Further guidance is provided in the booklet "Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968: A guide for members of local authorities on managing financial conflicts of interest" which has been provided to Elected Members. It is important that you pay particular attention to the contents of this booklet as this is one of the few areas of the Council's business where staff do not set out to provide pro-active advice and members are personally liable for compliance with the provisions of this Act.

4.1.2.5. *Non-pecuniary interest*

Non-pecuniary interest is any interest the member may have in an issue that does not involve money. A common term for this is "bias." Rules about bias operate not only to ensure that there is no actual bias, but also so, there is no appearance or likelihood of bias. The principle is that justice should not only be done, but it should be seen to be done. Bias may be exhibited where:

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

- By their statements or conduct a member may indicate that they have predetermined the matter before hearing or considering all of the relevant information on it (including the Council's debate); or
- The member has a close relationship with an individual or organisation affected by the matter.

Non-pecuniary interest is a difficult issue as it often involves matters of perception and degree. The question you need to consider, drawn from case law, is:

- "Is there, to a reasonable, fair-minded and informed observer, a real indication of bias on the part of a member of the decision-making body, in the sense that they might unfairly regard with favour (or disfavour) the case of a party to the issue under consideration?"

If there is, the member should declare their interest and withdraw from the debate. The law about bias does not put an Elected Member at risk of personal liability. Instead, the validity of the Council's decision could be at risk. The need for public confidence in the decision-making process is paramount and perception can be an important factor.

The booklet 'Managing conflicts of interest: A guide for the public sector', produced by the Office of the Auditor General, provides some excellent advice and information on this issue. A hardcopy will be made available to you in your induction pack or alternatively it is available online at <https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/conflicts>.

Practically I would suggest that if you feel that you may have an "interest" in any matter before the Council or a Committee of which you are a member then you should discuss the issue with your lawyer (at no cost to the Council), the Mayor, the Committee Chair or me before the meeting. While this will not relieve you of your obligations under the Act, it will provide you with some independent guidance.

4.1.2.6. *Pecuniary interests*

A 2022 amendment to the LGA now contained in sections 54A to 54I requires Council to keep a register of the pecuniary interests of all members of Council and community board members. The purpose of the register is to record members' interests so as to provide transparency and to strengthen public trust and confidence in local government processes and decision-making. All members must make a pecuniary interest return within 3 months of taking office, and annually by the end of February in subsequent years.

The pecuniary interest return must contain a range of information relating to the member's business interests that are detailed in section 54E, and activities such as sponsored travel overseas, gifts worth more than \$500. The information provided must be accurate, and there is a duty on a member to correct any errors as they become aware of them. Completion of the register is not a substitution for compliance with the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act, and a pecuniary interest declared for the purposes of the register is not necessarily an interest for the purposes of that Act.

Failure to comply with these requirements is an offence under section 242 (2) LGA carrying a penalty of a fine up to \$5000.

4.1.2.7. *Code of Conduct*

The Council is required to have a Code of Conduct, which applies to all Elected Members of the Council.

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

Its purpose is to:

- Enhance the effectiveness of the Whakatāne District Council and the provision of good local government of the community or district;
- Promote effective decision-making and community engagement;
- Enhance the credibility and accountability of the Whakatāne District Council to its communities; and
- Develop a culture of mutual trust, respect, and tolerance between the elected members of the Whakatāne District Council and between the elected members and management.

This purpose is given effect through the values, roles, responsibilities, and specific behaviours agreed in the Code.

The Code applies to all members, as well as the members of any community boards that have agreed to adopt it. The Code is designed to deal with the behaviour of members towards each other, the Chief Executive and staff, the media, and the general public. It is also concerned with the disclosure of information that members receive in their capacity as elected members and information, which affects the ability of the Whakatāne District Council to give effect to its statutory responsibilities.

The Code of Conduct was adopted by Council on 15 December 2016 and amended on 29 June 2022. An overarching review of the Code of Conduct (for both Council and Community Boards) will take place as part of Council's new triennium actions.

4.1.2.8. Draft standard Code of Conduct

The Local Government Commission has recently consulted on a new standard Code of Conduct (CoC). Feedback on the new CoC closed on 26 September 2025. The Commission must report back to the Minister of Local Government by 20 December 2025. It is likely that after the new standard CoC is finalised, new provisions will be introduced to the current Whakatāne CoC which Elected Members will need to comply with.

4.1.2.9. Crimes Act 1961: Sections 99, 105 & 105A

Under this Act, it is unlawful for an Elected Member (or officer) to:

- Accept or solicit for themselves (or anyone else) any gift or reward for acting or not acting in relation to the business of the Council
- Use information gained in the course of their duties for their, or another person's monetary gain or advantage.

Section 99 of the Crimes Act 1961 defines a member or employee of a local authority as an official. For the purposes of this Act this means that each Elected Member of the Council is considered to be an official of the Council. Section 99 also defines a "bribe" as being "any money, valuable consideration, office, or employment, or any benefit, whether direct or indirect". The words "or indirect" broaden this definition considerably. For example, an offer of employment to a son or a daughter could be construed as amounting to being a bribe, so members need to be aware of their exposure under this Act through other family members.

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

4.1.2.10. Section 105 and 105A provide:

105. Corruption and bribery of official—

- 1. Every official is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who, whether within New Zealand or elsewhere, corruptly accepts or obtains, or agrees or offers to accept or attempts to obtain, any bribe for himself or herself or any other person in respect of any act done or omitted, or to be done or omitted, by him or her in his or her official capacity.
- 2. Everyone is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who corruptly gives or offers or agrees to give any bribe to any person with intent to influence any official in respect of any act or omission by him or her in his or her official capacity.

105A. Corrupt use of official information—

- Every official is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who, whether within New Zealand or elsewhere, corruptly uses [or discloses] any information, acquired by him or her in his or her official capacity, to obtain, directly or indirectly, an advantage or a pecuniary gain for himself or herself or any other person.
- As Elected Members are deemed to be “officials” for the purposes of this Act they are therefore subject to these penalties if found to be in breach of them. Such a conviction would also have the consequence of loss of office in terms of Clause 1 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (which disqualifies a member who is convicted of an offence punishable by a term of imprisonment of two years or more).

4.1.2.11. Secret Commissions Act 1910

This Act basically states that you must not use your office for improper gain. It specifically establishes offences relating to the giving, receiving, or soliciting of gifts or other consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or not doing something in relation to the affairs of the Council, or showing or having shown favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Council’s affairs or business (section 4(1)). It applies to Elected Members and covers any such gifts given, received, or solicited by *“any parent, husband, wife, or child of any agent, or to his partner, clerk, or servant, or (at the agent’s request or suggestion) to any other person.”*

The Act makes it an offence for any “agent” (for the purposes of the Act an Elected Member is deemed to be an “Agent” of the Council - section 16(1)(b)) to accept gifts without the consent of the principal (the Council), not to disclose a pecuniary interest in any contract which the agent makes on behalf of the principal, or who knowingly delivers to their principal a false receipt, invoice, account or other document in relation to the principal’s business. It is an offence to divert, obstruct, or interfere with the proper course of the affairs or business of the Council, or to fail to use due diligence in the prosecution of its affairs or business, with intent to obtain any gift or other consideration from any person interested in the affairs or business of the Council.

It also provides that it is an offence for any person to advise a party to enter into a contract with a third party and to receive gifts or consideration from that third party as reward for procuring the contract, unless the person giving that advice is known by the party to be the agent of that third party. It further provides that the act of aiding or abetting or in any way facilitating an offence against the Act is itself an offence.

In summary, it is an offence for an agent to:

- Receive a secret commission

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

- Accept a bribe (a gift for doing or not doing something)
- Aid and abet (encourage or refuse to act)

Prosecutions made for offences under this Act require the approval of the Attorney-General and carry a penalty of up to seven years imprisonment. Such a conviction would also have the consequences of loss of office in terms of Clause 1 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4.1.2.12. *The Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013*

The Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 (FMC Act) replaced the Securities Act 1978. The purpose of the FMC Act is to promote and facilitate the development of fair, efficient, and transparent financial markets, and to promote the confident and informed participation of businesses, investors, and consumers. The FMC Act works to reform the regulation of financial conduct and governs the way financial products are offered, promoted, issued, and sold. This includes the on-going responsibilities of those who offer, issue, manage, supervise, deal in and trade financial products. The FMC Act also regulates the provision of certain financial services.

The FMC Act essentially places Elected Members in the same position as company directors whenever the Council offers financial products (such as an issue of debt or equity securities). Elected Members may be personally liable if documents that are registered under the FMC Act, such as a product disclosure statement, contain false or misleading statements. Elected Members may also be liable if the requirements of the FMC Act are not met in relation to offers of financial products.

4.1.2.13. *Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022*

The Council has updated their Protected Disclosures Policy to ensure it complies with the requirements of the Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022 (the Whistleblowers Act). The Whistleblowers Act promotes the public interest of facilitating the disclosure of serious wrongdoing and protecting employees and Elected Members who make disclosures. There are internal procedures that guide those who receive protected disclosures and address the process. The Ombudsman has a role to play under the Act in ensuring its requirements are met.

Council is a public sector organisation subject to the provisions of the Whistleblowers Act.

Under the Whistleblowers Act, an employee or Elected Member who makes a protected disclosure is protected from retaliation or less favourable treatment, victimisation, and any civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings that might arise from such a disclosure. They are also entitled to identity confidentiality as far as possible, and to be consulted before any identifying information is released where it is necessary to do so. A protected disclosure occurs where the discloser believes on reasonable grounds that there has been serious wrongdoing under the Act and discloses that information in accordance with the Act. Serious wrongdoing includes an act or omission by Council that is an offence, a serious risk to public or individual health or safety, a serious risk to the environment or the maintenance of law, an unlawful, corrupt or irregular use of funds or resources, or oppressive, unlawfully discriminatory, or grossly negligent activity.

4.1.2.14. *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015*

The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (**HSWA**) is New Zealand's primary workplace health and safety legislation. The HSWA requires that workers and others be given the highest level of protection from workplace health and safety risks, as far as is reasonably practicable. This includes workplace risks to both physical and mental health.

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

The HSWA allocates duties to those people who are in the best position to control risks to health and safety as appropriate to their role in the workplace, and for the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) (i.e. the Council) to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of workers and others who may be impacted by the work the business undertakes.

Under the HSWA, an "Officer" is any person occupying a position in relation to the business or undertaking, that allows the person to exercise significant influence over the management of the business or undertaking. Elected Council members (which include the Mayor and Councillors but excludes Community Board members) and the Chief Executive are by default identified as "Officers." The previous Council resolved that the General Managers are also to be identified as "Officers."

Officers have obligations of due diligence (s.44), which are:

1. to acquire, and keep up-to-date, knowledge of work health and safety matters; and
2. to gain an understanding of the nature of the operations of the business or undertaking of the PCBU, and generally of the hazards and risks associated with those operations; and
3. to ensure that the PCBU has available for use, and uses, appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety from work carried out as part of the conduct of the business or undertaking; and
4. to ensure that the PCBU has appropriate processes for receiving and considering information regarding incidents, hazards, and risks and for responding in a timely way to that information; and
5. to ensure that the PCBU has, and implements, processes for complying with any duty or obligation of the PCBU under this Act; and
6. to verify the provision and use of the resources and processes referred to in paragraphs (c) to (e).

The duties of the Officers and of the PCBU are independent of each other. This means if a PCBU has failed to meet its duty, but the Officers exercised due diligence then they would not be personally liable for the health and safety failings. In any case, pursuant to section 52 of the Act, elected members, and local and community board members, do not commit an offence for failure to comply with the duty imposed on them by section 44.

The Council has implemented a Due Diligence programme to help ensure its Officers meet their obligations under the Act, involving regular inspections by the Executive Team of work areas. The results of the inspections are reported back to the Risk and Assurance Committee as part of a general health and safety management.

5. Options analysis - *Ngā Kōwhiringa*

This report is a legal requirement, no options are identified.

6. Significance and Engagement Assessment - *Aromatawai Pāhekoheko*

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed to be of low significance, in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.1 Legislative Advice to incoming Community Boards 2025-2028(Cont.)

6.1. Engagement and community views

This is a procedural report required by the LGA. Engagement or community views are not required.

7. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro*

7.1. Financial/budget considerations

There are no budget considerations associated with the recommendations in this report.

7.2. Strategic alignment

This report meets the requirements of the LGA.

7.3. Climate change assessment

The decision and matters of this report are assessed to have low climate change implications and considerations, in accordance with the Council's Climate Change Principles.

7.4. Risks

There are no known risks associated with the matters of this report.

7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026

7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026



To: **Tāneatua Community Board**

Meeting Date: **Monday, 30 March 2026**

Author: **A Dass / Governance Support Advisor**

Authoriser: **S Duffy / Senior Governance Support Advisor**

Reference: **A3089806**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

This report presents the final declaration of results from the Community Board By-Election 2026 to the Tāneatua Community Board. In accordance with Clause 37(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Board is required to elect a Chairperson and, at its discretion, a Deputy Chairperson.

Additionally, the report provides the Tāneatua Community Board with updates from the Governance Services team.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. THAT the Governance Services Report March 2026 be **received**; and
2. THAT the Board selects System B to determine the election process for the positions; and
3. THAT Board Member _____ be **appointed** as Chairperson of the Tāneatua Community Board for the triennium; and
4. THAT Board Member _____ be **appointed** as Deputy Chairperson of the Tāneatua Community Board for the triennium; and
5. THAT members **note** the first scheduled Board meeting is on _____ ; and
6. THAT the Board reiterate their **thanks** to the following retiring Community Board Elected Members from the 2022-2025 triennium:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Tāneatua Community Board | Natasha George Leonardus Ruiterman Moana Stensness (Chairperson) Honey Thrupp Michael Tuwairua |
|--------------------------|--|

7. THAT Members **note** the proposed wording refinements to the Community Board delegations and, following circulation to the Community Boards, have the opportunity to provide feedback.

7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026(Cont.)

3. Background - He tirohanga whakamuri

3.1. Discretionary Funding

Applicants now complete their funding application via SmartyGrants; a cloud-based platform that Council uses to manage grants. Please note that the first round for accepting applications is now open and closes on 27 April and will be discussed at the next Board meeting. We encourage you to let your contacts, groups and organisations know of the new process. The [online application form](#) can be found on the Council website.

The following table indicates the unallocated grants and subsidies (discretionary) fund. The balance of the Tāneatua Community Board discretionary fund at 23 February 2026 as shown below, is approximately \$24,394.00.

| Taneatua Community Board | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund) as at 28 February 2026 is | \$ 24,394.27 |
| 2026 Opening Balance carried forward from prior years unallocated grants* | \$9,108.27 |
| Funding operating surplus (deficit) for 2025 FY | \$11,778.00 |
| 2025/26 Annual Plan | \$5,258.00 |
| 2025/26 revised Budget of Grants and Subsidies to allocate | \$26,144.27 |
| 2026 Allocations | |
| SEPTEMBER 2025 TO ASSIST THE DELIVERY OF DEMENTIA SERVICES, ALZHEIMERS EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY | \$750.00 Approved & Paid |
| KURAMIHIRANGI KAWANA -RAROTONGA CULTURAL AND SPORTING EXCHANGE TRAVEL AND COSTS | \$1,000.00 Approved & Paid |
| Year to Date allocations | \$ 1,750.00 |
| Current unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund)* | \$ 24,394.27 |

4. Subjects – *Kaupapa*

4.1. Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson Appointments

4.1.1. *Position Overview*

The Chairperson plays a central role in the effective functioning of a Community Board. They need to be able to guide Community Board meetings to ensure clear and fruitful outcomes.

The Chairperson should also provide leadership by developing a culture of good governance and should ensure that there is constant communication between the Board, Council staff and the community.

The Deputy Chairperson has the same responsibilities as other elected members. In the event that the Chairperson is absent or unable to perform their duties, the Deputy Chairperson assumes all responsibilities and may exercise the full powers of the Chairperson.

7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026(Cont.)

4.1.2. *Appointment Process*

Clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 sets out the voting systems for certain appointments including the election or appointment of the positions as follows:

25 Voting systems for certain appointments

- (1) This clause applies to—
 - (a) the election or appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a regional council; and
 - (b) the election or appointment of the deputy mayor; and
 - (c) the election or appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a committee; and
 - (d) the election or appointment of a representative of a local authority.
- (2) If this clause applies, a local authority or a committee (if the local authority has so directed) must determine by resolution that a person be elected or appointed by using one of the following systems of voting:
 - (a) the voting system in subclause (3) (**system A**);
 - (b) the voting system in subclause (4) (**system B**).
- (3) System A—
 - (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and
 - (b) has the following characteristics:
 - (i) there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and
 - (ii) if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
 - (iii) if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and
 - (iv) in any round of voting, if 2 or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.
- (4) System B—
 - (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and
 - (b) has the following characteristics:
 - (i) there is only 1 round of voting; and
 - (ii) if 2 or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

The Board must firstly determine whether System A or System B is to be used to determine the election process for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. Secondly the Board must elect Members to those positions following the voting process chosen. The position of Deputy Chairperson will be carried out once the Chairperson has given the Declaration of Office.

Recognising the size and structure of the Community Boards, staff recommend System B.

4.1.3. *Procedure*

- The System to be used to determine the election process is determined.
- Nominations for the position of Chairperson are called for.
- If there is only one candidate, then the Community Board may resolve that person be elected.
- If there is more than one candidate, the Community Board must then put the matter to a vote according to the system it has adopted.
- Where voting is a tie, the tie is resolved by lot.
- The process is repeated for the position of Deputy Chairperson.
- The elected Chairpersons will make their declaration once the meeting as a whole is reconvened.

7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026(Cont.)

To "resolve by lot" typically means to make a final decision in a tie by randomly selecting one of the tied parties, often through a draw. This can be a coin toss, put the two names in a hat or draw straws or whatever other method the Board determines to select the candidates in the event of an equality of votes.

4.2. By-Election Results

The By-Election held for the Murupara Community Board - Galatea-Waiohau Subdivision and Tāneatua Community Board closed on the 3 March 2026 at noon. The final declaration of results are provided below.

4.2.1. Tāneatua Community Board – three vacancies:

| Tāneatua Community Board | Votes Received | Rank |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| GOSLING, Kerry | 239 | 1 |
| JAHN, Ozgur | 39 | |
| JAMES, Elise | 142 | |
| MASON, Phillipa Marie | 181 | 3 |
| ROTA, Angie | 214 | 2 |
| TUWAIKUA, MJ | 145 | |
| Informal | 0 | |
| Blank | 0 | |

4.2.2. Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision) – one vacancy:

| Rangitāiki Community Board | Votes Received | Rank |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| ISEMONGER-RAMEKA, Karen | 84 | 1 |
| OLIVER, Alicia | 53 | 0 |
| <i>Informal</i> | 0 | |
| <i>Blank</i> | 4 | |

Karen ISEMONGER-RAMEKA had been elected as a member to the Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision).

7.2 Governance Services Report – March 2026(Cont.)

4.3. New Triennium Information

4.3.1. *Inaugural Combined Community Board meeting*

Council held its first Inaugural Combined Community Board meeting in the Council Chambers on 1 December 2025, where members were formally welcomed, completed their statutory declarations, and received legislative advice relevant to the 2025–2028 triennium. The meeting acknowledged retiring members from the previous triennium.

The meeting was structured to allow each Community Board to appoint their Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the triennium, and to set their first meeting dates for early 2026. Reconvening as a whole, the elected Chairpersons made their declarations.

The minutes from the meeting are available here - [Inaugural Combined Community Board Meeting - 5 December 2025](#)

4.3.2. *Pecuniary interest forms*

Elected Members have specific *obligations* to declare their pecuniary (financial) and non-pecuniary interests to ensure transparency and public trust.

Please return your completed forms as soon as possible. It is to be noted if you do not return the completed forms, you may face a fine of up to \$5,000.

4.3.3. *Standing orders*

Local authorities, local boards and community boards must adopt standing orders for the orderly conduct of their meetings.

Standing orders are a critical element of good governance and great local democracy, because well-run meetings and hui should increase community awareness and understanding of decision-making processes and build trust.

The Department of Internal Affairs is currently updating the NZS 9202:2003 Model Standing Orders to reflect legislative changes and improve consistency across local authorities.

The Board will continue to operate under its current Standing Orders until the new model standing orders are released. Once the updated model is available, a report will be provided for the Board's consideration.

4.3.4. *Training and professional development*

Ākona is the Local Government New Zealand online learning and development program designed specifically for elected members of local government. It contains many bite-sized learning modules and Ākona also holds webinars that you are welcome to participate in.

There is also a limited Council budget for professional development for Community Board members.

7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026

4.3.5. Community Board Delegations

Council has identified a small number of minor wording refinements to the Community Board delegations to better reflect the statutory role of Community Boards under the Local Government Act 2002. The Act provides that Community Boards are to represent and act as advocates for the interests of their communities and prevails over any inconsistent wording.

The proposed refinements are intended to improve clarity and consistency only and do not change the scope or intent of Community Board functions. Before the Delegations Register is updated, Council is sharing the proposed wording with Community Boards for visibility and awareness, noting their role within the governance framework.

Community Boards are invited to note the proposed wording refinements to the Community Board delegations.

Following circulation to the Community Boards, any comments received will be reviewed and incorporated where appropriate. The Delegations Register will then be updated to reflect the final wording, in accordance with Council's governance processes.

4.4. Strategic Planning

A Strategic Plan is a 'living document' and a framework to guide direction, outline the goals, the actions need to achieve them, and the resources required for implementation. Benefits of strategic planning include clarity and alignment, proactive goal setting, efficient resource allocation and enhanced responsiveness.

The Tāneatua Community Board's Strategic Plan requires a review early in the 2025-2028 triennium. Council's Community Partnerships team will be available to assist this process, and their experience and involvement with Community Plans will be valuable to enable the Board's Strategic Plan to have alignments with the communities, thereby ensuring best outcomes for the rohe. The draft 2022-2025 triennium Strategic Plan can be made available for review upon request.

Next steps

- Members could research and review other Community Board plans for inspiration and ideas.
- A facilitated session be organised for members to develop an updated plan.
- Once developed the Plan will be formally adopted by the Board.
- At meetings, review progress on plan actions and outcomes.

Attached to this report:

- Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026.
- Appendix 2 - Chairpersons Declaration 2026

7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026

7.2.1 Appendix 1 – Final Declaration of Results Community Board By-election 2026(Cont.)

Declaration of Result of By-Elections
Whakatāne District Council
Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision)
Tāneatua Community Board



I declare the results of the by-elections held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 for **one member of the Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision)** and **three members of the Tāneatua Community Board** to be as follows:

Murupara Community Board (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision) – one vacancy:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| ISEMONGER-RAMEKA, Karen | 84 |
| OLIVER, Alicia | 53 |

(0 informal votes and 4 blank votes)

I therefore declare Karen ISEMONGER-RAMEKA elected.

21.23% or 141 of the 664 electors had voted by the close of voting.

Tāneatua Community Board – three vacancies:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| GOSLING, Kerry (Independent) | 239 |
| JAHN, Ozgur | 39 |
| JAMES, Elise | 142 |
| MASON, Phillipa Marie | 181 |
| ROTA, Angie | 214 |
| TUWAIURUA, MJ | 145 |

(0 informal votes and 0 blank votes)

I therefore declare Kerry GOSLING, Phillipa Marie MASON and Angie ROTA elected.

12.90% or 387 of the 3,000 electors had voted by the close of voting.

Dated at Whakatāne

3 March 2026

Dale Ofsoke, Electoral Officer
Independent Election Services Ltd
for **Whakatāne District Council**

7.2.2 Appendix 2 - Chairpersons Declaration 2026

7.2.2 Appendix 2 - Chairpersons Declaration 2026

7.2.2 Appendix 2 - Chairpersons Declaration 2026(Cont.)



TĀNEATUA COMMUNITY BOARD
DECLARATION BY CHAIRPERSON

I, First Name Last Name

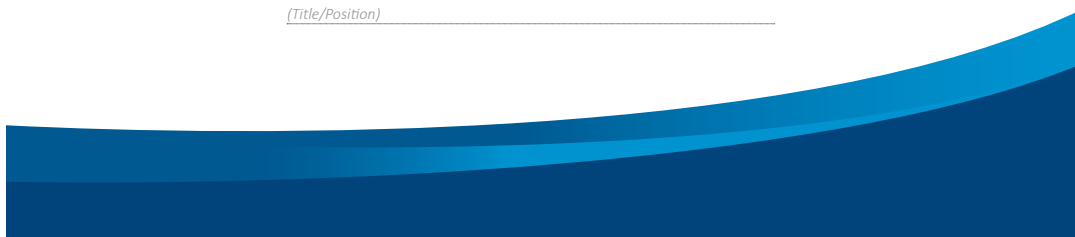
declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Tāneatua-Waimana community, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as Chairperson of the Tāneatua Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

DATED AT WHAKATĀNE THIS 30TH DAY OF MARCH 2026

SIGNATURE: _____

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF: (Signature) _____

(Title/Position) _____



7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026



To: **Tāneatua Community Board**

Date: **Monday, 30 March 2026**

Author: **L de Klerk / Events Advisor**

Authoriser: **L Woolsey / General Manager Strategy & Growth**

Reference: **A3083281**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

This information report provides the Tāneatua Community Board with an update on projects, activities and events delivered by Council to March 2026. Information is grouped as per GM Portfolio.

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Tāneatua Community Board **receive** the Tāneatua Information Report – March 2026.

3. Community Experience Update

3.1. Aquatic Centres

3.1.1. *New leader and new beginnings*



A huge welcome to our new Swim School Team Leader, Anahera Hakiaha.

Although raised in West Auckland, her roots are right here in Whakatāne, and she's moved back home bringing with her a treasure trove of swim school experience.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Over the years Anahera has worked for numerous swim schools in Auckland, and we're absolutely stoked to have her expertise on our team. She's already making quite the splash...



Thanks to Anahera's mahi, we've brought Water Safety New Zealand's Water Skills for Life programme back to Whakatāne for the first time in years. This programme teaches tamariki structured, age-appropriate water survival skills that prepare them for real-world water situations.

This term alone, we're teaching nearly 300 students from Edgecumbe, Nukuhou, and Waimana. That's a lot of future water-safe rangatahi.

Term 1 classes begin

| | 6.30am | 9am | 11am | |
|-----------|-----------|------|------------------|--|
| Monday | Hybrid 60 | Aqua | | |
| Tuesday | Hybrid 60 | Aqua | Movement Matters | |
| Wednesday | Hybrid 60 | Aqua | Movement Matters | |
| Thursday | Group Run | Aqua | | |
| Friday | | Aqua | | |

■ — Water based classes
■ — Land based classes
 Location: Hybrid 60 - Outdoor Gym | Movement Matters - Memorial Hall | Group Run - Athletics Track

New classes have kicked off at the Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre! Running for eight weeks, the programme covers a wide range of interests and abilities.

Aqua Fitness - low-impact, high-energy, and perfect for all fitness levels. Using noodles and foam dumbbells for resistance in the 28.5°C heated pool, it's a refreshing way to build cardio, strength, and balance.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Hybrid 60 - A high-intensity, 60-minute session bridging functional strength and metabolic conditioning. Designed to challenge, every movement scalable for beginners and experienced athletes alike.

Movement Matters - Designed for those managing joint pain, arthritis, or lower back issues. A slow-paced, educational class with practical strategies to improve joint health.

Group Walk/Run - Your pace, your goal. Whether you're walking or jogging, we move together to build fitness and connection. Just bring your favourite trainers and a positive attitude.

Swimming sports galore



It's that time of year again! The outdoor pool has welcomed over 900 students from Whakatāne Intermediate, St Joseph's, Awakeri, and Te Kura o te Paroa for swimming sports.

There were plenty of goofy costumes, loud cheers, and smiles all round - and the team was genuinely impressed with how well the schools cleaned up after themselves. A great effort from everyone!

Arts and Heritage

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

3.1.2. WHITI – Te Ātinga 10th International Indigenous Artists Gathering



Te Ātinga Committee at Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae, Gisborne

Aimee Ratana, our Manager Arts & Heritage, was one of two curators tasked with composing an exhibition that brought together 100 artworks from artists represented at the gathering.



Collaborations on the work Tame Iti started. Johnny Poi, Kylie Tiuka and Linda Munn

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



This year, two artists from the Whakatāne District were invited to attend this significant creative and cultural kaupapa at Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae, Gisborne. Tame Iti and Glenda Hape represented local talent at this international gathering.

WHITI brings together Māori and international Indigenous artists to share knowledge, develop contemporary art practice, and strengthen global Indigenous connections. Think making, kōrero, collaboration, and a public exhibition that showcases the best of Indigenous creativity.

Behind the scenes where past meets present

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



Exciting things are brewing as kaimahi at Te Whare Taonga o Taketake prepare for the Whakatāne Art Gallery reopening.

Here's the concept: they're pairing historical taonga from the collection with brand new artworks by Ngāti Awa ringatoi. By placing them side by side, visitors will see how creative practices have been passed down through generations – and how our artists today are continuing and evolving those traditions in their own contemporary work.

We recently had artist Zena Elliott (pictured) visit Te Whare Taonga o Taketake to check out the taonga that will be displayed alongside her artwork. Zena is currently completing an artist's residency at Colin McCahon House. Watching artists connect with pieces from the collection? Pure magic.

This exhibition will be the first kaupapa in the refreshed Art Gallery space.

3.2. Libraries

Summer adventures wrapped

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



Summer at our libraries was filled with adventure, excitement, and a whole lot of fun! Te Kōputu welcomed over 400 whānau through the doors for events that kept everyone entertained. Meanwhile, 200 Summer Adventure booklets sent tamariki on epic missions around the rohe in search of knowledge, excitement and connection.

The highlight? The legendary Richard Hamer rolled into Edgecumbe, Murupara and Whakatāne with his Bike Safety workshops – and even jumped up to do story time himself.

Molly the Moa takes flight to Murupara



Molly the Moa has made the journey to the Murupara Library, travelling in style via the Ki Tai Hono Hapori van, delivered and installed by our museum kaimahi Wairaka and Kieran.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Made in 1986 by Wim Speikman, Molly is the last of three model moa originally displayed in the Dominion Farmers Institute building in Wellington. After several relocations - including Te Puni Kōkiri and the Tāneatua shed of former MP and one-term WDC Councillor Ian Shearer - she joined the Whakatāne District Museum collection in 2011 through the Gordon Ellis Trust.

We love seeing taonga from our collection out in the community. Pop into the Murupara Library to say kia ora to Molly!

A noisy Friday at Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi



It was all go in the gallery last week, with concrete cutters onsite preparing for the installation of new floor power boxes – small changes that will make a big difference to how we use the space in future.

It's been great reconnecting with contractors who originally worked on the space 14 years ago when the old Briscoes building was transformed into the gallery. Now they're back, helping shape its next chapter.

Watch this space.

A very special lego gift

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



The library has been buzzing with our regular after-school free programmes.

Last week's Creative Corner saw tamariki make mini hobby horses for Lunar New Year: Year of the Fire Horse.

Our Lego Legend sessions continue to draw a dedicated group of budding engineers - and we received a wonderful gift from one of our Lego whānau - a fully functional rollercoaster which has been a massive hit with visitors.

4. Finance Update

Promotion of Rates Rebates Scheme

Following a question raised about how we promote rates rebates, please see a summary of our current approach below.

Sunday Market attendance

This is a relatively new initiative. Last year was the first time we attended the Whakatāne Sunday Market, and we assisted with more than 80 completed applications on the day. We will be attending again this year on Sunday, 8 March and have social media posts planned to encourage people to visit our team for support.

Social media posts

We share reminders and key information about eligibility, deadlines and how to apply across our social channels.

Digital noticeboards

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Promotion runs across digital screens in our facilities, including the Civic Centre, the Library, and the Murupara Library and Service Centre.

Community newsletters

Rates rebate information is included in our community newsletters.

Newspaper advertising

We advertise in the Whakatāne Beacon to reach residents who may not be active online.

Website banner

A banner is placed on our website homepage during the rebate period to direct people to the relevant information.

Annual rates newsletter

Rates rebate information is also included in the annual rates newsletter sent to all ratepayers across the district.

5. Kaihautu Māori/Strategic Māori Partnerships and Commercial Update

5.1. Solid Waste

Today we are pleased to provide some updates from various groups we have supported in their journey with waste management and minimisation:

Tawera Bilingual School – Community Roadside Clean-Up



At Tawera Bilingual School, tamariki, kaiako, and whānau came together with a shared purpose: to care for our whenua and nurture the environment that sustains us. This roadside clean-up was more than just picking up litter - it was an opportunity to teach our tamariki the value of kaitiakitanga, to strengthen connections with one another, and to show pride in the place they call home.

They also hoped and succeeded in extending this kaupapa beyond their school gates by welcoming their wider community to join them, creating a collective moment of manaakitanga and shared responsibility.

To help us ensure their day was safe, supported, and successful, we provided the group with all the gear they needed to pick up rubbish on their roadsides including Hi Vis vests (the kids loved these even if they were a bit oversized) gloves, rubbish sacks and litter pickers.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

The day was a success and a great learning opportunity for everyone around why roadside littering can and does harm our natural resources.

Taiwhakaea Food Forest Project – good things take time



Late last year, Taiwhakaea Marae at Te Pāroa shared an inspiring vision: starting with a maara kai and growing into a thriving, ever-evolving food forest for their community.

This project is about more than fruit and vegetables. It's reconnecting whānau with the wisdom of Maramataka, the traditional Māori lunar calendar that guides planting, nurturing, and harvesting. It's about creating spaces to gather, kōrero, learn, and pass on knowledge across generations. And it doesn't stop there - the plan also includes a rongoā garden and plantings to restore and protect their awa.

We were honoured to support this kaupapa.



Through the Waste Levy Fund, we supplied 20 cubic metres of compost to kickstart their growing beds, funded a state-of-the-art composting system to keep the gardens thriving, and will run a composting workshop once the system is installed.

Taiwhakaea Marae should be proud of all they've achieved. Their vision, commitment, and passion for kaitiakitanga is inspiring, and we can't wait to watch their food forest flourish. We're grateful to play a small part in helping this dream take root.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Whakatāne High School Enviro Club – Squirmy Wormies



Whakatāne High School’s Level 2 NCEA Environmental Studies class takes a different approach to English - they dive into non-fiction, from National Geographic articles to the Resource Management Act, NZ standards, and documentaries that spark their environmental curiosity.

Last year, thanks to the Waste Levy Fund, they received six donated worm farms. What started as a simple addition to the programme has grown into a hands-on learning hub. Students carefully tended the worms and used their nutrient-rich castings in vegetable gardens, producing impressively healthy crops and proving the power of organic systems.

Their enthusiasm has spread beyond the classroom. Students are helping staff set up their own worm farms, sharing knowledge and guidance to encourage sustainable practices across the school. The food technology department has partnered with the class to run a raw food waste collection system, creating a closed-loop cycle that turns kitchen scraps into high-quality worm food - a true example of kaitiakitanga in action.

With each project, students deepen their understanding of soil health, biodiversity, and waste reduction. Their curiosity, commitment, and practical mahi are already making a real difference - and promise an exciting future for sustainability at Whakatāne High School.

5.2. Strategic Māori Partnerships

5.2.1. RMA Wānanga

On 5 February, local iwi and hapū gathered at Te Rangihouhiri Marae for a crucial Resource Management Act Wānanga, hosted by Tina Porou of Poipoia - a Māori-owned and operated environmental consultancy.

The wānanga addressed the Government’s proposed RMA reforms, which may have significant and adverse implications for iwi and hapū. Tina described these reforms as an attempt to “invisibilise” Māori and their rights, providing iwi and hapū with tools and support to navigate and respond to these changes.

Building project management capability with iwi partners

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



Local iwi partners came together on 18 and 19 February for a Project Management workshop facilitated by Frank Aldridge of Integral Group Ltd. Representatives from Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Whare, and Ngāti Manawa took part, gaining practical methods, processes, and tools they could immediately apply to projects already underway or in the pipeline.

The hands-on approach was well received and feedback from iwi partners was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a desire for the training to be extended to others within their iwi.



6. People and Partnerships Update

6.1. Community Partnerships

Great interest in Youth Council

We're thrilled to have received 63 applications for the 2026 Youth Council - a big increase from the 30 we received last year. It's fantastic to see so many young people eager to get involved in local government.

Given the high number of applications, we'll be running a selection process. 30 applicants will be shortlisted and invited to submit a short video answering four set questions.

This ensures a fair and structured process while giving applicants valuable interview experience. Final Youth Council appointments will be announced by 13 March, with the first meeting planned for the end of March.

Community Funding applications sought

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Council's Community Grants and Funding Programme is set to get underway this month ahead of the first Community Grants and Funding Committee meeting on 18 March. Two funds will be opening for applications from 9 February to 1 March.

Reorua Fund – This fund champions the use of te reo Māori in the Whakatāne District. The funding focus is for events, projects and activities that encourage and uplift te reo Māori.

Rural Travel Fund – This fund, set up by Sport New Zealand, encourages participation in sports for children and young people (aged 5-18) in rural and isolated communities. This fund provides financial support to schools and sports clubs, who can apply for the cost of travel expenses for sport competitions, events and practices.

For more information on how and when to apply to these two funds visit Council's [website](#).

Hapori Highlights



The Community Partnerships Team launched a new bi-monthly newsletter at the end of January. Hapori Highlights will share updates on the work the team is doing alongside communities across the district. It highlights community impact, upcoming events, funding opportunities and other ways to get involved and make a difference. The newsletter is also published on the Council site [here](#).

Road Safety

Bike Month activities

February is Bike Month and several events have been held, with more to come, in Eastern Bay schools and Whakatāne township to celebrate bikes and cycling:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Tues 3 Feb | Go By Bike Day @ Robert Harris |
| Tues 10 Feb | Burma Road Explorer |
| Wed 11 Feb | Free BBQ and Explore Onepū Mountainbike Park |
| Thurs 12 Feb | Wheels Day – Kawerau Schools |
| Tues 17 Feb | Whakatāne/Coastlands Explorer |
| Thurs 19 Feb | Wheels Day - Whakatāne Schools |
| Mon 23 Feb | Big Bike Film Night |
| Thurs 26 Feb | Wheels Day – Ōpōtiki Schools |

Bike month events in 2026 are supported by Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme, Bike Whakatāne Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Robert Harris and Tracks Concrete Ltd.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

New Year's Day 2026 Fatigue Stops



This year was our second of running two stops located in Matatā and Ōpōtiki and both were a great success. Feedback from the wider community, young people using the rest areas and the multiple agencies involved was excellent. One News arrived at both sites on the day and filmed the events in action and interviewed both volunteers and young drivers. The story featured on 1New at 6pm. Watch the video [here](#) or by clicking on the image below.



Summer Road Safety Roadshow

| Eastern Bay Road Safety Summer Roadshow | |
|--|---|
| The Eastern Bay Road Safety team will be at loads of different spots with heaps of fun activities and spot prizes. | |
| TUESDAY 13 JANUARY | Thornton Domain 10am to 12noon Ōhope Beach – Maraetōtara Reserve 1:30pm to 3:30pm |
| WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY | Ōpōtiki Skate Park 10:00am to 12noon Te Kaha – Camping area opposite Pratt Road 1.30pm to 3.30pm |
| THURSDAY 15 JANUARY | Ruatāhuna – Te Tii General Store 12noon to 2pm |
| FRIDAY 16 JANUARY | Taneatua – Jack Knowles Reserve 10am to 12pm Kawerau – Car park next to Skate Park 1pm to 3pm |

facebook.com/RoadSafety.EBOP

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Our 2026 Summer Road Safety Roadshow, now in its second year, delivered fun, educational and interactive activities at five locations in January. The locations this year were Thornton, Kawerau, Ōhope, Ōpōtiki and Te Kaha. Sadly, our Ruatāhuna and Tāneatua events were cancelled due to rain.

Each event was well attended by locals and holiday makers and focused on themes linked to Impaired Driving, Speed and Restraints. The events were the first opportunity for us to utilise our new Road Safety Themed Go-Karts, which are super robust, have similar steering to a car and are suitable and fun to ride by both tamariki and adults.



Participating whānau would start by completing a cornhole activity themed on Restraints or Speed, which would involve answering a road safety question linked to the theme. They would then move on to driving the kart around a course with obstacles and upon completing the first time, would then try again wearing Impairment goggles.

We would follow the driver throughout the process and talk about the key messaging. Some of the participants even shared their own experiences driving impaired and how the activity provided an opportunity to reflect on their choices and potential risks to others.

Once all the activities were completed, whānau were offered a few small road safety themed gifts and given the chance to spin a wheel to win a prize.

Overall, we felt that the roadshow was successful in supporting our team to engage with community members throughout the Eastern Bay and interact on and share key road safety messages.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



6.2. Health and Safety

6.2.1. Whakaora - focus on health and safety

We recently facilitated our Managing Risk training workshop. This marks the completion of the second module in our *Whakaora* training series. *Whakaora* is our Council-wide approach to strengthening how we embed health, safety, and wellbeing into everything we do.

This workshop builds on the Understanding Risk sessions delivered to all staff at the end of last year. The Managing Risk module was delivered in a smaller, more targeted 1:1 workshop format to allow for deeper discussion and practical application.

During the session, we covered:

How Council's Risk Management process works in practice - including risk responses and controls

Roles and responsibilities within the process, particularly for Activity Managers and those responsible for maintaining risk registers

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Our critical risks and how they link into the wider Risk Management framework (with more detailed Critical Risk training to follow later in 2026)

How and when risk register reviews will take place

Where to go for further guidance and support

It has been encouraging to see the engagement and commitment across the organisation as we continue strengthening our risk maturity together. More training focused specifically on Critical Risks will roll out over the coming months.

6.3. Programme Enterprise Update

Programme Enterprise continues to progress, with the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) component of Datascape successfully implemented. This project included Service Requests and contact management, which are now live.

Delivery of the CRM project was completed on time and within budget, and has now transitioned to business-as-usual. Two additional elements - integration with RAMM (our asset management software) and the Fieldwork mobile app for staff - are still to be implemented and are planned to be completed by 30 June 2026 at no additional cost to Council.

The programme is now focused on the Finance, Property and Rates (FPR) project, which covers Council's core financial systems and rates management.

This project represents a significant change, including new financial processes, a revised chart of accounts and enhanced reporting to meet new DIA Three Waters requirements.

Design and build are close to completion, training has commenced, and the programme remains targeted for a July 2026 go-live, which is critical to support year-end processing, audit and Long Term Plan work.

While the project is currently assessed as 'at risk' due to integration complexity, vendor resourcing challenges and legislative changes, these risks are being actively managed through strengthened governance, contract management and the deferral of the Regulatory project to September 2026.

Overall programme costs remain within the approved business case, with a forecast shortfall to be addressed through the Annual Plan 2026–27 process and an anticipated rates impact of less than 0.1%.

7. Planning, Regulatory and Transport Update

7.1. Policy, Planning and Consents

Plan Change 4 is a proposed change to the Whakatāne District Plan aimed at improving how stormwater flood risk to buildings is managed.

The plan change has been publicly notified and submissions have been received, with Council staff now having completed the planner's report, which analyses those submissions and makes recommendations.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

The report will be circulated to submitters shortly, with the aim of resolving or narrowing any remaining issues ahead of the plan change hearing.

7.2. Resource Consents

ModPod - Pod building manufacturer

On 16 February, a consent hearing was held before two independent commissioners for the proposed ModPod manufacturing facility on State Highway 30, to the west of Awakeri.

An independent hearing was required following a Council recommendation to decline the application, after it was assessed against the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land and the District Plan provisions relating to the non-rural use of rural production zone land.

The commissioners' decision is expected to be available before the end of March.

Nelson Petroleum Distributors – Phoenix Drive

Consent has been granted by Whakatāne District Council for a self-service fuel station at the corner of State Highway 30 and Phoenix Drive, in front of the Bunnings store.

The proposal is yet to finalise consent from Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council for dewatering the site to allow the installation of underground fuel tanks.

This consent is of note as it is now the third consented self-service fuel station in the Gateway and Hub area, following a Mobil facility planned for the corner of State Highway 30 and the Māori Roadway, which extends towards Hokowhitu Marae, and a Waitomo facility planned for 10 Gateway Drive, on the corner of Gateway Crescent and Gateway Drive.

7.3. Transportation

Herepuru Road slip update

Herepuru Road has been conditionally reopened following a geotechnical inspection on Tuesday 24 February, which confirmed the immediate risks from the recent slip have been adequately mitigated.

The road is now open to class 1 and 2 light vehicles only, with all heavy vehicles (class 4 and 5) required to continue using Manawahē Road due to the ongoing risk to the stability of the affected section.

The road is operating as one lane only to keep vehicles away from the cracked and slumping area, and monitoring equipment is being installed to closely track any further movement.

Further options assessments will be undertaken to determine whether any additional works are required to support future access.

Whakatāne River Bridge closure

The NZTA work to re-seal the Whakatāne River Bridge was postponed due to forecast bad weather. The Bridge closure was scheduled to take place overnight on Thursday, 12 February 2026. A new date is yet to be set.

Whakatāne District Local Road resurfacing

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

The resurfacing programme of work continues to make good progress. The chipseal and asphalt are both programmed for completion before the end of April 2026.

Bridge Street/Arawa Street roundabout



This contract is now complete, with the roundabout re-opened to road users on 30 January 2026. The works included construction of new pavement layers, a new roundabout, kerb and channel, footpath, two raised pedestrian crossings and a new speed hump on Bridge Street. Improvements to the stormwater system were also completed as part of the project.

Matahī Valley Road seal extensions

The works are progressing well, with the contractor currently importing basecourse material. Sealing is programmed to be completed towards the end of February or early March, weather dependent.

Rewatu Road under slip repair

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



The reinforced earth retaining wall has been completed, along with backfilling to support the front face. Road construction works are now underway, with kerbing due to be installed from now until late February. The project is currently tracking ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed before the April scheduled date.



The road has now been brought up to finished level and is ready for sealing, with the guardrail installed. Work is underway to relocate the power pole, and a shutdown is scheduled for 13 March to complete this work.

A further 240 metre section of Rewatu Road has also been identified for resilience improvements due to flooding, and this section will be lifted as part of the existing contract works.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

This additional work will be completed within the original contract period and will not extend the road closure duration.

Kowhai Street, Ōhope, retaining wall strengthening



A retaining wall on Kōwhai Street in Ōhope is showing signs of stress, including horizontal and vertical cracking in the concrete.

A repair approach has been developed, and a request for tender for the physical repair works closed on 13 February.

The contract is expected to be awarded by the end of February 2026, with physical works programmed to be completed in March 2026.

The contract has been awarded to Romanes Construction NZ Limited, with work due to start early this month. The retaining wall strengthening will be completed under a lane closure, with resident access maintained for the duration of the project.

Matahī Valley Road seal extensions



7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

The works are progressing well, with site 1 programmed for sealing early this month. At site 2, most of the roading aggregate is now on site and is currently being shaped, with a culvert replacement also required and scheduled to be completed within the next two weeks. Overall, the project remains on track to be completed before the end of March.



8. Strategy and Growth Update

8.1. Climate Change and Resilience

2025 ShakeOut



Whakatāne District Council Emergency Management Officer John Eruera visited Matatā Public School in December, attending an assembly to celebrate the school's success in the 2025 ShakeOut organised by the National Emergency Management Agency.

Students and staff received a prize, a Civil Defence wheelie bin filled with emergency preparedness supplies and equipment. The award recognises the school's enthusiastic participation in ShakeOut 2025 and highlights the importance of building emergency readiness from a young age.

Whakatāne District Council congratulates Matatā Public School for its commitment to preparedness and for helping foster a culture of safety within the community, and thanks everyone who took part in ShakeOut 2025 by practising Drop, Cover and Hold.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

8.2. Events

Full-on Summer for Tourism & Events

The peak summer season has been busy for the Tourism and Events team, with multiple marketing campaigns to promote summer activities, Wharfside and the first Ō Festival.

Wharfside proved a huge success this season, with hundreds arriving each day to take advantage of the refurbished Wharfside venue supported by activities from operators, Takutai Adventures and Tio Ōhiwa, Mata Brewery, live music and several food trucks. The pop-up isite promoted daily activities and brochures flew out the door. A dedicated Wharfside social media page, launched in December, rapidly gained followers with daily programme updates.

We are thrilled with the success of the inaugural Ōhope Beach Festival that took place last weekend. Ō Festival attracted many locals and manuhiri, thanks to an engaging marketing campaign, for a day of Kites, Sand Art, Sandcastles, Yoga, Environmental care and weaving activities. We're looking forward to making the event bigger and better in 2027, with the aim of making Ō Festival an iconic annual event that celebrates our special place in Aotearoa.

The marketing and events teams have a continued busy season ahead, promoting and supporting key events: Local Wild Food Festival, NZ Life Saving Nationals, Mataatua Regional Kapa Haka Festival, Flavours of Plenty Food Festival, Matatā Bike Week, Farming like Grandad and more.



Ōhope Fishing Competition at Wharfside

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)



Rake Healing Ōhope Beach Festival



The 10th Local Wild Food Festival on 21 February was a fantastic success, drawing more than 2,100 attendees - 42% of whom were visitors staying for the weekend.

Attendees enjoyed wild food tastings, food demonstrations, cooking challenges, and live music, with the smoky BBQ zone proving a standout highlight. Celebrity and local hunters helped showcase kai sourced directly from the forests and ocean that surround Whakatāne.

The event excitement continues. Whakatāne welcomed around 10,000 visitors for the Mataatua Kapa Haka Regionals this past weekend; with 5,000 expected for the NZ Life Saving Nationals at Ōhope Beach from 5–8 March. These activities generate significant economic impact, particularly for local hospitality and accommodation as the summer season winds down.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

8.3. Tourism & Economic Development

Economic Development

The Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor report was released in February. Below is a summary of the Whakatāne District's economic performance over the last quarter.

Whakatāne District's economy showed modest improvement through 2025, with early signs of recovery alongside ongoing areas of weakness. GDP grew 0.3% over the year, supported by stronger primary sector returns and gains in real estate and professional services. Tourism was a clear bright spot, with spending up 6.9%, and the housing market showed renewed activity with house sales rising 13%. However, business unit numbers fell 0.6% and non-residential consents dropped 14.4%, indicating private investment remains cautious and the recovery is still uneven.

Labour market and household indicators present a mixed picture. Jobseeker Support numbers declined slightly and the fall in consumer spending has begun to narrow. At the same time, employment fell 2.6% and the unemployment rate rose to 7.3%, remaining above the national average (5.3%). Youth outcomes remain a concern, with the NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) rate at 22.7%. These trends suggest that while the worst of the downturn may be passing, many households are still under pressure and job recovery is lagging broader economic activity.

The primary sector remains the district's economic backbone, with the dairy payout expected to reach around \$327 million for the 24/25 season and kiwifruit export growth supporting activity. Housing affordability remains better than the national average, and emergency housing demand has fallen. Business confidence appears subdued, however, with non-residential consent values down 14.4% signalling weak private investment appetite.

Overall, the district is showing early signs of recovery but remains vulnerable, with employment, investment, and population-linked demand requiring close monitoring and targeted economic development responses.

Tourism

The tourism team attended the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTONZ) hui in Auckland last week. Tourism Minister Louise Upston spoke to aspirational growth goals for the sector, including doubling the value of tourism exports by 2034. She acknowledged the important role local government plays through investment in destination marketing, events, community facilities, and experiences, and signalled the need for sustainable funding going forward - while recognising the challenges councils face amid the current reform environment.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

Tourism expenditure

Figure 9. Tourism expenditure

Annual average % change December 2024 - December 2025

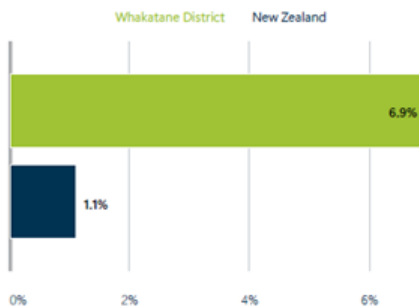
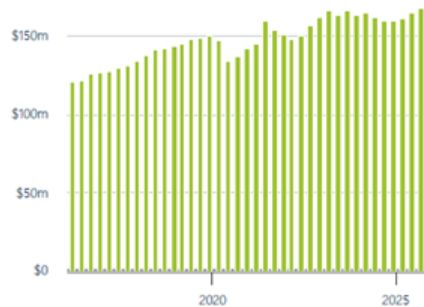


Figure 10. Tourism expenditure

Annual total, Whakatane District



Highlights

- Total tourism expenditure in Whakatane District increased by 6.9% in the year to December 2025, compared to a year earlier. This compares with an increase of 1.1% in New Zealand.
- Total tourism expenditure was approximately \$171 million in Whakatane District during the year to December 2025, which was up from \$160 million a year ago.

9. Local Waters Done Well

9.1. CCO investigations

Following Council's mid 2025 decision we have been investigating potential benefits of a multi-council CCO for water services. A Heads of Agreement (HoA) was signed in December 2025 between the four partners - Rotorua, Kawerau, Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne. This HoA outlines that we collaboratively will investigate a joint Water Service Organisation, with final decision making to come back to each council in early 2027.

On 2 February the Water Working Group (WWG) held its second meeting, in Whakatāne, welcoming the visiting councillors with a mihi whakatau. Topics on the agenda were: (i) future work programme and the need for technical support, (ii) potential candidates for the WWG independent advisor – funded by DIA (Department of Internal Affairs), and (iii) potential strategic objectives that can be used to support our analysis of a joint WSO against a stand-alone option for future water service delivery.

- The WWG is an advisory group only and relevant information will come back to individual councils as part of a workshop in March 2026 to seek feedback on the proposed technical analysis approach and potential engagement options.
- The need was noted to elevate the community conversations alongside the completion of any technical analysis. A communications and engagement plan will be prepared for discussion at the Waters Working Group on 23 February 2026. This engagement will be confirmed with all councils through workshops in March 2026.
- The WWG supported Max Baxter as a potential Independent advisory. Max is the ex-Mayor of Ōtorohanga District Council and has had good insight into the development of the Waikato Water Done Well (WWDW) joint Water Service Organisation.

7.3 TCB Information Report – March 2026(Cont.)

- It was noted that procurement for the technical analysis to support the Water Working Group / Council decision making will be through a targeted procurement approach due to the technical nature and limited number of companies with relevant capabilities to carry out this work. It is intended to finalise procurement for this vendor before 23 February 2026.
- The proposed Strategic Objectives (which were pulled from Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki Water Service Delivery Plans) were endorsed in principle. Strategic Objectives clarify our aspirations and provide crucial direction, focus and a roadmap for our collaboration, translating a broad vision into measurable goals They are:



10. Other Updates

10.1. Ōpihi Whanaungakore Trustees appeal

The Environment Court sat in Whakatāne to hear the appeal by Ōpihi Whanaungakore Trustees to the Archaeological Authority granted by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga in relation to the residential development at Bunyan Road.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and Ngāi Taiwhakaea had earlier withdrawn from the appeal.

Ōpihi Whanaungakore Trustees argued that the court could remit the decision back to Heritage New Zealand with the recommendation that it go to a full Māori Heritage Council or reverse the granting of the authority.

Judge Jeff Smith commented on the complexity of the case and indicated that a decision may not be reached within the usual three-month timeframe.

Attached to this Report:

There are no appendices attached to this report.