



# Te Tari o te Kahika o Te Hiku o te Ika

## Office of the Mayor of the Far North

### Pūrongo ā-Mema | Member's Report

RĀ   DATE	KAUPAPA HUI   MEETING TOPIC
Rāapa 5 Hune Wednesday 5 June	Kaitāia Town Square Opening Te Hiku Sports Hub Opening Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Catchup via Teams Infrastructure Fund Discussion, Kaitāia Mayor & Councillor Catchup via Teams Young Elected Member Wellbeing Hui via Zoom
Rāpare 6 Hune Thursday 6 June	Long Term Plan Deliberations Prebrief, Kaikohe Extraordinary Council Meeting - Long Term Plan Deliberations, Kaikohe
Rāmere 7 Hune Friday 7 June	MTFJ Core Group Meeting, Wellington Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Workshop via Teams
Rāhina 10 Hune Monday 10 June	Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) National Council Meeting, Wellington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 monthly report attached</li> </ul>
Rātū 11 Hune Tuesday 11 June	Chief Executive (CE) Weekly Catchup, Kaikohe LGNZ Zone 1 Extraordinary Meeting via Teams
Rāapa 12 Hune Wednesday 12 June	MTFJ Design Catchup via Teams Te Koukou Transport & Infrastructure Committee Agenda Preview via Teams
Rāpare 13 Hune Thursday 13 June	Council Meeting, Kaikohe Roading Catchup, Kaikohe
Rāmere 14 Hune Friday 14 June	LGNZ Infrastructure Symposium, Wellington Excellent presentations from multiple industry partners. Shared via email with elected members.
Rāhina 17 Hune Monday 17 June	<b>RNZ Podcast Interview</b> Interview on the state of infrastructure in the Far North and the mothballing of the Otiria line rail upgrade to time inline with Northport line. <b>Radio Waatea Interview</b> Regular fortnightly council update. <b>Relationship Roadship Hui with Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa (Kahukuraariki Trust), Kerikeri</b>
Rātū 18 Hune Tuesday 18 June	Kaikohe Library & Civic Hub Taitamariki Workshop, Kaikohe CE Weekly Catchup, Kaikohe Ngāpuhi Collective Hui, Kaikohe Puketitī Hui Discussion via Teams Head of Infrastructure Catchup, Kaikohe Community Board Chairs' Catchup via Teams



**Te Tari o Te Kahika o Te Hiku o te Ika**  
**Office of the Mayor of the Far North**

Rāapa 19 Hune Wednesday 19 June	<b>MTFJ Catchup via Teams</b> <b>Te Hiku FM Interview</b> Regular catchup on council activities. <b>Mayor &amp; Councillors Catchup via Teams</b>
Rāpare 20 Hune Thursday 20 June	<b>Business &amp; Agency Leaders' Call via Teams</b> <b>LTP Adoption Agenda Preview, Kaikohe</b> <b>Northland Mayoral Forum Catchup via Teams</b> <b>Meeting with Minister Simeon Brown via Teams</b> Meeting to discuss prioritisation of the Brynderwyns detour route with the Northland Mayoral Forum and the Chair of the Regional Transport Committee.
Rāmere 21 Hune Friday 21 June	<b>RNZ Interview for The Morning Report - Power Outage</b> <b>Puketitī Discussion with Far North Holdings via Teams</b> <b>Meeting with Minister Simeon Brown, Whangārei</b> Northland Mayoral Forum meeting to discuss regional energy outage. <b>RNZ Interview for The Panel - Power Outage</b> <b>TV Interviews for Te Ao Māori News, Newshub, 1News - Power Outage</b>
Rāhoroi 22 Hune Saturday 22 June	<b>Puketitī Hui with Ngā Uri o Pūmuka, Te Rito Marae, Moerewa</b> <b>Vision Kerikeri AGM, Kerikeri</b>
Rāhina 24 Hune Monday 24 June	<b>Citizenship Ceremony, Kaikohe</b> <b>Interview for The Hui</b> Discussion on homelessness in the Far North.
Rātū 25 Hune Tuesday 25 June	<b>CE Weekly Catchup, Kaikohe</b> <b>Te Koukou Transport &amp; Infrastructure Committee, Kaikohe</b>
Rāapa 26 Hune Wednesday 26 June	<b>Extraordinary Council Meeting for LTP Adoption, Kaikohe</b> <b>Parking Strategy Workshop, Kaikohe</b> <b>Transfer of Independent Qualified Persons Register Hearing via Teams</b> <b>Relationship Roadshow Hui with Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Kaikohe</b>
Rāpare 27 Hune Thursday 27 June	<b>Business &amp; Agency Leaders' Call via Teams</b> <b>Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee, Kaikohe</b>

**Attachments:**

- MTFJ Tertiary Education Commission Presentation
- MTFJ Strategic Plan 2024-29
- LGNZ 4-monthly Report





>52%

saw themselves in one of just nine most popular jobs...

## Why Inspiring the Future?



17.6%  
SPORTSPERSON



6.3%  
VET



5.3%  
POLICE OFFICER



4.9%  
LECTURER/TEACHER



4.7%  
SOCIAL MEDIA/YOUTUBER/  
INFLUENCER



4.5%  
ARTIST/ILLUSTRATOR



2.7%  
DOCTOR



2.6%  
ARMY/NAVY/AIRFORCE/  
FIREFIGHTER



2.6%  
FARMER

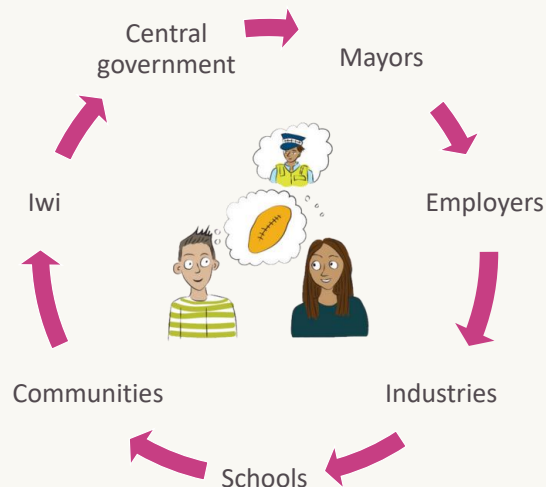


## How it works

- Standard event format
  - 20 questions
  - Big reveal
  - Action stations
- Volunteers sign-up to be role models
- Schools (or careers education providers) schedule events and choose role models to attend.
- Everything needed to run an event is provided – recommended structure, resources, pre- and post-event classroom activities.
- In-person and online event options.



## Localism is key to ITF goals



## Porirua City Council / local schools

Porirua City Council helped Porirua schools run ItF events

- 3 events at 3 different schools
- Role models from the local community including the council

“It was a privilege to attend the Inspiring the Future event at Corinna School here in Porirua in May. The engagement and input from the pupils was outstanding, giving them the opportunity to talk about careers and jobs in a relaxed setting – the questions they came up with were thoughtful and fun, and I really enjoyed the morning.”

– Anita Baker, Mayor of Porirua and role model



## Rotorua Lakes Council-E2E -Careers Expo

- 3 sessions across 1 day at Careers Expo
- Themed to Techweek with role models in STEM
- 72 students from 7 schools

“The students left the workshops inspired and excited and the teachers left the workshops with business cards, eager to start the initiative within their own kura.”

– E2E broker



## Youth not in education or employment

- Partnership with Connected NZ
- 4 events in Canterbury so far
- 85 young people at the latest event!
- ItF is being introduced as an activity at LSV camps (MSD/NZDF)

“This was a fantastic opportunity to reach rangatahi outside traditional education paths, offering a unique chance for them to connect with role models from their own communities. The conversations sparked inspiration, with some leaving interested in a journey of education.”

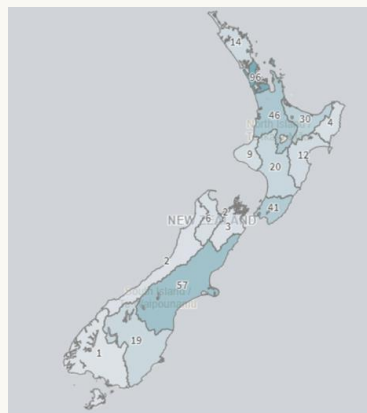
– Employment Liaison Advisor, Connected NZ



## Role Models



## Schools



## Ways you can help

- Partner with us to widen the impact of ItF with your communities
- Encourage your Community Development teams to work with employers to volunteer and schools to run events
- Share ItF collateral with your connections
- Recruit volunteer role models or sign up yourself
- Observe an online or in-person event
- Get specific regional data or sector/industry-focused data from us

Inspire a world of opportunity
inspiring the future Aotearoa

Give back to your community and support young people's futures by volunteering as an Inspiring the Future role model.

**What is Inspiring the Future?**

- Inspiring the Future connects schools with people from the world of work so tamariki can learn about different jobs. It aims to broaden young people's horizons and challenge stereotypes.
- Volunteer role models are invited to Inspiring the Future events hosted by schools. You talk about your job, how you got there and any challenges you've faced.
- Anyone, in any job, can be a role model. Support your community and sign up to be a role model on the Inspiring the Future website: [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](http://inspiringthefuture.org.nz)

**What happens at an Inspiring the Future event?**

- **Question:** Students ask questions to try to guess role model's job.
- **The reveal:** Role models reveal their job alongside a group that represents it.
- **Discussion groups:** Smaller groups of students ask role models questions and learn more about their story.

**How to become a role model**

1. Sign up as a role model by going to [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](http://inspiringthefuture.org.nz)
2. Complete a criminal record check. Having a criminal conviction doesn't necessarily mean you can't be a role model.
3. Fill out a profile about yourself.
4. Schools create events and invite role models to take part. You have the option to accept or decline.

## The Value of Role Models

- They often talk about the subjects they enjoyed at school
- Their experience often includes a number of jobs
- They usually have a person who encourages them
- They have often overcome challenges
- They are from your community and want to give back

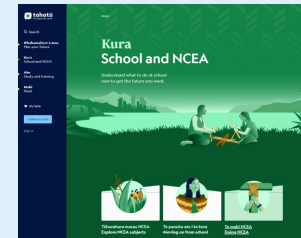


# Introducing Tahatū

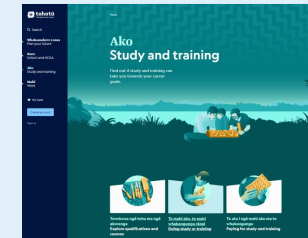
An interactive career planning website



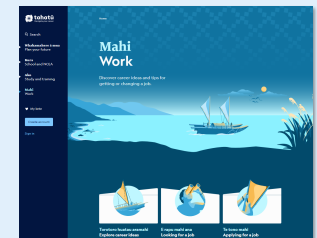
There are three foundational data sets



Kura



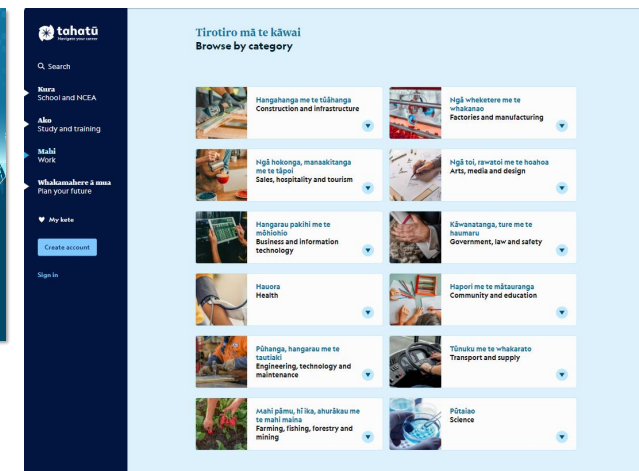
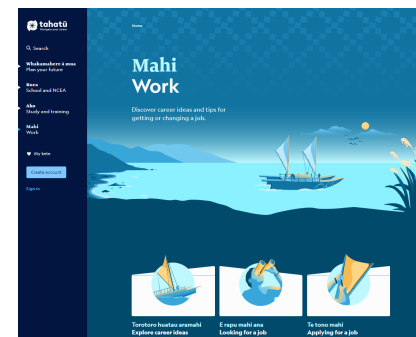
Ako



Mahi

## Key features

- Interactive website links NCEA subjects and qualifications with career ideas
- It's all here in one place
- More than 800 career ideas and 4,000 qualifications
- Tools for those who know what job they want, and tools for those that don't
- Kaupapa Māori Occupations in te reo
- Searches can be saved and shared with others



Home » Work » Explore career ideas » Food and drink

Save to kete

## Pūkenga tao kai Chef

**Also known as**  
Sous chef, executive chef, commis chef, chef de partie, personal chef, Kaiāwhina tākuta kararehe, kaitiaki kararehe taiwhanga pōtaiao

Chefs oversee the preparation and cooking of food at restaurants and other places where food is served. They manage menu planning, supplies and kitchen staff.

**Lyall Minhinnick**  
Executive chef

Duration 2:52 mins

Show transcript

## Occupation Profile - Chef

Home » Work » Explore career ideas » Food and drink

Save to kete

**Your pay could be**

Hourly Weekly Yearly

\$25 \$25-\$32 \$39

Lower Most common Upper

How does this pay compare?  
Where our data comes from

Pay is before tax

**What would you do in this job?**

**How can you get into this job?**

**What would you do in this job?**

**Chefs**

- usually work long hours, including evenings and weekends and may be on call
- usually work in café and restaurant kitchens
- may work in hot, smelly and noisy conditions
- need to be organised and work well in a team and under pressure

**Tasks**

- Monitor activities of individuals to ensure safety or compliance with rules.
- Check quality of foods or supplies.
- Coordinate timing of food production activities.
- Coordinate activities of food service staff.
- Determine prices for menu items.
- Create new recipes or food presentations.
- Train food preparation or food service personnel.
- Cook foods.
- Perform human resources activities.
- Order materials, supplies, or equipment.

**How can you get into this job?**

Home » Work » Explore career ideas » Food and drink

Save to kete

## Rapua he mahi Find a job

42 job ads related to Chef on Trade Me Jobs today. You might find more jobs on recruitment and other job websites.

Find job opportunities

## Summary

- Inspiring the Future provides the inspiration
- Tahatū provides the tools to explore
- The National Careers System Strategy provides the direction
- The NCSS Action plan keeps us accountable for progress





Pātai

Ngā mihi  
Thank you

For more information contact  
the Tertiary Education Commission  
Freephone: 0800 601 301  
Email: [sectorhelpdesk@tec.govt.nz](mailto:sectorhelpdesk@tec.govt.nz)

# OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-2029 Summary



MTFJ  
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

## OUR VALUES

**Localism:** We use our ability to build and leverage relationships in our communities to create relevant, effective, agile approaches to complex social problems (at a local level).

**Young people at the centre:** We work primarily with and for the young people in our communities. We recognise young people's right to self-determination.

**Whatever it takes:** We recognise the need for flexibility because every young person's path is different.

**Trusted relationships:** We value relationships created through working together for shared goals.

**Accountability:** We are accountable to each other, our young people, our funders, the employers who participate in our programmes and our communities.

**Inclusion:** We are inclusive and strive for equity

## OUR VISION

All young people have opportunities to fulfil their potential and determine their futures.

We know this is something bigger than we can achieve alone, but we believe MTFJ can be part of creating this future- if the vision were realised, young people, their families and our communities would thrive.

## OUR MISSION

To use the power of localism to develop pathways that build economic wellbeing for our young people.

Localism is at the heart of MTFJ – we activate local knowledge, networks and connections to deliver the best possible outcomes with and for our communities.

We see economic security as the ability of young people to be able to meet their needs consistently – food, housing, living expenses, medical care and other essentials – it is crucial for overall wellbeing and underpins social cohesion and quality of life.

## OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

### 1. Ensure Strong Foundations

Ensure the resilience, sustainability, and effectiveness of MTFJ overall and the Community Employment Programme specifically.

### 2. Maximise Impact

Maximise the impact of MTFJ against the mission, for the benefit of young people, their whānau and communities.

### 3. Leverage Success

Leverage success to build belief in, and support for, localism as a way of solving complex local problems.

## OUR VALUE PROPOSITIONS

**Mayors:** Join a movement of mayors that is committed to using localism to improve the economic wellbeing of young people.

**Young people:** Practical support from people in your community who will turn up for you every day and help you get the confidence and skills to make a better life for yourself and your family.

**Employers:** Recruit young people from a trusted, efficient source, get access to wage subsidies and other benefits and in so doing support the wellbeing of young people in your community.

**Funders:** Reach underserved communities with a proven localist approach that has high SROI and significant long-term benefits to young people, their families, and the communities they live in.

**Allies:** Work collaboratively for maximum impact and gap reduction for rangatahi.

**Iwi:** Work collaboratively with MTFJ to ensure maximum impact and meaningful, culturally sound outcomes for rangatahi Māori.

// **SUBMISSION**

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# LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// March-June 2024







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## Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It’s structured around LGNZ’s purpose: to serve local government by **championing**, **connecting** and **supporting** members.

Many councils have found it useful to put this report on the agenda for their next council meeting so that all councillors have the opportunity to review it and provide feedback. Sam and Susan are also happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it, on request.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

### Contents

Introduction .....	4
Champion.....	5
Advocacy work programme .....	5
Rates rise conversation.....	5
City and regional deals.....	6
Local government funding and financing .....	7
Māori wards .....	7
Budget 24 .....	7
Government relations.....	8
Media .....	9
Water services reform .....	10
Resource management reform .....	10
Transport.....	11
Climate change.....	11
Support for Cyclone-affected councils.....	12
Localism .....	12
Electoral Reform Working Group .....	13
Measuring councils’ collective scale and impact.....	13
Freedom camping.....	13
Rates rebates.....	13
Remits .....	14
Connect.....	16

---

Member visits.....	16
Combined Sector meeting .....	16
Te Uru Kahika and Regional Sector .....	17
Infrastructure Symposium .....	17
Conference and Awards update.....	17
Women in local government.....	17
Te Maruata update.....	18
Hutia te Rito: LGNZ Māori Strategy .....	18
Young Elected Members.....	18
Community Boards Executive Committee .....	19
Support .....	20
Ākona .....	20
Guidance and advisory for members.....	21
Elected member safety and security .....	21
Te Korowai .....	21
Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs .....	22
Road Efficiency Group (REG) .....	23
Moata Carbon Portal .....	23
Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS) .....	23
Libraries partnership.....	24



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## Introduction

National Council reset LGNZ's strategy at our 1 March 2024 meeting. LGNZ's purpose is now to serve members by championing, connecting and supporting local government.

**Champion** means we advocate for local government on critical issues, build relationships with ministers and officials, and use media to amplify member voices and stories.

**Connect** means we bring members together at zone, sector and conference events or via networks like Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and our community boards network, and that we create strong feedback loops between members and LGNZ's work.

**Support** means we provide professional development uniquely tailored to local government, support councils and elected members when they are stuck, and support elected members to deal with pressure and harassment.

Everything LGNZ does comes under these pillars – and that's why they form the structure of this report. I hope reading this report stresses the breadth and depth of LGNZ's work. Our small team is dedicated to delivering for members and this period has been both intense and rewarding.

This four-monthly period has also included LGNZ's annual membership invoicing. We never take members for granted, and during this time there's been really constructive conversations with councils considering their membership. Grey and Westland have chosen not to stay members, and we're sorry to see them go.

As always, we welcome your feedback. The purpose of sharing this detailed report is to give you an opportunity to share your views, and we look forward to hearing them, whether that's in person, via email or a phone conversation. We're always keen to hear from you.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan



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## Champion

### Advocacy work programme

In March we shared [a document outlining our next steps on our Future by Local Government work](#) with members. It sets out the things we'll advocate for now, the work that local government can collectively start doing to shift towards a new future, and the things that will be longer-term advocacy priorities. This has been the foundation for National Council's work to confirm LGNZ's broad and targeted advocated priorities.

At the Combined Sector meeting in April, we asked members to rank our five broad advocacy areas in terms of priority. These were the resulting rankings:

1. Funding and financing
2. Water (including freshwater)
3. Resource Management Reform
4. Transport
5. Climate change

We also asked members to rank targeted advocacy priorities, with the results as follows:

1. Toolbox approach to funding and financing
2. Four-year term for local government
3. Development of a framework around city/regional deals
4. Changes to Regulatory Impact Statements to consider the impact of decisions on local government
5. Opposing changes to Māori ward/constituency referendum requirements.

Off the back of this ranking exercise, we have finalised our advocacy work programme. This has been shared with members and added as a third page to our 2024 [LGNZ A3](#).

We are now in the process of developing more detailed work plans for each of the five broad advocacy areas, setting out what we're trying to achieve under each area and the work we'll do. We plan to share these work plans with members soon.

### Rates rise conversation

LGNZ has generated hundreds of stories and op-eds via all major media outlets this year on rates rises, the cost pressures facing councils and what's driving them. We generated 52 media items alone on the Infometrics report we launched in mid-March, which analysed increases in local government infrastructure costs that are driving rates rises.

Our March rates rise toolkit included:

- [Key messages](#)
- [Powerpoint](#)

- [Infometrics report](#)

We had overwhelmingly positive feedback on this toolkit and how useful members found it. Councils have been using the data we've provided on increasing cost pressures in their own engagement with media and in their LTP consultation documents. Regional journalists have made good use of the research LGNZ commissioned in their pieces, giving a national perspective on local rates rises.

We launched our second rates rise toolkit at the Combined Sector meeting on 11 April. This covered tax vs rates, how rates compare to other bills, and how we fund infrastructure:

- [Key messages](#)
- [Powerpoint](#)
- [Social assets](#)

Again we have had a very positive response to this work and it was well used by members. For example, our social media posts and assets are being repurposed in councils' own accounts, and attracting some positive engagement from the public, and the information we've shared has been used in some councils' LTP consultation documents.

Our third toolkit will launch in late June and feature research we've commissioned by NZIER on the costs of central government reforms on local government. It looks at a basket of primary and secondary legislation (introduced by different governments) to quantify the cost impact of unfunded mandates on councils and communities. The specific areas (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, National Policy Statement on Urban Development and Medium Density Residential Standards, Local Alcohol Policies, improving recycling and food scrap collections) have been chosen to be representative of reforms with a range of impacts on councils.

Our social media rates rise series highlighting the difference between central government income and local government income has had strong engagement. This campaign aims to explain why rates rises occur, especially in the face of rising living costs, and to highlight that this is a widespread systemic issue. Through this series, we've explored how councils are financed, the services they offer, and the benefits residents receive from their investment in rates. The series overall has received over 60,000 impressions across platforms.

## City and regional deals

The Government has strongly signalled interest in long-term city and regional deals as a way to partner with local government to create pipelines of regional projects.

We have released a proposal that sets out the key things councils need to see reflected in city and regional deals, and how these will support better alignment between central and local government. This proposal has supported our ongoing engagement with DIA and Ministers on the development of the Government's city and regional deals framework, which we expect to be released around August.

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We shared [the proposal](#), as well as a [factsheet](#) and [range of international examples](#), with members in late May.

Our Policy Team is meeting with DIA officials to discuss our proposals in more detail, and we have been approached by the New Zealand Initiative to speak about our work on their podcast. The Initiative's view is that our proposals are worth promoting as a way forward.

### Local government funding and financing

We are in the process of developing a local government funding and financing policy and advocacy work plan to be shared with members. This will be a high-level plan setting out key policy, media and government relations actions and objectives. We have also begun work on a 'long list' of funding and financing tools that could form part of a funding and financing toolbox, which will include policy analysis of options. We plan to engage members on that as our work progresses.

Mayor Campbell Barry and Policy Manager Simon Randall recently met with the Local Government Business Forum (which contains representatives from organisations like Federated Farmers, the New Zealand Initiative, Hospitality New Zealand and Business New Zealand) to talk about local government's funding and financing challenges. We are pleased to be having ongoing engagement with the Forum.

### Māori wards

In May we released a toolkit to support media engagement on this topic – based on our position that councils should make these decisions as they do on other wards and constituencies.

On 24 May, the Government introduced legislation to the House on reforms to Māori wards and constituencies. Submissions on this legislation were due by 29 May. Our submission was developed with input from Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere and was consistent with LGNZ's position that decisions on whether a community has Māori wards or constituencies should be made in the same way as other ward/constituency decisions – by councils with community and iwi consultation.

Thanks to a suggestion from Mayor Grant Smith, we developed a letter that Mayors and Chairs could choose to sign, opposing the Government's changes for the reason set out above. The letter reflected LGNZ's consistent position on this issue since 2018. Fifty-three Mayors/Chairs have now signed the letter, plus our Te Maruata Co-Chairs, and many spoke up in the media.

### Budget 24

We were inside the Budget lockup on 30 May and produced [analysis for members](#) that was shared that evening, as well as media engagement that highlighted the Budget's impact on local government.



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## Government relations

We are continuing our work to develop a strong partnership with the Government and other politicians building on our regular formal meetings with the Prime Minister, Ministers and key officials with additional informal meetings. We have made changes to our approach to political engagement which has seen us:

- Be part of political events such as Waitangi Commemorations, where it's possible to speak to a broader range of Ministers in formal and informal settings;
- Host a localism briefing with National Party MPs and provide follow up support to showcase examples of localism in action in their rohe; and
- Host a pizza and drinks night for Members of Parliament who were previously local government elected members or staff.

These types of engagements help build a broader cohort of central government politicians who understand and can advocate for local government from within.

On 3 April we had one of our regular quarterly meetings with Local Government Minister Simeon Brown. We discussed our desire to see changes to the rates rebate scheme, our work to support councils with the rates rises conversation, and the need for a broader range of funding and financing tools.

Mayor Neil Holdom (in his capacity as Chair of the LGNZ Transport Forum) and Mayor Campbell Barry were invited to meet with Transport Minister Simeon Brown in late March and provided feedback on the draft GPS, including signalling ways in which they thought it could be adjusted to provide councils with greater flexibility.

We have also secured quarterly meetings with Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop. We had our first regular meeting with Minister Bishop on 16 April, and covered a wide range of topics including infrastructure, housing, local government funding and financing, resource management reform and how the Minister engages with local government.

The Minister agreed with our request for local government representation on his expert ministerial advisory group that is being set up to support phase 3 of the resource management reform programme, and we have put forward names for consideration.

Toby Adams, Mike Theelen and Nigel Corry (supported by Grace) have also recently met with Minister Bishop to discuss how he might engage with the Local Government Steering Group (LGSG) and/or a variation of this going forward. There are positive indications that the Minister is prepared to engage with a smaller, nimble group, so the larger LGSG has been put on hold and a smaller local government reference group formed for this purpose. Thanks to everyone who's contributed energy and expertise to this group over the past three years.

During May we met with Minister Shane Jones to discuss regional economic development and city/regional deals; Max Baxter, MTFJ Chair and the MTFJ team has met with Social Development Minister Louise Upston; and Susan attended a pre-Budget lunch event with the Prime Minister in Auckland.

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In late May, we were invited to present to the Governance and Administration Select Committee on LGNZ's work, with Sam and Susan spending a productive hour explaining what LGNZ does on behalf of members and fielding questions.

In June we have regular meetings with Infrastructure and RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop (our focus will be on housing and the discussion will involve Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and Nigel Bickle, CE Hastings District Council), Local Government Minister Simeon Brown, and Regional Development Minister Shane Jones.

## Media

Our most visible media work during this period has been the rates rise conversation discussed above, and we have overall had a significant lift in engagement and profile.

To support the toolkit work discussed above, in early May, Infometrics crunched the numbers on GST from rates being returned to councils and we arranged a joint press conference. Sam and Infometrics CE Brad Olsen spoke to media on Parliament's steps, and Mayors across the motu have used the figures in their own discussions. This was covered extensively, and Sam also spoke about the research and rates rises on [Nine to Noon](#). NBR also ran a feature piece on key issues facing local government, including funding and financing and the expected city/regional deals.

Another major piece of advocacy through media is four-year-terms for local government. Sam has used every opportunity to talk about the efficiencies we'd gain by implementing longer electoral terms. This has led to stories in local papers as well as in-depth coverage by RNZ's political reporter, Russell Palmer. We have kept this conversation alive, having publicly launched the LGNZ Electoral Reform Group on 4 June and supported Chair Nick Smith with media engagement, including [1News](#) and breakfast media.

Leveraging the discussions at the Combined Sector meeting in April, we put the spotlight on city/regional deals, featuring in [pieces by Newsroom](#) and [The Spinoff](#). We had coverage by NBR on the link between tourism and local government in Minister Doocey's session. This media furthers our advocacy priority for new funding and financing tools.

We've been working in with some local papers on stories – including in Ashburton Guardian about how [constant Government reforms cause headaches for councils](#), and in ODT on the power of localism – featuring some of our members highlighting why localism matters.

Earlier this year, LGNZ ran a session for Mayors Taskforce for Jobs supporting individual council programmes to better tell their story of localism and council delivery. Since March, this has spurred an uptick in local media coverage positively highlighting the programme. A highlight was a [Seven Sharp](#) piece brokered by LGNZ on the only Windmill in the Southern Hemisphere, which aired in March.

Our city/regional deals proposal was [previewed by Newsroom](#), with Sam also appearing on the AM Show and [Mike Hosking's Breakfast](#).

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The Māori wards/constituencies letter received strong coverage on [OneNews](#) and in [Stuff](#). The day before the Budget, we had an [op ed by Sam](#) published in Stuff's The Post and The Press, and our Budget comments gained good traction.

## Water services reform

The repeal of the previous government's water services legislation gave councils an additional three months to adopt their LTPs, an ability to forgo the audit of the consultation document, and to reduce consultation requirements on subsequent amendments. Alternatively, councils have been able to defer development of their LTP for 12 months if they produce an enhanced Annual Plan. We advocated for this relief and were pleased to see the Government make it available.

The replacement approach for water services will be rolled out in two parts. A first bill, the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill, was introduced to the House in late May and LGNZ will be submitting on it to highlight councils' commonly held concerns with the bill and suggestions for improvement. This bill will be passed by the middle of the year and will require the development of service delivery plans (which will be the vehicle to self-determine future service delivery arrangements). This bill also puts in place transitional economic regulation and provides a streamlined process for establishing joint water services CCOs.

A second bill will be introduced at the end of the year and will set out provisions relating to long-term requirements for financial sustainability, provide for a complete economic regulation regime, and introduce a new range of structural and financing tools, including a new type of financially independent council-controlled organisation.

A technical advisory group has been formed to support the development of the legislation and related policy. We recommended two names for this technical group – one of them was selected (Mark Reese, Chapman Tripp).

LGNZ has been advocating for updates to the mandatory performance measures for water so that councils don't have to report against both the Taumata Arowai Drinking Water Standards and the now-replaced Ministry of Health Drinking Water Standards. We've been successful in securing this change, which has gone to councils for your feedback. Final changes should be in place by mid-June.

Taumata Arowai is starting to develop regulations for storm water and wastewater, and attended recent sector meetings. We are also engaging with Taumata Arowai on new wastewater and stormwater standards.

## Resource management reform

The Government repealed the Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Acts prior to Christmas. It then worked at pace to develop a new fast-track consenting regime. We made a joint submission on the new legislation with Taituarā and on 4 June we will appear before the

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Environment Committee with Taituarā in support of our submission. Our submission acknowledged the need for a fast-track process but identified a number of improvements that our members want to see including better alignment with councils' planning documents and processes, more time for engagement with councils and more of a focus on sustainable development. Our submission was informed by workshops that we held at each of our April sector meetings.

The new Government is working quickly to make a number of changes to national direction, including the NPS-Freshwater Management. We're monitoring these changes closely along with Taituarā and Te Uru Kahika.

Grace and Susan meet regularly with the MfE leadership team. These meetings are constructive and positive.

As noted above, we've worked closely with Mayor Toby Adams, in his role as Co-Chair of the Resource Management Reform Local Government Steering Group, to support him to engage with Minister Bishop on options for engaging with local government on changes to the resource management system. And we've recommended local government representatives to sit on an expert ministerial working group that Minister Bishop is planning to establish to support his reform programme.

## Transport

The LGNZ Transport Forum, chaired by Mayor Neil Holdom, worked closely with our policy team to pull together our submission on the draft Land Transport GPS. We had good engagement with our draft submission, with 18 councils providing constructive feedback.

The Transport Forum had its second meeting of the year on 23 May, which covered off a range of key issues including the NZTA emergency works review, the Road Efficiency Group's (REG) ongoing efforts to improve the collection and presentation of transport data, and progress on the Government Policy Statement on Transport and National Land Transport Programme.

Our Transport Forum is continuing to progress its work programme and engage with members. Immediate priorities for LGNZ in the transport space include considering the impacts of the upcoming Budget, completing our submission on the emergency works review, and reviewing the finalised GPS when it is completed (the draft of which we submitted on earlier this year).

## Climate change

We welcomed the Government's announcement that the Finance and Expenditure Committee will be continuing the inquiry into climate change adaptation that was started by the previous government. We're pleased that the Government's announcement has received cross-party support and in our press release emphasised the importance of engagement with local government given its role in adaptation, the urgent need to address adaptation funding arrangements and the need for thought to be given to the framework for managed retreat.

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The submission that we made to the earlier inquiry will be considered by the Finance and Expenditure Committee and we're planning to provide the Committee with some additional comments.

We were pleased to be able to suggest Aileen Lawrie, CE of Thames-Coromandel District Council, as local government representative on the expert reference group that the Ministry for the Environment has established to support its climate adaptation work.

### Support for Cyclone-affected councils

The Policy Team has met with the secretariat of the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Taskforce to support development of their insights framework, which seeks to capture the lessons learned from their work. We have also started engagement with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on their next steps on their critical infrastructure framework and minimum standards.

The report on the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events was released in April. We understand that consideration of the Emergency Management Bill (which we submitted on in October 2023) is on hold until the release of this report, so the Select Committee can consider it and any changes needed to the Bill. This may involve further submissions or engagement.

We worked with Mayor Rehette Stoltz, CE Nedine Thatcher-Swann and the team at Gisborne District Council to write a letter to Ministers and officials raising concerns with the process that was adopted for the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use that Gisborne District Council was subject to last year. The purpose of the letter was to highlight that we don't want similar process issues repeated in any future inquiries that local government may be subject to.

### Localism

We are developing our Choose Localism toolkit, which will be released at our SuperLocal Conference. The toolkit sets out a wide range of tools and approaches councils can use to make a localist future a reality and apply a localism lens across their day-to-day work. The toolkit has four broad headings: collaboration and input; place-based empowerment and devolution; planning, budgeting and resource allocation; and growing and developing local economic and social success.

We have also worked with Curia to poll members of the public on local government issues. The data will look at perceptions around the effectiveness of councils, how councils could improve their effectiveness and who is best placed to make certain decisions/deliver certain services out of central and local government or a combination of both. We are planning to release the findings and supporting work and recommendations at SuperLocal.



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## **Electoral Reform Working Group**

As part of our broader work on Choose Localism, we are looking at ways to tackle the issue of mandate for local government. There have been several reviews and numerous calls for local government electoral reform over the years, with no progress being made. Only four out of ten eligible voters have their say in local elections, compared with eight out of ten for central government.

Mayor Hon Dr Nick Smith, who has been part of a number of Justice Select Committees looking into this, will be leading an LGNZ working group to get some traction on the issue. The working group will have a very clear purpose: to drive LGNZ's advocacy work to strengthen the democratic mandate for local government to advocate for and meet the needs of communities, with a particular focus on increasing participation.

As well as Mayor Nick, other members of the group are Mayors Rehette Stoltz, Susan O'Regan and Campbell Barry, and Toni Boynton (Te Maruata Co-Chair). The group is meeting shortly to finalise its Terms of Reference and confirm its work programme. We'll keep members informed as this work progresses.

## **Measuring councils' collective scale and impact**

We are holding a zoom on 6 June to support this data-gathering project, initiated by National Council member Mayor Neil Holdom, which aims to consolidate key local government expenditure into a collective national database. The purpose of this is to enable easy comparison between councils and to have data to support key conversations with central government on infrastructure and investment.

## **Freedom camping**

The Policy Team have released updated guidance and a model bylaw that reflect recent amendments to legislation and case law, to support councils to develop, review, and administer bylaws relating to the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (FCA). Amendments to the FCA came into force on 7 June 2023, but there is a transitional period before the new certification for self-contained motor vehicles and related provisions come into force.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association part funded this work, and we worked with them and Taituarā to develop it.

## **Rates rebates**

The Minister for Local Government announced an increase to the rates rebate scheme, shortly after we met Ministers Brown and Costello in early April and talked about the need for these changes to

support low-income households. We've advocated strongly on this issue for several years off the back of remits put forward by Whanganui District Council (2020 AGM) and Horowhenua District Council (2023 AGM). However, the increases are only in line with inflation, not the Local Government Cost Index, which is the core ask of the remit put forward by Horowhenua District Council in 2020. We'll continue to advocate for increases to be in line with the LGCI.

## Remits

We're continuing to make progress on remits where we can – though as is always the case following a General Election, progress slowed while the new government bedded in and we developed an understanding of how our remits relate to its priorities.

Remit	Progress update
<b>Allocation of risk and liability in the building sector</b>	We're yet to start substantive work to progress this remit. However, we did raise the issues that this remit addresses through our involvement in a working group that was reviewing the building consent system in 2023.
<b>Rates rebates</b>	As noted above, the Minister for Local Government announced an increase to the rates rebate scheme, shortly after we met Ministers Brown and Costello in early April and talked about the need for these changes to support low-income households.
<b>Roading/transport maintenance funding</b>	Our Transport Forum is leading work on this remit. Our submission to the draft Government Policy Statement advocated for increased investment in road maintenance.
<b>Local election accessibility</b>	We're yet to start substantive work to progress this remit.
<b>Ability for co-chairs at formal meetings</b>	Guidance on how to introduce co-chairs, which has been informed by legal advice, has been incorporated into our revised Guide to the LGNZ Standing Orders Template, which was published in early February 2024.
<b>Parking infringement penalties</b>	We're yet to start substantive work to progress this remit.
<b>Rural and regional public transport</b>	This remit is being progressed through the work that our Transport Forum is leading. Our submission to the draft GPS Land Transport advocated for increased investment in rural and regional public transport.
<b>Establishing resolution service</b>	We have built work on developing a resolution service into the refreshed LGNZ strategy.
<b>Earthquake prone buildings</b>	As championed by Manawātū District Council (the mover of this remit), a review of the current earthquake strengthening requirements has been announced. Our Policy Team has been working with Manawātū District Council and officials at MBIE to ensure the review meets the needs of local government, and that

	there is strong local government input into it. There has been good media coverage of this review, and the role Manawātū District Council has played in pushing for it.
<b>KiwiSaver contributions for elected members</b>	We have engaged with Minister Brown on this issue, and he expressed some interest in it. We have engaged Simpson Grierson to provide detailed advice on options for providing KiwiSaver contributions for elected members – including drafting of relevant legislative clauses, so that we’re able to present a package of options for reform to the Government.
<b>Scope of audits and audit fees</b>	Part of the approach to reduce fees is to ensure that the legislative requirements and scope (and resulting repetition and complexity) of Long-term Plans and Annual Plans and reports are reduced to be better aligned with needs and cost less to audit. A workshop with Audit NZ, Taituarā and the Office of the Auditor General has been organised for July to review the current requirements of long-term planning and associated reporting.

Remit applications for the 2024 AGM close on Tuesday 18 June. Currently no remits have been received, although we know of at least three in development. The remit committee (President, Vice-President, CEO, and Director Policy & Advocacy) will consider these on 1 July, with the approved remits being circulated to members on 3 July.

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## Connect

### Member visits

Rates rises are top of mind for all councils so our work on this issue has been front and centre in our discussions with councils over the past four months.

As well as Sam, Campbell and representatives from LGNZ's leadership team being at zones 2, 1, 3 and 5-6, Sam and Susan visited councils in Otago and Southland, the wider Wellington region and Northland in March/April. We then visited the West Coast councils on 17-18 April and attended a WCRC meeting on 9 April after conversations about the value they derived from regional sector meetings. Since the start of May, we've visited councils in Manawatū, Whanganui, Upper Hutt, Horowhenua and Canterbury (including Christchurch). All these visits are incredibly valuable in terms of connecting councils with our work and receiving feedback. We are now planning visits over the next few months and post-conference towards the goal of visiting or scheduling visits with all members in Sam's first year as President.

### Combined Sector meeting

Our Combined Sector meeting on Thursday 11 April featured a strong range of speakers, with a focus on rates rises, the cost of infrastructure and the fast-track consenting legislation. Speakers included Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, Brad Olsen (Infometrics), Dr Eric Crampton (NZ Initiative), Philippa Fourie (Fonterra), Jade Wikaira (Wikaira Consulting Ltd), Richard Capie (Forest & Bird), Geoff Cooper (New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihanga) and the team from Simpson Grierson who talked about fast-track consenting.

We've had very positive feedback on the day, with an average rating overall by survey respondents of 4.5/5, with the programme getting 4.6/5 and the overall organisation 4.8/5. Comments included:

- *Really happy with the new direction of LGNZ and the consultative approach - enjoy the interactive sessions (using SLIDO)*
- *Very worthwhile day. Stakeholder event was excellent*
- *In my opinion, this was one of the best LGNZ events I have ever attended. Topics were spot on, plenty of time to network (which is a huge benefit that comes from these events), great speakers, kicking off with the Manchester Mayor really set the scene. Well done to the organisers!*

Sector meetings the following day also ran well.

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## Te Uru Kahika and Regional Sector

The Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika's priorities – climate resilience, resource management system, Te Ao Māori, the Government's reform agenda in freshwater, water services regulation, and transport – align closely with LGNZ's advocacy priorities, providing a wide range of opportunities for collaboration. This includes our recent participation in Te Uru Kahika's Climate Workshop.

Our team is meeting regularly with Te Uru Kahika to ensure we are joined up in our support for the Regional Sector. We continue to work together closely on submissions and engagement on central government reforms.

## Infrastructure Symposium

We're looking forward to this Combined Sector event on 13/14 June and have secured another strong line-up of speakers, with the [finalised programme available here](#). Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop will speak at the networking event on the Thursday night, and Sir Bill English is one of our keynote speakers on 14 June. Other speakers include Opposition Local Government spokesperson Hon Kieran McAnulty, Peter Nunns (Director Economics, Te Waihanga Infrastructure Commission), Simon Dyne (COO, Fulton Hogan), Councillor Linda Scott (via zoom, President, Australian Local Government Association), Malcolm Smith (Australasian Cities Leader, Arup) plus expert panels and more. Registrations are tracking well.

## Conference and Awards update

Planning is well advanced for both SuperLocal 2024 and the Community Boards conference, along with additional events for Te Maruata and Young Elected Members, LGNZ's Annual General Meeting, the Mayors for Taskforce breakfast and numerous networking events across the three days.

In early April we launched SuperLocal24 to members and opened registrations. This followed the earlier launch of the SuperLocal 24 Awards.

We will exceed our sponsorship target for SuperLocal, which is a real achievement in the current climate.

We have finalised the programme, which has a dynamic line up of speakers, and registrations are on track.

## Women in local government

Following on from our 13 February zoom for women in local government, we are planning a lunch immediately before the SuperLocal conference, which will feature Finance Minister Nicola Willis as the opening speaker.



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## Te Maruata update

Te Maruata held its first whānui hui online on 14 March to reset priorities for the remainder of the triennium. The hui included a kōrero with MP Marama Davidson, the election of new members for the Roopu Whakahaere as well as opportunity to meet with Mereana Taungapeau, LGNZ's recently appointed Kaitohutohu Matua Māori. Aubrey Ria was elected as the Rural & Provincial representative, and Keri Brown was elected as the at-large representative.

Te Maruata held its monthly online wānanga on 24 April. Te Whatu Ora provided updates on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Amendment Act – specifically around the incorporation of Tikanga Māori into licensing hearings. There was also broad discussion about Māori wards and the Fast-Track Amendment Bill.

A key issue for Te Maruata is strong advocacy on retaining current arrangements for the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies.

At the Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere hui on 9-10 May, kaupapa included Māori wards, Te Maruata membership, the programme for the Te Maruata Hui at conference and the Hutia te Rito strategy – the LGNZ Te Ao Māori approach. The in-person hui included the member now representing Community Boards, Jock Martin (who represents the Lawrence/Tuapeka ward for Clutha District Council).

The Rōpū Whakahaere have been conscious of ensuring Te Maruata members are supported during the debates around Māori wards, which has been a difficult time for many. Regular comms, information sharing and opportunities for kōrerō have been activated so that Te Maruata members feel supported and connected. Equally it's important that the voices of Māori ward councillors and Māori elected members are uplifted. Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere made a submission on the Bill in support of LGNZ's submission that also spoke to personal experiences and the critical role Māori councillors play at decision-making tables across Aotearoa.

### Hutia te Rito: LGNZ Māori Strategy

Our Kaitohutohu Matua Māori Mereana Taungapeau led the organisation of a staff wānanga at Raukawa Marae in Ōtaki on 1-2 May. Its purpose was to introduce staff to Hutia te Rito and the Te Ao Māori work programme for LGNZ which is currently in development.

## Young Elected Members

The YEM Committee are keen to continue holding annual YEM Hui, and are well underway with planning for this year's event. The Committee has confirmed dates for this year's Hui (16-18 October) and will be holding it in Christchurch. In response to member feedback, we've brought the Hui forward and shared the dates early so people can get it in their diaries.

The YEM Committee met online in March and in person at the end of May. As well as discussing the next Hui and their pre-SuperLocal gathering, the Committee has refined the YEM Strategy and Kaupapa based on feedback received from the network at the end of last year.

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Petone Community Board member Kaz Yung has been elected to the YEM Committee as the community boards representative, and the Committee has also welcomed new member Councillor Deon Swiggs (Environment Canterbury), who has replaced Deputy Mayor of Westland Ash Cassin, following Westland's decision to withdraw from LGNZ membership.

## Community Boards Executive Committee

Over the last few months CBEC has been actively involved in a number of initiatives:

- **Satisfaction survey of community boards and mayors:** CBEC commissioned FrankAdvice to undertake a survey of community boards and mayors to better understand the mood of community boards, and relationships between councils and community boards, as well as identify areas for improvement, with particular emphasis on roles, remuneration and relationships with councils. The final report, with recommendations, was released in late February. The findings will be used for ongoing advocacy by CBEC and to inform updates to the Governance Guide for Community Boards.
- **Community Boards Conference:** CBEC is well underway with planning for the 2024 Community Boards Conference, which is being held as part of SuperLocal. CBEC members have been working hard with the LGNZ team to pull together a programme, and seek speakers and sponsorship.
- **Declarations:** the Committee has discovered that some councils do not require appointed board members to make a community board declaration – creating a potential risk to councils should a board decision be challenged on the basis that some members were ineligible to vote. CBEC sought legal advice, which confirmed that all appointed members should make a community board declaration as well as their council declaration. That advice has been sent to all councils with community boards.
- **Remuneration:** CBEC is working with the Remuneration Authority to improve the basis on which community board remuneration is set. The Authority has not been able to resolve how to remunerate boards with additional responsibilities (member pay is based on population without any consideration of the level of responsibility). The Committee has been engaging regularly with the Remuneration Authority on options. It's meeting in June to develop a work programme to deliver on recommendations resulting from its survey of community board members and Mayors.

Kaz Yung (who was elected to the Young Elected Members Committee) has joined our Community Boards Executive Committee. Jock Martin has also been elected to CBEC and Te Maruata, as noted above.

CBEC held a zoom for all community board members in late March, where they discussed the results of the survey of community board members and mayors, and options for remunerating community board members. The zoom was attended by around 40 members.

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## Support

### Ākona

On 3 April, we gave all elected members access to Ākona, following National Council's decision that subscription should be rolled into the member fee.

The number of logins continues to grow, with 50-60 learners being added each week. Engagement with Ako hours already exceeds expectations, and registrations for next month's Climate Change Adaptation Ako hour are climbing quickly.

Sector engagement with Ākona has also significantly increased. Last week's bi-monthly hui with Council L&D staff (which would previously attract 10 or less participants) had almost 30 participants. There were also multiple requests for the hui to be recorded and sent to those who could not attend. Hui participants expressed their support of the system, including the new skills analysis tool. There was also keen interest in working with LGNZ to build elected member engagement through coaching sessions, to develop learning programmes, and to develop learning policy based on Ākona content.

The Induction 2025 Project has commenced with the development of a triennial calendar of learning linked to key sector milestones. This calendar will be tested by a group of sector representatives over the next few weeks, with a view to complete induction design by the end of October. The purpose and approach to Induction hui is being refined based on member input and feedback from the 2022 events.

Discussions have begun with Taituarā to develop an induction pack that will include pre-elected learning resources, (as per the framework). A pre-candidacy package of learning will also soon be developed to support the promotion of local governance participation in our communities.

There are new courses recently released or nearing release include:

- Climate Change
- Te Reo
- Decision Making
- The CE Relationship
- Leading diverse communities

In addition, the tīma worked with PD Training to contextualise a Critical Thinking workshop which was delivered at Napier District Council in late February. A targeted workshop focused on Chairing Meetings/Standing Orders has also been developed. Both options will become a permanent part of Ākona offerings.

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## Guidance and advisory for members

We've updated our [Guide to the LGNZ Standing Orders Templates](#). The updates provide councils with guidance on how to amend their standing orders to incorporate changes to the definition of a quorum (for those joining by audio visual means). They also provide guidance on the Ombudsman's recent report on public access to workshops.

We're working with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Group to fine tune our Standing Orders Template, with a focus on readability. The updated version will be available to councils in early 2025, giving plenty of time to be prepared ahead of the 2025 local body elections. The new template will also reflect legislative changes made since mid-2022 when the current template was drafted.

## Elected member safety and security

We held a zoom on safety and security on 18 April, with 60 people attending. Panel members Mayor Dan Gordon, Deputy Mayor Angela O'Leary and Mayor Len Salt spoke eloquently about the difficult and disturbing experiences they had had, followed by representatives from NZ Police and Netsafe. This was the start of a conversation and there's clearly more LGNZ can do to support members experiencing this harassment, which is also a threat to local democracy.

At the Combined Sector meeting, we asked attendees about their experiences and the results were:

- 74% had face aggressive, abusive or offensive behaviour as an EM in public meetings
- 65% had faced it online
- 39% had faced it at community events
- 33% had faced in doing every day activities like shopping or collecting children from school

In terms of the levels of behaviour:

- 53% thought it was worse than a year ago
- 41% thought it was similar
- 9% thought it was better.

Our second zoom in this series will be in mid-June, to focus on "sovereign citizens" and vexatious requests, and we've secured a range of panellists/speakers. This topic was suggested in the first zoom, and the third zoom will focus on physical security for EMs. All these zooms are recorded and available to elected members in Ākōna, along with related resources. [You can log into Ākōna here](#).

## Te Korowai

Our continuous improvement programme, previously known as CouncilMARK, has undergone significant evolution over the past year in response to feedback from the sector. These changes aim to increase programme participation and deliver greater value to participating councils.

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Renamed 'Te Korowai', the programme has extended its focus beyond independent assessments to support councils throughout their continuous improvement journey, both before and after assessment.

Te Korowai emphasises a wraparound support for councils, the establishment of development benchmarks and aligning council performance with priorities. The introduction of additional development pathways facilitates the translation of assessment findings into actionable plans, enabling councils to optimise their performance.

We have collaborated closely with Waikato Regional Council, which served as the pilot for the new programme. Following their successful on-site assessment, they have transitioned into the development phase. Initial feedback from Waikato Regional Council has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting how the programme provided valuable insights and confidence to progress along their development journey.

We are currently engaged with several other councils, including as Central Hawkes Bay District Council, Ōtorohanga District Council, and Otago Regional Council, as they prepare to join the revamped programme. Additionally, efforts are underway to align the programme's performance assessment framework with Ākōna, fostering continuous improvement through a culture of learning and development.

## **Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs**

Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) core group has signed off a refreshed five-year strategic plan. The plan reconfirms the focus of the MTFJ kaupapa firmly on rangatahi, particularly those youth who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

LGNZ supported Mayor Max Baxter, MTFJ Chair, to secure a meeting with the Social Development Minister Louise Upston, which the MTFJ team of Maree and Tammie attended, along with Scott.

Max also met with Minister Upston while attending a joint visit to Waimate to hear firsthand how the programme has delivered better employment outcomes there. The Minister is joining MTFJ for their annual breakfast meeting at SuperLocal.

The MTFJ Governance Group, which oversees MTFJ's strategy and delivery, met in April and May and the Core Group is meeting on 7 June.

Huge credit to the MTFJ council teams who nationally have exceeded their MSD-contracted CEP outcomes, achieving 1,111 employment outcomes for year one well ahead of the due date. This positions the MTFJ MSD employment contract for continued success as it rolls over into year 2, although with reduced contracted funding from (\$10 million to \$8 million).

LGNZ ran an impactful session for MTFJ in February supporting individual council programmes to better tell their story of localism and council delivery, as discussed in the media section above, and reflected in the uptick of media around MTFJ in recent weeks.



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## Road Efficiency Group (REG)

LGNZ has been a long-standing partner and supporter of REG and we are pleased to see REG feature in the draft Transport GPS. This includes direction from the Minister that REG, as part of a wider expectation for improved sector performance and efficiency, is to focus on ensuring that all investment in maintaining and improving resilience on the state highway, local and rural road networks is spent in the most efficient manner.

Key focus areas for REG include:

- Finding efficiency in road maintenance spend to deliver more for road users and taxpayers' investment;
- Standardising maintenance protocols and processes to find efficiency where efficiencies can be found;
- Reducing expenditure on temporary traffic management (TTM), which is adding significant cost to road maintenance and reducing efficiency of spend;
- Reviewing Network Outcomes Contracts (NOC) with a focus on achieving long-term maintenance outcomes of 2 percent rehabilitation and 9 percent resurfacing per year, ensuring a proactive approach to road maintenance.

REG is currently reviewing its term of reference and governance arrangements, which will see two independent appointments by the Minister to the REG governance group.

## Moata Carbon Portal

Recently we've provided a demo of the portal and had conversations on carbon accounting with Central Otago District Council. We have also supported Mott MacDonald to attend zone meetings to provide an overview of the carbon portal as well as some findings from the carbon baseline completed on Queenstown Lakes LTP in 2023.

The findings from this baseline were that water projects accounted for 55% of QLDC's total capital carbon, with transport accounting for 24% and built environment 21%. Over the course of their LTP, their highest carbon peaks were predicted for 2023 and 2030, with recommendations provided on integrating carbon assessments into their approval and delivery processes.

## Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)

With Auckland and Tauranga confirming support to establish the RAS, we have secured \$1.2 million of the estimated \$3 million required to complete the development work to establish the RAS. On establishment, we would need circa \$23 million establishment capital.

As a reminder, the RAS is a special purpose tool that would provide support to ratepayers to finance any local authority charge. With balance sheet separation, and proximity to both local and central

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government, it would have a very high credit rating and therefore be able to provide the cheapest possible financing terms to ratepayers.

The Ratepayer Financing Scheme's flexibility would enable it to support:

- Development contributions to enable housing development.
- Home improvement policy to meet healthy homes, earthquake strengthening, home insulation and solar panel installation, water separation and storage etc.
- Rates postponement to provide relief to ratepayer experiencing affordability pressures.

A detailed business case supporting the RAS's viability has been completed with the support of Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch councils alongside the LGFA and LGNZ. We have had recent positive engagement the new governments policy advisors. The RAS could provide financing for future water charges which would assist with affordability.

The Steering Group have engaged with the Government's water Technical Advisory Group to discuss funding and financing more broadly, including the possible role the RAS could play supporting ratepayers and funding infrastructure.

Scott and selected members of the Steering Group met Simon Court (Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform) on 3 April and Minister Simeon Brown has expressed interest in learning more about it.

## **Libraries partnership**

Our Libraries Advisor is continuing to deliver the work programme that has been agreed to with DIA and the New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme, and will be with LGNZ until the end of June 2024, when the project funding comes to an end. This was a Covid-19 recovery initiative so there isn't ongoing funding for this role.

At the end of the project, we'll receive a report that will outline all the key trends identified and findings made across the three years of the project.

Despite local government funding challenges, a large number of councils have supported the removal of fines to improve access to their library resources. Over 60% of councils are fully fines free and 92% are fines free for children and young people.