



“Making Our District Thrive”

Rangitikei District Council

Annual Report 2008/09 Summary

Contents

Annual Report	1
Council’s Role	1
Highlights	2
Finance	5
Levels of Service	9
Auditor’s Report	12

Annual Report

The Annual Report explains the Council’s performance in 2008/09 against the Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-16 and against the various legislative and accounting requirements under which the Council is required to operate. For those interested in the full Annual Report you can pick up a copy from:

- The Council Offices, 46 High Street, Marton;
- The District Libraries; or
- Our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz

The Rangitikei District Council authorised this Annual Report Summary on 29 October 2009.

Chalky Leary
Mayor

Clare Hadley
Chief Executive

Council’s Role

The Rangitikei District Council undertakes services for the residents and ratepayers of the Rangitikei.

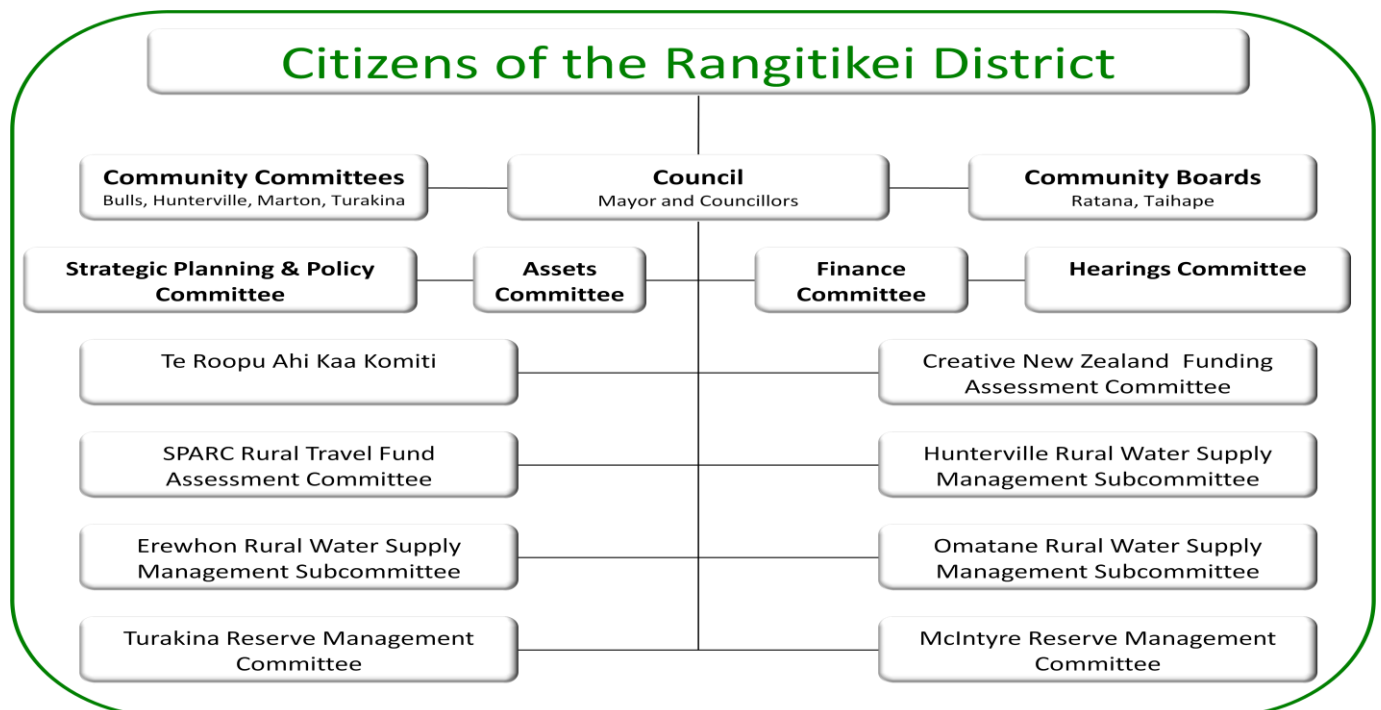
The Local Government Act 2002 defines the purpose of Local Government as to:

“... enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities, and:

... promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and in the future.”

Council Operations

The Council appoints a Chief Executive to be in charge of the Council operations and delegates certain powers of Management to her as required under Section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Chief Executive appoints staff to carry out all of the Council’s significant activities.



Highlights for 2008/2009

Achievements

Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) for 2009-19

As noted in last year's Annual Report, there were clear signals from the Auditor General and the local government sector's two peak bodies (Local Government New Zealand and the Society of Local Government Managers) that preparation for the next LTCCP should start early. Council heeded that advice, and a first draft of the 2009/19 LTCCP was provided to Elected Members in December 2008.

Two workshop sessions with members of the Community Boards, Community Committees and Te Roopu Ahi Kaa helped refine the draft plan prior to its release for public consultation. Council adopted guidelines for considering submissions and documenting reasons for the decisions taken. Both the draft and the final plan received unqualified opinions from the Council's auditors.

Improved Asset Management Capability/Shared Services

A major contributor to an improved LTCCP was the availability of more comprehensive asset management plans. This is a direct result of the joint approach adopted by Rangitikei District Council and Manawatu District Council to delivering Asset Management services into both districts.

Following acceptance of a Memorandum of Understanding, officers from both local authorities developed a single organisational structure, under direct management from Manawatu District but with accountabilities to Rangitikei's Chief Executive and with the location of specified positions in Marton. The proposal was developed through the latter part of 2007 and consulted on in the 2008/09 draft Annual Plan. During 2008/09 the structure has been adapted to best fit the needs of the two districts.

A number of other councils have sought to know more about the impetus for this shared services arrangement and its implementation.

Upgrades to Marton and Rātana water supplies

Options to upgrade both the capacity and quality of Marton's water supply have been subject to expert scrutiny during the year, and they were presented to the community in the draft LTCCP. Council agreed to a test/production bore near the Calico Line treatment station, the results of which are expected by December 2009.

The quality of reticulated water at Rātana has been a longstanding issue. The upgrade to Rātana's water supply is being substantially funded by the Ministry of Health's small water scheme.

Review of Bylaws

The Local Government Act 2002 required bylaws enacted under its provisions to have their first review within five years. However, interest from various parts of the community about road speed limits caused an earlier review of the Speed Limits Bylaw. As well as the mandatory public and agency consultation, views were sought from both Community Boards and the four Community Committees. The process was nearly complete by June 2009.

Community engagement

Council took the lead role in seeking funding from several government agencies. As a result, ICT hubs will be established in the Marton Library and Rātana, complementing the successful application for the Aotearoa People's Network to be extended to the District libraries in Bulls, Marton and Taihape. A second major project – extending over three years – was approved by the Community Development Scheme administered by the Department of Internal Affairs which had identified Ruapehu and/or Rangitikei as a priority territory. This provides for a Community Development Officer in Marton. Funding this project in the first year is \$80,000.



Ongoing projects

Taihape-Napier Road

Sealing of the Rangitikei District's portion of unsealed road in this key strategic route, let in early 2008, is now well advanced. Completion is scheduled in 2010.

Hastings District Council has agreed to provide funding for the unsealed portion in that district.

Bulls Main Street Widening

During the year, work to widen a section of Bridge Street was completed, together with under-grounding of electricity lines and footpath improvements. It has improved traffic flow and safety.



Agricultural training school

Following a feasibility study funded by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Council facilitated the formation of a working group to investigate ways to address the shortage of skilled agricultural workers in Rangitikei-Wanganui-Ruapehu. A gift from a local benefactor saw the Council negotiate the acquisition of the substantial part of Westoe (a well-established farm between Marton and Kakariki) and enter into a purchase agreement on behalf of the Westoe Farm Training Trust for it to progress. Trustees were appointed during 2009/10.

Rangitikei CareerStart and U-Go

CareerStart was a three-year programme, funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), to get young unemployed people in the District into work that offers long-term potential. It has been extended to 30 June 2010 although there is likely to be greater alignment with the government's other job creation and training schemes.

During the year mentors trained through U-Go, the mentoring pilot programme funded by the Ministry of Youth Development, worked with selected students at Rangitikei College. The programme is drawn from the Foundation for Youth Development.



Issues being progressed

Rationalisation of Community facilities

With the non-infrastructure assets review complete, Council has given attention to securing more effective and efficient operation of community facilities. Council is also

committed to further exploration of the green-space needs of the District's communities.

Dudding Lake

The new leaseholders who commenced at the start of the 2007 summer season sought early release and Council assumed direct management for the 2008 summer season and gave consideration to the best option for the site, given the cost to ratepayers. Public meetings in Marton and the submissions to the draft LTCCP showed a strong interest (particularly in Marton) in Council retaining the Lake. A draft management plan was due for consideration with Council in September 2009 (which will define arrangement for the 2009 summer season and beyond).

Wilson Park, Marton

The annual use of the park by the Country Music Festival over the past few years raised the issue of the nature of facilities to be provided there, and funded by Council. The draft management plan for the Park was completed during the reporting year. Clubs using Wilson Park, Centennial Park and Marton Park considered and rejected (for the time being) the idea of a leisure hub on one of the parks but remain interested in operating more collaboratively.



Taihape Memorial Park

Council has worked with the Taihape Community Development Trust and other organisations in Taihape to progress the idea of a community leisure hub based at the Park. It is an integral part of the draft reserve management plan which will be consulted on during the coming year.

Koitiata Hall

The Koitiata Residents Association sought the opportunity to provide day-to-day management over the Koitiata Hall. A formal service contract was agreed to, effective from 1 July 2008, and has proved successful.

Huntermville Town Hall

During consideration of submissions to the draft LTCCP, the Council resolved to investigate issues in leasing the Huntermville Town Hall to an existing community trust.

Re-accreditation as a Building Consent Authority

The Building Act 2004 requires all local authorities to be registered as a building consent authority in order to perform functions relating to building control. Council



received confirmation of its registration on 12 June 2008. Reaccreditation will be due by 12 June 2010.

As with the process for registration, accreditation will entail close scrutiny of inspection practices and monitoring of performance. This will put pressure on the building staff to maintain consent processing at the same time as effort and attention is going into improved processes.

Review of the District Plan

The current District Plan was adopted on 9 July 1999 meaning its review was due to start no later than 9 July 2009. A District Plan Review Subcommittee was formed and a number of preliminary tasks have been undertaken.

Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy

In May 2006, the Council adopted its Earthquake-Prone Buildings Policy, as required by section 131 of the Building Act 2004. There is no prescribed date for reviewing this policy but Council undertook a review in response to the realisation that the 'active and passive approach' in the policy would have significant cost to the Council (in funding the preliminary assessments) and major impact on the central business areas of the main towns (in terms of detailed assessments and strengthening work).

A further consideration of the policy will be prepared and consulted on during the coming year.



Concerns

Proposed One Plan

Submissions to the proposed One Plan from Horizons Regional Council closed in September 2007. Since then, there have been a series of discussions – formal and informal, with other territorial authorities in the region and with Horizons – to define an agreed approach. Last year's report noted that Council is not convinced that, as currently released, the proposed One Plan provides a sufficiently robust and balanced approach to the very

diverse environmental and economic needs of the region. This remains the case.

At the time of preparing this Annual Report, hearings on the proposed One Plan are continuing.

Regional economic development

The previous government's decision to establish 'macro-regions' (based on regional council boundaries) developed little traction in the Horizons region.

The Major Regional Initiative (MRI) in tourism, deriving from the earlier established partnership between Ruapehu, Wanganui and Rangitikei District Councils and Iwi in these three districts, was subject to a formal review by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and the final year's funding (2009/10) confirmed. A major question to be addressed during the coming year is how this initiative can be sustained so that the region captures an increasing share of domestic and international visitors.

Amalgamation

The creation of the Auckland 'Super City' and discussions in various other parts of the country (including neighbouring authorities) about amalgamation led Council to commission an independent study on the merits (or otherwise) of amalgamation. On the basis of this study (published on Council's website), Council decided against taking steps to explore any options for amalgamation. It seems unlikely that the government will seek to force any amalgamation before the October 2010 local government elections.

Transparency and Accountability Framework ('TAFM')

The Minister for Local Government has spoken frequently of strengthening transparency and accountability in local government to its respective ratepayers, but the specific proposals (to be formulated in terms of amendments to the Local Government Act 2002) have yet to be released. It is unclear whether these changes will impose new requirements (and thus costs) and/or restrict the ability of councils to provide leadership over critical issues such as infrastructure.

Broadband

Earlier in the year, the new government suspended the Broadband Initiatives Fund to which the Council had made a funding application. In its place a programme of improvement for urban centres entirely omitted any consideration of the Rangitikei. At the end of the reporting year, proposals for rural New Zealand had yet to be released.



Finance

Financial Information

Explanation of major variances against budget

Detailed below are explanations for major variations from the estimated figures in the 2008/09 Annual Plan.

Statement of Financial Performance

The net operating surplus for the year is \$3.851 million. This operating surplus assisted in the funding of capital expenditure and transfers to investments to cover future years expenditure. The budgeted operating surplus for the year was \$3.843 million. The most significant variations are:

- New Zealand Transport Agency income was higher by \$2.139 million due to flood damage refund
- Capital expenditure was \$7.1million less as a result of project delays. This resulted in cash reserves being higher and therefore investment income rose by \$365,000
- Forestry Harvest was delayed resulting in a decrease in Income of \$261,000
- Roothing costs higher by \$2.200 million – due to flood damage not budgeted for
- Depreciation on Utilities higher by \$599,000 due to revaluation increase

Statement of Cash Flows

Net cash at the end of the year of \$6.098 million is \$2.322 million higher than the forecast of \$3.776 million. The most significant variations are:

- Interest income higher by \$327,000 because of higher cash funds
- Sales of Assets not budgeted for of \$176,000
- Other Income higher by \$1.569 million mainly due to New Zealand Transport Agency refund for flood damage
- Proceeds from Investments below budget as sales not necessary \$2.360 million

Statement of Financial Position

RDC has net assets of \$471.336 million as oppose to budgeted Annual Plan forecast of \$492.529 million. The most significant variations are:

- Reserves lower by \$20.468 million chiefly due to Revaluations being lower than expected
- Cash and cash equivalents higher by \$2.322 million due to capital spending being under budget
- Trade and other receivables higher due to more activity on roading by \$1.250 million
- Financial Assets and Investments higher by \$1.122 million because of delays in capital spending
- Accounts Payable higher because of greater roading activity by \$1.936 million
- Other (non current) Financial Assets higher as lower capital spend needed \$4.326 million
- Fixed Assets lower by \$28,151 million because of less capital additions and lower revaluations

The following table shows Income and Expenditure and Changes in Equity table for Council and Group* for year ended 30 June 2009

Summary Statement of Financial Performance and Changes in Equity

	Council			Group	
	Actual 2009 \$000	Budget 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000	Actual 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000
Operating Revenue	31,435	28,832	26,033	31,576	26,183
Operating Expenditure	27,584	24,989	23,477	27,701	23,565
Operating surplus/(deficit) before tax	3,851	3,843	2,556	3,875	2,618
Share of Associate surplus (deficit)	-	-	-	(11)	(5)
Net surplus/(deficit) before Tax	3,851	3,843	2,556	3,864	2,613
Income Tax Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) after Tax	3,851	3,843	2,556	3,864	2,613
Total recognised revenue and expenses	3,851	3,843	2,556	3,864	2,613
Fair Value and Revaluation Reserves	-	-	18,805	-	18,804
Equity at beginning of year	467,485	488,686	446,124	467,934	446,517
Equity at end of year	471,336	492,529	467,485	471,798	467,934



Equity is made up of the following:

	Council			Group	
	Actual 2009 \$000	Budget 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000	Actual 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000
Accumulated Funds	449,398	450,236	445,780	449,860	446,229
Total Reserves	21,938	42,293	21,705	21,938	21,705
Total Equity	471,336	492,529	467,485	471,798	467,934

The following Cash Flow Table shows how Council and Group* generated and used cash for year ended 30 June 2009

Summary Statement of Cashflows

	Council			Group	
	Actual 2009 \$000	Budget 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000	Actual 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	13,132	12,617	10,043	13,187	10,145
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	(12,721)	(17,643)	(12,988)	(12,873)	(13,002)
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash held	411	(5,026)	(2,945)	314	(2,857)
Opening Cash Balance	5,687	8,802	8,632	6,007	8,864
Closing Cash Balance	6,098	3,776	5,687	6,321	6,007

The following table shows the financial position of the Council and Group* as at 30 June 2009

Summary Statement of Financial Position

	Council			Group	
	Actual 2009 \$000	Budget 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000	Actual 2009 \$000	Actual 2008 \$000
Total Equity	471,336	492,529	467,485	471,798	467,934
Current Assets	10,614	5,920	10,460	10,923	10,777
Less: Current Liabilities	4,814	3,055	4,006	4,841	4,028
Net Working Capital	5,800	2,864	6,454	6,082	6,749
Non Current Assets					
Operational & Restricted Assets	21,323	17,087	21,930	21,545	22,170
Infrastructural Assets	439,703	472,090	434,756	439,703	434,756
Intangible Assets – Computer Software	57	52	75	57	75
Biological Assets - Forestry	451	882	661	451	661
Investment in Associate	-	-	-	(5)	6
Other Financial Assets	4,553	227	4,267	4,516	4,175
Total Non Current Assets	466,087	490,338	461,689	466,267	461,843
Non Current Liabilities	551	674	658	551	658
Net Assets	471,336	492,529	467,485	471,798	467,934



The following table summarises the Capital Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2009

Summary Capital Expenditure

Capital Expenditure	Actual 2008/09 \$000	Budget 2008/09 \$000
Roading	11,442	12,614
Water	946	2,849
Wastewater	465	2,890
Stormwater	189	639
Rubbish and Recycling Services	68	168
Information Provision	88	135
Parks and Reserves	27	442
Community Safety	-	16
Properties	86	530
Community Leadership and Miscellaneous	188	359
Total	13,499	20,643

Capital Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2009 was \$13,499 million (2008 - \$10,802 million)

Work on the Taihape Napier Road proceeded throughout the year, and 7.04 kilometres was sealed as at 30 June 2009. The remaining 14.06 kilometres was programmed for completion by the end of May 2010.

In addition projects in Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Parks and Reserves and Properties were not carried out during the year. Most have been carried forward to be completed in 2009/2010.

Full details can be found in the relevant Cost of Service Statements in the full Annual Report.

The full Capital Works expenditure details can be found on Pages 132-135 of the full Annual Report.

* Notes

- 1 The Group consists of Council and its subsidiaries - Marton Aquatic and Leisure Trust and the Rangitikei Mayoral Relief Trust, and its Associate Ruapehu Wanganui Rangitikei Economic Development Trust (RED Trust)
- 2 The specific disclosures in the summary financial report have been extracted from the full financial report which was adopted and authorised for issue by Council on 29 October 2009
- 3 The Financial Statements are for the year ended 30 June 2009 and all figures are in New Zealand dollars and rounded to the nearest thousand dollars
- 4 The summary financial report cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as the full financial report. The full financial report, which received an unqualified Audit Opinion on 29 October 2009, is available from the District Council Office, Libraries and Information Centres, and on our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz
- 5 The summary financial report has been examined by the Auditor for consistency with the full financial report. An unqualified audit report is included with this summary.
- 6 Rangitikei District Council (RDC) has applied Financial Reporting Standard 43 (FRS 43) and this summary is in compliance with this Standard
- 7 The full financial statements were prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (NZ GAAP), and an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with NZ IFRS in its full financial statements
- 8 RDC has designated itself a Public Benefit entity (PBE) for purposes of New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS)

Commitments

Commitments for non-cancellable contracts within the next 5 years total \$18.106 million principally for contracts for road maintenance and supply of professional services. Full details can be found on p.83 of the Annual Report.

Contingencies

Ownership of Turakina Beach Road

RDC has made an application to the Maori Land Court concerning the ownership of Turakina Beach Road. Settlement of this litigation may involve payment of some compensation. (2008: Ownership of Turakina Beach Road)

Marton Swim Centre

The previous contractor for the operation of Marton Swim Centre is disputing the termination of the contract, and is involving the RDC in litigation over the matter. The contractor is claiming \$40,000 but RDC does not believe it will be liable.

Santoft Fire

A major fire took place in March 2007 in Santoft Forest. RDC is in the process of a legal case to recover the costs of fighting this fire of \$190,000 plus GST. RDC is confident that these costs will be recovered and has made no provision for these costs, apart from a provision to cover its legal costs.

Post Balance Date Events

RDC has no post balance date events

The Council Controlled Organisation Manawatu-Wanganui LASS LTD was set up in 2008 by seven Local Councils to investigate the possibilities of economies of scale by joint procurement.

To date there has been no call on share capital and no financial transactions. Rangitikei District Council will own one-seventh or 14% of this Company and has a liability for \$1,000 share capital.



Levels of Service

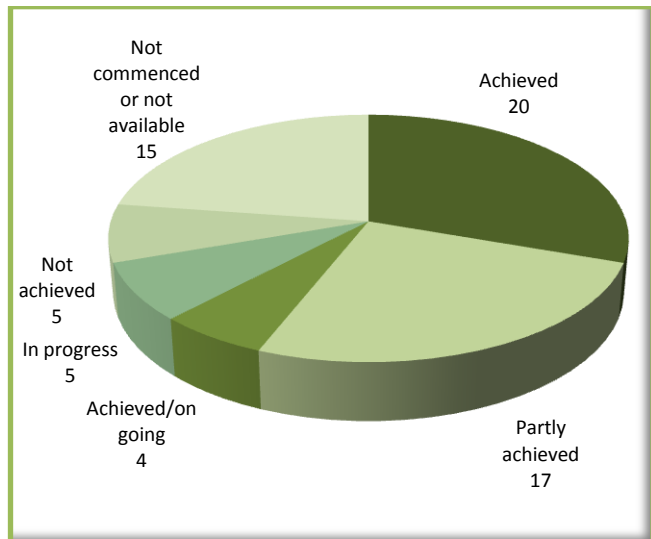
An overall assessment of the actual levels of service compared with what was intended has a less certain basis than measuring financial performance. Some performance objectives may turn out to be unrealistic for the operating environment; some may be set to mirror past years' performance; and some may measure comparatively trivial transactions. In addition, the intended levels of service have varying degrees of Council control.

For example, one of the intended levels of service is for increasing employment in the agricultural sector. Council is not an employer in the sector and its capacity to influence such a result is limited. However, employment in the agricultural sector is a critical issue for the District's economy. Including it as an intended level of service leads to interventions like facilitating the feasibility analysis of an agricultural training school or the broader promotion of the District as a good place to live (both with the idea of increasing the skilled labour pool available to farmers).

At the other end of the spectrum is the intended level of service that Council will comply with conditions of all resource consents for the operation of waste transfer stations and closed landfills.

A number of intended levels of service have been unable to be reported because of lack of data – particularly in distinguishing routine and priority responses. This has been addressed in the 2009/19 LTCCP by undertaking a comprehensive review of all intended levels of service and their associated performance indicators.

The following chart shows that 36% of the intended levels of service were achieved, and another 33% were partially achieved or in progress.

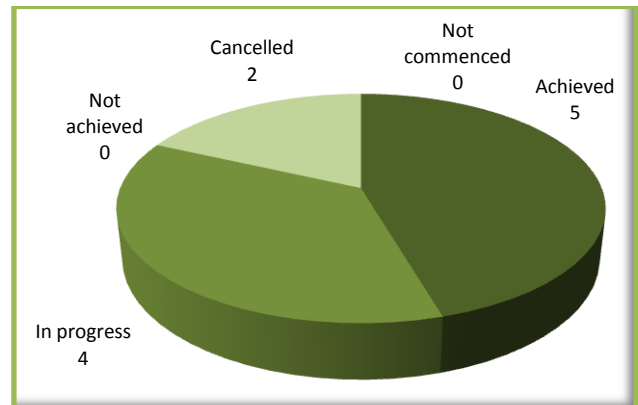


Progress with Community projects

The 2006-2016 LTCCP identifies 11 community projects, whose common characteristic is that they entail a degree of funding from the locality where the project is based. The projects (and results for 2008/09) are:

Community Development	Bulls Community Co-ordinator	Achieved
	Bridge Street undergrounding power and associated works	Achieved
	Marton Community Co-ordinator	Achieved
	Taihape Project and Events Co-ordinator	Achieved
Parks and Reserves	Koitiata – floating bridge over estuary	Cancelled
	Taihape – Swan Street and Huia Street/Hautapu Street walkways	In progress
	Playground equipment in Outback	In progress
Properties	Huntermville Hall project	Cancelled
Roads and Transportation	Bulls – Bridge Street upgrading footpath	In progress
	Scotts Ferry – Parewanui Road – raising road at secondary stopbank	Completed
	Taihape – CBD footpath upgrade	In progress

The following chart depicts the year's result:





Significant variances from intended levels of service

Just 7% of the intended levels of service have not been achieved. This is an improvement on last year's results. The significant variances from intended levels of service were:

- Decreasing (rather than increasing) employment in the agricultural sector

- Decreasing (rather than increasing) visitor counts at the Information Centres
- Roothing contractor performance (while improved from last year) is still below the targeted level of service

The table below summarises achievements and non-achievements in the levels of service for each activity.

Activity	What we did	What we didn't manage to do
Community Development	<p>Active town co-ordinator roles in Bulls, Marton and Taihape continued to be supported.</p> <p>Employment in the downstream processing sector continued to rise.</p> <p>12 of the 16 priority one actions in the Leisure Plan were complete or in progress by 30 June 2009.</p>	<p>Employment in the agricultural sector continued to fall.</p> <p>As in other parts of New Zealand, this trend is associated with aggregation of farms, intensification and changed land use.</p> <p>Progress was slower than envisaged with playground equipment in the Taihape Outback, the Hunterville Town Hall project, upgrading footpaths in Bridge Street (Bulls) and the CBD footpath upgrade in Taihape.</p>
Community Leadership and Governance	<p>The 2009/19 LTCCP was completed on time and with a clear opinion from the auditors. This outcome was partly due to the workshops which includes members of the Community Boards, Community Committees and the run with the Council</p> <p>By-elections conducted for vacancies in the Taihape Community Board and the Ratana Community Board.</p>	<p>There were no significant variations from the intended levels of service.</p>
Community Safety	<p>There were adequately trained volunteers for both Emergency Management and the Rural Fire Forces.</p> <p>All rural fire officer is on call and available to respond 24/7.</p>	<p>There were no significant variations from the intended levels of service.</p>
Environmental Services	<p>Scoping activity initiated and District Plan Review Sub Committee workshop scheduled for 6 Aug 2009.</p> <p>Health registrations, liquor licences/certificates, and Land Information Memorandums issued within legislative timeframe.</p> <p>All reports of dog attacks and stock on road were responded to within 30 mins of call being received.</p>	<p>20% of all land use consents and 55% of subdivision consents were issued out of time.</p> <p>This was a result of internal staffing resourcing issues. External assistance was engaged.</p>
Information Provision	<p>First-time library book borrowing for the year increased by 1.7% over last year.</p> <p>Use of electronic databases soared, largely because of the subscription to the Ancestry Library.</p> <p>88% of all new books were available for borrowing within 30 days of receipt.</p>	<p>Use of Gale databases declined by 25%. The availability of other online resources and simpler search processes are making these specialised databases less attractive in a public library environment.</p> <p>The number of international visitors recorded at the Council's two information centres declined more sharply than the number of recorded overseas visitors to New Zealand.</p>



Activity	What we did	What we didn't manage to do
Investment	Logging commenced in January 2009.	
Parks and Reserves	There were no major achievements (but also no complaints about inadequacy of facilities or the safety of playground equipment)	There were no significant variations from the intended levels of service
Properties	Poolsafe accreditation for Taihape Pool completed.	Requests for service data did not adequately show the number and nature of complaints on safety, maintenance and cleaning of Council's facilities.
Roads and Transportation	<p>No notification from the Police of any repairs needed to road pavement due to any attended crashes.</p> <p>All 37 programmed detailed bridge inspections were completed.</p> <p>Reported streetlight outages were one third of the anticipated number.</p>	Mean monthly non-conformances per kilometre of roading exceeded the intended level of service in seven months.
Rubbish and Recycling	Complied with conditions of all resource consents for the operation of waste transfer stations and closed landfills.	Requests for service data did not adequately show the clearance time of litter and illegal dumping on Council-managed properties.
Stormwater Services	<p>Reticulation renewals have been completed at Eagle Street in Taihape, Paraekaratu Street in Hunterville, Skerman and Hereford Streets in Marton.</p> <p>Over 1.5km of otherwise unrecorded assets have been located and recorded on the district Drainage Plans.</p>	<p>Significantly less progress was achieved with the planned capital and renewal projects in 2008/09 because it took time for new staff to properly evaluate and plan the work in the proposed budget.</p> <p>Requests for service data did not adequately show the number and nature of faults regarding stormwater services and the response time to make good.</p>
Wastewater Services	<p>Proactive discussions with Horizons Regional Council to secure a discharge permit for treated secondary wastewater from the Koiitiata Wastewater Treatment Plan.</p> <p>No environmental incidents were recorded by Horizons Regional Council.</p>	<p>Significantly less progress was achieved with the planned capital and renewal projects in 2008/09 because it took time for new staff to properly evaluate and plan the work in the proposed budget.</p> <p>Requests for service data did not adequately show the number and nature of faults regarding stormwater services, and the response time to make good.</p>
Water Services	<p>Preliminary survey analysis for upgrade of Ratana's water supply through the Ministry of Health's Capital Assistance Funding scheme.</p> <p>Completion of Taihape Water Treatment Plant filter upgrades and associated process control software, upgrading of Bulls Water Treatment Plant filters</p> <p>Erewhon resource consent in final stages – awaiting final approval from Iwi [provided in October 2009].</p>	Requests for service data did not adequately show the number and nature of faults regarding water services and the response time to make good.



Auditor's Report

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

Audit Report

**To the readers of Rangitikei District Council and group's
summary annual financial statements, performance information and the
other requirements
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

We have audited the summary financial statements, performance information and the other requirements as set out in pages 1 to 11.

Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary financial statements, performance information and the other requirements represent, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the information reported in the summary financial statements, performance information and the other requirements complies with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements and is consistent with the full financial statements from which it is derived.

We expressed an unqualified audit opinion, in our report dated 29 October 2009, on:

- the full financial statements; and
- the performance information; and
- the Council and group's compliance with the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report.

Basis of Opinion

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards. Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with or interests in Rangitikei District Council or any of its subsidiaries.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary annual report and we are responsible for expressing an opinion on those summary financial statements, performance information and the other requirements. These responsibilities arise from the Local Government Act 2002.

Phil Kennerley, Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand
29 October 2009