



## the journey to the Long Term Plan 2012 - 2022

In this edition, we look at Waste Minimisation options and Business and District Promotion

### Waste Minimisation

Council must produce a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) for the District which needs to be up and running by July 2012. An early draft WMMP is available for comment on the Council website at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz). The main issues for our District are:

Council received a special rate for waste disposal at Bonny Glen due to the agreement that was put in place when Bonny Glen was sold. This special rate will last the lifetime of Bonny Glen site, and applies to tonnage below an annual quantity of 8000 tonnes. Because of this, charges at the Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) have been lower in the Rangitikei, than for other districts.

In order to keep waste disposal below 8000 tonnes each year, Council has increased disposal charges at the WTS to reflect market prices. This means the benefit of the special rate goes to all ratepayers. However, raised prices can increase the risk of illegal dumping and fly-tipping. This certainly detracts from the beauty of the Rangitikei District, and a greater awareness of the anti-social nature of such behaviour needs to be created.

Green waste makes up a large percentage of the waste disposed of at WTS, possibly up to 30% by weight. Introducing green waste recycling would considerably reduce the tonnage of waste going to landfill in the Rangitikei District. There would be initial and ongoing costs to consider if green waste recycling were to be introduced.

Local surveys indicate that Rangitikei residents and ratepayers want more opportunities for recycling and re-use of waste. Currently, Council operates recycling facilities at the WTS in Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Mangaweka, Hunterville and Ratana. Council also provides funding for education initiatives around reuse and recycling in primary schools around the District. The approximate cost of existing services is provided below.

Existing initiatives	Estimated cost pa
Education initiatives with primary school age children across the district.	\$25,000
Tyre collection at transfer stations	Nil
Paintwise Scheme at transfer stations	Negligible
Recycling facilities for glass/ paper/ card, plastics, tin/al cans, scrap metal (including whiteware), gas cylinders, oil, hazardous waste and agricultural containers at Waste Transfer stations	\$74,000
Annual e-day collection of electronic goods	\$1,000
Total existing cost	\$100,000
Average costs to ratepayers per annum of existing recycling services	\$11.50

Council can consider additional recycling services –

the preferred options are given below but will come at an additional cost to the ratepayer.

Suggested new initiatives	Estimated cost pa
Set up costs (one-off cost) for green waste disposal at larger transfer stations (including analysis of waste streams)	\$45,000
Average one-off cost for ratepayers to establish green waste recycling	\$5.25
On-going additional costs	
Approximate running costs for green waste service.	\$24,000
Extend paper and cardboard recycling to Taihape transfer station	\$1,000
Provide clean fill recycling at Taihape and Marton transfer stations	\$1,500
Provide drop-off facilities in towns, for example, in car park areas	\$20,000
Items recovered from pits at transfer stations for reuse	Income?
Total additional costs	\$52,500
Average costs to ratepayers per annum of additional recycling services	\$5.40

### Business and District Promotion

Over the winter, Council commissioned a review of its current economic development activities. The initial results are outlined below.

Primary production is the dominant driver of the District economy. Other contributing industries are manufacturing, retailing, tourism and hospitality, construction, and service industries (e.g. real estate, financial services, insurance). In other words, most of what is found in big cities is also operating within the District, just at a smaller scale. The economic success of the District is closely linked to the success of the wider Manawatu/Wanganui region, and indeed, New Zealand nationally. There is very little that can be done at a District level to directly impact indicators such as Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or the share of this GDP held by any particular sector.

Council supports the district economy by providing "effective infrastructure and attractive towns that entice growth". It also invests in promoting the District as a place to visit and to live, by providing information for visitors and residents on a range of services, activities and attractions – through the information centres, town coordinators and Rangitikei Tourism. Council also supports many events and activities that add to the vibrancy of its towns, through its grants programme, the Community Initiatives Fund.

Part of the funding of the town co-ordinators and Rangitikei Tourism is to help Council support, encourage and facilitate business investment within the towns and District. Council also seeks out partnerships to support this, for example, the employment of a Youth Employment and Business Support Officer in conjunction with the Ministry for Social Development.

In partnership with other local economic development agencies, Council also undertook a Business Retention and Expansion survey of local businesses.

From this survey, the top three issues slowing expansion of local businesses were Central Government policy and regulations, high fuel costs and access to capital. Local government regulations and policy settings were less of a barrier. Respondents wished to see Council work more closely with business. The key priority for employer's was for Council to keep compliance low so it was easy to do business.

Three key areas that could be addressed by a more collaborative approach district wide, and targeted effort from Council were firstly, the importance of opportunities for businesses to get together and network, secondly training and support to tackle business planning and skills shortages and thirdly, participation in regional business partnerships.

21% of responses identified that the location of the Rangitikei was a key advantage to be emphasised. Businesses also valued quality of life, and suggested that this was a key strength that could be used in attracting people to the District.

A comparison of the District and similar territorial district authorities for 2010/11 is given below.

District Council	Population	Rates revenue ('000)	Economic development activity	Expenditure
Rangitikei	14,712	\$15,307	Information centres (\$240,000), Town coordinators (Bulls, Taihape, Marton) and Rangitikei Tourism (\$25,000 each).	\$340,000
Tararua	17,634	\$15,984	Business development (\$33,000), District promotion and the Tararua brand (\$89,000), information and booking centres (\$137,000).	\$259,000
Ruapehu	13,572	\$17,820	Economic development (\$177,000), Regional Tourism organisation (\$258,000), Visitor Information Centres (\$250,000).	\$685,000
Central Hawkes Bay	12,948	\$15,059	Economic development contracted to CHB Promotions (\$133,000).	\$133,000

We want your feedback on these issues - the existing and suggested Recycling Services, and whether Council is doing too much, enough or not enough to support and promote the local economy. We would also welcome comments on what initiatives Council should expand or cease. You can go on-line to [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) to give us your views; write to Waste Minimisation Options or Business and District Promotion Options, Rangitikei District Council, 46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741 or drop your letter in to our service centres in Bulls, Marton and Taihape.

The 10 year plan (2012-22) will be consulted on formally in early 2012, but there is a lot more to do in the meantime to prepare the draft.

### The Rangitikei District Council Long Term Plan Timeline 2011-2012

