

Allie Dunn

From: Allie Dunn
Sent: Wednesday, 19 November 2025 2:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to request for information re Million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketahuna
Attachments: minutes - tararua district council - 30 july 2025(d25_32625).pdf

Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 28 October 2025 for information about the million dollars loan to Pukaha Mt Bruce.

At its meeting on 30 July 2025, the Tararua District Council agreed to transfer the loan to Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership. The partnership will take care of repaying the loan principal, though the interest isn't part of their responsibility.

To make sure the interest is still addressed, Council asked the Chief Executive to prepare a report with options for recovering it through the contestable fund.

You'll find a copy of the meeting minutes attached.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer
Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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17-21 November
2025
25th anniversary

**Fraud
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Week**

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From: Simone Anthony
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2025 9:49 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketahuna..

Kia ora [REDACTED]

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information regarding the million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketāhuna.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 25 November 2025, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

As part of our commitment to openness and accountability, we are now proactively publishing copies of requests for information and the responses provided to these requests, on our website. In doing so, we will ensure we comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020 and redact any personal / identifying information from any response published.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Ngā mihi,



Simone Anthony | Democracy Support Officer
Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2025 4:36 pm
To: Info - Tararua District Council <Info-Tararua.DistrictCouncil@Tararuadc.govt.nz>
Subject: Million dollars to bird sanctuary at Eketahuna..

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Sent from my iPad

To Whom it may Concern.

I wish to have some information about the \$1,000,000 loan the Tararua District Council took out and gave to the Bird Sanctuary at Eketahuna and for which the Council now pays \$149,000 pa in interest. Which was done with little or no public discussion.

This money could have been spent on much more needed infrastructure/projects.

Now that Rangitane have taken over the Sanctuary will they now be taking over the loan and interest payments?

The Tararua Councils area houses many retired pensioners and every year rates go up, like everything else we have to pay, and this year the hike was high and appears we, along with all ratepayers, appear, once again, to be paying ridiculous spending.

Please don't give the speech that the birds are important, as I realise to some extent they are, but as a Council, this spending should be much further down the list of need.

I also wish that the people who continually complain about this matter, would complain to you people instead of every person they speak to daily.

I would appreciate a reply to this email asap. Thank you.

[REDACTED]



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 30 July 2025 commencing at 9:30 am.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin (via Teams), S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr D Pettigrew	- Xyst Limited (via Teams)
Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms T McDonald	- Chief Financial Officer
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor
Mr J Single	- Regulatory Services Manager
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Ms A Charmley	- Planning Services Manager
Ms A Rule	- Policy and Planning Advisor
Ms M Cavanagh	- Contractor – Corporate Planning
Mr K van der Oord	- Communications Team Manager
Ms F Chase	- Facilities Manager
Ms K Payne	- Facilities Property Officer
Ms S Fountaine	- Community Engagement Officer
Mr M Guile	- Procurement Specialist
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer.

3. Acknowledgement

The Tararua District Council acknowledged the sad passing of Mr Michael Lovett, of the Department of Internal Affairs, who had been involved in providing advice on three waters policy and was someone that many of the Chief Executives and

Elected Members in New Zealand had a close relationship with.

4. Apologies

There were no apologies.

5. Public Forum

There were no requests for public forum.

6. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

The following late items of business were notified for consideration in the public excluded session of this meeting:

Executive Search Service - Evaluation

Approval of Loan Agreement – Repayment and Readvance of Pukaha Mt Bruce Board loan to Tu Mai Ra Investments Ltd Partnership

The reasons these items were not listed on the agenda were due to delays in return of the evaluation forms for the Executive Search Service, and the time required to finalise loan documentation.

Consideration of these items cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting because:

Executive Search Service Evaluation: the need to start the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive as soon as possible

Approval of Loan Agreement: conditions of the Sale and Purchase Agreement require finalising by 30 July 2025.

That the following items be accepted as late items for consideration:

Executive Search Service – Evaluation

Crs Peeti-Webber/Chase

Carried

That the following items be accepted as late items for consideration:

Approval of Loan Agreement – Repayment and Readvance of Pukaha Mt Bruce Board loan to Tu Mai Ra Investments Ltd Partnership.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Chase

Carried

Crs S Gilmore and S Wallace recorded their votes against the motion.

7. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

8. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 June 2025 (as circulated) , Extraordinary Council meeting held on 9 July 2025 (as circulated) and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 22 July 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as true and accurate records of the meetings.

Crs Sutherland/Wallace

Carried

9. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

9.1 Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 3 June 2025, and the meeting held 1 July 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

9.2 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 02 July 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

9.3 Minutes - Eketahuna Community Board

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 14 July 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

9.4 Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 21 July 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

10. Reports

10.1 Deliberations on Matters During the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw Consultation

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Policy and Planning Advisor dated 16 June 2025 that presented the results of the public consultation on the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, and sought decisions on each of the matters raised through the consultation for application to the final version of the bylaw, for adoption at the 27 August 2025 Council meeting.

In discussion, the Council reviewed the proposed recommendations from officers and agreed with the proposed responses to matters raised through submissions. It was noted during discussion of the proposed response for matters raised regarding freedom camping in Herbertville, that the request for more rubbish bins was an operational matter that did not need to be addressed through the bylaw.

With regard to discussions about freedom camping in Akitio, concerns were noted about high water use during the peak summer season impacting on the town's water supply. It was noted that members of Council's Three Waters team had met with the Akitio Ratepayers Association who would be assisting with a stock take of water tanks for properties connected to the water supply.

That the report from the Policy and Planning Advisor dated 16 June 2025 concerning the Deliberations on Matters During the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw Consultation be received.

That the Tararua District Council note the matters raised through submissions on the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

That the officer recommendations in this report in response to matters raised through submissions regarding prohibitions and restrictions in the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw be made.

That changes and corrections to the bylaw as noted in sections 9 and 10 of this report are made.

Crs Johns/Wards

Carried

Cr M Long left the meeting at 10:13am.

9.2 Deliberations on Matters During Draft Reserve Management Plan Consultation

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Facilities Manager dated 18 July 2025 that presented for consideration the results of the public consultation on the draft Reserve Management Plan and sought decisions on each of the matters raised through the consultation for application to the final

version of the Plan, for adoption at the 27 August 2025 Council meeting.

Mr Dafydd Pettigrew, of Xyst, was in attendance to answer questions relating to the draft Reserves Management Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am and resumed at 10:21am. Cr M Long returned to the meeting at 10:21am.

During discussion it was noted that the Facilities team were keen to work closely with the community and the Council's attention was drawn to the clause within the Plan that requires officers to engage with the entire community. From the submissions received, two changes had been made to the draft Plan. Officers spoke about the involvement of Council's iwi partners in developing the draft Plan and noted that this was a legal obligation of the Council. With regard to the clause in the Plan regarding renaming of reserves, it was noted that this clause provides a policy framework for officers in the event that there was a proposal to rename any reserve. It was highlighted that any renaming proposal would be undertaken in consultation with the community.

Cr A Franklin left the meeting at 10:40am.

In discussion, there was a suggestion that officer's recommendation 21 which outlined the requirement for officers to engage with the community be strengthened. However it was noted that there were multiple clauses throughout the Plan requiring consultation with the community.

Mr Pettigrew of Xyst Limited provided context for any requests for amendments, noting the prescriptive nature of legislation that covered the developing of a Reserves Management Plan. This involved two rounds of consultation, and following this, material changes could only be made in relation to matters raised through submissions.

In response to a suggestion that wherever iwi partnerships were mentioned within the Plan, that community groups be included in that wording, it was advised that the role of iwi holds a higher status through the Treaty of Waitangi, the Reserves Act and the Local Government Act. Where the Plan referred to iwi partnerships was within the section relating to manawhenua partnerships.

That the report from the Facilities Manager dated 18 July 2025 concerning the Deliberations on Matters During Draft Reserve Management Plan Consultation be received.

That the Tararua District Reserve Management Plan – Officers Responses to Submissions be received.

That the Officer recommendations in the Tararua District Reserve Management Plan – Officer Responses to Submissions for amendments to the draft Tararua District Omnibus Reserve Management Plan (RMP) be applied to the final version of the RMP for adoption by Council at its August 2025 meeting with

consideration given to strengthening recommendation 21 re communication, naming of reserves and the wording regarding iwi and community.

Crs Johns/Peeti-Webber

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 11:06am and resumed at 11:24am.

10.3 Reserve Management Plan - Land Status and Classification

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Facilities Manager dated 24 July 2025 that sought confirmation of land to continue to be held under the Tararua District Reserve Classification report, and approve public notification of the proposal to declare and classify parcels of land in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

Officers advised of some minor amendments that were needed, which were as follows:

- One parcel needed to be removed from the map ID 421598 as this was entered in error and was Ministry of Education land;
- Associated townships on some of the listings needed correction due to incorrect labels;
- Three parcels of Dannevirke domain need classification and inclusion in the maps.

It was noted that the classification process was an administrative process. It was suggested that a list of the parcels of land classified as reserve be provided to the Community Boards and Community Committees for their information.

That the report from the Facilities Manager dated 24 July 2025 concerning the Reserve Management Plan - Land Status and Classification be received.

That the Council:

Confirm 25 parcels of land that will continue to be held under the Local Government Act 2002 as described in Attachment B of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report, noting the corrections required as advised by officers.

Approve public notification of the proposal to declare and classify 3 parcels of land according to their primary purpose, pursuant to section 14(2) of the Reserves Act 1977 as described in Attachment C of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report.

Approve the classification of 152 parcels of reserve land pursuant to section 16(1) and 16(2A) of the Reserves Act 1977, as described in Attachment D of the

Tararua District Reserve Classification report

Approve public notification of the proposal to reclassify 3 parcels of reserve land pursuant to section 24(2)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977, as described in Attachment E of the Tararua District Reserve Classification report.

Crs Wallace/Johns

Carried

10.4 2024/2025 Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Regulatory Services Manager dated 27 June 2025 that sought adoption of the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices as required under provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996. It was noted that in publication of the agenda, one of the tables within the report had moved so that it obscured some of the wording, and a copy of the report was circulated that showed the wording. In response to a question about whether any dogs that were suitable for rehoming had been euthanised in the past year, it was noted that there were none that had been euthanised that were suitable for rehoming.

That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 27 June 2025 concerning the 2024/2025 Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices be received.

Crs Sutherland/Gilmore

Carried

10.5 Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Regulatory Services Manager dated 30 June 2025 that statistical information for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

During discussion, concerns were noted regarding the Stop Plan Policy announced by the Coalition Government, and it was asked whether there was any opportunity for Council's concerns about the impact on the Tararua District from this policy to be raised to the Minister. It was noted that this policy impacted on the Council's ability to continue with rezoning to accommodate the expected demand for housing growth, and it was noted that it had been intended to programme for growth through the next Long Term Plan, noting the cost of providing infrastructure was a responsibility of the developer.

It was noted that there would be value in writing to the Minister to outline the issues faced by the Tararua District. Clarification was provided that the changes being proposed by the Government were to introduce a development levy, and there had been talk about introducing a targeted rate for the growth element. If this was introduced by the Government, then the Council would not be introducing these elements.

That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 30 June 2025

concerning the Regulatory Services Report 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Wards

Carried

10.6 Cyclone Gabrielle Final Report and Transition Document

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Procurement Specialist dated 12 June 2025 that presented the final report concluding the Tararua District Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Programme.

Representatives from the Manawatu-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management office and the Rural Support Trust were in attendance.

Officers spoke about key achievements, highlighting the events held in collaboration with the Rural Support Trust, and working with the six marae and 13 Civil Defence groups.

In the Economic space, two reports had been funded one being a macro-economic report and the other a micro-economic report which provided information on the impact on the area and the recovery which highlighted ongoing recovery efforts needed going forward.

Representatives from the Rural Support Trust thanked the Council for their support and spoke about the learnings from the partnerships and networks that really helped achieve the outcomes they had. On the rural side, they noted that one of the big things was the ability to get into the rural communities and assist with hands on help. They noted the usefulness of the information received from surveys and the practical help provided.

Officers spoke about the assistance from Horizons Regional Council in the natural space and in the recovery side. The representative from the Manawatu-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management office thanked the team, noting that the response and recovery had set a benchmark for other Councils to follow. She noted the model followed by Council's team had been shared with the Civil Defence team in Nelson who were following this model in their current response.

That the report from the Procurement Specialist dated 12 June 2025 concerning the Cyclone Gabrielle Final Report and Transition Document be received.

Mayor Collis/Wards

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:16pm and resumed at 12:50pm.

10.7 Notification of Urgent Contestable fund recipients

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Community Engagement Officer dated 8 July 2025 that sought decisions on urgent contestable fund

applications.

In response to a question about why one applicant had been allocated more funding than what had been applied for, it was advised that this was due to the new criteria that had been adopted by the Council for international representatives.

That the report from the Community Engagement Officer dated 08 July 2025 concerning the Notification of Urgent Contestable fund recipients be received.

That allocation of Urgent contestable fund amount be taken from the total allocated for round 1 2025/26

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Amount Allocated</i>
<i>2001 - Mr Brodie Bennett</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>2002 - Dannevirke Bowling Club Woman's 4s Team</i>	<i>\$2,955.45</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>2004 - Mr Jamie Monaghan</i>	<i>\$2,250</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>2003 - Tararua Community Youth Services Charitable Trust</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>2005 - Jodie Kent</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$68,205.45</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>
<i>Amount remaining for round 1 2025/2026</i>		<i>\$46,000</i>

Crs Johns/Wallace

Carried

10.8 **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Solar Renewable Energy Funding**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Community Engagement Officer dated 8 July 2025 that presented information on the funding opportunity available through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority's Community Renewable Energy Fund Programme and outlined the next phase of implementation.

It was noted that nominations had to be made to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority today and information on successful applicants would be released once the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority had made their selection.

That the report from the Community Engagement Officer dated 08 July 2025 concerning the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority Solar Renewable Energy Funding be received.

Crs Long/Wallace

Carried

10.9 Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 30 June 2025 that provided information on the Remuneration Authority’s new Home Security System Allowance outlined in the recently released 2025-26 Local Government Elected Members Remuneration Determination.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 30 June 2025 concerning the Elected Members Allowances and Expense Reimbursement Policy be received.

Crs Johns/Chase

Carried

10.10 Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 10 July 2025 that provided information on requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 10 July 2025 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Sutherland/Gilmore

Carried

11. Portfolio Reports

11.1 Cr S Gilmore: acknowledged the work of Positively Woodville for their work in beautification of Woodville, and with the flags recently installed in the main thoroughfare.

11.2 Cr S Wards: spoke about Ruralfest, that she had attended on behalf of the Council. She explained that the Ruralfest was a call to action in Parliament, that was attended by a mix of health representatives, as well as herself, and had a good attendance of Ministers including the Health Minister. The focus was on three – four key points that they discussed and sought an update on from the Ministers present. Key areas discussed were around workforce issues, rural – proofing and the importance for when decisions were made that it was harder and more expensive to deliver services in a rural setting. There was discussion around access to diagnostic services, suggesting a subsidy for accessing services

outside of town.

- 11.3 Cr N Chase: spoke about her attendance at the Local Government New Zealand Conference and Te Maruata Hui with Māori elected members and iwi partners. She noted the experiences shared by other elected members and the address at the conference about the abuse of elected members, and the experiences of female elected members facing harassment and bullying in their roles. She spoke about the discussions on partnership with iwi and building relationships, and talked about other community groups with their histories and being able to build collaborative relationships with them as well and the success from building relationships and working in partnerships. She spoke about the updates on reforms that were proposed.
- 11.4 Cr S Wallace: spoke about his attendance at the Local Government New Zealand conference, noting the address by the Deputy Prime Minister who spoke about the cost pressures driving rates increases.
- 11.5 Her Worship the Mayor: spoke about attendance at the Local Government New Zealand Conference, noting there was lots of discussion about the proposed rates cap, and noted that although there was an affordability issue in the country, when talking about capping core services this would cause further issues. She noted the announcement by Minister Chris Bishop at the conference on the new Stop Plan Policy.

12. Mayoral Matters

- 12.1 Her Worship the Mayor noted the request for a letter to be sent to the Minister outlining the impacts on the Tararua District from the Stop Plan Policy.
- 12.2 Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged Chief Executive Bryan Nicholson's last meeting of the Tararua District Council. She spoke about his contributions to the Council, noting he joined the Council during the Covid period, dealing with lockdowns and also his leadership through Cyclone Gabrielle. She spoke about him as a steady hand providing good advice, and acknowledged his work and achievements, both locally and regionally.

In response the Chief Executive spoke about issues experienced with Infrastructure which had provided the opportunity to plan for the future. He spoke about how overall he felt the decisions made by the Council had been the right ones, and that the district was in a good space. He acknowledged the outstanding staff within the organisation and wished everyone the best for the future.

13. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

14. Public Excluded Items of Business

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of Minutes

Executive Search Evaluation

Approval of Loan Agreement – Repayment and Readvance of Pukaha Mt Bruce Board loan to Tu Mai Ra Investments Ltd Partnership

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

<i>General subject matter to be considered</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
<i>Confirmation of Minutes</i>	<i>To protect commercial and industrial negotiations</i>	<i><Section (1)(a)(i)</i>
<i>Executive Search Evaluation</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>
<i>Approval of Loan Agreement – Repayment and Readvance of Pukaha Mt Bruce Board loan to Tu Mai Ra Investments Ltd Partnership</i>	<i>As above</i>	<i>As above</i>

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48 (1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

s7(2)(i) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Councillors S Gilmore and S Wallace recorded their votes against the resolution

The meeting went into public excluded session at 1:23pm and resumed open business session at 3:26pm.

15. Report of Public Excluded Decision released to Open Session – Approval of Loan Agreement – Repayment and Readvance of Pūkaha Mt Bruce Board loan to Tū Mai Rā Investments Ltd Partnership

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager dated 28 July 2025 that presented to Council the draft loan agreement, deed of acknowledgement of debt and guarantee and indemnity documentation for Council's approval.

The report also explained the arrangements whereby the original loan to Pūkaha Mount Bruce Board would be repaid, and the Council would advance a loan to Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership, with security provided by Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust in the form of a guarantee. It was noted that the repayment and advance of the loan would be book entries only and no money would change hands.

The Council were reminded of its previous resolution, made at its meeting held 25 June 2025, where the Council agreed in principle to the proposal to transfer the loan of \$1,000,000 to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, and delegated authority to the Chief Executive to negotiate the terms and conditions of the transfer of the loan from Pūkaha Mount Bruce Board to Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, subject to confirmation of the agreement by the Council in a public excluded report.

The Chief Executive was also directed to pursue security under any loan agreement, to ensure that the Council was in a better situation for recovering the \$1 million, and that there be regular reporting on the status of the loan.

Officers advised that negotiations had now concluded and the loan agreement was presented to Council for confirmation.

In discussion officers advised that interest on the \$1 million loan was not part of the deal. The original loan documents already had stepped repayment of the principal included, however that had been made clearer in the new loan documents.

With regard to the Deed of Acknowledgement of debt, this recorded the arrangement where the old loan would be repaid and the new loan advanced. Pūkaha Mount Bruce Board, Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership and Tararua District Council would sign that document.

It was explained that the loan agreement was the way that the loan would be

advanced to Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership.

The Deed of Guarantee and Indemnity was the method of guaranteeing repayment of the loan which would be signed by Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust as guarantor.

It was advised that the risk of financial default under the original loan is what was being addressed through the new arrangement. The new arrangement would mitigate the Council's risk of loss of funds. All of the documents had been legally reviewed, and key clauses socialised with the entities involved. All parties were in agreement with the contents of the documents.

It was noted that the Guarantee and Indemnity would protect Council against any default.

With regard to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, it was advised that executing the loan agreements and supporting documents would not meet the threshold of a "significant" decision under Council's Significance and Engagement policy, as it is a restructuring of an existing arrangement. The cost to Council of \$146,000 through loss of interest revenue did not trigger the requirements to consult under the Significance and Engagement Policy. This means there is no consultation required with the community about the transfer of the loan.

Further, the restructuring of the loan would not have a significant impact on Council's finances. Council could investigate options for the treatment of the interest. It was noted that the loan agreement had a built in control that each year there would be a repayment made. A reporting requirement had been included for provision of the Annual Report of Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership to Council which will be built into Council's internal process.

With regard to the cost of foregoing interest of \$146,000 over the remaining term of the loan, a suggestion was made to reduce level of funding made available to the contestable fund, for example from \$100,000 to \$75,000, to recover some of this cost. It was advised that a report could be brought to Council on the suggestion of reducing the contestable fund and the options open to Council to account for the foregone interest. This report would consider the requirement to consult on any proposal.

Councillor S Wards left the meeting at 1:40pm.

In response to a question about whether it was usual for a Council to be lending funds to a commercial entity, officers advised that Council had previously made loans to commercial entities, however it was no longer usual for Council to do this. Following this arrangement, Council would not likely be entering other commercial loans or funding arrangements without consultation with the community. Council now had a contestable fund framework for investment and funding of community projects.

In response to clarification that was sought on the interest on the loan due for repayment in October, it was advised that the interest due under the previous loan's conditions had already been invoiced and is separate to the Deed of Acknowledgement before the Council at this meeting. Going forward there would be no interest costs invoiced to Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership.

In conclusion it was noted that the focus was on correcting a previous investment to mitigate risks that had arisen associated with that previous investment. Officers went over the obligations set out in the loan agreement, and the guarantee. If there was a default in the future, the Council was able to demand repayment of the whole amount, and if that was not paid, then the Guarantor would be responsible for payment and default interest could be included in that event.

That the report from the Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager dated 28 July 2025 concerning the Approval of Loan Agreement - repayment and readvance of Pūkaha Mount Bruce Board loan to Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership be received.

That Council approves the loan agreement and related documents between Tararua District Council and Tū Mai Rā Investments Limited Partnership.

That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Mayor to execute the loan agreement, and deed of acknowledgement of debt on behalf of Council by affixing the common seal.

Crs Johns/Sutherland

Carried

Crs S Gilmore, M Long and S Wallace recorded their votes against the motion.

That the Chief Executive be directed to provide a report to Council on the options available to recover the interest of the loan through the contestable fund.

Crs Sutherland/Chase

Carried

Cr M Long recorded his vote against the motion

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 3:27pm.

Mayor