

## Council

Meeting of 01 April 2026

Business Unit: People and Corporate

Date Created: 12 February 2026

## Submissions made on behalf of Council – 1 November 2025 to 04 March 2026

### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present to Council for information, copies of recent submissions lodged on behalf of the Manawātū District Council.

### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Council receives and notes the listed submissions, lodged on behalf of the Manawātū District Council between 1 November 2025 to 04 March 2026.

- 1 MBIE Insights Briefing – Productivity in a Changing World
- 2 Consultation on amending the Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2)
- 3 Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules for Schemes 501 or more people
- 4 Public consultation on proposed data collection approach and content for the census
- 5 Land Transport (Revenue) Amendment Bill
- 6 Building and Construction Sector (Strengthening Occupational Licensing Regimes) Amendment Bill.
- 7 Building and Construction Sector (Self-Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill.
- 8 Public Works Amendment Bill
- 9 Rates Target Model for New Zealand
- 10 Emergency Management Bill
- 11 Planning Bill
- 12 Natural Environment Bill
- 13 Earthquake Prone Buildings Amendment Bill
- 14 Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill
- 15 Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill
- 16 Simplifying Local Government
- 17 Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections
- 18 Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment

Report prepared by:

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Governance and Strategy Officer

Approved for submission by:

Frances Smorti

General Manager - People and Corporate

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## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 The Council established the Submissions Assessment Panel as a subordinate decision-making body of Council, on 16 June 2022. This was to address timing issues for making submissions within the often-limited submission response timeframes.
- 1.2 The Panel is delegated the authority to consider and approve submissions on regional or national policy consultations, for submitting either under the signature of the Mayor, or under the signature of the Chief Executive.
- 1.3 The Council agreed that to ensure transparency of process, completed submissions would be reported to the next scheduled Council meeting for receipt and noting.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 Not applicable as this is a legislative / operational item.

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The following is a list of submissions that have been lodged on behalf of Council since the last report to Council at the 03 December 2025 meeting.

<b>Attach #</b>	<b>Submission topic:</b>	<b>Date lodged:</b>
1	MBIE Insights Briefing – Productivity in a Changing World	18 Nov 2025
2	Consultation on amending the Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2)	26 Nov 2025
3	Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules for Schemes 501 or more people	19 Dec 2025
4	Public consultation on proposed data collection approach and content for the census	19 Dec 2025
5	Land Transport (Revenue) Amendment Bill	07 Jan 2026
6	Building and Construction Sector (Strengthening Occupational Licensing Regimes) Amendment Bill	08 Jan 2026
7	Building and Construction Sector (Self-Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill	08 Jan 2026
8	Public Works Amendment Bill	26 Jan 2026
9	Rates Target Model for New Zealand	04 Feb 2026
10	Emergency Management Bill	03 Feb 2026
11	Planning Bill	13 Feb 2026
12	Natural Environment Bill	13 Feb 2026
13	Earthquake Prone Buildings Amendment Bill	16 Feb 2026
14	Infrastructure Funding and Financing Amendment Bill	20 Feb 2026
15	Development Levies Consultation and Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill	20 Feb 2026
16	Simplifying Local Government	20 Feb 2026
17	Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections	25 Feb 2026
18	Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment	4 Mar 2026

## 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 Submissions are prepared on behalf of the Manawatū District Council and, depending on the nature of the topic, are intended to reflect the views and needs of the wider Manawatū Community. The primary risk that has been identified in relation to submissions prepared on behalf of Council to national and regional consultations is reputational risk. That is, if individuals or the community at large disagree with the views raised in submission prepared on behalf of the Council and the Manawatū Community, this could be damaging for the reputation of the Council. Council adopts a cautious approach with respect to reputational risk.
- 4.2 Reputational risk is managed via an informed and collaborative approach to preparing submissions. Officers draft submissions using the best available information, including input from technical experts from across the organisation. Officers also consider submissions prepared by local government sector organisations including Taituarā and Local Government New Zealand, where available. Any submissions that involve potentially controversial topics are reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team prior to being shared with the members of the Submissions Assessment Panel.
- 4.3 The submissions assessment panel is made up of elected members, who are democratically elected to represent the views of the Manawatū Community, and members of the executive leadership team. Feedback from the submissions assessment panel members is considered and incorporated where appropriate prior to the final submission being approved by Mayor Ford for lodgement. This collaborative approach to submission drafting ensures that submissions are reflective of the collective views of the Council, rather than individual views.
- 4.4 Where submissions relate to matters of broad Council interest, officers will involve all elected members, not just those that are members on the submissions assessment panel. Where time allows, officers will hold educational workshop sessions and invite feedback on the draft submission prior to it being finalised. This ensures that submissions are representative of the collective views of Council.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

### Community Engagement

- 5.3 The Submissions Assessment Panel is delegated authority to approve submissions for lodging on behalf of the Manawatū District Council. A copy of submissions lodged are required to be reported to a future council meeting for receipt and noting by Council.

## 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 Due to often limited timelines to consider a Council response to regional and national matters, the Submissions Assessment Panel was delegated authority to consider and approve submissions for lodgement on behalf of the Manawatū District Council. This enables Council to contribute to consultations on national and regional policy matters, that often have short timeframes in which to make a submission.

6.2 Copies of submissions lodged under delegated authority are reported to Council for noting and receipt.

## 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 There are no statutory requirements for this report.

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 There are no next steps required.

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Lodged submissions, attached as follows:

ITEM	NAME
1	MBIE Insights Briefing – Productivity in a Changing World
2	Consultation on amending the Second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2)
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5	Land Transport (Revenue) Amendment Bill
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17	Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections

