

Council

Meeting of 01 April 2026

Business Unit: People and Corporate

Date Created: 12 March 2026

Endorsement of the Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region 2025-28

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present the Manawatū-Whanganui Region's Triennial Agreement for the 2025-28 triennium to Council for endorsement.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Council:

1. Endorses the attached Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region for the 2025-28 triennium.
2. Authorises His Worship the Mayor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Council.
3. Appoints His Worship the Mayor as Council's representative on the Climate Action Joint Committee.

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Approved for submission by:

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General Manager - People and Corporate

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Horizons Regional Council has coordinated the development of the Manawatū-Whanganui Triennial Agreement for the 2025–28 triennium, in consultation with the region’s territorial authorities. The agreement has been discussed at the Mayoral Forum, prior to its presentation to councils for adoption.
- 1.2 The Agreement establishes a framework for collaboration between councils across the region, including arrangements for regional leadership and coordination on matters of shared interest. These include environmental resilience, climate change response, infrastructure planning, economic development, and wider regional wellbeing initiatives.
- 1.3 The Agreement also confirms governance arrangements that support regional collaboration, including the Manawatū-Whanganui Mayoral Forum, supported by the region’s Chief Executives Forum.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 This report relates to Council’s strategic priority of **“Value for money and excellence in local government.”**
- 2.2 The Triennial Agreement supports effective collaboration between councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region, enabling coordinated leadership and improved regional outcomes for communities.

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

- 3.1 The attached Triennial Agreement for the Manawatū-Whanganui Region 2025–28 outlines how local authorities in the region will collaborate on matters of shared interest.
- 3.2 The Agreement confirms the continuation of regional governance arrangements, including the Manawatū-Whanganui Mayoral Forum and the Climate Action Joint Committee.
- 3.3 The Climate Action Joint Committee continues across trienniums under Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. However, councils typically confirm their representation following elections. It is therefore recommended that the Mayor be appointed as Council’s representative on the committee.
- 3.4 Council is asked to endorse the Agreement and authorise the Mayor to sign it on behalf of the Council.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 The risk is considered low. Endorsing the Agreement ensures Council meets its statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2002.

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 The Agreement recognises the importance of Māori participation in local decision-making and regional collaboration.

Community Engagement

- 5.3 No community engagement is required.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no operational implications with this report.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no new financial implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Agreement acknowledges existing regional collaboration arrangements, including a secretariat hosted by Horizons Regional Council to support the Manawatū-Whanganui Mayoral Forum. Any associated costs are managed through existing regional arrangements and are not affected by the recommendations in this report.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires local authorities within each region to enter into a Triennial Agreement following each triennial local government election. The purpose of the agreement is to set out how local authorities within a region will work together to promote effective and efficient governance of their districts, cities and the region as a whole.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 If endorsed, the Mayor will sign the Agreement on behalf of the Council and Horizons Regional Council will finalise the Agreement with the region's local authorities.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Triennial Agreement Manawatū-Whanganui Region 2025-2028