

Council

Meeting of 03 June 2026

Business Unit: Infrastructure

Date Created: 19 May 2026

Silver Fern Rally 2026 Road Closure Request

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To consider the application from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd to close various roads within the Manawātū District Council jurisdiction in order to undertake the Silver Fern Rally 2026.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohinga

That the Council, pursuant to Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, permit the following roads to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic on Thursday 3 December 2026, for the purpose of allowing Ultimate Rally Group Ltd to conduct the Silver Fern Rally 2026. This remains subject to the receipt of the Public Liability and Insurance Policy which will be current at the time of the event, and a traffic management plan, prepared by an authorised Site Traffic Management Supervisor and in accordance with the New Zealand Transport Agency Code of Practice of Temporary Traffic Management.

Roads proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic:

Stage Name: ZigZag / Ridge Road

Time of Closure: 07.30am to 12.00pm

Zigzag Road - 200m from its intersection with Valley Road, to its intersection with Finnis Road.

Finnis Road - from its intersection with ZigZag Road, to its intersection with Ridge Road.

Ridge Road - from its intersection with Finnis Road, to stage finish at house #2931 (approx 1km south from its intersection with Reids Line Apiti).

*** Note: To assist with the stage security, the closure is also to include 120 metres of each adjoining road, from where it intersects with the road being applied for.**

Adjoining Roads: Finnis Road, Pollock Road, Branch Road (no exit), Coulters Line, Te Awa Road, Londons Ford Road and Coal Creek Road (no exit).

Stage Name: Peep-O-Day /Waipuru Road

Time of Closure: 08.55am to 01.25pm

Peep-O-Day Road - at its intersection with Rangiwahia Road, to its intersection with Upper Pakihikura Road.

Upper Pakihikura Road - from its intersection with Peep-O-Day Road, to its intersection with Mangapapa Road.

Mangapapa Road - from its intersection with Upper Pakihikura Road, to its change into Waipuru Road.

Waipuru Road - from its intersection with Mangapapa Road, to its intersection with Mangamako Road.

Mangamako Road - from its intersection with Waipuru Road, to finish at house #1437 (approx 2km from its intersection with Otara Road).

*** Note: To assist with the stage security, the closure is also to include 120 metres of each adjoining road, from where it intersects with the road being applied for.**

Adjoining Roads: Ireland Road (no exit), Waituna Tapuae Road, Lower Pakihikura Road, Sandon Block Road, Orangipongo Road (no exit).

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Approved for submission by:
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General Manager - Infrastructure

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Ultimate Rally Group Ltd have applied to hold 2 stages of the Silver Fern Rally in the Manawatū District on Thursday 3 December 2026. The Silver Fern Rally is a gravel road race, therefore all roads being used are unsealed.
- 1.2 The Silver Fern Rally was last held in the Manawatu District in November 2018. It is primarily raced by Classic 2WD pre 1987 vehicles with entrants coming from across the world. The event is expected to attract around 100 entries, however the current fuel crisis has created some uncertainty around international travel and participation numbers.
- 1.3 There are two stages within our District, each with road closures of 4.5 hours per stage. Portions of each stage are run simultaneously.
- 1.4 Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 does not require Council to call for objections. Ultimate Rally Group Ltd have requested that the closure was advertised and objections called for. The objection period closed at 4.00pm on 15 May 2026. No objections were received.

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 No objections to the proposed road closures were received. Therefore no alternative options were considered.

3.2 The February 2026 Weather event resulted in some damage to assets, and downed trees at the time. Of the roads requested to be closed by the Ultimate Rally group, only Mangamako Road currently has debris remaining to be cleared as part of the recovery phase. Subject to funding availability this is anticipated to be cleared by December, although this doesn't affect the rally being able to operate.

3.3 Should any major damage occur as a result of the Silver Fern Rally, the cost of repairs would be recovered from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

4.1 This road closure application carries an element of reputational risk for both Council and the event organisers in terms of proceeding, or not. There are economic benefits to the region in supporting this, however if it is not supported then this traditionally biennially run event may select alternative regions to conduct the rally.

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 Public notice of the intention to temporarily close the roads was placed on the public notices webpage on 22 April 2026. Should the Council agree to the proposed temporary closure of the roads, a further public notice will be given of the confirmed road closures.

5.4 The closure information was sent out to the community committees for distribution to local residents while the objection period was open.

5.5 Ultimate Rally Group representatives will undertake a resident letter drop to all affected properties within the road closure area.

5.6 Signage will be installed on all roads once the road closure is approved to notify residents and provide contact information and instructions should there be a matter arise whilst the Rally is in operation.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

6.1 There are no operational implications with this report. Any major damage to the road would be recouped from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd who are required to have public liability insurance.

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 Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 sets out the statutory requirements associated with proposals for temporary closure of roads.

8.2 Council must approve applications under section 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 Schedule 10 for temporary prohibition of traffic on a Council Road.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 A decision to temporarily close the roads is requested from the Council to enable prior public notice of the closure to be given to residents of the Manawatu District.

10 Attachments Ngā ĀpitiHanga

- Appendix 1 – Temporary Road Closure Application for the Silver Fern Rally