

Rural Directions 2020

Wanganui Rural Community Board Strategic Plan 2010 - 2020



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WANGANUI RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD 2010 – 2013



Back – Councillor Nicki Higgle, David Johnson, Mayor Annette Main, Darryl Monk, Bill Ashworth
Front – David Matthews, Chair Alan Taylor, Andy Collins
(Absent: Deputy Chair Mark Lourie, Councillor Hamish McDouall)

CONTACT LIST

Wanganui Rural Community Board Members 2010-2013

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Cr Nicki Higgie	06 342 7857	Fordell	nicki.higgie@wanganui.govt.nz
Cr Hamish McDouall	06 343 2686	Wanganui	hamish.mcdouall@wanganui.govt.nz

INTRODUCTION

In 2008/09 Wanganui Rural Community Board (Board) held a series of meetings to identify the needs and priorities of the rural community. As a result the Board has developed *Rural Directions 2020*, a 10-Year Plan for the Board that covers the rural district and aligns with Wanganui's community outcomes and Wanganui District Council's (Council) planning processes.

Rural Directions 2020

- Sets out a vision for Wanganui's rural community
- Sets out a mission for the Board
- Sets out five focus areas that will drive the Board's projects
- Provides a basis for the Board's submissions to Council's 10-Year Plan and Annual Plan processes
- *Rural Directions 2020* is a living document that is monitored and reviewed annually

CONTEXT

The role of the Wanganui Rural Community Board is to:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interest of its community
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community
- Maintain an overview of services provided by Council within the community
- Prepare an annual submission to Council for expenditure within the community
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by Council
- Exercise delegated authority to determine rural road closure applications

REPRESENTATION ACROSS DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

The Wanganui District rural sector is not a single community of interest. Geographically, the District's rural area is significant and communities are diverse in terms of farming practice, lifestyle, access, culture, employment, education, opportunities, and other issues such as levels of crime. One part of the community could have significant differences and desires than another. For example, Mowhanau is significantly different to Mangamahu. It is important that Board takes into account the multiple communities of interest and the various issues associated with each, so that each is adequately represented.

WANGANUI DISTRICT COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

In 2008 the community determined a series of desired outcomes for Wanganui.

- A healthy community
- A safe community
- A prosperous community
- A well connected community
- A community where people work together
- A community with quality education
- A community with well developed amenities and recreational facilities
- A community with identity
- An environmentally sustainable community

RURAL DIRECTIONS 2020 - VISION

The Wanganui rural community is prosperous, connected and happy.

PURPOSE

To promote sustainable economic growth and community wellbeing in rural Wanganui

Focus Areas

1. Sustainable Rural Economic Growth
2. Roothing
3. Community Wellbeing
4. Communication
5. Governance

FOCUS AREA I: SUSTAINABLE RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

The rural sector is a significant contributor to the Wanganui economy, providing primary produce that supports major Wanganui industry and ancillary services. Important value added products and associated cutting-edge technology advancements in Wanganui are heavily associated with the rural sector. It is vital that the rural sector adapts to changing community expectations, environmental constraints, markets, and economic times.

Objective

To promote sustainable* economic growth for the Wanganui District rural sector:

Projects

1. Develop, collect and provide information on the current state of the Wanganui rural sector - a stocktake of what we have now. Soil types, risks and opportunities.
2. Identify economic trends, research and development projects and obstacles and opportunities in the rural sector and monitor industry changes and potential developments. Also:
 - Examine value-added opportunities for local products
 - Support tourism as a key aspect of rural economic development.
 - Examine irrigation issues and opportunities
3. Advocate for ultra fast broadband throughout Wanganui District rural area.
4. Develop and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, particularly:
 - Research Institutes and local experts



* The Principles of the Local Government Act 2002 include taking into account the interests of the future as well as current communities; and ensuring prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of resources in the interests of the district and region; and taking a sustainable development approach that takes into account: the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of communities; and maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment and the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

FOCUS AREA 2 : ROADING

A safe and efficient rural road system is vital to the economy of the Wanganui District. All primary industries are particularly dependent on rural transport links. The rural road system also performs important social functions. It must cater for the various needs of all road users.

Key issues facing rural roads include:

- Network - vehicle volume - low volume roads considered 'uneconomic'; impacts of increasing levels of heavy traffic, e.g. forestry; increases in heavy vehicle weight capacity.
- Pavement performance - safety and maintenance concerns regarding impacts of increased heavy traffic on marginal and narrow pavement width; aggregate quality marginal - high cost to import quality aggregate in remote areas; poor geology - slip prone
- Financial - increase in emergency works (e.g. flood damage); higher expectations from stakeholders/road users; increasing operational costs and fluctuating raw material costs; decreasing subsidies from New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

Objective

To promote the high value of rural road networks and ensure rural road networks are strategically maintained and developed in a manner that reflects their inherent value to the Wanganui District and New Zealand.

Projects

1. Assist with developing, monitoring and reviewing Council's Rural Road Strategy
2. Identify the costs and options associated with the effects of forestry harvesting on rural roads
 - Think-tank on the effect of forestry on rural roads
3. Lobby central government to recognise economic and social value of rural roads and provide funding through NZTA for the rural road network.
4. Redefine 'uneconomic roads' in the District with an additional qualification for contribution to social and economic development.



FOCUS AREA 3 : COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Rural areas are geographically isolated from services and this means that rural residents and businesses have restricted access to the support they need to ensure community wellbeing. Constraints include reduced access to:

- Healthcare services
- Education
- Fast, affordable broadband
- Entertainment and events
- Postal delivery
- Other issues related to community wellbeing include:
 - o Assurance of water supply and water quality
 - o Emergency management
 - o Community facilities

Objective

To promote rural community wellbeing

Projects

1. Rural Broadband Initiative
2. Rural Halls Trust
3. Rural security initiative
4. Rural kids sports initiatives



FOCUS AREA 4 : COMMUNICATION

Successful engagement with the community is critical to the effectiveness of the Board. Effective two-way communication between the Board and its stakeholders will contribute to effective rural representation and advocacy.

Objective

To raise the profile of the Board, both locally and nationally.

Projects

- Distribute Hotwire newsletter every six months
- Chair and Communications Members (see appendix) to contribute to On the Land
- Organise media releases for key rural issues
- Include rural issues in Community Link
- Ensure rural issues are included on Council's website
- Hold public meetings with Wanganui rural communities to ensure the community's issues are understood
- Make submissions to relevant organisations on key rural issues
- Collate information on funding opportunities and publish in Hotwire



FOCUS AREA 5 : GOVERNANCE

Wanganui Rural Community Board is elected by the rural community to represent and act as an advocate for that community. Seven Board members are elected in the following areas:

- Kai-Iwi subdivision - three members
- Kaitoke subdivision - two members
- Whanganui subdivision - two members
- Wanganui District Council also appoints two Councillors to the Board to increase the cohesion between the two bodies.

Objectives

To represent and advocate for Wanganui's rural community

Projects

- Consider Council's Draft Annual Plans and 10-year Plans and make a submission
- Consider Horizons Draft Annual Plans and 10-year Plans and if necessary make a submission
- Keep a watching brief on Government Bills and make submissions on issues of importance to the Wanganui rural community
- Strengthen ties with the Wanganui Youth Council



**APPENDIX I :
WANGANUI RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD - PORTFOLIOS**



Portfolio	Members responsible
Roading	Alan Taylor Andy Collins
Economic Development	Alan Taylor Andy Collins Mark Lourie
Rural Broadband	David Matthews
Rural Halls Trust	Andy Collins
Communication 'On the Land'	Mark Lourie Bill Ashworth
Water	David Johnson
Community Wellbeing	Darryl Monk Bill Ashworth
Rural Security	David Johnson
Governance	All

