



**I give notice that
Notice of Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution
Committee meeting will be held on:**

Date:	Tuesday, 28 April 2026
Time:	10.00am
Location:	Council Chamber Level 1, 67 Horomātangi Street Taupō

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson

Cr Kylie Leonard

Members

Cr Rachel Cameron
Cr Nicola de Lautour
Ms Anneke Dinnington
Mayor John Funnell
Cr Christine Rankin
Mr Ross Scrymgeour

Quorum

4

**Julie Gardyne
Chief Executive**

Auditory Announcement

Please note that one of today's meeting participants has hearing loss. To support clear communication, please use the microphones, speak clearly, and keep your mouth visible to assist with lip-reading.

Reports Not Council Policy

The reports included in this agenda are provided for consideration only and do not represent Council policy unless or until they are formally adopted. If you require further information about any report, please contact the Chief Executive, the Chairperson, or the Deputy Chairperson.

Public Forum

Members of the public are welcome to address the Council or committee during the public forum at the start of the meeting. To participate, please complete the public forum request form available on Council's website by 4.00pm on the day prior to the meeting.

Livestreaming and Recording

Meetings held in the Council Chamber are livestreamed on Council's YouTube channel, and recordings are uploaded shortly after the meeting.

Karakia Timatanga – opening prayer gifted by Iraia Bailey of Ngāti Tūwharetoa to Taupō District Council

Tuia ki te mauri o te whenua	Connect to the life essence of the land
Tuia ki te mana o te tangata	Connect and respect to all
Tuia ki te pono, te aroha	Be honest and compassionate
Kia piki, kia eke	(As we seek) to improve, to exceed
Ki te taumata	Expectations
Hui e, Tāiki e	To aim/reach for the summit
	(As we) come together

Karakia Whakamutunga – closing prayer gifted by Iraia Bailey of Ngāti Tūwharetoa to Taupō District Council

Unuhia te rito o tēnei hui	Remove any angst/stress that may have arisen during this gathering
Kia wātea i runga	To be free of anything that impacts your wellbeing
Kia wātea i raro	
Aro ki te tika	That we will act with integrity
Aro ki te pae	As we pursue our goals
Hui e, Tāiki e!	(As we) come together

Order Of Business

- 1 **Karakia**
- 2 **Whakapāha | Apologies**
- 3 **Ngā Whakapānga Tukituki | Conflicts of Interest**
- 4 **Whakamanatanga O Ngā Meneti | Confirmation of Minutes**
Nil
- 5 **Ngā Ripoata | Reports**
 - 5.1 April 2026 - Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Fund Distribution.....4
- 6 **Ngā Kōrero Tūmataiti | Confidential Business**
Nil

5.1 APRIL 2026 - TAUPŌ AND TAUPŌ EAST RURAL COMMUNITY FUND DISTRIBUTION

Author: Bryre Forlong, Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor

Authorised by: Tania Russell, Community Engagement and Development Manager

TE PŪTAKE | PURPOSE

To consider applications and allocate funding from the Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Fund for the second funding round of the 2025 – 2026 financial year.

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee has \$75,000 excluding GST available to allocate in this funding round.

Funding may be allocated to individuals, community groups and organisations who meet the eligibility criteria, align with the assessment framework and show how their community projects, events or initiatives positively impact communities.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA | RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Taupo / Taupo East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee:

1. Approves in full, in part, or declines the attached applications for the second funding round of the 2025 – 2026 financial year; and
2. Provides rationale for declined decisions.

TE WHAKAMAHUKI | BACKGROUND

This item is presented to the Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee as the committee responsible for allocating the fund to communities in the Taupō and Taupō East Rural Wards.

Applications must align to the Community Funding Policy (2024) (“the policy”) and the Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework (2024) (“the funding framework”). These documents were adopted by Council on 1 August 2024. The next review date for the policy and the funding framework is scheduled for 2030, or unless otherwise agreed to by Council.

The committee has \$75,000 excluding GST available to allocate to individuals, community groups and organisations who meet the eligibility criteria, align with the funding framework and show how their community project, event or initiative positively impacts the community.

All applications have been assessed by council officers for eligibility and alignment with the funding framework. A summary document including officer recommendations has been provided to support decision makers. The assessment summary is provided as attachment 1.

A decision makers guide providing background on Council’s community funds, and guidance for committee members when allocating funds has been included as attachment 2.

NGĀ TONO | APPLICATIONS

47 applications requesting a total of \$178,387 were received from 2 March – 30 March 2026, 4.30pm.

Applications were shared securely with the committee from 9 March 2026, to allow time for decision makers to review requests and to support the decision-making process.

Applications have been assessed by officers against the funding framework. An assessment summary was circulated previously and has been provided as attachment 1.

	Applicant	Purpose of request	Amount Requested
1	Taupō Budget Advisory Service Incorporated	To support operational costs (wages)	\$5,000
2	Taupō Bluelight Ventures	To support operational costs (wages, equipment, travel)	\$5,000
3	Lake Taupō Woodworkers Guild	To support operational costs (rent of club workshop)	\$2,400
4	The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc	To support operational costs of the SPCA centre	\$5,000
5	Taupō Community Patrol	To support operational costs (general)	\$5,000
6	Taupō Community Gardens	To develop a youth volunteer program	\$5,000
7	Town Centre Taupō	To support costs of Graffiato: Taupō Street Art Festival	\$5,000
8	Awhina Taupō Community Foodbank	To support the Food Security Project: Boosting Storage for Community Distribution	\$5,000
9	Age Concern Taupō	To support operational costs (wages)	\$5,000
10	Wairakei Community Group	To support costs for the Wairakei Community Matariki Event	\$972
11	Citizens Advice Bureau Taupō	To support operational costs (wages)	\$4,720
12	Family & Financial Solutions Trust	To support operational costs (wages)	\$5,000
13	The Order of St John New Zealand - Taupō Area Committee	To purchase an Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for a residential community	\$3,392
14	Taupō Netball Centre	To support the Positive Vibes Only Programme & Court Hire	\$4,000
15	Life Education Trust Central Plateau	To develop take home packs for Taupō and Taupō East Rural Schools	\$5,000
16	Emma Hampson-Tindale	To support travel costs of attending the Australian Gymnastics National Championships 2026	\$2,500
17	Pregnancy Help Taupō	To support operational costs (wages and rent)	\$5,000
18	Taupō Neighbourhood Support	To support operational costs (wages and rent)	\$5,000
19	Ruth Tremain	To purchase fabric for pyjamas for children and their families (donated through Pregnancy Help Inc)	\$1,000
20	Momentum Charitable Trust	To deliver life and financial skills programmes supporting reintegration for Taupō Residents	\$4,380
21	Oruanui Pony Club	To deliver community first aid courses	\$3,000
22	Aphasia NZ	To support Aphasia support services in the district	\$3,500
23	Nikea Williams	To support travel costs for Nikea to represent New Zealand in Polocrosse	\$3,500
24	Kinloch Community Association Incorporated	To purchase pavers and signage for the Kinloch Beach Mat	\$4,447
25	Brain Injury Waikato	To support costs of delivering education and support groups	\$5,000
26	Rugby 101 Kiwi Warrior Incorporated	To support marketing and operational costs for the Rugby 101 sport.	\$5,000

	Applicant	Purpose of request	Amount Requested
27	Taupō Multicultural Council	To support operational costs (training, rent, resources)	\$4,945
28	Taupō District Riding Club and Bridleways	To support the maintenance of Bridleways	\$3,105
29	Tania Withers	To support the He Kai Taonga initiative	\$4,933
30	Taupō Cosmopolitan Leisure Marchers	To support venue hire for 2 May 2026 event	\$1,078
31	Parkinson's New Zealand	To deliver wrap-around support for people with Parkinson's in the Taupō district	\$2,500
32	Girl Guide NZ	To support programme delivery that empowers girls and young women across the country	\$2,400
33	Mt Tauhara Gymnastics	To purchase new heaters for the gymnasium	\$3,800
34	Taupō Disc Golf Club	To replace vandalised metal basket hole parts	\$982
35	Good Bitches Trust (trading as Good Bitches Baking)	To support operational costs of the Baking it Better Taupō programme	\$1,000
36	Taupō Academy of Dance	To support travel costs for group to attend the She Shines on Dance Tour 2026	\$5,000
37	Bowel Cancer New Zealand	To deliver the patient wellbeing programme for Taupō residents affected by Bowel Cancer	\$2,000
38	International Mums Group	To support operational costs (venue hire, travel, general expenses)	\$1,300
39	Lake Taupō Hospice	To purchase a specialised air mattress for patients	\$4,657
40	Taupō Parents Centre	To deliver the Taupō Car Seat Service	\$5,000
41	Great Lake Taupō Filipino Basketball	To support venue hire for the 5th Winter League, One Day Tournament	\$2,500
42	Sam Westlake - Taupō Collectibles Event	To support venue hire costs of delivering the Taupō Collectibles Event	\$3,000
43	Taupō Rowing Club	To support travel costs of the Taupō Rowing Club - Junior Squad	\$5,000
44	Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko Inc	To purchase new gym equipment for the Te Korowai Roopu Tautoko Hauora Space	\$5,000
45	Treats of Taupō	Treats of Taupō - Food Festival	\$5,000
46	Te Ngare o Te Kohera	To clear land at Te Wharakenga o Tētahi Whenua Wāhanga o te o Whangamatā No.3	\$3,875
47	Paula Gee-Wanhill	To deliver wise one's fitness classes	\$2,500

NGĀ HĪRAUNGA | CONSIDERATIONS

Ngā Aronga Pūtea | Financial Considerations

The Taupō and Taupō East Rural fund is \$150,000.00 per annum excluding GST. The fund has two funding rounds per financial year, each of \$75,000 excluding GST.

The expenditure is currently budgeted for under the Long-term Plan 2024–2034. If there are any funds remaining following the distribution meeting, these may be carried over to the next funding round.

Please note, as outlined in the policy, a maximum of \$5,000 excluding GST may be allocated per application.

Ngā Aronga Ture | Legal Considerations

Local Government Act 2002

The matter comes within scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. It is considered that social, economic, environmental and cultural well – being are of relevance to this particular matter.

Authorisations are not required from external parties.

Ngā Hīraunga Kaupapa Here | Policy Implications

The requests have been evaluated against the Long-term Plan, Annual Plan, the policy, and the eligibility and assessment framework.

Te Kōrero tahi ki te Māori | Māori Engagement

Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory Tiriti O Waitangi obligations and acknowledges partnership as the basis of Te Tiriti. Council has a responsibility to act reasonably and in good faith to reflect the partnership relationship, and to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti. These principles include but are not limited to the protection of Māori rights, enabling Māori participation in Council processes and having rangatiratanga over taonga.

Our statutory obligations outline our duties to engage with Māori and enable participation in Council processes. Alongside this, we recognise the need to work side by side with iwi, and hapū of our district.

There are no specific issues related to iwi / hapū / Māori in this decision.

Ngā Tūraru | Risks

There may be concerns that ratepayer money will not be used correctly by these organisations. This is mitigated by the criteria, requiring all applicants to provide evidence (e.g. invoices and quotes) of what funding is to be spent on, funding purpose clauses entered into contracts, as well as recipients to report and provide evidence to Council annually to account for spending.

This fund is oversubscribed, which is not unexpected with many grant funders also experiencing similar demands. This will mean some groups will miss out on funding. We have made steps to mitigate the impact of this by working with previous recipients to develop diversified funding plans and by providing a range of resources and support opportunities for organisations to develop their funding approach.

With recent changes made to Council's community funding programme, it is possible that some organisations were unsure or did not fully understand the changes. This may mean that applicants may feel dissatisfied with decisions made. We aim to mitigate this by providing rationale back to applicants on the outcome of their application.

TE HIRANGA O TE WHAKATAU, TE TONO RĀNEI | SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy identifies matters to be taken into account when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions.

Officers have undertaken an assessment of the matters in the [Significance and Engagement Policy \(2022\)](#), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is of a low degree of significance.

TE KŌRERO TAHI | ENGAGEMENT

Taking into consideration the above assessment, that the decision is of a low degree of significance, officers are of the opinion that no further engagement is required prior to Council making a decision.

TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO PĀPAHO | COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

Direct communication has been/will be carried out with affected parties/key stakeholders and wider communication will be carried out with the community.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their applications through our funding portal and high-level details of decisions made will be posted on Council's website (purpose and amount). Following completion of the project, officers may choose to highlight the work of an organisation or individual through a good news story as part of our work to highlight positive impact.

Please note: applicants' financial statements and other potentially sensitive information will not be released publicly.

WHAKAKAPINGA | CONCLUSION

The Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee is required to allocate the second round of funding for the Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Fund for the 2025 – 2026 financial year, in line with the policy and the funding framework.

NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA | ATTACHMENTS

1. March 2026 - Taupō and Taupō East Rural Community Fund - Summary Sheet [⇒](#)
2. Community Funding Decision Makers Guide