



Register of Pecuniary Interests of Ruapehu District Council Elected Members.

Summary of Annual Returns
as at 28 January 2025



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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022 passed on 20 May 2022, and came into force on 20 November 2022. It inserts a new set of requirements and obligations into the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 02), all of which relate to members' pecuniary interests.
- 1.2 The purpose of the new provisions is to increase transparency, trust, and confidence in local government by keeping and making publicly available, information about members' pecuniary interests. It is largely modelled on the regime that applies to members of Parliament but has been tailored to reflect particular aspects of local government.
- 1.3 Every council (including all territorial authorities, unitary authorities, and regional councils) is required to keep a register of its members' pecuniary interests, and to make a summary of it publicly available.
- 1.4 The new requirements and obligations apply to the following members:
 - (a) members of the council;
 - (b) members who have been elected under the Local Electoral Act 2011 to a community board that is part of the council; and
 - (c) members who have been elected under the Local Electoral Act 2011 to a local board that is part of the council.
- 1.5 Appointed members will not be subject to these requirements and obligations. For example, individuals who have been appointed as a member of a council committee due to their skills, attributes, or knowledge will not need to provide annual returns to the Registrar.
- 1.6 This report summarises the information provided to the Registrar in members' returns in respect of any of the categories below that may apply to a member:
 - (a) Company directorships and controlling interests (Section 54E(1)(a))
 - (b) Interests in companies and business entities (Section 54E (1)(b))
 - (c) Employment (Section 54E(1)(c))
 - (d) Interests in trusts (Section 54E(1)(d))
 - (e) Organisations and trusts seeking Council funding (Section 54E(1)(e))
 - (f) Appointments by virtue of being an Elected Member (Section 54E(1)(f))
 - (g) Real property (Section 54E(1)(g))
 - (h) Real property held by a trust (Section 54E(1)(h))
 - (i) Overseas travel and accommodation (Section 54F (1)(a) and (2))
 - (j) Gifts (Section 54F(1)(b) and (3))
 - (k) Payments for activities (Section 54F(1)(c))

2 Registrar Comments

- 2.1 This is the third and final summary of returns for Members elected to the Ruapehu District Council for the 2022-2025 Triennium.
- 2.2 The Elected Members' Interest Disclosure Policy 2025 to support these requirements was adopted by Council at its 26 February 2025 meeting.

3 Council

Mayor Weston Kirton

D Interests in trusts

Weston Kirton Family Trust

E Organisations and trusts seeking Council funding

Deputy Chair of Taumarunui Railway Action Centre Trust (TRACT): restoration of railway assets

F Appointments by virtue of being an Elected Member

Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua

G Real property

Manunui lifestyle block and section

H Real property held by a trust

Manunui lifestyle block and section

K Payments for activities

Funeral and Wedding celebrant

Councillor Lyn Neeson

F Appointments by virtue of being an Elected Member

Appointed Representative Whanganui River Enhancement: dispersal of funds from Genesis Power Co.

G Real property

Kirikau: Family home, Hamilton: Investment

Councillor Rabbit Nottage

A Company directorships and controlling interests

Nottages Cottage: aggregate supply and cartage, earthworks, wood chipping

C Employment

Nottages Cottage: aggregate supply and cartage, earthworks, wood chipping

D Interests in trusts

Rangataua Hall Committee

F Appointments by virtue of being an Elected Member

Appointed Representative to Rangataua Hall Committee: maintenance of hall

G Real property

Whanganui: Family home

Councillor Brenda Ralph

C Employment

Your Local Property Manager: Property Manager

G Real property

Taumarunui: Family home, land and hall

Councillor Korty Wilson

C Employment

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi: Post settlement governance entity, Iwi settlement organisation
community involvement

4 Owhango-National Park Community Board

Nil returns received

5 Taumarunui-Ohura Community Board

Member Sophie Stockbridge

G Real property

Ohura: Family home

6 Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board

Member Luigi Hotter

C Employment

Fire and Emergency New Zealand: fire and rescue

D Interests in trusts

Smart Trust, Kilmarnock Trust

F Appointments by virtue of being an Elected Member

Appointed Representative to Horopito Hall Committee: maintenance of hall

Appointed Representative to Ohakune Town Revitalisation: town development

G Real property

Ohakune: Family home

7 Appendix

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This Appendix establishes the Register of Pecuniary Interests of Elected Members of the Ruapehu District Council and its Community Boards.
- 7.1.2 The Appendix sets out requirements for Members to make returns declaring interests that:
- (a) are financial, business, or personal, and
 - (b) are specified in this Appendix, and
 - (c) are held by a Member at the effective date of the return or
 - (d) have been received by a member in the period covered by the return, as appropriate.
- 7.1.3 The purpose of the register is to record Members' interests, thereby providing transparency and strengthening public trust and confidence in parliamentary processes and decision making.
- 7.1.4 A person making a decision in the course of complying with this Appendix must be guided by the register's purpose

7.2 Definitions

For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), a member does not have a pecuniary interest in a company or business entity (entity A) merely because the member has a pecuniary interest in another company or business entity that has a pecuniary interest in entity A.

For the purposes of subsection (1)(e), a member is not required to disclose the name and a description of the main activities of an organisation that is a council-controlled organisation.

For the purposes of subsection (1)(g) and (h), a member is not required to disclose the street address of the real property, but must provide the general location (for example, the suburb and city in which it is located).

For the purposes of the return and registration of pecuniary and other specified interests, unless the context otherwise requires:

business entity

- (a) means any body or organisation, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that carries on any profession, trade, manufacture, or undertaking for pecuniary profit, and includes a business activity carried on by a sole proprietor, but does not include any blind trust

company has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Companies Act 1993, and includes:

- (a) a body corporate that is incorporated outside of New Zealand;
- (b) a society incorporated under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1908 or any former Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

employed

- (a) means employed under a contract of service; but
- (b) does not include holding—
 - (i) the position of an elected member of a local authority, local board, or community board (as applicable); or
 - (ii) any other position for which the person in question would not be qualified unless he or she had been elected a member of a local authority, local board, or community board (as applicable)

family member, in relation to a Member, means the member's spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, foster child, grandchild, or sibling of that Member.

managed investment scheme has the same meaning as in section 9(1), (2), and (4) of the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013.

pecuniary interest means a matter or activity of financial benefit to the Member that is required to be declared.

retirement scheme includes -

- (a) a retirement scheme within the meaning of section 6(1) of the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, and
- (b) any trust or other arrangement established in New Zealand or any other country with a purpose of providing retirement benefits to individuals; for example, a private superannuation scheme.

7.3 Duty to make annual return

Every Member must make a pecuniary interest return in respect of the 12-month period that ended on the day that is 1 month before each date specified for the return.

7.3.1 The member must make the pecuniary interest return by the following dates:

- (a) the day that is 120 days after the date on which the member comes into office under section 115 of the Local Electoral Act 2001:
- (b) the last day of February in each subsequent year.

7.3.2 The member must make the return by providing it to the Registrar.

7.4 Period covered by the return

7.4.1 For the current triennium, the periods covered by each return are as follows:

Year of Triennium	Due Date for Return	12 Month Period Covered by Return
Year 1 2023	12 February 2023	13 January 2022 to 12 January 2023
Year 2 2024 (leap year)	29 February 2024	30 January 2023 to 29 January 2024
Year 3 2025	28 February 2025	29 January 2024 to 28 January 2025

7.5 Contents of return relating to a Member's position as at effective date of return

7.5.1 Every return must contain the following information as at the effective date of the return:

- (a) the name of each company of which the member is a director or holds or controls more than 10% of the voting rights and a description of the main business activities of each of those companies;
- (b) the name of every other company or business entity in which the member has a pecuniary interest, other than as an investor in a managed investment scheme, and a description of the main business activities of each of those companies or business entities;
- (c) if the member is employed, the name of each employer of the member and a description of the main business activities of each of those employers;
- (d) the name of each trust in which the member has a beneficial interest;
- (e) the name of any organisation or trust and a description of the main activities of that organisation or trust if:
 - (i) the member is a member of the organisation, a member of the governing body of the organisation, or a trustee of the trust (as applicable); and
 - (ii) the organisation or trust receives funding from, or has applied to receive funding from, the local authority, local board, or community board to which the member has been elected;
- (f) the title and description of any organisation in which the member holds an appointment by virtue of being an elected member;
- (g) the location of real property in which the member has a legal interest, other than an interest as a trustee, and a description of the nature of the real property;
- (h) the location of real property, and a description of the nature of the real property, held by a trust to which the following apply:
 - (i) the member is a beneficiary of the trust; and
 - (ii) the member knows or ought reasonably to know that the member is a beneficiary of the trust; and
 - (iii) it is not a unit trust whose name is disclosed under subclause (1)(d); and
 - (iv) it is not a retirement scheme whose membership is open to the public.

7.6 Contents of return relating to a Member's activities as at effective date of return

7.6.1 Every return must also contain the following information:

- (a) for each country (other than New Zealand) that the member travelled to,—
 - (i) the name of the country; and
 - (ii) the purpose of travelling to the country; and
 - (iii) the name of each person who contributed (in whole or in part) to the costs of the travel to and from the country; and
 - (iv) the name of each person who contributed (in whole or in part) to the accommodation costs incurred by the member while in the country;
- (b) a description of each gift (including hospitality and donations in cash or kind but excluding any donation made to cover expenses in an electoral campaign) received by the member and the name of the donor of each of those gifts (if known or reasonably ascertainable by the member) if—
 - (i) the gift has an estimated market value in New Zealand of more than \$500; or
 - (ii) the combined estimated market value in New Zealand of all gifts from the donor is more than \$500;
- (c) a description of each payment received by the member for activities in which the member is involved other than—
 - (i) the salary or allowances paid to that person under the Remuneration Authority Act 1977 or this Act; and
 - (ii) any payment the member received from an interest required to be disclosed under section 54E; and

- (iii) any payment made in respect of any activity the member ceased to be involved in before becoming a member.

7.6.2 The information referred to in subsection (a) does not have to be included in the pecuniary interest return if the travel costs and accommodation costs were paid in full by the following or any combination of the following:

- (a) the member:
- (b) a member of the member's family.

7.6.3 The information referred to in subsection (b) does not have to be included in the pecuniary interest return if the gift was from a member of the member's family unless the member, taking the purpose of the register into account (see section 54B), considers the information should be included.

7.7 Actual value, amount or extent not required

Nothing in this Appendix requires the disclosure of the actual value, amount, or extent of any asset, payment, interest, gift, contribution, or debt.