



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi

**CARTERTON**  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# **AGENDA**

## **Council Workshop**

**Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026**

**Time: 8:30 am**

**Location: Carterton Events Centre  
50 Holloway St  
Carterton**

Mayor S Cretney

Deputy Mayor G Ayling

Cr B Deller

Cr L Newman

Cr S Laurence

Cr S Gallon

Cr J Burns

Cr S Casey

Cr R Round



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**Notice is hereby given that a Council Workshop of the Carterton District Council will be held in the Carterton Events Centre, 50 Holloway St, Carterton on:  
Wednesday, 29 April 2026 at 8:30 am**

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**Order Of Business**

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## 1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

*Mai i te pae maunga, raro ki te tai*

*Mai i te awa tonga, raro ki te awa raki*

*Tēnei te hapori awahi ai e Taratahi.*

*Whano whano, haramai te toki*

*Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē!*

## 2 APOLOGIES

## 3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

### VIDEOCONFERENCE DETAILS

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#### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

#### **Join:**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/48619428519628?p=1TVuLGG0L6ogYffdj>

Meeting ID: 486 194 285 196 28

Passcode: 2k4eG7HY

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## 4 REPORTS



### 4.1 WORKSHOP - VICTORIA UNIVERSITY - CARTERTON LANDSCAPE PATTERN LANGUAGE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

#### 1. PURPOSE

To discuss the project - Designing Place Identity in Rural and Small-Town Aotearoa: A Local Vocabulary for Architecture, Interiors, and Landscape – for which Victoria University has received a research grant.

**File Number:** 518806

**Author:** Robyn Blue, Democratic Services Officer

**Attachments:** 1. Executive Summary [↓](#)

# LANDSCAPE PATTERN LANGUAGE

## Research Plan for Carterton / Taratahi

Wairarapa, Wellington Region, North Island, Aotearoa New Zealand

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*A place identity study grounded in alluvial plains, mountain edge, remnant forest, and the landscape of deep sky and seasonal ceremony*

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### Executive Summary

What makes a place feel like itself? This research project sets out to answer that question for Carterton, a small Wairarapa town with a surprisingly rich and layered identity. Over 18 months, a research team will systematically study the landscapes, histories, ecology, and community knowledge that give Carterton its distinctive character, then write up the findings as a “pattern language”: a practical, illustrated guide to the recurring features that make the town what it is.

#### What is a pattern language?

A pattern language is a structured collection of named, described spatial patterns, the kinds of features and relationships that appear again and again in a place and give it its particular feel. Think of it as a field guide to what matters about a town: not just lists of landmarks, but explanations of why the view west to the Tararua Range dominates every street, why Fensham Reserve feels like stepping back in time, or why the night sky here is unlike almost anywhere else in the lower North Island.

#### Why Carterton?

Carterton sits at the heart of one of New Zealand’s most distinctive landscape types: an enclosed alluvial valley with an abrupt mountain wall to the west. Several features set it apart from other regional towns:

- **The Tararua Wall.** The range rises dramatically from the valley floor, shaping the weather, the view, and the daily life of the town.
- **A protected dark sky.** Since January 2023, Carterton has been part of New Zealand’s second International Dark Sky Reserve, meaning the night sky here is internationally recognised as worth protecting.
- **Ancient forests.** Fensham Reserve and Carter Scenic Reserve are fragments of the original podocarp forest that once blanketed the valley, some trees are 400–700 years old.
- **Seasonal ceremony.** The annual Daffodil Festival and Balloon Fiesta are not just events; they are landscape rituals that connect the community to the rhythms of the valley.
- **A living seismic landscape.** The West Wairarapa Fault runs along the range front; the 1855 magnitude 8.2 earthquake was the largest recorded in New Zealand history, and its stepped terraces remain visible today.

### How will the research work?

The research runs five parallel workstreams:

- Landscape survey: mapping the physical character of the town and its surroundings at fine detail.
- Historical research: tracing how the landscape has changed from pre-European times through colonial settlement to the present day.
- Ecological survey: documenting the condition of the reserves, rivers, and the extraordinary dark sky.
- Community engagement: gathering the lived knowledge of residents through workshops and interviews, including formal partnership with Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa as mana whenua.
- Pattern synthesis: turning all of the above into 20–40 written pattern entries that planners, designers, iwi, and community members can use.

### Working with mana whenua

The Wairarapa is home to two mana whenua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, whose relationship with this landscape predates European settlement by centuries. The research will engage both iwi as equal Treaty partners from the outset: through formal hui, joint fieldwork, iwi review of all draft patterns, and careful attention to the contested history of the Taratahi block, the land from which the town takes its Māori name.

### What will the research produce?

Outputs are designed to be genuinely useful, not just academic reports:

- A pattern language document for Carterton/Taratahi with 20–40 illustrated pattern entries.
- A landscape character report for use by Carterton District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.
- Summary documents in agreed formats for both iwi.
- A plain-language public version for residents, developers, and community groups.
- A public exhibition and community presentation in Carterton.
- A contribution to the Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve's education programme.
- At least one peer-reviewed journal article.

### Timeline

The project runs for 18 months, with four fieldwork visits timed to each season — spring for the Daffodil Festival, summer for ecological surveys and community workshops, autumn for the Balloon Fiesta, and winter for dark sky observation and Matariki. Final outputs will be completed and shared by Month 18.



## 5 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

*Kia whakairia te tapu*

*Kia wātea ai te ara*

*Kia turuki whakataha ai*

*Kia turuki whakataha ai*

*Haumi ē, hui ē, taiki ē*