



Decision pending on Waitaria Bay jetty

Marlborough District Councillors will await the outcome of geotechnical investigations to decide whether the Waitaria Bay jetty in Kenepuru Sound can be safely rebuilt on the same site.

The jetty was damaged during the August 2022 storm as it sits within a landslide that lifted the section closest to land and shunted the seaward portion of the jetty forward. The jetty was closed to the public on 16 January after a routine inspection found some of its structural components had deteriorated since its last inspection in mid-2023.

Marlborough Roads Transport Recovery Manager Steve Murrin told the recent Assets and Services Committee it was important to get a report from geotechnical engineers before making any further decisions to ensure the site and a replacement jetty was resilient for the future.

“Before a replacement jetty can be constructed, further work needs to be done to ensure a jetty can be built at this site that is resilient to further land movement,” Mr Murrin said. “There are also some concerns around siltation in the bay as at low tide it’s



Waitaria Bay jetty at low tide

a struggle to get boats into the jetty. We’ll undertake a seabed survey to determine the length of a new jetty. If it needs to be longer, additional funding will be needed,” he said.

The replacement cost for a “like-for-like” jetty is estimated at around \$650,000. An option was put to the committee to do temporary repairs to the jetty to allow it to be reopened to the public at a cost of \$40,000. Councillors opted to wait for the outcome of the geotech report before committing to any funding. A resource consent is already underway for a replacement, and submissions are being worked through. Once the geotechnical investigations have been completed a decision will be made on the jetty location and a programme for the replacement will be confirmed.

From A to D: Marlborough's lakes' health revealed

Council's recent water quality testing of lakes in the region has revealed a mixed picture of lake health, with some pristine bodies of water and others facing challenges.

Five lakes are currently monitored: Grovetown Lagoon, Lake Elterwater, Lake Chalice, Bowscale Tarn and Lake McRae.

The lakes are evaluated for various water quality indicators, including chemical, physical, bacterial, and ecological factors, in accordance with the 2020 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). The framework categorises conditions from A (good) to D (poor).

“Among the monitored lakes, Lake Elterwater was identified as having the poorest health,” Senior Environmental Scientist Steffi Henkel said.

A local catchment group is working on improving its condition to eventually see the return of species such as freshwater mussels and bittern.

“Grovetown Lagoon presents a concerning case with total phosphorus concentrations nearing the D-band,



Bowscale Tarn in the Molesworth is in good health

indicating a need to carefully manage phosphorus sources in the surrounding area. The lagoon's submerged plant life falls within the D-band, primarily due to the prevalence of invasive species like oxygen weed.

“On a more positive note, the three lakes in remote areas generally show good health. Lake McRae stands out with an A grading, indicating excellent water

quality. Bowscale Tarn and Lake Chalice show minor impacts, with Lake Chalice getting a D for native submerged plants. However, this may be a natural phenomenon,” Ms Henkel said.

Monitoring and reporting on lakes is crucial for improving understanding of regional natural resources and is a requirement under the NPS-FM.

Council is considering broadening its monitoring efforts to include Argyle Pond, a top recreational area and Lake Grassmere/Kapara Te Hau, the region's largest lake, which was initially excluded due to its significant marine influence.

As Marlborough continues to assess and manage its lake resources, the monitoring programme will play a vital role in improving the health of these critical ecosystems for future generations.

Get out and about on your bike

The Aotearoa Bike Challenge is back.

As part of that, Council is running its Biking Treasure Hunt along the Taylor River Reserve in February and March.

This event is in its third year and is free to enter. Families are encouraged to ride both sides of the Taylor River shared path, from Riverside Quays to the Taylor Dam to collect clues and go in the draw to win some great treasure gift baskets.

It’s a bit like orienteering on a bike, said RideOn Coordinator Sandy Large.

“There are hidden clues along the riverbanks as well as five kiwi cutouts hidden along the way for bonus spot prizes,” she said.

To register go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/cycling-and-walking/cycling/biking-treasure-hunt-2025

The Aotearoa Bike Challenge is great for well-being. Whether you ride everyday or haven’t been on a bike in years, you can ride anywhere anytime in February to take part.

There are prizes to win for riding and encouraging your friends and colleagues to ride too. Hop on your bikes, join a community, learn new bike skills, and win prizes!

For more information and to learn more details about the challenge, go to: www.lovetoride.net/nz