

New bridge spans Waihopai River

A new bridge is nearing completion in the Waihopai Valley.

The previous structure was washed away in the July 2021 storm and locals have made do with a temporary Bailey bridge servicing the upper valley since September that year.

Councillor Scott Adams, who chairs Marlborough's Regional Transport Committee, visited the construction site last week and said he was impressed.

"The new single-lane bridge is 110 metres long with seven spans. It towers nine metres above the river on piles that were sunk 10 metres into the river bed. It's a very impressive sight and a big improvement on the old bridge infrastructure."

The new bridge's location was confirmed in 2022, and land purchase and geotechnical investigations concluded in mid-2023. It was designed and built by Top of the South firm Egypt Ltd.

Marlborough Roads Manager Steve

Murrin said the bridge should be finished early in the new year, if good weather continued.

"The construction has gone smoothly so far, starting in June this year. The reinforced concrete bridge beams - each weighing 24 tonnes - were precast in Nelson and then delivered on a low-loader and placed by crane from the river bed.

"We're also building 500 metres of new road downstream of the bridge, which is located higher up on the terrace to protect it from possible flooding in future. Gravel from the river was crushed on site for roading aggregate by a local subcontractor."

He said the new bridge would be suitable for logging trucks with all drivers required to use the priority/give way system on its single lane.

The cost of the project was \$4 million, which was 95 per cent funded via NZ Transport Agency's Financial Assistance Rate following the 2021 storm.



The nearly complete new bridge from the air



Councillor Scott Adams (left) and Steve Murrin at the bridge in the Waihopai Valley



Completed groyne repairs on the Wairau River

Wairau River flood damage repairs ramp up

Three areas of stop bank repair work on the Wairau River, relating to 2021 flood damage, are underway.

The main work site is a major rock line rebuild on the Wairau River Diversion near Rarangi. Stockpiling of rock on site has started with construction due to start at the end of the whitebait season in December.

Access to the main freedom camping area at the Diversion will be restricted

during the construction period.

More than 3,800 tonnes of locally-sourced rock has been placed at various stopbank repair sites on the Wairau River over the last few months.

The rock has been used to rebuild flood-damaged groynes which are used to divert high velocity water from the bank and prevent erosion.

A further 14,000 tonnes are scheduled to be in place by June 2025.

Why your dog should be microchipped

Did you know some dogs have to be microchipped?

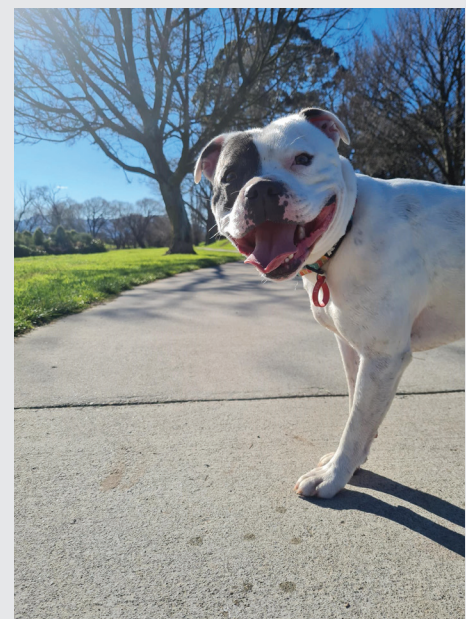
The Dog Control Act requires dogs classified as dangerous or menacing or those registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006 to be microchipped. Only dogs classified as working dogs or dogs that a registered vet has certified as not in a fit condition for microchipping are exempt. Council and Animal Control are responsible for enforcing these rules.

Animal Control Contract Manager James Clark said Marlborough currently had 8,467 microchipped dogs, with a further 511 requiring one.

"Besides complying with legislation, there are several benefits of microchipping including having a permanent means of identification and providing a deterrent for anyone stealing your dog. Microchipping may entitle you to a lower dog registration fee," Mr Clark said.

"If your dog is found injured and taken to a vet or the SPCA, or Animal Control finds your dog, you can be traced and reunited with your animal. In a disaster or emergency we can reunite you with your dog," he said.

Dogs can be microchipped at any local vet. You will need to supply Animal Control with the verification certificate as all dogs and owners' details must



be uploaded on to the National Dog Database so if a dog is found anywhere in New Zealand it can be reunited with the registered owner.

Failure to microchip your dog or to notify Animal Control that your dog has been microchipped can result in an infringement notice of \$300.

For further information please contact Animal Control. Ph: 03 520 9033 or email animalcontrol@extra.co.nz

For more information go to: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/dog-microchipping](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/dog-microchipping)

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
03 520 7400 | mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

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