

He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau. News from Marlborough District Council.

Council adopts 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

Marlborough District Councillors adopted the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) at a special emergency meeting of Council on Monday.



Ongoing Sounds recovery works such as the Torea Wall (pictured) near Portage Bay form part of a very complex Long Term Plan, adopted by Council earlier this week

The adoption of the LTP and the setting of rates for the 2024-25 year confirms an average rate increase for Marlborough ratepayers of 13.62 per cent.

Mayor Nadine Taylor thanked councillors and staff for their work in preparing this LTP which had been "the most complex" in recent times. "This Long Term Plan has been a long time coming," she told councillors.

The complexity was due to the flow on effects of earthquakes and storm recovery on the region, the unwinding of Council's Covid rates subsidy, fluctuating interest rates, an inflationary environment and last but by no

means least, the Sounds roads recovery project which really was now a "community resilience project", Mayor Taylor said. "This is about ensuring our Sounds communities stay connected now and into the future."

"Through the submission process Council listened carefully to the concerns of residents, particularly those from the Sounds, who have been living with broken roads and uncertainty for three years now," she said. "The adoption of this LTP means our local share of Sounds road funding is confirmed. We now await the outcome of our Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study's business case to NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)."

Consultation opens on Marlborough CDEM Group Plan

It has never been more important to be prepared.

With public consultation now open on the Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan 2025-2030, Mayor Nadine Taylor said Marlborough as a region and the nation was exposed to more hazards than ever before, particularly with the effects of climate change.

"Marlborough has seen the impact of the increased intensity of weather events first hand in 2021 and 2022 with many homes evacuated for safety. Today many still have red and yellow placards as a result. Marlborough also suffered landslips and farm damage as well as the millions of dollars' worth of damage done to our roading network. Thankfully, there was no loss of life," Mayor Taylor said. "Ever present in our minds is the likelihood of a rupture of the Alpine Fault, the much talked about AF8."

Council is responsible for the delivery of civil defence and emergency management response throughout the Marlborough region.

Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) is based at the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) at Wither Road in Blenheim which also becomes the headquarters of any emergency response.

Mayor Taylor said it was important people have their say on the Marlborough CDEM Group Plan as this would shape Marlborough's strategic emergency management direction for the next five years. Council's strategic and operational partners - Fire and Emergency NZ, Police, Health NZ and Hato Hone



Marlborough is exposed to more hazards than ever before including damage from earthquakes such as the Kaikōura earthquake in 2016 - pictured is Ohau Point

St John - have helped develop the plan's vision, objectives and activities.

"Our plan acknowledges that every agency and stakeholder involved makes up the CDEM response, something we already demonstrate particularly well here in Marlborough. In a civil defence emergency, if you see a firefighter, a member of Police, a Māori warden or a Red Cross volunteer, you are seeing part of the wider Marlborough CDEM response and there are many more superb volunteers working in the ECC during an event," she said.

Mayor Taylor outlined that almost all the money budgeted in the LTP was earmarked for core infrastructure. "Central Government has said councils should focus on core infrastructure and that is exactly what we are doing."

Mayor Taylor acknowledged the 365 public submissions received on the LTP including more than 100 submitters who presented to Council during four days of public hearings in early June. "Submitters provided Council with some very useful information which has helped significantly in our decision making," she said.

Council's Chief Financial Officer Geoff Blake said the audit report on the LTP was only received last Friday with a qualification on two matters relating to Three Waters infrastructure asset renewals and the inflation assumptions Council used.

"The qualification does not mean the LTP is incorrect but that Audit New Zealand were not in a position to satisfy themselves with Council's renewals forecasts particularly in the early years of the LTP. Council can be confident with the numbers but of course things do keep moving around us," Mr Blake said.

Invoices are being prepared and will be posted to ratepayers within two weeks.

Payments for the first quarter of rates will be due on 11 October with subsequent quarters due on dates consistent with previous years - 11 December 2024, 11 March 2025 and 11 June 2025.

Once invoices are issued and received rates rebates can be applied for those eligible.

This plan, reviewed every five years, gives emergency management staff and volunteers and response agencies clarity and certainty. "It also has a greater emphasis on building community resilience ahead of such an event including working with local community organisations across all parts of our region to develop readiness plans for when the next disaster strikes," Mayor Taylor said.

Consultation on the plan closes 30 September. To have your say go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/have-your-say-consultations

Waitohi Picton's Dublin Street and Broadway now open

Picton residents and visitors can again travel directly across town via Dublin Street with the road now open to both traffic and pedestrians.

Mayor Nadine Taylor acknowledged KiwiRail's efforts to return Picton to "the way it was" before the ferry precinct redevelopment work began. "I would also like to make special mention to the patience shown by the community of Waitohi Picton during what has been at times a frustrating and disruptive situation for everyone. It's great to have Broadway reopen as well - made possible by the putting right of Dublin Street," Mayor Taylor said.

KiwiRail project manager Doug Carter said it was good news to see the "closed" signs come down.

"There is a bit of tidying up to do. The footpaths aren't quite finished and the road surface needs tidying up in due course, but the most important thing is to get the road open. We hope it's another step back to normality for residents," he said.

"Port Marlborough, Marlborough Roads, NZTA, Marlborough District Council and

KiwiRail have all collaborated to get this work done on time, and Simcox have done a terrific job on the construction front. It's a real pleasure to work together on this and other projects."

Broadway has also reopened. The reopening of Dublin Street and Broadway mostly completes KiwiRail's work to wind up the ferry redevelopment project.

"Work continues on the last section of the Waitohi Awa culvert, which once finished will have greater capacity to manage stormwater. The new mechanical depot and offices are almost done. The demolition of the old depot and the reinstatement of the vehicle marshalling yard are well underway - these are the final pieces of work to be completed."

Over the next few weeks, the Simcox team will be undertaking final tidy up works off the road carriageway with as little disruption as possible.

A crew from Marlborough District Council will build a footpath at the Dublin and Auckland Street intersection, completing the work to reconnect Picton's port side and town centre.



Barrier arms and signals, and a new pedestrian safety feature, a 'maze', on the level crossing have been installed at Dublin Street

Wither Hills bike tracks audited

An independent auditor has assessed the Wither Hills mountain bike trails to provide a consistent approach to grading guidelines.

Simon Noble from Envisage New Zealand spoke at August's Assets and Services Committee meeting saying he used New Zealand Cycle Trail guidelines - one of three systems recognised across New Zealand.

Mr Noble has audited more than 200 trails nationally, often finding them harder than their posted grades suggested.

Parks and Open Space Officer Kiri Whiteman said Mr Noble was brought in as part of a national drive to achieve a consistent standard across mountain bike trail networks.

"It will ensure the grade advertised will be at the highest level (per difficulty) a rider will experience on a trail," she said. "The alignment of the grading with a recognised guideline will bring Council tracks in line with other regions."

Mr Noble said a recent coronial inquest into the death of a mountain biker

made recommendations to overhaul the grading system at a national level.

His audit concentrated on slope steepness, width and turn radius.

"Trails in New Zealand are generally under-graded but are increasing all over the country as landowners realise the obligations they have to minimise risk to riders and present a fully diverse network of riding opportunities," he said.

He recommended grade changes across the network.

The Marlborough Mountain Bike Club was asked to comment on the audit and while they supported some parts, they disagreed with others.

It was recommended that Council's Parks and Open Spaces team consult directly with the Marlborough Mountain Bike Club to discuss key differences to their submission and the Envisage report.

Already, \$30,000 has been set aside to update signage and information based on the audit findings.

Guarding a wetland in Havelock

On Queen Charlotte Drive, next to the treatment ponds and opposite the Link Pathway, Council is restoring native habitats in partnership with Te Hoiere Project.

Owned by Council and not suitable for future grazing, this area in Havelock is undergoing riparian and wetland planting to improve freshwater quality, capture sediment, and provide biodiversity corridors.

It's a place that many freshwater species love to call home and a floodway where native plants will gradually help to restore the mauri (life force) of this wetland.

The project began in spring 2022, with 14,000 natives spanning nearly three hectares planted ensuring the area remains a functional floodway.

Seedlings have included flax, carex, cabbage trees, manuka, kanuka, kahikatea and totara and care has been taken to ensure the plants have the

best chance of survival by using plant guards, said Te Hoiere Catchment Care Coordinator Aubrey Tai, who is overseeing the project.

"The pukekos love to rip out newly planted seedlings," he said. "We have found a win-win solution by using a local product, EmGuards. "These plant guards are made with recycled pulp and are biodegradable. It protects the plants, improving their chance of survival, while keeping our maintenance costs down as well."

Because the guards are biodegradable, they don't need to be removed once plants are established, as they will naturally break down over time.

Planting is underway for an additional eight hectares this winter, making it one of the largest planted areas throughout Te Hoiere Project. This restoration has been funded through the Ministry for the Environment's At Risk Catchment fund, as well as Department of Conservation's Jobs for Nature programme.



J&S Mears Contracting is planting natives for the project, using plant guards that are biodegradable and give seedlings the best chance of survival

National gravel bed river project's final findings due out

The results of a four year Gravel Bed Rivers (GBR) National Research Project will be presented in Blenheim on Tuesday 10 September.

Funded by the MBIE Endeavour Fund with contributions from Marlborough District Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Environment Canterbury, the study has looked at three rivers - the Wairau, the Ngaruroro in Hawke's Bay and the Selwyn/Waikirikiriri in mid-Canterbury.

"The study has aimed to provide a better understanding of how braided rivers such as the Wairau interact with groundwater systems including the Wairau Aquifer,"

Council's Senior Environmental Scientist - Groundwater Peter Davidson said.

Lincoln Agritech hydrologist Scott Wilson will present the findings of the project at a public presentation titled 'How the Wairau River fills our aquifer (or not).'

The presentation, in conjunction with Council, will be held at the Marlborough Research Centre theatre at the western end of NMIT complex, 85 Budge Street Blenheim from 6pm to 7.30pm. All welcome.

The information will also be presented to iwi, Council staff and councillors at a workshop earlier in the day.



How the Wairau River interacts with groundwater systems has been the focus of a national gravel bed river research project

Public Notices

Meet your Council



Mayor Nadine Taylor leads a team of 14 elected councillors. They are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that will help shape our province into the future.

Council's vision is that Marlborough is a globally-connected district of smart, progressive, high-value enterprises, known for its economic efficiency, quality lifestyle and wellbeing, caring community, desirable location and healthy natural environment.

For more information or to contact one of your elected representatives, Ph: 03 520 7400 or go to: marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors

Antenno keeps you in the loop

Council's mobile app Antenno is a great way to keep up to date with important Council alerts.

Free to install, Antenno is available on both Apple and Android smartphones and no personal information or login details are required. You simply save the locations you want to be informed about, such as your home address, workplace or school.

When Council posts an update relevant to your chosen locations, you receive a notification.

While most posts are specific to your location, some notifications like sports ground closures are published district-wide. This means no matter where a team is playing, they'll have the relevant information.

During rainfall and flooding events, road closure information changes quickly. In these instances, Antenno updates link to information on Council's website. These notifications are sent out district-wide to ensure they reach as many people as quickly as possible.

To learn more about Antenno including how to download the app visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps

If you are unsure how to do this, get a family member to help or contact Council on 03 520 7400.



Untap the potential of community-led development

Head along to the CLD Skills Workshop this month to collaborate with like minded community members and lead meaningful change.

The workshop has been designed to help attendees expand their capacity for diverse relationships, strengthen their partnering approach, prioritise their time and relationship investment, apply tools to build trust and sustain stakeholder relationships, establish steps to map and tap into the strengths of their wider community and to identify new allies, connections and strategies for 'joining up'.

Council community partnerships advisor Jodie Griffiths said partnering enables people to unlock resources, create new ideas, leverage strengths and creatively mobilise to tackle both complex challenges and opportunities.

"We know that a community thrives when locals connect and collaborate to realise the potential of their place, and it is hoped this workshop will help our locals connect and be a catalyst for some meaningful, community-led change." she said.

The event will run from 9.30am until 4pm on September 17. Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/working-together-in-community-led-change-workshop-blenheim>

Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

Water from Council's reticulation network to the Awatere and Dashwood rural areas should be boiled.

It does not currently meet the NZ Drinking Water Standards and may contain bacteria or protozoa that are harmful to human health.

All water used for drinking, food preparation or cleaning teeth should be boiled before use.

Treated water is available at the public taps on Marama Road, outside Seddon School. For further information contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

Mon - Tues 8.30am - 4.30pm

Wed 8.30am - 12.30pm

1.30pm - 4.30pm

Thurs - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

Picton Library & Service Centre

2 Dublin Street, Picton 7220

Ph: 03 520 7493

pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz

Mon - Tues 8.30am - 5pm

Wed 9am - 5pm

Thurs - Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Sat 10am - 4pm

Sun 1pm - 4pm

Council & Committee meetings

The following meeting is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agenda will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

Council

Thursday 19 September 2024 at 9am

The time and date may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

Subscribe to Council's eNewsletter

Direct to your inbox every Friday, Council's eNewsletter Marlborough Matters covers the latest news and information on Council services and projects. Stay in the know and sign up today.

Visit: bit.ly/MarlCouncilENewsletter to subscribe

Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/all-news-notice-and-media-releases

Marlborough

Spring Events

1 SEP - 30 NOV 2024

Pick up your copy of the guide from Marlborough District Council

FOLLOW-ME.CO.NZ



marlborough.govt.nz