

## Long Term Plan decisions move Sounds roading recovery forward

Mayor Nadine Taylor and councillors have now considered the 365 public submissions received on Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024 to 2034.

The Council agreed to progress the Marlborough Sounds roading recovery with a number of changes made to the proposals in the Consultation Document, which was released for public submission in April. The recommendations include adopting Option 2(d) from the Consultation Document for the recovery funding, with the following amendments:

- All marine costs are excluded except \$500k for a targeted study, thereby reducing the current uncertainty on the scope and viability of future marine works;
- Tranches 1 and 2 road repairs expenditure was included in the calculation of the cost share allocation between the Sounds zones;
- The weighting for non-Sounds properties has increased to 30 from the 25 originally proposed.

A funding application has now been submitted to NZTA.

Mayor Taylor said councillors agreed not to pursue a uniform annual charging concept for Sounds properties and there would be an opportunity for the next Council to consider the Sounds roading recovery rating decision in three years' time, at the next LTP round.

"Council has 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."

"We now await NZTA's decisions on our funding application including the financial assistance rate. I am hopeful that Sounds resident's and ratepayers' patience will be rewarded."

"Submitters provided Council with some very useful information which has helped significantly in our decision making," she said.

"The agreed way forward means there is a lower financial impact on almost all ratepayers and our budget decisions are fairer for everyone in Marlborough."

The overall rates increase for the 2024/25 year is 12.96 per cent, just 0.01 per cent higher than the 12.95 per cent proposed in the LTP Consultation Document.

The recommendations mean that by 2034 the average non-Sounds ratepayer will pay \$187.60 towards the Sounds' roading repairs, rather than the \$247.37 a year proposed in the Consultation Document. Non-Sounds ratepayers will contribute 74.5 per cent of Marlborough's contribution to the repairs.

- Kenepuru ratepayers will pay on average \$705.55 per year by 2034, rather than the \$1,224.15 originally proposed.
- Te Aumiti/French Pass ratepayers will pay on average \$247.94 per year by 2034, rather than the \$505.12 originally proposed.
- Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Drive ratepayers will pay on average \$344.75 per year by 2034, rather than the \$333.05 originally proposed.
- Te Hoiere/Pelorus ratepayers will pay on average \$272.84 per year by 2034, rather than the \$323.06 originally proposed.



More repairs like this one at Moenui, Queen Charlotte Drive are signalled with Council's decision to fund the Sounds roads repairs

- Te Whanganui/Port Underwood ratepayers will pay on average \$376.11 per year by 2034, rather than the \$498.58 originally proposed.
- All the other proposals in the Consultation Document were supported. A number of grants were made to community groups and other submissions were referred to Council committees for further consideration, as well as to Council's grant schemes and the Commercial Events Fund. Funding of \$67k was also approved for increased operating costs to maintain College Park, Rewi Murray Park and Puna Wai hockey stadium.

The following requests from submitters were supported:

- Tōtaranui 250 Trust: \$100k for Cook's Lookout on Arapaoa Island (one-off from reserves, approved on condition that other funds are sourced)
- Warmer Healthier Homes Te Tau Ihu Charitable Trust: \$20k each year for three years for home insulation
- Flaxbourne Heritage Trust: increase of \$2.5k per year (and \$250k that was previously approved for Flaxbourne Museum will be released)
- Rapaura Tennis Club: \$2.5k per year for maintenance

- Graeme Dingle Foundation Marlborough: \$2k per year for Career Navigator
- Blenheim Community Patrol: increase of \$3k in annual grant
- Link Pathway/Rick Edmonds: \$10k one-off for path maintenance
- The Nature Conservancy NZ (\$40k per year) from existing budgets
- Marlborough Historical Society: \$40k for one year, from existing budgets.

Mayor Taylor thanked all submitters for making the effort to participate in the LTP consultation.

## Community Grants Fund benefits grassroots groups

Awatere Rugby Club is one of hundreds of community groups that have benefitted from the Marlborough District Council Community Grants Fund over the years.

The fund, with up to \$280,000 available, is open now for applications.

Awatere Rugby Club Treasurer Bernadette Gilmore said the club received \$6,000 from the fund for two heat pumps for the clubrooms in the 2023-2024 funding round.

"Before the new heat pumps, we had a diesel heater which was so noisy people could not hear each other speak and the clubrooms were cold," Bernadette said.

"The funding we received has

made the space so much more homely for players and supporters and more user-friendly for other groups who use the clubrooms. After standing on the sideline on a cold winter's day it is great to be able to go into warm clubrooms. A huge thank you to the Community Grants Fund," she said.

Community Partnerships Advisor Jodie Griffiths said the Awatere Rugby Club was a great example of the "grassroots" organisations who benefit from the fund. "The clubrooms are a hub for the Seddon community, so the benefit of this funding is wider than the rugby club itself. It shows the positive impact this funding has for organisations and groups in many of our smaller Marlborough

communities."

"Council values the important contribution made by local organisations such as the Awatere Rugby Club and the work that is carried out in the community by so many organisations to provide activities and services to the people of Marlborough," Mrs Griffiths said.

"If you are part of a Marlborough group with a project, idea or service that benefits the local community, it is time to think about making an application."

The fund is available for not-for-profit organisations providing services in the community covering a range of sectors including arts and heritage, sports



Council's Community Grants Fund, now open for applications, benefits groups like the Awatere Rugby Club

and recreation, community welfare and social services.

Applications close at 8am on Monday 19 August 2024. For more information or to apply visit: <https://bit.ly/MarlCommunityGrant>

For further information contact Jodie Griffiths or Natalie Lawler on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: [grantapplications@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:grantapplications@marlborough.govt.nz)

### Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm  
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