



📷 An aerial view of the Cook's Lookout site on Arapaoa Island, overlooking Umuwheke Bay, where the Tōtaranui 250 Trust want to develop a lookout

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'

residents 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%, just 0.01% higher than the 12.95% 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.
- Totaranui/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
- 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. 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.

Te Kahu o Waipuna pulling in the crowds a year on

Marlborough's new library and art gallery celebrated its first year opening anniversary in low-key style.



📷 Library and art gallery staff celebrated the one year anniversary recently

Long-serving staff member Marj Townsend cut the anniversary cake which all staff shared.

It's been a very successful year for the facility which opened in May 2023 after years of planning and months of preparation.

Recorded visitor numbers for the year from May 2023 to May 2024 were nearly 400,000, double the numbers who visited the old library the previous year.

As well, nearly 5,000 new members have joined the library.

Purpose-built spaces have enabled Marlborough Art Gallery to present and care for the region's art collection at optimum levels.

Significant touring exhibitions have been brought to Marlborough including Rita Angus: New Zealand Modernist attracting thousands of visitors.

Marlborough District Libraries' Manager Glenn Webster said the first year had been very rewarding, particularly seeing so many people using the facility, not just for book borrowing or visiting the gallery but as a work and social space.

He paid tribute to the staff, noting how much had been achieved and how positively the community had engaged

with everything Te Kahu o Waipuna had to offer.

Te Kahu o Waipuna was officially named and acknowledged by tangata/mana whenua Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Toa Rangatira at a dawn blessing when it opened last year.

The \$20 million dollar complex was a 'shovel ready' project and allocated \$11 million in funding from the Government's Kānoa Regional and Economic Development Unit.

At the time Mayor Nadine Taylor said the new facilities would be a centre of knowledge, information and activity for everyone in Marlborough.

"This is one of the most significant projects ever undertaken by Council and has been the work of many hands."

In its first year the building has won national recognition including picking up three awards at the Master Builders' Association Commercial Project Awards.

Council also released a timelapse video to mark the one-year celebration – more than 730,000 images were compressed into a 13-minute video showing Te Kahu o Waipuna rising from the ground. To view go to Council's Facebook page.