

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



Long Term Plan proposal agreed

People will soon have the opportunity to have their say on Council's planned expenditure in its 10 year plan, which proposes an average rates increase of 12.65 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year.

Councils around the country were facing double digit increases but Marlborough's was at the lower end of the scale, Mayor Nadine Taylor said.

"We're not alone in facing increased costs due to factors outside our control, such as damaging storms, inflation, contract price increases and the lasting effects of the Covid pandemic."

"However, we're not proposing to cut services and we're continuing to invest in core infrastructure because we don't want to see Marlborough going backwards."

The Long Term Plan 2024/2034 budget sees new investment in the region's infrastructure, repairs to Marlborough Sounds roads, increases in some levels of service and the removal of the Council's Covid rates subsidy.

At last week's budget meeting councillors approved a number of recommendations to go to public consultation.

Key infrastructure projects include continuing work on the water supply in Awatere, Blenheim, Havelock, Picton, Renwick, Riverlands, Seddon, and Wairau Valley, including upgrading pipelines, pump stations and wells to ensure they meet current needs. Drinking water improvements will continue with chlorination to be introduced in Blenheim and a new water treatment plant in Havelock, to ensure water meets national standards.

A new reservoir is planned for Dashwood, new wells are proposed north of Blenheim to increase resilience and supply capacity, and work is ongoing with Picton's water supply, dams and reservoirs.

There will also be investment in sewage treatment plants and pump stations in Blenheim, Picton, Riverlands and Renwick, plus a new sewage treatment plant for Havelock and a major upgrade for Seddon's plant.

Roading is the biggest item of Council expenditure at around 20 per cent, including maintenance, renewals and improvements to roads, footpaths, bridges and drainage. The plan proposes increasing this funding by \$27.5M over the next three years.

Other key projects include:

- Marlborough Sounds Roothing Funding Recovery - \$234M for repairs, improvements and increased marine access, with \$106M funded by ratepayers over 25 years. Council proposes to pay for repairs to flood damaged roads with Marlborough ratepayers paying 70 per cent and Sounds-based ratepayers 30 per cent.
- Spring Creek - \$8.7M for design, repair and upgrade of the stop banks to ensure the safety of the township during a flood (debt funded)
- Emergency Events Reserve - replenish to its previously agreed level, at an additional \$500k per year over 10 years (rates funded from 2026-27)
- Taylor and Ōpaoa rivers sediment removal - additional \$800k over the next two years (rates funded)
- Riverside Park boardwalk, Blenheim - resurface with recycled plastic boards - \$493,600 (reserve funded)

• Public toilets - upgrades at Horton Park, Oliver Park, Pollard Park and Fairhall Cemetery, and 12 new facilities around the region - \$1.48M (debt funded)

• A&P Park sports pavilion replacement - additional \$3.7M (reserves and debt funded)

• Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy - \$200k over four years to help build a flourishing creative community (rates funded)

• Waitohi Domain, Picton - new ablutions block for truck drivers, and lease termination - \$609k (reserve funded)

• Nautical and Coastal Science - additional funding of \$809k over three years (rates funded)

• Marlborough Events Centre - \$250k operating costs over three years (rates funded)

• Marlborough Museum - additional funding for digitisation and IT upgrades - \$118k in 2024/25 and \$40k per year over 10 years (reserves and rates funded)

• Springlands stormwater upgrade 'Option G' - an additional \$2.7M (rates funded)

• Changes in fees, including for parking in Blenheim

You can have your say and make a submission from 4 April to 6 May. There will be public meetings and hearings - further information will be made available.

Wheelie bin rollout starts

Let's get it sorted - Marlborough's wheelie bin rollout is underway.

Wheelie bins are now being delivered, area by area, to Marlborough households. Delivery will continue until all areas have been covered, in time for the 1 July launch of the new and expanded kerbside collection service.

Please keep using your rubbish bags until the end of June - the wheelie bins will not be emptied until the new service launches on 1 July.

The first area to have bins delivered is Dry Hills and the area between Alabama Road and Wither Road, and west to Howick Road. Wheelie bins will be delivered to the kerbside where residents should place them for collection when the new service rolls out.

Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said there are about 36,000 bins being delivered and people should not worry if they think they've been missed. If you have not received your bin by the beginning of June please contact Council.

Rubbish bags will not be collected after 1 July. While Council has a limited supply left, most supermarkets in the region have stopped selling them.

"People can use up their supply of rubbish bags but from 1 July these will not be collected from the kerbside.

Council will continue to accept them at transfer stations, the Waste Sorting Centre, or the Resource Recovery Centre, but that option will be removed as demand diminishes," Mark said.

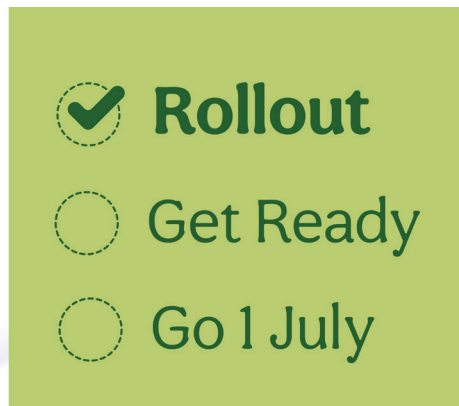
You can redeem your rubbish bag voucher at Council's Blenheim or Picton Service Centres or get a rebate until 30 June this year. While stocks last, rubbish bags are available to buy from Council's Blenheim or Picton Service Centres either individually (\$1.85), in packs of 10 (\$18.50) or packs of 52 (\$96.00).

The kerbside collection service covers Blenheim, Grovetown, Havelock, Picton, Rai Valley, Rangai, Renwick, Seddon, Spring Creek and Tua Marina with household waste collected one week and recycling the next. Two wheelie bins will be delivered to each household - one for household waste and one for recycling, except glass, which will go into the maroon crate currently used for recycling.

For more information on collection areas and days go to Council's Smart Maps <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/kerbside>

If you have questions about the new system go to: links.marlborough.govt.nz/Kerbside-FAQs phone Council on 03 520 7400 or email mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

Let's get it sorted



Library and art gallery welcome 300,000th visitor

The 300,000th visitor has stepped through the doors of Te Kahu o Waipuna, the Marlborough Library and Art Gallery.

The special milestone was marked by Marlborough Libraries Manager Glenn Webster and Marlborough Art Gallery Director Cressida Bishop who greeted the lucky visitor.

Diane from Blenheim visits at least one or twice a week and was on her way to join the Knit and Natter Group with the crochet she makes to donate to charities. She was also meeting her husband of 38 years there for their wedding anniversary. Diane was treated to coffee and cake

at the library CBD café to celebrate the occasion.

"We have lots of wonderful people like Diane coming in every day. The facility has become the community hub we hoped and believed it would. People visit regularly to take out or return books, join in the wide variety of programmes on offer, visit exhibitions at the gallery or use the meeting rooms. We look forward welcoming many more thousands in the years to come," Glenn said.

It's less than a year since the new facility opened its doors to the public - on 12 May 2023.



Marlborough Libraries Manager Glenn Webster and Marlborough Art Gallery Director Cressida Bishop with Diane, the 300,000th visitor to Te Kahu o Waipuna

Restoring wild mussel beds in the Top of the South

A project to restore wild, green-lipped mussel beds in Te Tau Ihu/Top of the South Island is delivering exciting results.

More than 50 tonnes of farmed mussels/kūtai and 24 tonnes of mussel shells have been put on the seabed in various locations since 2019. Council has been involved alongside the University of Auckland, the Marine Farming Association, NIWA, local marine farmers, iwi, the Nature Conservancy and MPI, working to identify the best methods for restoring wild mussel beds as part of the Kūtai Restoration Project.

Senior Coastal Scientist Katie Littlewood says the goal is to examine the potential of restoring green-lipped mussels and overcome barriers to natural mussel recovery.

"While Marlborough is a highly productive farmed, green-lipped mussels/kūtai region, wild shellfish beds are important for ecosystem function and the aim is to have wild mussels growing on the seabed, as happened in the past," she said. "Mussels act as building blocks and are important for overall ecosystem health, providing habitats for marine life and aiding sediment filtration and removal."

At a recent Environment and Planning Committee meeting, Dr Emilee Benjamin, Research Fellow from the University of Auckland, explained her team's work over the past four years.

"Most of the mussels put on the seabed survived and built habitats for other marine organisms. Ongoing surveys of the beds show twice as many seaweeds, four times more blue cod and higher amounts of invertebrates such as sea cucumbers, compared to adjacent habitats," she said.

"Our ultimate goal is self-sustainable populations. Juvenile mussels aren't currently recruiting into the restored mussel beds so our focus is on understanding this and facilitating juvenile recruitment."

"Restoration takes many hands, and we are grateful to our partners, especially the aquaculture industry, which donates time, resources, mussels and shells to make our work possible."

The project will continue for another three years.



A blue cod swimming over a flourishing green-lipped mussel bed

Creative NZ funding workshop coming up

Creative NZ representatives will be in Blenheim next Sunday running a workshop to help creative communities access funding.

Council's Project Lead, Arts, Culture and Heritage Nicola Neilson said the workshop would help local artists and arts organisations understand and access Creative NZ's new fund, which opened on 7 March.

Twenty workshops are planned across the country and are free to attend. The Blenheim workshop will be held on Sunday 17 March from 2pm to 3pm at the Marlborough Art Gallery, Te Kahu o Waipuna. No RSVP is required.

For more information go to: <https://creative.nz/funding-and-support/advice-and-support/events>



Last day to pay rates

Always pay your rates on time!

This is a reminder that the final day for payment of Instalment 3 of your rates is Monday 11 March 2024. A late payment can incur a 10 per cent penalty.

Why not sign up for a direct debit? Paying your rates by direct debit means never having to worry about missing a payment or incurring penalties.

It's the easiest and most flexible way to pay - you choose how often you pay - you can even choose what day of the week the payment comes out of your account.

If you would like to know more, call our Customer Services team at Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.

Every drop counts

Picton and Waikawa residents can now use sprinklers on alternate days.

Hand held hoses, flushing of boat motors and light boat washing are allowed too.

• A property with an even numbered street address may use a sprinkler on even numbered calendar days

• A property with an odd numbered street address can use a sprinkler on odd numbered calendar days

The water play area on Picton Foreshore will be open on weekends and public holidays.



Public Notices

A Cuppa with your Councillors



Sounds-based councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month.

The Cuppa with your Councillors sessions are held at Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre - the next session is on Wednesday 20 March from 10am until midday.

Councillors can provide advice, information and help with Council-related issues.

Barbara Faulls, Raylene Innes and Ben Minehan are Sounds Ward councillors. Allanah Burgess is the Māori Ward councillor for Marlborough, based in Picton.

Where: Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre.

When: 10am to midday on Wednesday 20 March; Wednesday 24 April and Wednesday 22 May.

Commercial Events Fund closes Monday

Round 2 of Council's 2023/2024 Commercial Events Fund closes next Monday 11 March.

This fund was established to help create economic benefit to Marlborough by attracting new events and helping to build on existing ones. The Commercial Events Fund subcommittee considers the applications - there is up to \$100,000 available for allocation for 2023/2024.

To be eligible, commercial events must be held within the Marlborough District Council boundaries. Community events, conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions are not eligible.

Funding is granted annually but it does not mean that all funds must be distributed each year. Past applicants who have been unsuccessful may reapply.

Key dates:

- Applications close: 5pm Monday 11 March 2024
- Funding decision by: 5pm Friday 5 April 2024

Applications must be completed via Council's website - www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/commercial-events-fund

Any enquiries can be directed to Regional Events Advisor, Samantha Young, Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: events@marlborough.govt.nz

Proposed temporary road closures - Anzac Day

The following streets are proposed to be closed on Thursday 25 April for Anzac commemoration services.

Picton

- London Quay from Auckland Street to Wellington Street, High Street from London Quay to the intersection of Dublin Street/Waikawa Road/High Street 5am to 7.30am

Renwick

- High Street from Inkerman Street to Alma Street, Uxbridge Street from Havelock Street to the Renwick Domain 8.30am to 10am

Blenheim

- Arthur Street from Queen Street to the Countdown entrance, Seymour Street from George Street to John Street, including the Alfred/Seymour, High/Seymour, Charles/Seymour and Arthur/Seymour Street intersections 11am to 12pm
- High Street from Queen Street to Henry Street, Seymour Street from Charles Street to John Street, Alfred Street from Henry Street to Market Street,

Hutcheson Street from Alfred Street to John Street, Russell Terrace from Alfred Street (including the Clubs of Marlborough car park exit into Russell Terrace) 12pm to 1.30pm

For a full description including detour routes please go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/Anzac-day-road-closures>

During the proposed period of closure, ordinary vehicle traffic may use the road being closed between events under the supervision and authority of an officer of the New Zealand Police (Traffic Safety Branch).

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person other than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicle traffic during the period of closure.

This notice is given under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.

Persons wishing to object to the proposal are to lodge their objection in writing before 4 April 2024, at Marlborough Roads, The Forum, Market Street, Blenheim, PO Box 1031, Blenheim, 7240.

Any enquiries to Dean Hawkey, Marlborough Roads, Ph: 021 923 536.

Proposed temporary road closure - Pukaka Valley Road

On Sunday 21 April the following roads are proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicle traffic for the Marlborough Car Club Sprint races:

- Pukaka Valley Road RP 0 - 4,200m (from the intersection of Pukaka Valley Road/Pembers Road) 7.30am to 5pm

During the proposed period of closure, ordinary vehicular traffic may use the road being closed between events under the supervision and authority of an Officer of the New Zealand Police (Traffic Safety Branch).

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person other than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

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Any enquiries to Dean Hawkey, Marlborough Roads, Ph: 021 923 536.

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 - Fri 8am - 5pm

Sat - Sun 10am - 4pm

Council & Committee Meetings

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

Environment and Planning

Thursday 14 March at 9am

Economic, Finance and Community

Tuesday 19 March at 9am

Public Forum

A public forum can be held prior to the Economic, Finance and Community Committee at 8.30am. If you wish to address the Committee you need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary at least 24 hours prior. Please note topics are restricted to those agenda items for the meeting or within the Committee's delegation.

All times and dates are subject to change. Please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

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.