



Rolling out the bins

Seven thousand bins down, 29,000 to go!

The team from WM New Zealand (formerly Waste Management NZ) is working hard across Marlborough to deliver wheelie bins as part of Council's new and expanded kerbside collection service which starts 1 July.

Bins are on their way if you live in Blenheim, Picton, Grovetown, Havelock, Rai Valley, Rarangi, Renwick, Seddon, Spring Creek or Tua Marina and the rollout is already underway in Blenheim and Picton.

WM New Zealand Branch Manager Marlborough Paul Withers said a newly recruited team for the rollout would be working hard until the end of June when most Marlborough residents will have their new wheelie bins. "The rollout is a huge logistical exercise as it takes at least one week to deliver bins to an area that takes just half a day for a truck to service," Mr Withers said.

The bins are being delivered in the safest place closest to the property, in a manner so as not to cause congestion, nuisance or danger to the public.

"After 1 July when the collection service starts bins must be positioned on the kerb or verge at the



Rollout

Get Ready

Go 1 July

edge of the road, with the Marlborough logo facing the road and away from obstacles and overhanging bushes or structures at least half a metre apart. This allows the collection truck's lifting mechanism to lift the bin," he said.

Council's Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said residents included in the collection service should have one red general waste bin, instead of single-use rubbish bags, and a yellow recycling bin by the end of June. The old maroon recycling crates will be retained and used to collect glass.

"Keep your existing maroon crate if you have one. A crate will be delivered with your wheelie bins if you are new to the kerbside collection service. Rubbish bags won't be collected kerbside after 1 July. The new service provides improved capacity and efficiency, saving 750,000 bags to landfill every year," he said.

To find out if your property is included in the service go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/kerbside> or if you have any questions contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



Coming soon to a street near you... the team from WM New Zealand are rolling out wheelie bins around Marlborough to properties included in the new and expanded service

Long Term Plan community consultation meeting dates

People will soon get the chance to find out more about Council's planned expenditure in its Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034. Submissions open from 4 April to 6 May.

The LTP proposes an average rates

increase of 12.65 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year, not including Marlborough Sounds roading repairs. The biggest challenge in the ten year plan is how to fund the \$106M local share of the Sounds' roads \$234M repair and improvement bill, damaged

by storms in 2021 and 2022.

There are a number of ways in which this could be funded, which will be explained in Council's LTP Consultation Document and at the community drop-in meetings and webinar. These are:

Date	Time	Location	Meeting style
Monday 15 April	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Blenheim, Lansdowne Hub 6B Lansdowne Street, Mayfield,	Community drop-in
Tuesday 16 April	2pm – 4pm	Rai Valley, The Millers Rest 6767 State Highway 6	Community drop-in
Wednesday 17 April	12.30pm – 2.30pm	Waitaria Bay, Waitaria Bay Hall	Community drop-in
Thursday 18 April	5.30pm – 7pm	Online webinar	Via Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88384985861
Friday 19 April	12pm – 2pm	Seddon, Awatere Memorial Hall 1C Foster Street	Community drop-in
Monday 22 April	2pm – 4pm		Community drop-in
Tuesday 23 April	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Picton, Port Marlborough Pavilion, Endeavour Park, Waikawa Road	Community drop-in

The Long Term Plan 2024/2034 budget sees new investment in the region's infrastructure, repairs to Marlborough Sounds roads, provides

increases in some levels of service and removes the Council's Covid rates subsidy.

Further information will be made available on Council's website at www.marlborough.govt.nz and at Customer Service Centres from 4 April.

Good news for Marlborough's economy

Leading economist Brad Olsen said Marlborough's strong primary sector was helping it through some tough economic times.

Brad and colleague Nick Brunson from Infometrics spoke at Council's Economic, Finance and Community committee meeting last week, providing an in-depth snapshot of the region's economic profile.

"You are one of the only regions across the country that's seen an actual improvement in agriculture, forestry and fishing gross domestic product," Brad said. "A large part of that is because of your viticulture focus."

Brad said there were challenging economic times ahead with inflation the chief concern.

High national immigration of 146,000 over the last year had created the strongest population growth New Zealand had seen since 1946, which was putting pressure on services and infrastructure nationally.

"On one hand migration has provided a lot of people and resources to do work in the economy, but they require a whole bunch of services," he said.

Brad didn't expect to see any easing of interest rates anytime soon. "That's a slow burn".

Nick Brunson said Marlborough's population of 52,000 was one of the strongest around the country in terms of consumer spending.

"We're seeing considerable cost of living pressures on households and while people are leaving the shop with slightly fewer bags, here in Marlborough spending grew 6.3 % compared with 4.3 % nationally," he said. "That puts Marlborough among one of the highest growth regions in the country which suggests a strong degree of consumer confidence."

There was good news in the construction sector too with non-residential building consents at \$96M in the year to December 2023.



Economist Brad Olsen from Infometrics

House prices in Marlborough were still some of the most affordable in the country. "Marlborough has always been relatively affordable and having house prices come back a bit has improved that further," Nick said.

Infometrics provides a detailed annual economic profile of the district and quarterly economic reports, which are available on Council's website.

Marlborough hosts British High commissioner

Mayor Nadine Taylor recently met with British High Commissioner to New Zealand Iona Thomas, who was in Blenheim to attend the Global Cities conference.

"We discussed issues of mutual interest and the importance of the UK-New Zealand relationship," Mayor Taylor said.

"New Zealand's new free trade

agreement with the UK sets a framework for further cooperation on research, science and innovation, and there may be opportunities for both Marlborough and British agritech innovators."

"We are hosting the WinePRO agritech conference and trade fair here in June which will bring together an international cohort of

wine agritech businesses."

"We are also opening our own tech hub in Blenheim later this year - the future for technology innovation in Marlborough is bright."

Mayor Taylor said she would be staying in touch with the British High Commissioner to explore future opportunities of mutual interest.



British High Commissioner Iona Thomas with Mayor Nadine Taylor

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
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