

First hour free parking extended

The first hour of free parking has been extended for Blenheim and Picton's central business districts after councillors decided the initiative would remain in place for now.

The policy was considered as part of the Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031 ratified during a Council meeting last week.

Parking portfolio holder Councillor Brian Dawson said the Council had received a lot of positive feedback about the policy from shoppers and retailers since its introduction in October last year.

"Encouraging people into Picton and Blenheim is vital for our retail and hospitality sector. We want to make it as easy as possible for Marlburians to get out and support local shops, cafés and restaurants," Councillor Dawson said.

However, in order to retain the first hour free, parking prices after the first hour will increase by 20 percent.

"These increases are necessary to allow the first hour of parking to remain free, without passing the cost on to ratepayers," Councillor Dawson said.

"Despite the increase, our parking is relatively affordable compared to other similar centres throughout the country," he said.

From Thursday 1 July the general kerbside parking (zone 1) rate in Blenheim will increase from \$1.50 to \$1.80 per hour. This is the first fee increase since 2015.

Hourly parking fees in other areas, such as the Alfred Street carpark building will increase today from \$1.00 to \$1.20 per hour, while all-day car parking (zone 3) in Blenheim will increase from \$4.00 to \$4.80 and from \$5.00 to \$6.00 in Picton.

Those with Council parking leases and permits will also incur a slight increase.

You can still pay for your parking using your debit card, credit card or via the PayMyPark app on your mobile phone. Keep some loose coins handy if you usually pay for your parking with cash, as the meters cannot issue change due to a security mechanism to prevent vandalism. All parking fees will be shown on the Pay by Plate meters in Blenheim and Picton and on the PayMyPark app.

For further information and a breakdown of the new parking charges visit:
www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/parking/parking-fees-and-locations-blenheim

TICKETLESS PAY BY PLATE PARKING			Key public parking fee changes	
Area	Old tariff	New tariff		
On-street (zone 1)	\$1.50 per hour	\$1.80 per hour		
Hourly rate (zones 2, 3 & 4)	\$1.00 per hour	\$1.20 per hour		
Blenheim all-day rate (including Alfred Street carpark building)	\$4.00 per day	\$4.80 per day		
Picton all-day rate	\$5.00 per day	\$6.00 per day		

Central Government requirements force freshwater monitoring charges

The Government's bid to improve freshwater quality will result in new monitoring charges for permitted activities locally but the Council has done its best to be fair, equitable and transparent.

Last week the Council adopted the recommendation of the hearing panel which will see new permitted activity monitoring charges introduced from 1 July 2021 to implement the National Environmental Standards (NES) for Freshwater Activities. This will affect a variety of property owners throughout Marlborough.

Further information is available in the regulations or on the Council website, under National Environment Standards for Freshwater information.

"In setting these fees, the Council has tried to be fair and transparent - this is the real cost of the Council carrying out its duties as a regulatory body to administer the NES Freshwater Activities, which came into effect in September last year," said hearing panel chair, Councillor Gerald Hope.

"We understand the pressure on the rural sector at this time.

That said, the Council has to be careful not to burden the ratepayer with more cost.

We considered it appropriate that the full costs this monitoring incurs are charged to the affected individual, rather than some of the cost being apportioned to the general ratepayer," said Cllr Hope.

Charges and fees have been approved for a number of activities which include an administration and notification set charge of \$36.52 + GST. Sampling, and contracting of consultants, will be charged at the actual cost to the Council.

An hourly rate for an Environmental Protection Officer of \$134.78 + GST has also now been confirmed.

The sampling and hourly charges for an Environmental Protection Officer will only be incurred in the event that site monitoring for permitted activities under the NES-Freshwater Regulations is required, or non-compliance has been identified as a result of a complaint.

"If you are compliant or are not subject to a complaint, these additional charges will not apply to you," said Cllr Hope.

A special consultative process was undertaken earlier this year which provided an opportunity for the public to have their say on the proposed charges.

For further information go to:
<https://bit.ly/2U6XsWA>

Council adopts Proposed East Coast Beach Vehicle Bylaw for consultation

Councillors have voted unanimously to move forward with a bylaw process and open public submissions for the draft East Coast Beach Vehicle Bylaw from 1 July.

The draft bylaw proposes to prohibit motor vehicles on the beach between the Awatere and Waima (Ure) River mouths, with a few exemptions.

This option will improve public safety and enable habitat restoration and protection of the area's many threatened and at-risk species. A Statement of Proposal includes a draft bylaw, proposal summary and revised technical report.

With public consultation opening on 1 July, an online submission form will be available on the Council website with hard copies of the forms available at the Council offices in Blenheim and Picton. The Council encourages anyone to make their views on the proposal known by making a submission.

"The draft Bylaw is a proposal and this submission period is a chance for everyone to be heard. I think everyone knows we have a problem to solve regarding public safety and environmental protection along this special stretch of coast," said Mayor John Leggett, who is Chair of the Environment Committee.

"We all want the best solution moving forward. Now, it's time for the public, whether they agree or disagree with the current proposal, to have their say."



Cape Campbell before and after the Kaikōura earthquake



Request for information and pricing - air conditioning

The Council is seeking information and pricing for the replacement of air conditioning equipment.

The contract involves the provision of equipment, design, supply, installation and commissioning of heating, ventilation and air conditioning services (HVAC System) for the 1994 two storey building.

Parties responding to this RFIP must have a permanent operational base in the Marlborough District.

Proposed temporary road closure - Marlborough Car Club

On Sunday 15 August the following road is to be closed to ordinary vehicle traffic for the Marlborough Car Club Hill Climb between 7.30 am and 5.00 pm.

The road is:

- Reserve Rd - 0.4km to 3.2km (gravel section)

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

The east coast is known for its wide-ranging values from recreation and commercial fishing to ecological and cultural significance. Following the Kaikōura earthquake in late 2016, this stretch of the east coast became much more accessible, as the seabed lifted and wide new expanses of beach and exposed reefs were created.

The dramatic change to the coast is the biggest physical transformation observed of any earthquake globally in modern times. In places where access was previously restricted, it became possible to walk or drive at any time. The damage caused by the earthquake, coupled with increased motor vehicle access, has led to mounting pressure on the area's unique ecosystems.

After considering several options and holding discussions with iwi, stakeholders, community groups, landowners and scientists, the Council is moving forward with a draft bylaw for community consideration. During the consultation period, a sub-committee will appoint a Hearings Panel comprised of at least one councillor and two independent commissioners. Following the submission period, the Hearings Panel will hear from the public and make recommendations to the full Council.

Public submissions close on Thursday 26 August at 5.00 pm. For more information about the draft Bylaw, including options considered and how to make a submission, please visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz

Emergency quick tips from Marlborough Emergency Management



Earthquakes: all of New Zealand is at risk of earthquakes. We can't predict when one will happen, but we can prepare ourselves and our family. Find out what to do before, during and after an earthquake. www.getready.govt.nz/emergency/earthquakes
Tsunami: all of New Zealand's coastline is at risk of tsunamis. Knowing the warning signs and the right action to take can help save lives. Find out what to do before, during and after a tsunami. www.getready.govt.nz/emergency/tsunami/
Preparedness: it's up to you to make sure your family, and the people you care about, know what to do and that you all have what you need to get through on your own. Make a plan with family, whānau or your neighbours. www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/household
Know your neighbours: in an emergency, you can help your neighbour while the emergency services are busy helping people who need them most. Get involved in your community and get to know your neighbours before an emergency happens. www.getready.govt.nz/involved/community/
Get ready at work: emergencies can happen anytime, including during business hours. You can't predict when they will happen, but you can take actions to make your business more prepared. www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/work
Water: we may be without running water in an emergency. Find out how to safely store enough water for you and your family, to get through an emergency. www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/household/supplies/storing-water/
Stay informed: accurate information in an emergency is critical. Listen to the radio, take action if you receive an emergency mobile alert and if you follow social media, stick to official channels - the National Emergency Management Agency and the Council. www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/
Emergency Mobile Alert: emergency mobile alerts are messages about emergencies sent by authorised emergency agencies to mobile phones. The alerts are designed to keep people safe and are broadcast to all capable phones from targeted cell towers. www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/

Have you noticed the blue fish on drains?

If you've had your head down when you've walked around Blenheim you might have spotted the blue plastic fish beside some drains - but do you know why they're there?

What began as a primary school project spawned a local community clean water education programme and has spread to local schools, preschools and businesses.

The clean water message, keeping the town's stormwater drains for rainwater only, began at Springlands School in 2010 after students discovered the amount of rubbish being washed into the Taylor River from town streets through stormwater drains.

A series of blue plastic fish, representing Marlborough's indigenous kokopu, were fixed to stormwater drains in and around the school as a reminder to keep them clear of rubbish.

Fast forward 11 years and more than 400 plastic fish, the Fish on Drains project remains a key part of the Council's freshwater education programme.



The blue plastic fish fixed beside stormwater drains represent Marlborough's indigenous kokopu

Council Environmental Educator, Anna Crowe, said it was one of a suite of things focused on supporting schools and students to learn about river health, and how they can help care for our waterways.

"Students learn about our stormwater system and how the drains in our streets and carparks link directly with our rivers, which then flow out to the sea."

"They learn why 'drains are only for rain' and we also talk to the students about some of the nasties that people put down these drains - purposefully or accidentally."

"At the end of the programme students can opt to help install the fish beside the drains in their community, usually around their school," said Anna.

"They love being involved and will often go home and talk to their family about the project, which is a fantastic way to spread the message that we can all help care for our urban waterways."

Marlborough Events

www.follow-me.co.nz

FOLLOW ME

TEAM Group - Marlborough Covid-19 Economic Update

The Economic Action Marlborough (TEAM) Group invite you to join them at this special event where Infometrics' Senior Economist Brad Olsen will provide an update on the national and local economic outlook. The Group will welcome a number of recipients of TEAM funding to talk about their successful projects. Lunch will be provided. Registration is essential.

Mon 5 July; 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm
Taylor Restaurant, Clubs of Marlborough



TEAM
Economic Action
Marlborough
Mahi Tahi

Tender - Picton 3 Waters maintenance contract

The Council invites tenders for Picton 3 Waters maintenance services contract.

It includes daily operation and maintenance of the Picton water, sewerage and stormwater networks, excluding treatment plants.

Tenders close at 4.00 pm on 30 July 2021. Tender documents can be downloaded from:

www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/tenders

All enquiries should be directed to:

Yee Chen
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
Ph: 03 520 7400
Email: yee.chen@marlborough.govt.nz

Harbourmaster seeking information on abandoned vessels

The Marlborough Harbourmaster is seeking the owners of these two vessels.

If you are the owner of any of these boats or have information on the vessels or the owners, please contact the Harbourmaster on 03 520 7400.

The vessels are now in the possession of the Harbourmaster. If they remain unclaimed for 30 days they may be sold or destroyed.



Council meetings



Assets & Services Committee

• Thursday 8 July at 9.00 am

Environment Committee

• Thursday 15 July at 9.00 am

Times and dates may be subject to change.

Please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

Water from the 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 the Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.