

Council services at Alert Level 2

We are now at
Alert level 2

Find out more at
[Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

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[New Zealand](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz) Government

Marlborough along with the rest of the country (with the exception of Auckland) moved to Alert Level 2 yesterday. The change means a number of Council facilities have reopened but there are still be some restrictions at our libraries and customer services centres. Face coverings must be worn in most public places including our libraries, waste management and recycling facilities and customer service centres, and visitors must scan in. For more information visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz

Parks, reserves and playgrounds

All of Council's parks and reserves, including playgrounds, will reopen under Alert Level 2. Please maintain physical distancing when enjoying our open spaces.

Kerbside collection

Kerbside collections in Blenheim and Picton will continue as normal and the processing of kerbside recycling will recommence. Rolls of ten Council refuse bags are available for purchase from supermarkets.

Transfer stations

Transfer stations will be open as normal. Every second drop-off bay will be closed to enable physical distancing. This means the emptying capacity is reduced by 50 percent, so if you are using the transfer station please be patient. During Alert Level 2 onsite staff will record vehicle registration details as part of the contact tracing protocol. Face masks should be worn when using the transfer stations.

Greenwaste and Resource Recovery Centre

Both will be open but access will be controlled to ensure physical distancing. Face masks should be worn when using the transfer stations.

Rural community recycling

The rural recycling service and coin skips will continue to operate as normal at Alert Level 2. However, the Portage coin skip remains out of use due to the road slips which prevents the contractor from servicing the site.

Reuse Centre

The reuse centre in Blenheim will reopen under Alert Level 2. Please note a revised drop off process will be in place and numbers allowed to enter the shop will be limited. Please remember, maintain physical distancing and wear a face mask when using the site.

Bluegums landfill

The Bluegums landfill is open its usual hours for existing commercial customers only. Face masks should be worn when using the landfill.

Hazardous Waste Centre

The site will be open but access will be controlled to ensure physical distancing. Face masks should be worn when using the transfer stations.

Bus services

Under Alert Level 2 Council's bus service will continue to operate as normal.

Fare collection will resume at Alert Level 2, from Monday 13 September. We encourage passengers to have the correct fare amount to limit interaction with bus drivers.

In accordance with government requirements passengers must wear a face covering while on the bus and at arrival and departure points (e.g. bus stops).

If you are taking the bus you can help keep yourself and others safe by following this advice:

- Sit next to people you know, otherwise keep the seat next to you free
- Follow the on-board guidance and maintain physical distancing from those you don't know whilst on board, and keep 2 metres distance while waiting for services
- Comply with any temporary barriers and seat signage indicating where you are allowed to sit
- Scan the QR code displayed on the bus
- Where passengers are unable to scan the QR code they are asked to individually record details of each trip for purposes of contact tracing.

- Do not travel on the bus if you are unwell, have been advised to take a Covid-19 test or are awaiting test results.

Council offices

Council reception in Blenheim will reopen as soon as possible under Alert Level 2. Please keep an eye on our website: www.marlborough.govt.nz for the latest information on this. Face coverings must be worn when you are visiting Council offices and you must scan in. Council's online services are operating as usual - many enquiries, applications, payments, submissions and other business can be carried out on the Council's website. Please note payments at reception will only be accepted by debit card or credit card. You can also contact us via email at: mdc@marlborough.govt.nz Include your contact details and one of the team will contact you. Or you can call Ph: 03 520 7400.

Council and committee meetings

At Alert Level 2 Council Chambers will be used for Council and Committee meetings, however seating arrangements will be changed to meet physical distancing protocols. This means only a limited number of public seats will be available and wearing a mask will be required. A Zoom recording and minutes will be available on the Council website following the meetings.

Libraries

Marlborough District Library (Blenheim) and Picton Library and Service Centre will reopen as soon as possible under Alert Level 2 but will do so at a reduced level of service. Hours of opening will initially be 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Please keep an eye on the Libraries website: www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz for the latest information on this. Face coverings must be worn when you are visiting the libraries and you must scan in. Physical distancing should also be adhered to.

You can call the Marlborough District Library (Blenheim) on Ph: 03 520 7491 or email: library@marlborough.govt.nz

You can call the Picton Library and Service Centre on Ph: 03 520 7493 or email: pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz

Online services including access to ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers are still available. For more information on our online library services go to: www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz

Harbours

Under Alert Level 2 all recreational boating and water-based activities are permitted but physical distancing should be maintained as much as practicable,

and good hygiene and cleaning practices should be applied. Boaties and other water users will be able to travel between regions (not including Auckland) but need to do so safely, and to keep a record of their travel. More information can be found on the Maritime NZ website at: www.maritimenz.govt.nz

Public toilets

All public toilets in Marlborough will reopen under Alert Level 2.

Dogs

The Renwick Dog Park will open under Alert Level 2. Please ensure you maintain physical distancing when using the park. Dogs should continue to stay on a lead, including in dog exercise areas where leads aren't normally required as this helps to maintain physical distancing. If you're out walking your dog please ensure you pick up after it.

Building inspections

At Alert Level 2, building inspections will take place with appropriate safety measures. If you wish to book an inspection, please call Ph: 03 520 7405. For any other enquiries please email the duty builder dutybuilder@marlborough.govt.nz

Noise control

During Alert Level 2, if you are being disturbed by noise, please phone the Council on Ph: 03 520 7400 at the time the nuisance is occurring and one of our Noise Control Officers will attend.

Rates

Ratepayers whose rates are due yesterday, Wednesday 8 September would normally receive a penalty if they had not paid by this date.

Council has decided that any penalty will not now be incurred until Friday 8 October. The extra time is designed to help those affected by the Covid lockdown, including those who were unable to come into the Council's offices in person to pay their rates or claim a rates rebate.

For further information visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/rates or Ph: 03 520 7400.

For the most up-to-date information please follow the Government and Ministry of Health's advice at: www.covid19.govt.nz

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If you are sick or have symptoms, stay home

Preservation of life, access, then restoration, the focus of recovery efforts

Safety must come first.

That's the message being delivered loud and clear from those working hard to re-connect Marlborough Sounds and Awatere Valley communities still isolated after the July 17 storm in Marlborough.

Marlborough Roads Recovery Manager Steve Murrin said access could not be restored until safety thresholds were met. "Once we meet these safety requirements, then we can progress access. We are still in response mode in parts of the Marlborough region, particularly in the Marlborough Sounds," he said.

"Safety is an issue, for the public and for our work crews. Until we have confidence that a road is safe, we cannot open it, even for restricted access. Just because someone can drive on a road, this does not make it safe."

"Queen Charlotte Drive, Kenepuru Road and its many side roads, and the Awatere Valley Road are still fragile. Our priorities as a roading recovery team are preservation of life, then access, then restoration," said Mr Murrin.

Nearly 200 residents, property owners and businesses affected by the current closure of the Kenepuru Road, and its many associated side roads, dialled in to a Zoom meeting last Friday to hear the latest information available.



Cullen Point on Queen Charlotte Drive near Havelock is one of a number of complex sites around the region being worked on; these photos show the progress to date

Marlborough District Council concerned at speed of RMA reform

A submission by Marlborough District Council on the Exposure Draft of the Natural & Built Environments Bill (NBA) has expressed concern at the pace and scale of the reform proposed.

The Council is one of a number around the country to submit on the draft bill to the Environment Select Committee. Mayor John Leggett and key Council staff spoke to the submission last week in front of the Select Committee.

Mayor Leggett said the Council was concerned at the pace of the reform given that it was a major overhaul of the existing system.

"There needs to be education of all participants in the resource management system to ensure that the extent of the change is well understood. Otherwise, the implementation will fail," he said.

"There also needs to be sufficient time to transition from the current planning and management regime to that which is ultimately contained within the NBA. We are already navigating the Three Waters Reform which, regardless of the outcome, creates disruption in local government and will undoubtedly have an effect on each council's ability to implement a new planning regime," he said.

Members of the Council's Marlborough Recovery Team, Marlborough Roads Recovery Team, Mayor John Leggett, Councillors and the Council's Chief Executive Mark Wheeler were also present. The cost of getting all damaged roads back to a safe condition to allow access - including Queen Charlotte Drive, Kenepuru Road and associated side roads, Kaiuma Bay Road, the Awatere Valley Road, Northbank Road and the Waihopai Valley Road - is likely to cost the region an estimated \$20 million. Engineers have completed early assessments from the initial flooding event to understand the extent of the damage. However, risk and slips change with each weather event, and Spring showers are on the way.

The statistics keep growing as the recovery effort continues - the latest tally of faults in the network is 1,100 with 49,000 cubic metres of spill material now removed. "More than 400 of these faults are on the Kenepuru Road. We have 60 complex sites identified across the network and 38 of these are also on the Kenepuru Road and 16 on Queen Charlotte Drive," said Mr Murrin.

"The move to Alert Level 3 last week meant we were able to increase the number of crews working across the district. Numbers are now up to pre-lockdown levels with around 130 staff back on the ground," he said.



Everything you need to know in one place
Covid19.govt.nz

Rates penalty date extended

Ratepayers whose rates are due on 8 September would normally receive a penalty if they had not paid by this date.

Council has decided that any penalty will not now be incurred until Friday 8 October. The extra time is designed to help those affected by the Covid lockdown,

Final call for Commercial Events Fund applications

Round One of Council's 2021/2022 Commercial Events Fund closes on Monday.

The Fund was established to help create economic benefit to Marlborough by attracting new events and helping to build on existing ones. Council's Commercial Events Fund Sub-committee considers the applications and there is up to \$130,000 per annum available for allocation.

To be eligible, commercial events must be held within Marlborough. Community events, conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions are not eligible. Funding is granted on an annual basis but it does not mean that all funds must be distributed each year.

Wairau woodlot access closed

Council and its contractors are undertaking a logging operation at the floodway woodlot between Gifford's Road and Jeffries Road. This operation will be undertaken from Monday 13 September for approximately two weeks.

During this time access to this area will be closed due to risks from logging equipment movements and falling trees.

Marlborough's road to recovery info

Anyone with welfare needs due to the July storm should contact the Council on: recovery@marlborough.govt.nz

For the status of a road, please visit the Marlborough Emergency Management Official Public Information Map at: www.bit.ly/RoadToRecoveryMarl before your journey, and stay up to date on the latest roading alerts at: www.bit.ly/RoadAlertsMarl

For roading information and queries please contact Marlborough Roads on

Council
meetings



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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.

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including those who were unable to come into the Council's offices in person to pay their rates or claim a rates rebate.

For further information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/rates or Ph: 03 520 7400.

Past applicants who have been unsuccessful may re-apply.

Key dates:

• Applications close: 5.00 pm on Monday 13 September

• Funding decision by: Friday 8 October

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

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

This area includes the stopbank track and the track at the bottom of the stopbank between Gifford's Road and Jeffries Road. The area will be blocked off and signage will be installed.

Access is available on the track out to and along the river.

If you have any enquiries please contact Steve Bezar at Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.

Ph: 03 520 8024 or 0800 213 213 between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively you can email the recovery team at: recovery@marlboroughroads.com

For general recovery information go to: www.bit.ly/MDCRecoveryInfo

For the Mayoral Relief Fund go to: www.bit.ly/StormMayoralReliefFund

Please follow the Council's Facebook page, Antenna app, Twitter and the Council website for further information.

Wearing a mask will be required. A Zoom recording and minutes will be available on the Council website following the meetings.

Council

Thursday 16 September at 9.00 am

Assets & Services Committee

Thursday 30 September 2021 at 9.00 am

Times and dates may be subject to change. Please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for further information.