

Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study

— February 2023



? Frequently Asked Questions

Council has embarked on the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study, to provide as much certainty as possible about long-term access for residents, homeowners and businesses in the storm affected areas of the Marlborough Sounds.

The following provides more information about the study and its process. For further details go to marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study

Why is the study being done?

The study's purpose is to develop a business case for a safe, resilient and affordable transport system for the wellbeing of Marlborough Sounds communities.

It is being undertaken now to inform both the short and medium term recovery work and to ensure any activities with a long lead-in time can be put into action.

📍 The study areas

The study is looking at four geographical areas in the Sounds, recognising each has its own distinct access issues.

~ Rai Valley to French Pass

Ronga Road (Rai Valley), Tennyson Inlet, Croisilles-French Pass Road, Te Towaka-Port Ligar Road, Bulwer Road, including Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island and surrounding areas

~ Pelorus

Kaiuma Bay Road including Daltons Road / Track and Te Hoiere Road and surrounding areas – Linked to Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment linking back to Te Hoiere/Pelorus River

~ Kenepuru

Queen Charlotte Drive (Havelock to Picton) including Kenepuru Road and the outer Sounds

~ Port Underwood

Port Underwood and Tumbledown Bay roads (to Rarangi campground)

Consulting, engineering and construction company Stantec has been appointed as the project team to carry out the study. Input from the community and key stakeholders will help the project team identify a solution that is fit for purpose for those that rely on the transport networks and infrastructure in the study area.

As well as listening to the community, the study will look at elements such as geotechnical and natural hazards and will include an analysis of the frequency and intensity of severe weather events. Infrastructure will be assessed, and the economic and community impacts will also be considered.

Waka Kotahi will use the study’s findings to support future funding requests and inform the business case for the storm-affected Marlborough Sounds transport network.

Priority recovery access work since the last two years’ storm events will continue during the study. However, some of the more complex repairs that do not currently prevent access will be confirmed on conclusion of the business case.

How does the study process work?

Stakeholder and community input on the problems, issues and concerns is a very important part of the study, in conjunction with the review of other relevant data.

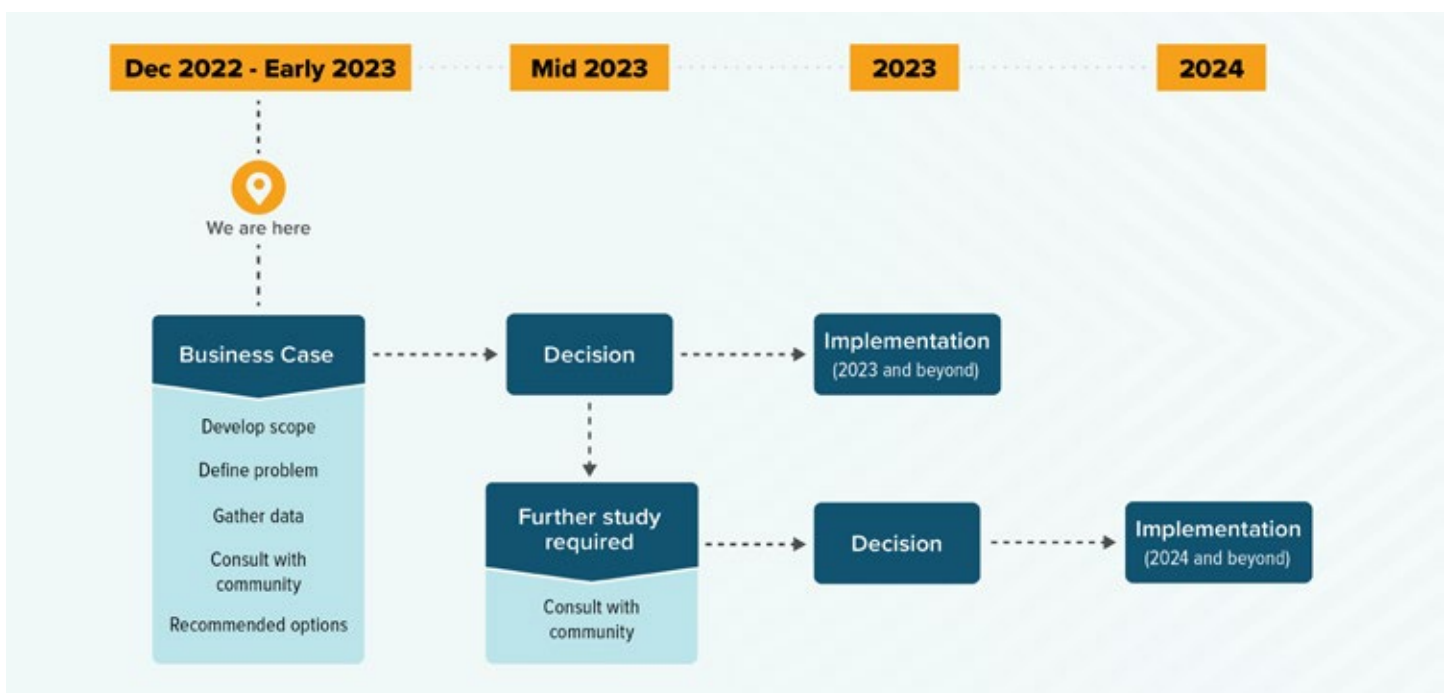
In late January to mid-February 2023, public meetings are being held in the Sounds. People also provided their input through an online survey.

Once the initial feedback and assessments have been reviewed, preferred options for sustainable future access to the Marlborough Sounds will be developed for a further round of feedback.

Then, the business case with a range of costed options, will be developed for Council and Waka Kotahi to consider and identify a preferred option.

Each organisation has their own decision making processes. For the Council, any significant changes could require further public consultation. Once decisions are made the agreed repairs will need to be arranged, and may take some time if major work is required.

The steps to implementation

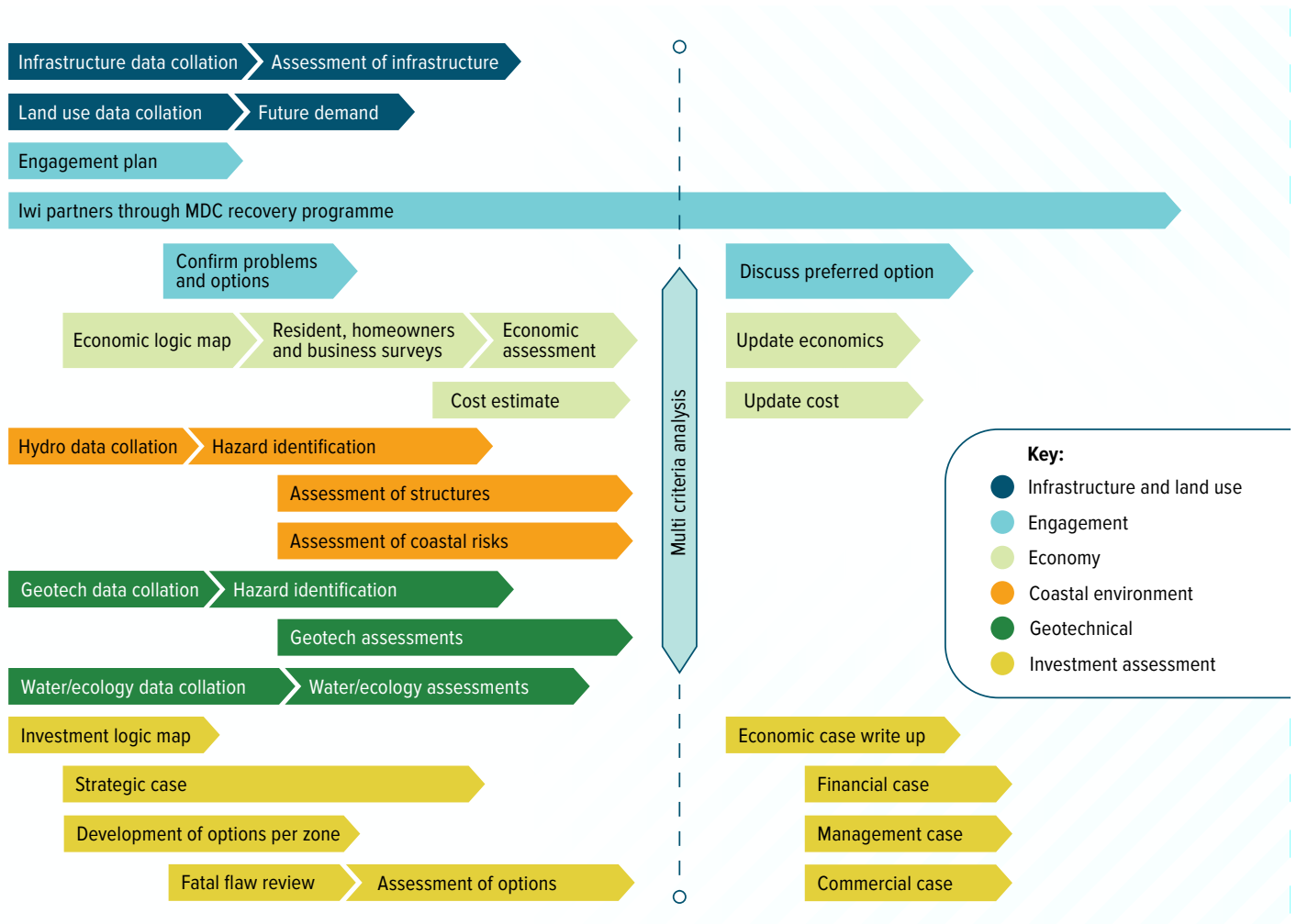


What is the study's scope?

The study looks at a range of information from the community and other data sources about the future of the Sounds' transport network, including the condition

of the network, the natural environment, the potential impact of weather events in the future, who uses it, and the contribution of the network to the region's economy.

The diagram and notes below and overleaf explain the range of information in the scope that Waka Kotahi requires to inform the study.



Infrastructure and land use

The condition of infrastructure (roads and other structures) informs a condition and risk assessment and cost options.

Looking at land use allows us to understand who uses each road or combinations of roads, and what the future demands might be, including the type of traffic and possible numbers of vehicles on each road.

We're also looking at how water access is currently used.

Engagement

Iwi, stakeholders, residents, homeowners and businesses provide input on the specific issues, concerns, and options they think should be considered or explored as part of the study's business case.

This helps us define the problems the study seeks to address, and to define a long list of options for each of the four study areas.

Economy

An economic assessment for the short-listed options is based on a cost estimate and benefits.

This assessment will consider the wider impacts on communities of disrupted access, and draws on existing Council surveys, as well as the community survey and public meetings being held in early 2023.

Coastal environment

Understanding the coastal environment is key. An assessment of future sea levels and wave height / behaviour feeds into the risk assessment for roads and structures, and helps us to identify and assess the options.

Geotechnical

The geology and geotechnical risks are critical to the risk assessment for roads and structures, and helps us identify and assess the options.

Investment assessment

This assessment provides specific actions required to complete a business case.

The logic of the investment, and the links between problems, benefits and investment objectives, clearly show what can be achieved through investment. The strategic case then explains the need for investment, based on evidence and strategic drivers.

A 'long list' of options is developed by area, and anything that is 'fatally flawed', i.e is not feasible or able to be overcome, is removed from the list. The remaining options are scored against agreed criteria that stakeholders have identified for the project, as part of the multi-criteria analysis (MCA) process.

The results of the economic assessment and MCA are considered alongside one another and discussed with stakeholders and decision makers, and a preferred option is identified.

The financial, management and commercial cases describe how any works would be managed effectively, procured, and delivered within budget. Risk management processes and a governance structure are identified, funding options explored, and a clear programme with milestones and next steps provided.

What is the business case?

A key part of the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study is the development of a business case to support potential funding requests to the Government for the future transport network and maintenance in the Marlborough Sounds.

Therefore, the study is guided by the Waka Kotahi business case process, to ensure compliance with funding requirements and good practice.

Could the business case recommend that a road not be fixed?

The answer to this question will be guided by the outcome of the study, and no decisions have been made. The unfortunate reality is that access into some areas of the Sounds may be quite different in the future to now, due to geological challenges, how severe weather events impact on these areas, and the funding available. With this in mind, the study will ask people for

input on what land use changes might look like, and changes in the type of transport people might use to access the Sounds.

The ultimate goal is to provide affordable access for the wellbeing of Marlborough Sounds communities through a safe and resilient transport system.

How do I give my feedback?

The first consultation phase including a stakeholder workshop, public meetings and a survey was completed in February 2023.

Sounds residents, homeowners and businesses will be invited to provide feedback on potential options for solutions in May–June 2023.



To find out when you can next give feedback, sign up to our email newsletter at marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study

How can I keep updated about the study?

The Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study has its own up-to-date page on the Marlborough District Council website at marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study.

You can sign up to the study email newsletter on the Council website page. Those already receiving the regular Marlborough Roads Recovery updates will also receive any study updates.

When there is new information about the study, we will also notify people via Council's other key communications channels such as Antenno, Roothing Alerts and published news stories in the media and on Council's website.



Sign up to our email newsletter at marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study

Does the Marlborough Sounds roading recovery work still continue during the study?

Marlborough Roads Recovery Team's post July 2021 and August 2022 storm recovery work continues, with the current priority being on specific sites and improved access on French Pass, Kenepuru Road and Queen Charlotte Drive.



For more information on the roading recovery programme go to www.marlborough.govt.nz and search for 'August 2022 Recovery Info.'

Does the study impact on the money set aside to pay for the current recovery work in the Sounds?

Funding continues for the storm affected areas in the Marlborough Sounds that have been prioritised for access. Funding for some of the more complex repairs that do not currently prevent access will be confirmed at the conclusion of the business case.