

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
15 SEYMOUR STREET
PO BOX 443, BLENHEIM 7240
NEW ZEALAND

TELEPHONE (0064) 3 520 7400
EMAIL mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
WEB www.marlborough.govt.nz



18 September 2026

Record No: 26197706
File Ref: D050-001-A03
Ask For: Nicole Chauval

Notice of Committee Meeting – Thursday, 24 September 2026

A meeting of the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on **Thursday, 24 September 2026 commencing at 9.00 am.**

Online attendance: [Microsoft Teams Link](#)
Meeting ID: 427 976 813 455 8
Passcode: nT69EM2D

BUSINESS

As per Agenda attached.

JOHN BOSWELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



**Meeting of the
INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
to be held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building, Seymour Street,
on THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 commencing at 9.00 am**

Committee

Clr B G Dawson (Chairperson)
Clr S R W Adams
Clr J D N Croad
Clr D A Dalliessi
Clr C M W Dawson
Clr T P Sowman
Clr B D Stace
Mayor N P Taylor
Ms D McConnell (Iwi representative)

Departmental Head

Messrs J Lyall (Group Manager Roading, Property & Community Facilities) and G Blake (Chief Financial Officer)

Staff

N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

In Public**Page**

1.	Apologies.....	1
2.	Declaration of Interests	1
3.	Effects of the July 2026 Storm Event.....	2
4.	The Thirsty Pig Restaurant – Outdoor Dining Area.....	5
5.	Market Street Blenheim - Revamp Project Update	10
6.	Allocation of the Land Subdivision Reserve.....	13
7.	Approval of Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan	21
8.	Imagine Marlborough - Play Design Strategy	30
9.	Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM).....	69
10.	Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee	77
11.	Flood Damages June & July 2026 Report	89
12.	Conders Bend Pine Forest Harvest.....	102
13.	Information Package.....	111
14.	Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded	112

Public Excluded

1.	Stopbank Repair.....	1
----	----------------------	---

1. Apologies

An apology from Mayor N P Taylor and Cllr S J Arbuckle has been received.

2. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

3. Effects of the July 2026 Storm Event

(Clr Adams) (Report prepared by Steve Murrin)

R800-006-002-02

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on the damage that was suffered across the Roothing Network as a result of the storm event that passed over the district in early July 2026.

Executive Summary

2. This report covers the storm event of early July, the effects of the storm and the costs of repairs.
3. It also discusses funding of Council's share of the costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee:

1. **Receives the report.**
2. **Notes that an emergency works funding application for \$8,069,002 has been submitted to New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and that a further report setting out funding options and any decision required from Council will be presented once Council's share of the costs is confirmed.**

Background

4. The weather event 6-8th July was significant across Marlborough. The weather situation was a low-pressure system which sat to the west of the North Island, pushing subtropical airflow onto the north-east of the South Island, where the subtropical airflow merged with polar airflow from the south-east. The low-pressure system moved across the top of the North Island over several days, with sustained heavy rainfall in the north-east of the South Island.
5. Notably, this was the first event where a Red Rain Warning was issued by MetService in the region - for part of southern Marlborough (and adjacent Kaikoura/North Canterbury). Further rain warnings and watches were also in place across the rest of the Marlborough region.
6. As is typical in easterly storm events, high rainfall-runoff led to flooding in the eastern coastal catchments (e.g. Ure Valley (Waima), Flaxbourne; Awatere, Omaka, Fairhall, Taylor, Ōpaoa, Tuamarina, Kaituna, and Waitohi catchments).

Impact and Costs

7. Marlborough Roads contractors were prepared for the event and responded very well across the district while the event unfolded. The whole district was impacted; however the most severely affected areas were south of the Wairau River.
8. As a result of the event numerous roads across the district were closed, including SH1 south of the Marlborough Boundary, Awatere Valley Road, Medway Road, Tyntesfield Road, Ward Beach Road as well as all the roads on the Wairau Plains that have fords such as Old Renwick Road and Jacksons Road.
9. Queen Charlotte Drive and Kaiuma Bay Roads were the only roads closed within the Marlborough Sounds. Kaiuma due to flooding and Queen Charlotte Drive due to overslips.
10. There was also a number of roads that received storm damage but were able to be kept open.

11. The areas of the most severe damage were Tyntesfield Road where the approach to the bridge washed out, and Awatere Valley Road at Camden Station where a large underslip and overslip occurred. There was also significant damage to Medway Road and Awatere Valley road in the vicinity of the shingle fans at the White Bluffs.
12. Emergency Works are funded in two stages, Response which is the initial works following the event to get the roads open and make safe for the public. This is followed by the Recovery, which is where the road is reinstated to its original condition.
13. For the event, response costs have been estimated at \$1,413,524 and recovery costs at \$6,655,478.
14. An Emergency Works funding application has been submitted to NZTA for \$8,069,002.

Funding Council Share

15. At this stage there has been no indication of what Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) may apply.
16. If the current NZTA Emergency Works policy was followed, Council's share would be around \$3.38m. However, with the 2025 storm recovery last year, because Council was already committed to a very large Emergency Works programme following the 2021 and 2022 storms Council received an enhanced FAR of 91% for response and 81% for Recovery.
17. Council's Emergency Works position hasn't improved since last year, hopefully a similar FAR will be applied. If that is the case, then Council's share would be \$1.39m.
18. Council budgets \$980,000 per year in the Roothing activity to cover Council's share of Emergency works. There will be a shortfall in funding.
19. The current Emergency Works Programme is tracking under budget. On top of this, the project is also carrying around \$22m of contingency (Council share of circa \$6.3M (29%).
20. There is likely sufficient headroom within the current Emergency Works programme to cover any shortfall of Council's share.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by showing effects of storm damage (10 minutes).

Attachments

Nil

Author	Steve Murrin, Transport Recovery Manager
Authoriser	Jamie Lyall, Group Manager Property, Roothing and Community Facilities

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government			
The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies			
	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✗	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	✗	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	✗	☐	☐
Social well-being	✗	☐	☐
Economic development	✗	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	✗	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	✗
3 Waters	☐	☐	✗
Land transport	✗	☐	☐
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	✗
This proposal contributes to Land Transport relating to reinstatement of storm damaged roads.			
Nature of the decision to be made			
The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations			
Financial impacts have not been determined at this stage, a future paper will resolve these.			
Significance			
The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement			
Communications and engagement on the storm recovery are provided by a weekly newsletter			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc			
The recommended option carries the risks of roads being damaged as a result of storm impact. The risks will be managed through roading controls and temporary traffic management.			
Climate Change Implications			
There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

4. The Thirsty Pig Restaurant – Outdoor Dining Area

(Clr Stace) (Report prepared by Bridgette Bester (APL))

PN527741#08

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application from The Thirsty Pig restaurant, to occupy two on-street parking bays for use as an outdoor dining area at 27 High Street, Picton.

Executive Summary

2. An application has been received from the proprietor of The Thirsty Pig Restaurant to occupy two on-street parking spaces adjacent to 27 High Street, Picton, for an outdoor dining area.
3. The applicant proposes to install a removable platform and barrier system within the two parking spaces. The structure would be designed to allow its removal and reinstatement of the area as public parking. The applicant would be responsible for removing the structure and reinstating the road to Council's satisfaction when the occupation ends or if Council requires the area for another public purpose. A detailed design and proposed term of occupation have not yet been provided and would require Council approval before installation.
4. Part of Council's consideration is whether the benefits of supporting additional outdoor dining and town-centre activation outweigh the loss of two on-street parking spaces on High Street, particularly during periods of higher parking demand.
5. Council has previously approved comparable outdoor dining arrangements using selected on-street parking spaces in Picton. Those decisions provide relevant context, although the current application must be considered on its own location, design and effects. This proposal provides additional dining capacity and contributes to activity and amenity within the town centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approves in principle the application from The Thirsty Pig, Picton, to convert two carparks adjacent to 27 High Street, Picton, for the purpose of establishing an outdoor dining area, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) The applicant submits a detailed design for Council approval prior to installation, demonstrating compliance with Council's applicable outdoor dining, accessibility and safety requirements.
 - (b) The applicant enters into the appropriate occupation agreement with Council prior to occupying the parking bays.
 - (c) All costs associated with the design, installation, maintenance, removal and reinstatement of the parking area are met by the applicant.
2. Notes that approval in principle does not constitute approval of the final design or remove the applicant's obligation to obtain all other required consents, permits, licences and approvals.

Background

6. Council has previously approved applications from hospitality businesses in Picton to occupy on-street parking bays for outdoor dining. These arrangements have supported increased vibrancy within the CBD, encouraged foot traffic, and provided additional dining capacity during busier summer months. These arrangements have typically used semi-permanent structures and barrier systems.

7. The arrangement proposed by The Thirsty Pig is broadly comparable to the outdoor dining area currently operating at The Barn Café & Bar, 46 High Street, Picton. (See Figure 2).
8. The applicant is seeking approval to occupy two parking bays adjacent to 27 High Street. (see Figure 1). If the proposed use is approved in principle, the applicant must submit a detailed final design for Council approval before installing any structure or occupying the parking spaces.

Assessment

9. The proposal would increase outdoor dining capacity for an existing Picton hospitality business and may add activity and amenity to the High Street area, particularly during the warmer and busier months.
10. The proposal is broadly consistent with previous Council decisions allowing comparable outdoor dining arrangements in Picton. However, the application must be considered on its own location, design and effects.
11. The principal constraint is the removal of two existing on-street parking spaces from High Street.



Figure 1. Location of proposed parking spaces outside The Thirsty Pig

12. Parking demand within the Picton CBD increases significantly during the peak visitor season, particularly between 1 December and 31 March, due to increased visitor activity and ferry-related movements. Removal of the two spaces would reduce parking availability in the immediate area during these periods.
13. Alternative public parking is available within the wider Picton town centre. The relatively small number of spaces affected also needs to be balanced against the benefit of providing additional outdoor dining and town-centre activity.

14. A removable platform would allow the area to be reinstated as public parking if the occupation ends or operational requirements change. Figure 2 shows an example of a comparable structure but is not the final design proposed for this site.
15. Marlborough Roads has been consulted and is supportive of the proposal.
16. Neighbouring property owners have also been consulted and support the proposal.

Licence

17. The area to be licensed is approximately 36 m². The current licence rate is \$33 per m². This will provide council with an indicative licence fee of \$1,188 per annum.



Figure 2. Example of the semi-permanent structure installed at The Barn Café & Bar

Option One – Approve the application

18. Approve in principle the request from The Thirsty Pig Picton to occupy two on-street parking bays adjacent to 27 High Street, Picton into an outdoor dining area, subject to:
 - Council approval of the design prior to installation.
 - Compliance with applicable Council outdoor dining, accessibility and safety requirements.
 - Completion of the appropriate occupation agreement.
 - All costs associated with design, consents, approvals, installation, operation, maintenance, insurance, removal and reinstatement being met by the applicant.

Advantages

19. Provides additional outdoor dining capacity for an existing hospitality business.
20. May enhance activity and the visitor experience within High Street, particularly during the warmer and busier months.
21. Is broadly consistent with previous Council decisions allowing comparable outdoor dining arrangements in Picton.

22. The proposed semi-permanent structure could be removed or modified with minimal disruption and the parking area reinstated if required.

Disadvantages

23. Removes two on-street parking spaces from High Street, reducing parking availability in the immediate area.
24. The loss of parking may be more noticeable during the peak visitor season when parking demand within the Picton CBD is higher.
25. Placement of a private structure within the road reserve requires appropriate design controls to ensure pedestrian accessibility, traffic safety and ongoing maintenance requirements are met.
26. The agreement will require ongoing Council administration and monitoring to ensure compliance with the occupation agreement and approval conditions.

Option Two – Status Quo

27. Council declines the application to occupy the two on-street parking bays.

Advantages

28. The two parking bays would be retained for public parking.

Disadvantages

29. Does not provide the applicant with the opportunity to establish additional outdoor dining space.
30. Declining the application may raise questions about the consistency of Council's decisions to allow similar arrangements in Picton.
31. Council would not receive licence revenue from the proposed occupation.

Next steps

32. If Council approves the proposed use in principle, the applicant will be required to submit a detailed design, obtain all required consents, permits, licences and approvals, and enter into the occupation agreement before installing any structure or occupying the parking spaces.
33. If the application is declined, the applicant will be advised of Council's decision.

Author	Bridgette Bester, Property Manager, APL Property Limited
Authoriser	Loren Coffey, Projects and Contracts Manager

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The decision concerns Council's management of public road reserve and the competing use of that public space for parking and outdoor dining. It is appropriate for Council to determine whether the proposed use is acceptable having regard to the interests of the local community, adjoining property owners and road users.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✓	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	✓	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	✓	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters	☐	☐	✓
Land transport	✓	☐	☐
Parks and reserves	☐	☐	✓
Nature of the decision to be made The decision is operational in nature and relates to the temporary use of public road reserve for an outdoor dining area.			
Financial considerations There are no direct financial implications to Council. Any costs associated with installation, maintenance, and removal will be the responsibility of the applicant.			
Significance The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, as it relates to a small-scale, reversible use of public space.			
Engagement Engagement has occurred with Marlborough Roads and neighbouring properties who have provided support for the proposal. No objections from neighbouring businesses or property owners have been identified.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc The primary risks relate to permitting a private structure within the road reserve. These risks will be managed through appropriate approvals, compliance with Council's Outdoor Dining Policy, and a formal occupation agreement including health and safety requirements. Legal services have not been consulted for this report.			
Climate Change Implications There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

5. Market Street Blenheim - Revamp Project Update

(Clr Stace) (Report prepared by Loren Coffey)

C315-23-167

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Committee with a high-level update on Blenheim's Market Street Revamp project, including construction performance, staging, design input, stakeholder engagement, contract management, risks and programme status.

Executive Summary

2. The project is now approximately 60% through delivery and on track for total completion in December. Construction commenced on 13 July and has progressed well, with only one rain day recorded. The programme has consistently tracked approximately five days ahead of schedule.
3. Stage One is substantially advanced and is expected to reopen to vehicles in late September. Stage Two has commenced, along with the Maxwell Road to Arthur Street work which is also being progressed to expedite the programme.
4. To date contractor performance has been very good with Fulton Hogans dedicated stakeholder team working with retail businesses as the development progresses. A number of contract variations have arisen with no major works identified that will adversely affect the 5% contract contingency.
5. Council has received feedback from retailers on promoting the area as works are completed and is working with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Trust Marlborough on activation events

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee receives the Market Street Blenheim Revamp Project Update and notes that the project is approximately 60% complete, remains on track for completion in December 2026, and is being managed within the approved project budget and contract contingency.

Project Scope

6. The Market Street Revamp project is intended to create a safer, more attractive and more welcoming town centre environment while supporting the ongoing role of Market Street as a retail and hospitality destination.
7. The design approach focuses on practical streetscape improvements, including paving, lighting, planting, seating, street furniture, pedestrian amenity and opportunities for people to gather.
8. Existing street furniture is being refurbished and reused where suitable, supporting value for money whilst ensuring the finished streetscape has a coordinated appearance.

Programme

9. The project is approximately 60% complete and remains ahead of programme. The accelerated staging approach targets completion before the Christmas trading period. Concurrent staging increases the short-term construction footprint but reduces the overall disruption period and avoids extending the programme into 2027.
10. The programme is reviewed weekly; Stage One is expected to reopen at the end of September and Stage Two in late October. To accelerate delivery, the contractor has commenced work on the final section between Maxwell Road and Arthur Street.

11. To reduce disruption to businesses and the town centre, Council and Fulton Hogan agreed an accelerated programme targeting completion of both stages before Christmas 2026. This requires Stages One and Two to run concurrently and includes night works, enabling work outside business frontages to be undertaken outside trading hours.

Financial

12. Stage One is funded through the Targeted CBD Commercial Rate. Council subsequently confirmed that Stage Two would be delivered alongside Stage One as part of the same coordinated programme. Budget performance will continue to be monitored as variations are assessed through the project's normal contract management processes.
13. Variations have arisen as construction has progressed. These have generally related to coordination of underground services, staging refinements, site conditions, stakeholder support and opportunities to improve the outcome while the area is open for works. Variations are being assessed through the project's normal contract management processes, with consideration given to cost, programme, risk and long-term value.

Stakeholder Engagement

14. Council continues to lead overall project messaging and wider promotional activity, including media, social media, website updates, newspaper and print promotion to reinforce that Market Street businesses remain open and accessible throughout the works. Fulton Hogan manages much of the direct day-to-day communication with businesses, as the contractor is best placed to respond quickly to changing onsite activities and construction impacts.
15. Fulton Hogan's stakeholder liaison team is working directly with Market Street businesses throughout construction. Including weekly face-to-face visits to provide project updates, discuss access requirements and respond to day-to-day concerns. This has been well received and has allowed logistical issues to be raised directly with the construction team and addressed quickly.
16. Council has been working with Business Trust Marlborough, which recently held a workshop for Market Street businesses focused on marketing, promotion, collaboration and practical ways to navigate the construction period while maximising the benefits of the revitalised town centre.
17. As part of Fulton Hogan's Future of Work participation, local college students will be invited to visit the works and learn more about civil construction and the project delivery process.

Cultural design

18. Council has been working with local iwi representatives to incorporate cultural design elements into the project. Artist Matua Fayne Robinson has been engaged to develop the agreed cultural design. The design includes a vapour-blasted etched treatment that will be incorporated into the paving works and raised garden bed walls.

Risks

19. Current programme risks include weather, underground service conflicts, supply lead times, traffic management, access changes, paving details, and coordination of the cultural design. While some risks, such as weather, are outside Council's control, planning and advance procurement are mitigating their impact.

Next Steps

20. The immediate next steps are to complete Stage One and reopen this section at the end of September, continue Stage Two, progress from Maxwell Road to Arthur Street, confirm remaining iwi design and continue with contract management process.
21. Council is working with Marlborough Business Trust representatives to discuss promotional options that will activate retailers and invite people back into the town centre. A planned opening, once

construction is complete will also be organised to showcase Council's investment in strengthening town centre vibrancy and improving the experience for residents and visitors.

22. In response to parking feedback during the Market Street works, a temporary courtesy notice parking initiative will run from September until early December. Parking wardens will be able to issue a courtesy notice instead of an infringement for offences such as overstaying parking limits and non-activation of the meter. Promotions such as 'Free Parking Friday' are also being planned to align with the project completion.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Loren Coffey (5 minutes)

Author	Loren Coffey, Project & Contract Manager
Authoriser	Jamie Lyall, Property & Community Facilities Manager

6. Allocation of the Land Subdivision Reserve

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Jane Tito)

R510-021-01

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Committee approval to allocate funding from the Land Subdivision Reserve to eligible sport, recreation and open space projects that respond to growth-related demand in accordance with Council's 2024 Development Contributions Policy.

Executive Summary

1. A range of sport, recreation and open space projects have been identified through community planning processes including the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, 2024-25 Annual Plan, 2025-26 Annual Plan and approved Reserve Management Plans.
2. Requirements for additional reserves (land purchase and development) are also identified through the subdivision development process.
3. Seven projects are recommended for approval from the Land Subdivision Reserve. The projects have been assessed as eligible because they provide new or improved reserve, open space or community infrastructure required to meet additional demand generated by subdivision, residential growth or increased recreation use.
4. The Land Subdivision Reserve comprises development contributions collected from new development to help fund the growth-related share of eligible capital works.
5. It is also recommended that one previously approved project for the Taylor River Reserve be postponed while additional work is carried out and the balance of the funding allocation be returned to the Land Subdivision Reserve.
6. The projects are listed below in Table 1 with further detail in the report:

Project name/location	Description	Amount
Wai Iti Accessway	New seating and footpath within reserve	\$51,000
Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve	Development Plan implementation	\$70,000
Blenheim / Wayfinding	Wayfinding expansion project	\$100,000
Lansdowne Park	Cushioned surfacing of three netball courts	\$220,000
Manor Park	New footpath	\$48,000
Victoria Domain	Signage and artwork, delivery of Victoria Domain RMP action items 1, 5	\$30,000
Shelly Beach North	New revetment improvement works, Victoria Domain RMP action item 13	\$100,000
Sub- Total		\$619,000
Taylor River Reserve	Project to be postponed and funding allocation be returned to land subdivision reserve	-\$878,661
TOTAL		\$259,661

Table 1: Proposed Projects

7. The total cost of these seven projects is **\$619,000**. A credit of **\$878,661** is also available. The net effect on the balance of Land Subdivision Reserve is an increase of **\$259,661**.

8. The opening balance of the Land Subdivision Reserve at 1 July 2026 is **\$4,462,368**. After existing commitments, annual allocation items and the proposed new projects are accounted for, the projected balance is **\$2,265,802**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee:

1. Approve the allocation of \$619,000 from the Land Subdivision Reserve to deliver the seven sport, recreation and open space projects as per Table 1.
2. Approve the postponement of the Taylor River Reserve project and return funding of \$878,661 to the Land Subdivision Reserve as per Table 1.

Background

9. The purpose of Development Contributions is to recover costs from developments and ensure a fair and proportionate contribution toward the capital expenditure required to service long-term growth.
10. Development contributions collected for reserves and community infrastructure are held in the Land Subdivision Reserve and may be allocated, subject to Committee approval, to eligible capital works for reserves, open space and community facilities where the expenditure is required to cater for growth under Council's 2024 Development Contributions Policy.
11. To qualify for Land Subdivision Reserve funding, each project must demonstrate a connection to additional demand created by growth. Eligible expenditure may include new or improved reserve access, open space, recreation facilities, signage or coastal reserve infrastructure required because of subdivision, population growth, new housing or increased use of recreation and community facilities. Funding should be limited to the growth-related component of the works and should not be used for routine maintenance, renewal of existing assets, or improvements that are solely level-of-service enhancements for existing users.
12. As of 1 July 2026, the Land Subdivision Reserve had an opening balance of **\$4,462,368.25**, which includes the addition of Development/Reserve Fund Contributions from the previous financial year. Table 2 summarises financial activity in the Reserve.

Item/Description		Budget	Comment
Opening Budget 1/7/26		\$4,462,368	
Committed/Approved items	Less	\$1,147,566	Refer spreadsheet
Annual Allocation items	Less	\$430,000	Shade sails, esplanade reserves, playground capital improvements
Sub-Balance		\$2,884,802	
New Projects	Less	\$619,000	Project list 2026/27
Projected Balance		\$2,265,802	

Table 2: Summary of Funds in the Land Subdivision Reserve

13. Taking into account projects already committed by Council through previous Annual Plan and Long Term Plan processes, and the annual allocation items shown in Table 2, there are seven new projects proposed for funding from the Land Subdivision Reserve, totalling **\$619,000**. If approved, the projected balance of the Reserve will be **\$2,265,802**.
14. The attached spreadsheet details the proposed projects, associated costs, Land Subdivision Reserve revenue and expenditure, and the projected reserve balance.

Project information

Wai Iti Subdivision, Blenheim (\$51,000)

15. Wai Iti is a relatively new subdivision, situated off Alabama Road in the southeastern area of Blenheim.
16. A new walkway and two park bench seats are proposed in the accessway. The funding required includes the cost for a resource consent, required when working in a HAIL site.
17. In most circumstances, the Wai Iti Subdivision would have had its pathways completed during the land development process.
18. The Council and developer agreed to amend the recreation reserve to become a local purpose reserve accessway during the consenting process due to the nature and shape of the space, the HAIL and the underground infrastructure constraints.

Blenheim Wayfinding Project (\$100,000)

19. As Blenheim continues to grow, its business areas and key visitor destinations have expanded beyond the traditional town centre. Clear, consistent wayfinding signage is now needed to help residents, visitors and tourists move confidently between these areas and better access local services, attractions and commercial precincts.
20. Updating the Blenheim CBD maps and wayfinding network will ensure recent public facilities, recreation assets and places of interest are accurately identified, reducing confusion and improving the overall visitor experience.
21. Key destinations to be included are the Marlborough Library and Art Gallery, Riverside Park, Town Centre, Stadium 2000, the Aquatic Centre, Police Station, ASB Theatre and Marlborough Events Centre. Improved signage will make these facilities easier to locate and encourage greater use of Council and community assets.
22. The Westwood shopping complex with retailers, cafés, eateries and public convenience facilities is attracting users therefore directional signage will improve information and reinforce connections between the CBD and emerging commercial areas.
23. The below budget summary is provided:

Description	Budget
Current signage x7	\$37,058
New wayfinding x 2 - update to maps - Westwood Centre (new) - Nelson Street (new)	\$30,800
Finger Signs	\$29,040
Total:	\$96,898

Table 3: Budget Summary (Wayfinding project)

24. Staff will liaise with Destination Marlborough to confirm appropriate signage content and locations, ensuring the project supports both local movement and visitor promotion objectives.

Waikawa Bay Reserve – Plan and Improvements (\$70,000)

25. Council adopted the Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve Management Plan on 7 August 2025.

26. As part of the process, action items are identified. A key action item of the RMP was the preparation of a Development Plan to “guide and provide greater certainty over the location, nature and function of valued features and activities within the Reserve”.
27. This particular action item will provide direction for a number of much needed improvements to the Reserve, as identified in the RMP, these items include:
 - a) Dinghy storage,
 - b) Waka Ama storage,
 - c) Areas dedicated to safe swimming and waka ama activities,
 - d) Launching of small recreational craft including kayaks, waka ama and dinghies, and
 - e) Seafood/kaimoana cleaning.
28. Staff are working with Te Atiawa and the Waikawa Residents and Ratepayers Association to progress this work and structure a workplan for these and other improvement items.
29. This budget will cover the cost of developing the workplan and any development works that can occur more immediately (from the action items) like dinghy storage, waka ama and small boat launching and native planting, with the establishment of a prioritisation model.
30. Other action items may be submitted through the 2027-37 Long Term Plan process.

Manor Park Reserve – Footpath (\$48,000)

31. An Annual Plan submission was received in 2022 for a pathway to support the community’s access between Redwood Street through the Manor Park Reserve. The submission was referred to the Assets and Services Committee for action.
32. During the consultation process in December 2023, staff conducted a survey of residents.
33. Feedback from the survey provided the below key points:
34. There is high community interest in a pathway, with 74% showing interest.
35. There is a preference for a concrete pathway to support accessibility for elderly and people with physical disabilities. There was also support to keep the green space area at the current size.
36. This project is to construct a pathway with two connections from Manor Drive and Lewis Street, both connecting to Redwood Street footpath. The current pathways are grass or gravel.
37. A resource consent is not required.

Lansdowne Park – Netball Courts Resurfacing (\$220,000)

38. A submission from Marlborough Netball to the 2021-31 Long Term Plan for a new playing surface at Lansdowne Park was approved by Council with \$57,000, to be funded from the Land Subdivision Reserve. A recent, second review of the surface improvement by Marlborough Netball was conducted and a request of an additional \$220,000 is required for the court cushioning product to be applied.
39. The difference in funding is significant and reflective of advancements made in the surfacing products from a painted on effect to the more robust cushioned surface.
40. The cushioned surface will cover the three main courts at Lansdowne and support the players in reducing stress impacts on ankles, knees and hips due to the nature of the game.
41. There has been consistent growth in netball player numbers for some years with netball the largest secondary school sport in New Zealand, with 29,459 student participants in 2024.

42. Marlborough Netball player data between 2024 – 2025 shows “stable highs” with Netball maintaining its status as one of Marlborough's largest active female team sports, split between Premier leagues down to the bottom divisions.

(Year/number of players)
2021 / 1405
2022 / 1389
2023 / 1485
2024 / 1480
2025 / 1632
2026 / 1663

Table 4: Netball player numbers since 2021 (2021-2026)

Victoria Domain Reserve Management Plan (\$30,000)

43. The Victoria Domain Reserve Management Plan (RMP) was approved in June 2021 following community consultation including public hearings.
44. There were a number of action items stemming from the RMP which required funding, and several activities have been completed, like track development at the Reserve, a new Helicopter pad at the Emergency Centre, removal of Western Cedars with new native planting completed, ongoing biodiversity work throughout and revetments works at Shelly Beach.
45. The budget of \$30,000 is for two items;
- a) directional and interpretive signage at Shelly Beach and around the Domain,
 - b) an art design to frame the existing photo frame, (in collaboration with Te Atiawa and the community. (RMP Action item 2 – Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity).

Shelly Beach North – Revetment Improvements (\$100,000)

46. The Shelly Beach north revetment improvements were an action item in the Victoria Domain Reserve Management Plan. (Refer Action 13 - Building and Works).
47. These works will provide for the review, design and construction of the foreshore protection works on the northern side of Shelly Beach which link to Bobs Bay walking track and further walking and cycling tracks into the Victoria Domain.
48. Council have counters along a number of tracks in the Victoria Domain, these counters read the user data providing Council with an evidence base for planning and budget purposes – including capital improvements, but also around maintenance and levels of service. The counter along the Lower Bobs Bay Track shows about 1,000 people per month.
49. Another counter on use of the Snout Track (walking community) shows an increase of approximately 15% this past year along the Snout. Table 5 below provides user data between 2023-2026.
50. The north side continues to have the effects of ferry wash exacerbating the shoreline and increasing erosion.
51. The southern end of Shelly Beach had revetment works completed five years ago.

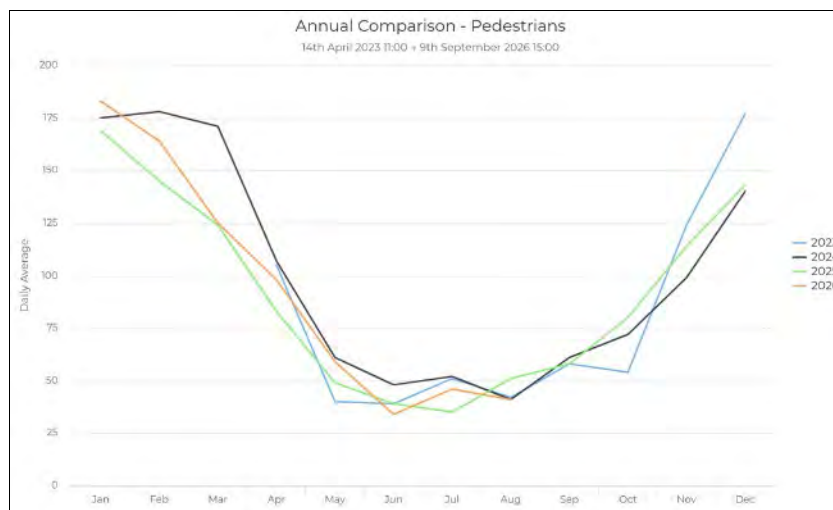


Table 5: Walkers along Snout Track

Previous Allocation

Taylor River Reserve – Recreation Area (-\$878,661)

52. At a previous Land Subdivision Reserve meeting an allocation of \$1,000,000 was approved to develop a recreation area on top of the former Blenheim landfill.
53. To date \$121,339 has been spent on pre-development works such as planning, engineering and soil testing. It is suggested that this project could be postponed while additional work is carried out.
54. Funds of \$878,661 could be returned to the Land Subdivision Reserve and a new application made once proof of design has been finalised along with costings.

Next steps

55. If the above funding requests are approved then staff will prepare necessary design, consents and tenders as required for these works to be carried out.

Presentation

A presentation will be given by Jane Tito. (15 mins).

Attachment

Attachment 6.1 – Running Balance

Page [20]

Author	Jane Tito, Manager, Parks & Open Spaces Manager
Authoriser	Jamie Lyall, General Manager, Property, Roading and Community Facilities

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The proposal supports good-quality and cost-effective sport, recreation and open space infrastructure needed to meet additional demand arising from growth.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✓	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Social well-being	✓	☐	☐
Economic development	☐	☐	✓
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	✓
Arts & Culture	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters	☐	☐	✓
Land transport	☐	☐	✓
Parks and reserves	✓	☐	☐
The proposal contributes to Council's parks and reserves, social well-being and arts and culture outcomes through growth-related capital improvements to sport, recreation and open space facilities. The allocations are to be made in accordance with Council's 2024 Development Contributions Policy.			
Nature of the decision to be made The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations This paper is seeking funding from the Land Subdivision Reserve in support of recreational and sporting growth-related projects.			
Significance The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The funding is held for growth-related capital works, and the proposed allocations do not require additional rates funding.			
Engagement The projects have been identified through Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, reserve management plan and community planning processes. A communications plan has been developed for some of the proposed projects.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc Normal consenting, procurement, design and health and safety requirements will apply to each project. Legal services have not been consulted for this report.			
Climate Change Implications There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

Attachment 6.1

LANDSUB PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLORS (24 SEPTEMBER 2026)						
Landsub		Amounts	Project Name	Budget (running balance)	Financial Year	Comments
		Account Balance		\$4,462,368.25	as at 1/07/2026	
		Development / Reserve Fund Contributions (DC/RFC)			included in budget	
		Total running balance			\$4,462,368.25	
				\$4,462,368.25		
Approved budget items		\$80,000	Mountain Bike Carpark - formation	\$4,382,368.25	FY 26/27	Work scheduled before September 2026
Postponed budget items		\$0	Taylor River Reserve (\$121,339 spent on pre work)	\$4,382,368.25	FY 26/27/28	Budget approved: \$1 million, \$121,339 spent on pre development work (engineering, soil testing, planning)
Approved budget items		\$150,000	Pollard Park - Playground (Toddler)	\$4,232,368.25	FY 26/27	Approved funding to be moved to a LTP item (2027-37)
Approved budget items		\$80,000	Rutherford Pickering Memorial Havelock	\$4,152,368.25	FY 26/27	Has propotion of TIF funding - underway, working with designer, some consultaton completed
Approved budget items		\$57,000	Lansdowne Netball Courts - surfacing	\$4,095,368.25	FY 26/27	LTPWG referred . Surface to meet demands of competition/intensive training. Additional funding required.
Approved budget items		\$300,000	Athletic Park carpark	\$3,795,368.25	FY 26/27	LTPWG referred. Construction of carpark is ready to commence. Plans completed, consented.
Approved budget items		\$480,566	Grovetown Reserve Playground	\$3,314,802.70	FY 26/27	Project- contractor selected to start July 2026.
				\$3,314,802.70		
SUBTOTAL- APPROVED ITEMS		\$1,147,566				
ANNUAL ALLOCATION		\$30,000	Shade Sail Allocation (Annual allocation)	\$3,284,802.70	F26/27/28/29	Land Subdivision Reserve - standard budget item
ANNUAL ALLOCATION		\$150,000	Esplanade Reserve (Annual allocation)	\$3,134,802.70	F26/27/28/29	Land Subdivision Reserve - standard budget item
ANNUAL ALLOCATION		\$250,000	Playground capital works (Annual allocation)	\$2,884,802.70	F26/27/28/29	Land Subdivision Reserve - standard budget item
UBTOTAL - ANNUAL ALLOCATION		\$430,000				
NEW		\$51,000	Wai-iti Accessway	\$2,833,802.70	FY 26/27/28	Subdivision - reserve walkway
NEW		\$100,000	Blenheim - Wayfinding - expansion of sites required	\$2,733,802.70	FY 26/27/28	new sites for Westwood and CBD
NEW	LTP	\$220,000	Lansdowne Park - cushioned surfacing of courts (x 3)	\$2,633,802.70	FY 26/27/28	additional funding
NEW	RMP	\$70,000	Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve, RMP Actions	\$2,413,802.70	FY 26/27/28	Delivery of Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve RMP actions related to Development Plan
NEW	AP/LTP	\$48,000	New Footpath and Manor Park	\$2,343,802.70	FY26/27	Survey conducted on design
NEW	RMP	\$30,000	Victoria Domain - RMP Action items \$30K	\$2,295,802.70	FY26/27	Delivery & achievement of Victoria Domain - RMP action items 1, 5,
NEW	RMP	\$100,000	Shelly Beach North	\$2,265,802.70	FY26/27/28	Victoria Domain RMP action item # 13 - revetment works
SUBTOTAL- NEW ITEMS		\$619,000				
TOTAL		\$2,196,566	balance	\$2,265,802.70		

7. Approval of Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Cheryl Steiner)

R510-014-028-06

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan.

Executive Summary

2. Council adopted the Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan for consultation on 27 February 2025.
3. Thirty-four submissions were received with the primary topic being game bird hunting restrictions (for and against).
4. This report presents the Hearing Panel Decision Report in response to matters raised in submissions, and a final Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee:

1. **Receives the Decision Report of the Hearing Panel and confirms approval of the Hearing Panel recommendations.**
 2. **Approves the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan.**
-

Background/Context

5. Grovetown Lagoon is a remnant oxbow, or horseshoe lake adjacent to the Wairau River, and located off Steam Wharf Road near Grovetown. It includes several parcels of land with different land statuses and different land managers.
6. A management plan was prepared by the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Incorporated (the Society) in 2003. Council agreed to develop a new management plan in response to a desire to ensure there is ongoing protection of Grovetown Lagoon and restoration efforts continue. A summary of the process follows:
 - 2021: Written suggestions invited and consultation with iwi and the Society to inform development of the plan.
 - 27 February 2025: Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan approved for consultation.
 - 6 March to 8 May 2025: Consultation period.
 - 16 and 18 June 2026: Hearing and consideration of submissions.
7. Thirty-four submissions were received, and a hearing was held over two days (16 and 18 June 2026). Eight submitters appeared before the Hearing Panel of Councillors Brian Dawson (chair), Gerald Hope and Barbara Faulls.

Assessment/Analysis

8. A staff report was circulated to the Hearing Panel and submitters prior to the hearing, which provided comments on the submissions received and options and recommendations in response. Following the hearing, and in considering evidence presented by submitters, the Hearing Panel sought further advice from staff and made further changes to the draft Plan.

9. A minute record of appearances is included as Attachment 1 to this report, a copy of the Decision Report is included as Attachment 2 and the final version of the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan is Attachment 3.

Option One (Recommended Option) – Approve the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan

Advantages

10. The final Plan is the outcome of two rounds of consultation and provides a comprehensive management framework to guide the future of the Grovetown Lagoon.
11. It is intended to provide a balanced approach to the management of game bird hunting given that submissions presented strongly held and divergent views on this matter, and recognising the complexities associated with management of this activity.

Disadvantages

12. None identified.

Option Two – Do not approve the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan

Advantages

13. May enable further discussion on issues raised in submissions although the Hearing Panel have comprehensively considered these matters and made further changes to the Draft Plan in response.

Disadvantages

14. Not adopting the management plan would need to be supported by clear rationale given the consultation process undertaken to date.

Next steps

15. Submitters will be advised of the approval of the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan with the plan being made available on Council's website.
16. Actions will be incorporated and prioritised within relevant work programmes.

Attachments

Attachment 7.1 – Record of appearances page [24]

Attachment 7.2 – Hearing Panel Decision Report on Submissions to the Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan. Page [26]

Attachment 7.3 – Final Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan is available on Council's website [here](#)

Author	Cheryl Steiner, Parks and Open Spaces Planner
Authoriser	Jane Tito, Manager Parks and Open Spaces

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	X	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	☐	☐	X
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	X
Social well-being	X	☐	☐
Economic development	☐	☐	X
Environment & RMA Plans	X	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	X
3 Waters	☐	☐	X
Land transport	☐	☐	X
Parks and reserves	X	☐	☐
This proposal contributes to Council's objectives for the parks and open spaces network.			
Nature of the decision to be made The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations Implementation of the Action Plan will be considered and prioritised in work programmes and implementation budgets will be considered through future Long Term Plans and Annual Plan processes.			
Significance The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement Two rounds of engagement have occurred.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc There are no known significant risks or legal implications of the decisions required in this report. It is noted that the management is not pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, and that for land not administered by Council, the management plan does not have any legal status.			
Climate Change Implications There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

Attachment 7.1

**Report of a Meeting of a Hearing Panel to hear submissions
on the DRAFT TE WHANAU HOU GROVETOWN LAGOON MANAGEMENT PLAN
held in the Committee Room, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim and via Teams
on TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026 at 2.00 pm**

Present

Clrs B G Dawson (in the Chair), B A Faulls and G A Hope

In Attendance

Cheryl Steiner (Consultant), Jane Tito (Manager, Parks & Open Spaces), Kiri Whiteman (Parks & Open Spaces Officer), Peter Hamill (Team Leader Land & Water), Justine Johnston (Environmental Monitoring Officer) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

In Attendance via Teams

Alan Johnston (Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager)

In attendance in the Public Gallery

Vaughan Lynn (Marlborough Field Officer Fish & Game)

Apologies

No apologies were received

1. Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan R510-014-028-06

The Chair welcomed those present and explained the proceedings that would be undertaken for the hearing.

The panel and attendees each introduced themselves.

There were 34 submissions received and of those 8 submitters wanted to speak to their submission.

The following speakers had indicated they would speak to their submission but withdrew prior to the Hearings date.

- *Lis Johnston*
- *Robin Blackmore (information on what would have been presented to the panel was received and circulated to the panel/staff for their information)*

Rowena Smith (Speaking on behalf of Rangitāne o Wairau) attended via Teams

No additional information was provided.

Submitter Position

1. That the management plan explicitly acknowledge the existence and importance of Māori customary harvest practices and specify a commitment to supporting their exercise within the reserve.
2. That Council and the Management Group, in collaboration with relevant agencies (including DOC and Fish & Game), work in partnership with Rangitāne to develop a lawful and practical pathway for customary harvest consistent with tikanga and statutory obligations.
3. That restrictions applying to recreational hunting are not presumed to apply to customary harvest, and that the plan differentiate between these uses in its planning provisions and management arrangements.
4. That public safety be addressed through effective site management, signage and spatial planning rather than through undifferentiated bans that may disproportionately impact tangata whenua.
5. That Rangitāne be engaged in the ongoing review, implementation and monitoring of hunting and harvest provisions to ensure a culturally appropriate and legally robust framework over time.

Wayne Smith

No additional information was provided.

Submitter Position

Concern that the proposal is to limit duck hunting to opening weekend only.

Guy Gardiner

Additional information was provided prior to the Hearing and circulated to the Hearing Panel for their information filed CM Record Nos: 26120579 and 26119935

Tim Barton

No additional information was provided. A copy of the speaking notes was provided and is filed CM Record No. 26125900

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 3.00 pm and resumed at 3.08 pm.

Doug Hislop

No additional information was provided.

Submitter Position

Concern that the Lagoon will become cluttered with signs, seats and structures, thus urbanising a rural environment. It is supposed to be about bringing people to see nature, not grooming nature to suit the people.

It could end up being just another urban park.

There is little overlap between game bird hunting and activities like walking. Hunting is important for managing swan numbers, and it should continue as a necessary part of caring for the Lagoon.

Rhys Barrier (Speaking on behalf of Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game)

A copy of the speaking notes was provided and is filed CM Record No. 26125902

Submitter Position:

Fish and Game seeks that the existing Grovetown gamebird hunting opportunity is maintained and preserved into the future through a partnership approach with Council Reserves staff, and that the existing draft management plan be reworded to facilitate this as noted in the submission. Walkway closure times also need to be explored in partnership with Fish & Game and the Lagoons Committee to better preserve the existing recreational gamebird hunting use that occurs. Such a partnership will allow Fish & Game to continue to assist with the restoration project in future, particularly in relation to future cost-free control of Canadian geese and black swan use of the lagoon which is currently increasing and will become problematic at some future point.

There being no further submitters the Hearing closed at 4.08 pm.

Record No: 26125947

Decision Report on Submissions to Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan

Introduction

Council prepared a Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan (Draft Plan) to guide the future management, use and protection of Grovetown Lagoon. This replaces the 2003 management plan prepared by the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Incorporated Society (the Society).

Written submissions were invited in 2021, and this feedback, together with consultation with iwi and the Society, informed development of the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan was adopted for consultation on 27 February 2025, with submissions open from 6 March to 8 May 2025. 34 submissions were received, with eight submitters wishing to be heard.

A hearing was held at the Marlborough District Council offices on Tuesday 16 June 2026 and Thursday 18 June 2026. The Hearing Panel comprised Councillors B Dawson (Chair), G Hope and B Faulls. The Hearing Panel acknowledges the efforts of submitters in preparing submissions and those submitters who appeared before the Panel to provide written and verbal evidence and to respond to questions. A separate minute records appearances before the Hearing Panel.

The Hearing Panel recognises the general support from submissions for what has been achieved at the Grovetown Lagoon to date. It is noted that the primary issue raised in submissions was game bird hunting at Grovetown Lagoon with a range of views for and against expressed throughout the management plan process.

In making their decisions the Hearing Panel reviewed:

- Submissions lodged on the Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan
- Notified Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan - annotated with track changes to reflect staff recommendations
- Background Information - Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan (available on Council's website www.marlborough.govt.nz)
- Staff Hearing Report on submissions and further information requested by the Hearing Panel
- Evidence presented at the hearing.

Game bird hunting

The [2025 Draft Plan](#) includes policies to restrict game bird hunting to the opening weekend of the season and implies that public access is not provided for during this time. Four submitters support the reduction to opening weekend only, two submitters request that game bird hunting no longer be permitted, and twenty four submitters do not support the reduction and want hunting to continue.

The management of hunting at Grovetown Lagoon is complex. This is due to mixed land ownership and the absence of formal landowner permission, along with increasing public use and the Society's objectives to increase biodiversity at the Lagoon.

Submissions present strongly held and divergent views.

Some submitters support restricting hunting due to concerns about public safety, visitor experience, noise, and alignment with environmental and recreational values.

Others oppose the restriction, citing the long history of hunting at the site, food gathering, youth education, and the role of hunting in managing waterfowl populations.

Submissions from iwi emphasise the importance of recognising customary harvest practices and caution against blanket restrictions that may have disproportionate impacts on tangata whenua.

In response, the Hearing Panel considered four options for the management of game bird hunting at Grovetown Lagoon:

1. **Retain existing hunting practices**, including voluntary restrictions.
2. **Restrict hunting to the opening weekend only**, as proposed in the Draft Plan.
3. **Manage hunting through a permit-based system**, developed collaboratively with iwi, Fish and Game, and the Society.
4. **Prohibit hunting entirely** at the Lagoon.

The Hearing Panel recommend Option 3 – Manage hunting through a permit-based system.

This seeks to achieve a balanced approach that manages perceived issues/risk of game bird hunting while enabling the activity to continue alongside public access.

The detail recommended in the revised plan (see Appendix 5) to achieve Option 3 also draws from suggestions made in a number of submissions including from Fish and Game. It helps to provide clarity on roles, responsibilities and expectations, including landowner approval.

Key aspects of the recommended approach include:

- Game bird hunting is permitted from the 1st weekend of May (in accordance with the game bird hunting season opening date) to the 31st of May inclusive.
- Within this permitted period, no shooting is to occur between the hours of 9am and 4pm.
- The walkway will remain open over this time with appropriate and effective signage.
- Areas where game bird hunting is not permitted are identified.
- Game bird hunting can only occur from the maimai included in the permitted area.
- A maximum of six maimai are permitted within this area (noting that construction or placement of a temporary maimai is subject to the Marlborough Environment Plan).
- Game bird hunters are required to hold a permit administered by Fish and Game (as the statutory authority responsible for sports fish and gamebird resources).
- The permit outlines conditions of use (e.g. hunting dog controls outside of on leash areas), including the above location, date and time restrictions.
- Fish and Game are responsible for signage during the game bird hunting season with requirements for how, when and where this is to occur.

Customary harvest rights

The submission from Rangitāne o Wairau requests:

1. That the management plan explicitly acknowledge the existence and importance of Māori customary harvest practices and specify a commitment to supporting their exercise within the reserve.
2. That Council and the Management Group, in collaboration with relevant agencies (including DOC and Fish & Game), work in partnership with Rangitāne to develop a lawful and practical pathway for customary harvest consistent with tikanga and statutory obligations.
3. That restrictions applying to recreational hunting are not presumed to apply to customary harvest, and that the plan differentiate between these uses in its planning provisions and management arrangements.
4. That public safety be addressed through effective site management, signage and spatial planning rather than through undifferentiated bans that may disproportionately impact tangata whenua.
5. That Rangitāne be engaged in the ongoing review, implementation and monitoring of hunting and harvest provisions to ensure a culturally appropriate and legally robust framework over time.

The Hearing Panel recommended response to matters raised in this submission is as follows:

- No change to Objectives and Policies in Section 1 of the Draft Plan that acknowledge the role of Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne in exercising kaitiakitanga in the management of the Lagoon and enable appropriate recognition and consideration of mana whenua traditional practices and tikanga to recognise the customary relationship (Points 1,2 above)
- Add a definition to Appendix 1 – Glossary to clearly identify that Recreational game bird hunting is hunting that is controlled and regulated under the Wildlife Act 1953. This differentiates between recreational hunting (in accordance with the Wildlife Act) and customary harvest rights (considered in the Objectives and Policies in Section 1). (Point 3 above).
- Note that a revised approach to recreational game bird hunting puts in place effective site management requirements for this activity (Point 4 above).
- Add Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne to Part E - Action 18 responsibility along with Council and the Society, to ensure Iwi are included in the assessment of the effectiveness of policies on game bird hunting (Point 5 above).
- General – amend whole plan to reference Rangitāne o Wairau.

Kellys Creek development plan

Three submissions do not support the proposed development of play equipment, seating, boardwalk and vegetation at the Kellys Creek area as it impedes views into and from the surrounding areas that are privately owned.

In response the Hearing Panel recommend:

- Appendix 4 - Amend the Kelly's Creek development plan to remove the proposed maimai nests and boardwalk and associated planting. Scale back to provision of a viewing seat and educational signage. Consider play opportunities in other areas of the Lagoon.

This recognises the importance of this area as a viewing point while ensuring that structures and vegetation does not impact surrounding land use activities. The development plan has been updated to reflect this change. No policies need to change as a consequence of the submissions.

General feedback

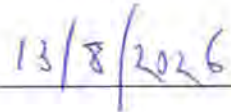
Minor changes from the remaining submissions are recommended to provide clarity as follows:

- Part A - include the role of Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game in restoration efforts at the Lagoon.
- Section 4.0 Recreation - Include a policy to consider multiple use and accessibility (including consultation with adjacent landowners) when developing new facilities especially those with a land/water interface.
- Section 4.0 and 5.0 – add the word 'general' to the objectives to recognise that the majority of the time the Lagoon is 'peaceful' and 'tranquil' with the exception of when shooting occurs during one month of the year and when adjacent land use activities might create noise.
- Part E Actions – for Action 18 (review of effectiveness of hunting approach), add Fish and Game to the responsibility section along with Iwi, Council and Society, and change the review period from three years to 18 months.
- Appendix 3 – add the Reserves Act 1977 to the overview of legislation, plans and strategies.

Operationally, the Hearing Panel recommend that the signs at the entrance to the Otamawaho Māori Island be improved to clearly show where the public access track goes in this area.

Hearing Panel representatives:

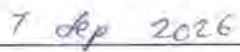


Councillor Brian Dawson (Chair)

Date

Councillor Gerald Hope

Date

Councillor Barbara Faults

Date

8. Imagine Marlborough - Play Design Strategy

(The Chair) (Report prepared by Lesley McIntosh)

R510-039-02

Purpose of Report

1. To approve the 'Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy' and its integration into Council planning, design and operations.

Executive Summary

2. The Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy (the strategy) provides a practical framework for integrating play into public spaces and neighbourhoods. It helps maximise community benefits from projects and investments already underway through existing planning, renewal and capital programmes.
3. The strategy is informed by over 560 community insights, including engagement with schools, Iwi, community organisations and partner agencies. It promotes integrating play into Council strategies and plans, increasing playful elements in public places, and co-design with communities, Iwi and youth.
4. Council already has great examples of successfully integrating play experiences into our spaces and places, and the strategy builds on these strengths.
5. The strategy strongly aligns to Council's (draft) community outcome of thriving, safe and inclusive communities and provides a practical framework for achieving multiple community outcomes through existing investment
6. By understanding how children experience Marlborough's streets, parks, town centres and neighbourhoods, Council can help create safer, more welcoming and accessible places that support connection, wellbeing, identity and participation for people of all ages and abilities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Committee recommends that Council approves the Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy, attached as attachment 8.1, and its integration into Council planning, design and operations.

Background

7. Children experience streets, parks and neighbourhoods differently from adults. The strategy recognises that when a place works well for a child, it works well for the wider community. Their ability to move, play and participate provides a useful indicator of how safe, welcoming and accessible a place is for everyone. The strategy uses this experience as both a measure of how well places are functioning and a tool for improving outcomes for the wider community.
8. Development of the strategy was informed by 560 community insights gathered through :
 - the MDC Tākaro and Play Survey.
 - the Neighbourhood Play System report with Picton and Waikawa Bay Primary Schools.
 - engagement with iwi where capacity allowed.
 - input from Sport NZ, Health NZ and Sport Tasman

9. Key themes consistently identified were:
- safer and more accessible movement
 - stronger connection to nature
 - greater cultural visibility
 - more inclusive public spaces
 - vibrant town centres and community places
10. Importantly, the themes identified by tamariki and young people largely echoed those raised by adults, demonstrating a strong level of consistency across the community.

Assessment

11. Play design is the thoughtful shaping of environments, experiences and systems so people of all ages can experience joy, connection, movement, creativity and calm in everyday places. It extends beyond traditional playgrounds, drawing on lived experience, built and natural environments, and good planning to support more equitable, accessible and inclusive communities across Marlborough.
12. The strategy focuses on three strategic outcomes:
- Play design FOR Marlborough – building systems that create long-term change. Embedding play design into policy, planning and investment decisions, contributing to a vibrant future for current and future generations.
 - Play design IN Marlborough – bringing engaging moments to our places that our communities can see, touch and enjoy. Play design is woven through our spaces and places and the everyday infrastructure where Marlborough lives, works and moves.
 - Play design WITH Marlborough – creating engaging and accessible spaces with our communities. Play design reflects Marlborough's local identity and stories, shaped through co-design with communities, iwi and youth.
13. Council's Play Advocate leads the shift to Playful Systems Planning by embedding play design early in Council processes and building internal capability before the Play Advocate role concludes.
14. The strategy encourages using a play design lens on planned projects and renewals to deliver multiple community outcomes. It asks a simple question: Can this investment do more? By considering play early Council can strengthen the value delivered through existing infrastructure, parks, transport and community projects without creating a significant new capital programme. This includes consideration of low-cost, high-impact interventions delivered through existing planning, renewal, operational and capital programmes.
15. The strategy does not ask Council what it should build next. It asks how existing investments can deliver greater value for Marlborough

Option One (Recommended option) – Approve the Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy

16. The Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy is included in Attachment 1.
17. This option recognises the comprehensive engagement process that has been used to inform development of the strategy. It supports the integration of a play design lens into relevant Council planning, policy, investment and project processes.

Advantages

18. Builds on existing projects already implemented to improve how children experience Marlborough's streets, parks, neighbourhoods and public places.

19. Strengthens the value and community benefit generated from existing Council investment.
20. Encourages projects to deliver multiple outcomes including wellbeing, accessibility, connection and local identity.

Disadvantages

21. Perception that play is a 'nice to have' and not core Council business.
22. Perception that the strategy will impose significant additional cost to Council.

Option Two – Do not approve the Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy

Advantages

23. Maintains current programmes and does not require any change to existing practice.

Disadvantages

24. Missed opportunity to utilise Play Advocate expertise and resource to develop an enduring strategy.
25. Doesn't provide a consistent framework to respond to community engagement outcomes.

Next steps

26. Progress delivery of the implementation plan.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Lesley McIntosh (15 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 8.1 - Imagine Marlborough Play Design Strategy	page [34]
Attachment 8.2 - Image Marlborough - Play Design Implementation Plan Feb 2026	page [56]

Author	Lesley McIntosh, Play Advocate, Parks, and Open Spaces
Authoriser	Jane Tito, Manager, Parks and Open Spaces

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with Council policies and strategies			
	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	✗	☐	☐
Financial Strategy	☐	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	☐	☐	☐
Social well-being	✗	☐	☐
Economic development	☐	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	☐	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	☐
3 Waters	☐	☐	☐
Land transport	✗	☐	☐
Parks and reserves	✗	☐	☐
Nature of the decision to be made			
The options do not involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water.			
Financial considerations			
There are no known financial implications.			
Significance			
The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement			
Engagement has occurred with the community and school groups.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc			
There are no known significant risks or legal implications in approving this strategy.			
Climate Change Implications			
There are no known climate change implications to this decision.			

Imagine Marlborough:

Play Design for Our Future

*From the sounds to the streets - leading Marlborough toward a more
playful, connected, and resilient future.*

A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER:

The following kōrero expresses how play and tākaro are understood through iwi connection to this whenua.

“Tākaro, play and playable spaces are a taonga for our tamariki and whānau —where stories live on, connections are nurtured, and joy is shared across generations.

This whenua is where the awa and the moana meet, a fertile plain nurtured by generations who lived from the land, waterways, and wetlands. For our tamariki and mokopuna, it is also a place of joy, discovery, and play.

Playable spaces are more than a space for recreation — it is a taonga that symbolises continuity. Just as tūpuna once gathered here to share kai, stories, and laughter, today’s families gather to nurture the wellbeing of their whānau. The whenua holds the memory of past footsteps, and the laughter of children now carries those stories forward.

Tākaro and playable spaces acknowledge whakapapa to the land and reaffirms commitment to the wellbeing of future generations. It represents the values of where whanaungatanga, manaakitanga and kotahitanga, are lived every day.”

This statement was graciously provided by Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Toa.



Play design inspiration: On a former landfill, Sydney Park is redefining what’s possible — transforming waste ground into a dynamic landscape where play, science, design, and ecology come together. Where connection to the land and water is rejuvenated.

CONTENTS

A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER:	2
WHY THIS MATTERS NOW:	4
• Executive Summary:	4
SHAPING OUR SHARED FUTURE THROUGH PLAY:	5
STRATEGY SNAPSHOT:	6
WHAT PLAY DESIGN MEANS:	7
• Understanding Play Design in Everyday Life:	7
DESIGNING FOR MARLBOROUGH'S FUTURE:	8
COMMUNITY VOICE:	10
• What We Heard from Our People:	10
• What Matters Most to Our Communities:	10
GROUNDED IN PLACE AND IDENTITY:	12
• Cultural Foundations that Shaped this Strategy:	12
TURNING CHALLENGES INTO POSSIBILITIES:	13
BRINGING THE STRATEGY TO LIFE:	14
• How We Will Work Together:	14
• Leading the Shift in Practice (Role of Play Advocate):	14
• Guiding Pou That Shape Our Places:	14
LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR PLAY:	15
• Outcome 1. Play Design FOR Marlborough (Systems):	15
SHAPING PLAYFUL PLACES ACROSS MARLBOROUGH:	16
• OUTCOME 2. Play Design IN Marlborough (Places):	16
GROWING TOGETHER THROUGH PLAY:	17
• OUTCOME 3. Play Design WITH Marlborough (People and partnerships):	17
GLOSSARY – TE REO MĀORI TERMS:	18
GLOSSARY – CONCEPTS:	19
APPENDIX 1: How Play Design Supports Council Outcomes:	20
APPENDIX 2: Play design in practise Across Marlborough:	21
APPENDIX 3: Delivering Smarter, working together:	22

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Executive Summary:

Marlborough is placing increasing emphasis on wellbeing, cultural identity, climate resilience, and the quality of everyday places. In a constrained funding environment, a low-cost, high-impact play design lens enables Council to improve safety, movement, accessibility, inclusion, and local identity — while delivering greater value from routine investment and responding to community feedback.

At the heart of this approach is a simple principle: places where children can move and play freely tend to be healthier places overall. When children are visible in streets and public spaces, those places are more welcoming, connected, and inclusive for everyone.

This creates a clear opportunity for Marlborough to lead within Aotearoa, demonstrating how play design can be embedded across everyday systems and places to deliver stronger, more connected and resilient communities — and to inform and inspire other regions.

Importantly, this approach does not require new capital investment. Instead, it strengthens planned programmes by embedding play early in scoping and design, ensuring existing budgets deliver greater public benefit.

This strategy responds to Marlborough's diverse communities. Informed by Te Ao Māori principles where appropriate and guided by iwi insights, this strategy also reflects wider community aspirations — including the voices of tamariki — supporting a balanced and inclusive approach to play design.



Play design inspiration: In a city shaped by crisis, Beirut is reclaiming its public stairs — transforming them into vibrant spaces designed for children, where play, gathering, and everyday life come back together to rebuild connection and community.

SHAPING OUR SHARED FUTURE THROUGH PLAY

Strategy Overview:

Marlborough's landscapes — from the Sounds to its rivers, vineyards, town centres and neighbourhood streets — shape how people live, move and connect every day. This identity is grounded in the enduring presence and leadership of iwi, rich natural and productive environments, and the diverse communities who call the region home.

Building on those strengths by using play design as a practical tool to shape how Council plans, designs and invests in public spaces — supports wellbeing, local identity and everyday movement for people of all ages.

This strategy challenges how play design is understood. By embedding play design consistently across systems, projects and places, it supports safer streets, nature-connected spaces, stronger cultural visibility, more climate-ready neighbourhoods, and increased economic vibrancy in town centres and local places.

Three connected outcomes guide this work:

1. **Play Design for Marlborough (systems)**
2. **Play Design in Marlborough (places)**
3. **Play Design with Marlborough (people)**

Together, these outcomes contribute to Marlborough's wider aspirations — reflected in Council's long-term outcomes as outline in Appendix 1.

As these outcomes mature, play design becomes part of everyday Council practice — strengthening collaboration and positioning Marlborough as a leader across Te Taihupo and one of the first regions in Aotearoa to embed play design systematically, creating culturally grounded and resilient places for current and future generations.



Play design inspiration: In a city shaped by history, Barcelona's Superblocks show what's possible — turning streets into thriving, playful spaces designed for children — and in doing so, creating places that work better for everyone and prioritise people over cars.

STRATEGY SNAPSHOT

VISION

**From Sounds to streets,
play design is in Marlboroughs
DNA**

This positions Marlborough as a leader in play design in Te Taihū — guided by kotahitanga (unity) and whanaungatanga (relationships) to create places that connect us, reflect us, and evolve with our communities

MISSION

**Shape Marlborough's future by
embedding play design into
every decision so our people
move, connect, and thrive**

Our mission upholds manaakitanga (respect) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship), shaping places that uplift people and care for the environment. It embeds play design and wellbeing into every Council decision for today and future generations

OUTCOMES

1

Play design **FOR** Marlborough

Our priority is building systems that create long-term change.

Play design is embedded across Marlborough's policy, planning, and investment decisions, contributing to a vibrant future for current and future generations.

2

Play design **IN** Marlborough

This is about places—bringing engaging moments our communities can see, touch, and enjoy.

Play design is woven through parks, streets, waterways, trails, town centres, and the everyday infrastructure where Marlborough lives, works, and moves.

3

Play design **WITH** Marlborough

This is about people—creating engaging and accessible spaces with our communities.

Play design reflects Marlborough's local identity and stories, shaped through co-design with communities, iwi, and youth.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

No new capital commitment • Greater value from planned investment • Clear assurance of community return.

Play design is embedded in everyday Marlborough — shaping joyful, culturally grounded places, strengthening connection to te taiao, supporting climate-resilient neighbourhoods, and helping towns thrive through partnership with iwi, community, and youth.

WHAT PLAY DESIGN MEANS

Understanding Play Design in Everyday Life

Play design is the thoughtful shaping of environments, experiences and systems so people of all ages — from tamariki to kaumātua — can experience joy, connection, movement, creativity and calm in everyday places. It extends beyond traditional playgrounds, drawing on lived experience, built and natural environments, and good planning to support more equitable, accessible and inclusive communities across Marlborough.

Play design takes many forms:	Play design can happen anywhere:
• engagement • interaction • emotional connection • tactical and intentional design • self-activation • revitalisation • quiet, sensory-aware, and restorative experiences • equity • access • tākaro (play within a Māori world view)	• streets • parks • waterfronts and riversides • laneways • bus stops • natural spaces • urban environments • stormwater and ecological spaces

Examples of what this looks like in practice across Marlborough's everyday places — including the kinds of experiences play design creates — are explored in Appendix 2.

Our approach to play design is shaped by the diversity of Marlborough's communities and the many ways people value and participate in play throughout daily life. This includes an understanding of tākaro within Te Ao Māori, alongside a broad range of community voices and perspectives.

When we speak of play design, we embrace the depth of tākaro. Tākaro is to be treasured — a quiet teacher that passes knowledge between generations and strengthens whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, and kaitiakitanga. It reminds us that play nurtures care for self, others, land, and water. It recognises play as an interconnected relationship between people, place, history, wellbeing, belonging, and life across all ages.



Play design inspiration: Inspired by local narratives, Invercargill features tuna (eel) sculptures weaving through estuary-inspired rain gardens and seating, creating spaces that invite children to play while encouraging people of all ages to pause, connect and engage.

DESIGNING FOR MARLBOROUGH'S FUTURE

Building on what play design means, we can now see how it becomes a practical tool for shaping Marlborough's future — embedded from the Sounds to its streets and informing how places, systems and future growth are planned, designed and experienced.

The everyday experience of children offers a powerful lens for understanding how well these places function now and into the future. When neighbourhoods enable children to move freely, safely and confidently, they tend to work better for everyone — including older people — signalling more joined-up thinking across planning, transport, safety, culture and community life. This approach helps test whether decisions and investments are truly enabling connected and inclusive places.

These principles support the outcomes outlined in Figure 1, including safer and more connected neighbourhoods, stronger cultural identity, improved everyday movement and community wellbeing. When applied early in planning and investment decision-making, play design leads to more meaningful and enduring results for Marlborough.

It also delivers practical benefits by improving cross-department efficiency, helping teams refine or rethink existing practice from the outset and avoiding rework and unnecessary cost. By embedding this approach consistently, Marlborough is well placed to demonstrate a practical and scalable model - where play design becomes part of how places are shaped and experienced every day.

Practical examples of how this approach improves efficiency, aligns delivery, and adds value without additional cost are included in Appendix 3

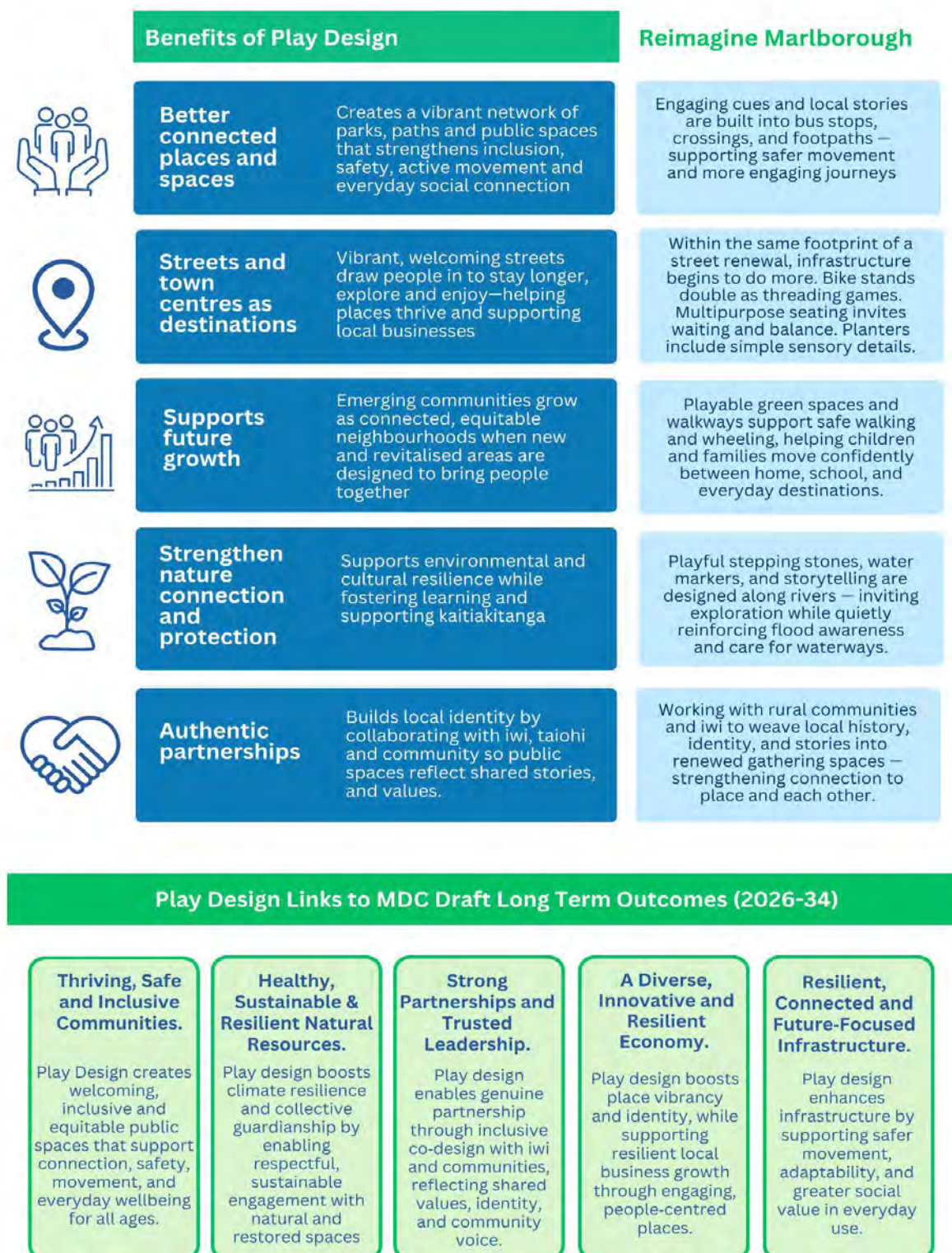


Play Design in Practice — adding value without adding cost.

A routine footpath renewal becomes more than a like-for-like replacement when a play lens is applied early. Subtle design moves — low edges that double as seating and balance for children, playful ground markings, and planting that invites pause — are integrated into the core works.

The asset stays the same. The budget doesn't change. What shifts is how the space is used — children are invited to play, movement slows, people linger, and a path designed for getting from A to B becomes people-centric place.

Figure 1: The Benefits of Play and Contribution to MDC Long Term Outcomes.



COMMUNITY VOICE:

What We Heard from Our People:

Play matters to Marlborough. Through kōrero with iwi, whānau, tamariki, schools, and community groups, we heard a consistent message:

People want safer, more welcoming, and culturally grounded public spaces.

This message reflects a shared desire for environments that support everyday activity, connection to place, and inclusive community life.

How We Engaged:

We gathered insights through four complementary approaches:

1. Region-wide MDC Tākaro and Play Survey
2. High Street play design concept consultation
3. Face-to-face meetings and email conversations with iwi (where capacity allowed), Sport Tasman, and the Community & Whānau Wellbeing Team Lead at the regional National Public Health Service
4. Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) assessments at Picton and Waikawa Bay Primary Schools

What Matters Most to Our Communities:

Insights from **560** participants (see Figure 2) highlight five key priorities. Together, these define what “safer, more welcoming, and culturally grounded” looks like in practice:

- Safer, more accessible places for walking, biking, and everyday play.
- Nature-rich environments connected to water, ecology, and local identity.
- Stronger cultural visibility via storytelling and bilingual elements.
- Inclusive, intergenerational opportunities in neighbourhoods and town centres.
- Simple but meaningful improvements such as shade, seating, wayfinding, and imaginative features.

These priorities align with Council's Long-Term Plan focus on wellbeing, quality infrastructure, and vibrant public spaces. The strategy responds by applying play design as a practical lens for delivery, guided by community partnerships.



Play design inspiration: From Tauranga to Finland to Thailand — stepping blocks in Tauranga CBD, a wave bar in Finland, and multi-purpose seating in Thailand transform everyday elements into invitations for children to play — and people of all ages to engage.

Figure 2: What we heard from our people.



GROUNDING IN PLACE AND IDENTITY

Mai i uta ki tai, mā te tākaro e puāwai ai tō tātou iwi katoa.

From the mountain tops to the depths of the sea, through play our people will flourish.

(This whakataukī has been kindly gifted by Te Ātiawa.)

Cultural Foundations that Shaped this Strategy.

The kōrero of tākaro, gifted and shared by iwi partners, underpins this strategy — shaping how play is understood and applied across Marlborough, from planning and prioritisation through to design and care of shared places.

This understanding reflects a deep connection between culture and place. At its heart, tākaro is a living connection to people and place — sitting across generations — nurturing joy, creativity, learning, and belonging. This shared meaning sits at the core of our aspirations. When we speak of play design, the depth and essence of tākaro are always present.

Alongside this sits the voices of tamariki, whānau, schools, and wider communities — ensuring the strategy centres children while supporting the wellbeing of all, now and for future generations. Together, these perspectives form a shared values foundation for shaping places that are welcoming, meaningful, and resilient.



Play Design in practise: Cultural values, experienced through play.

A footpath winds around a restored wetland, tracing the water's edge. Special paint reveals bird footprints only when the ground is wet with rain.

Viewing circles at different heights invite people to pause and see — water, plants, mountains — from shifting perspectives.

A small solar-powered button releases birdsong, echoing species that have recently returned.

Without instruction or signage, the space invites curiosity, care, and connection — allowing people to experience the rhythms and relationships of the place for themselves. Cultural values are not explained — they are experienced.

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO POSSIBILITIES

Marlborough has an exciting opportunity to embrace play design by weaving together community aspirations and Council's vision. This shared direction shapes the three strategic outcomes — Play FOR, IN, and WITH Marlborough. These align with the current central government expectations for value for money, integrated delivery, and well-functioning urban environments, while still ensuring our decisions reflect local voices and support wellbeing, identity, environmental care, and thriving towns.

Considering play design early in planning and infrastructure enables thoughtful, cost-effective improvements across our spaces and communities. This approach helps turn everyday challenges into opportunities for better delivery:

Challenges	Opportunity
Greater scrutiny on efficiency	Focus on early, integrated, cost-effective delivery, using a play design lens that meet central government expectations and community needs.
Tight budgets	Favour smart, creative delivery — simple, nature-rich, repurposed moves that achieve strong outcomes without large spends.
Play design seen as “nice-to-have”	Position play design as essential community infrastructure that supports children's rights and delivers health, safety, identity, and long-term outcomes for all Marlborough residents.
Late add-ons create time/cost pressure	Embed play early in planning and upgrades to smooth delivery and reduce rework.
Siloed ways of working	Adopt a shared play design lens to spark cross-team collaboration, integrated planning and align with Council's wider vision.
Pressure on infrastructure	Use playful, place-based design to distribute use, calm networks, and reduce strain on community assets.

**Kia kōrero, kia whakamahere, kia hakamanahia, kia whakauru.
Let's talk play, lets plan, lets empower, lets integrate.**



Play design inspiration: In Wellington, playful hoardings are embedded within development — turning temporary construction edges into invitations to engage.

BRINGING THE STRATEGY TO LIFE

How We Will Work Together

This strategy is delivered through existing Council systems, supported by strong community and iwi partnerships. Play design is a lens that enhances work across transport, parks, urban design, spatial planning, our rural towns, wellbeing, and environmental programmes.

Leading the Shift in Practice (Role of Play Advocate)

The MDC Play Advocate leads the shift to Playful Systems Planning by embedding play design early in Council processes and building internal capability. With accountability embedded within core teams before the Play Advocate role concludes.

Guiding Pou That Shape Our Places

The following Pou translate the cultural foundations of tākaro into practical principles for Council decision-making.

Tamariki and mokopuna first: (Children and future generations first).	When we design for children, everyone benefits.
Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership:	We work with mana whenua in ways that uphold partnership and support shared aspirations for Marlborough's future, ensuring our shared places reflect local identity, environmental care, and community wellbeing.
Co-design	We work alongside communities to shape play that reflects local identity. Through co-design and kōrero, community values are woven into the places we create.
Universal design and equity:	We apply equity lenses — gender, culture, disability, and accessibility — to ensure diverse voices shape our planning.
Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in design	We honour and protect the mauri of our environments through nature-based, sustainable design that supports environmental care and future generations. <i>Refer to the Implementation Plan for further detail.</i>
Play design lens applied early	Early decisions save time and money.
Low-cost, high-impact	Start small with low-cost trials to learn what works.
Play as resilience.	We support community wellbeing, including through emergency response and recovery.
Evidence-led	We use evidence and regular reporting to guide decision-making.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR PLAY

Outcome 1. Play Design FOR Marlborough (Systems)

Our priority is building systems that create long-term change. Embedding play design into systems and standards improves consistency, reduces duplication, and helps Council achieve stronger outcomes from existing investment.

What we will do	Ensure play design is embedded across Marlborough's policy, planning, and investment decisions, contributing to a vibrant future for current and future generations.
How we will do it	1. Include play design in key Council plans and decisions. 2. Create a Play Spaces Network Plan (which assesses equitable play in Marlborough)
What success looks like?	• Play is embedded in Council plans, project decisions, and investment settings. • Council teams confidently apply playability principles in everyday decision-making. • A clear, equitable Play Spaces Network guides long-term planning.

Community voice

"IN/AROUND THE AMAZING NEW BLENHEIM LIBRARY IS A NATURAL PLACE TO DEVELOP A PLAY SPACE, TO DEVELOP AND BUILD ON A INVITING SOCIAL HUB OF ACTIVITY."

"PLAY AREAS ARE GOOD. I'D RATHER THE MONEY BE SPENT ON CHILD SAFETY AROUND PICTON SCHOOL E.G PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS, SAFE TRAIN CROSSINGS AND SAFER FOOTPATHS ETC."

"LACK OF SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ACROSS ROADS... FOOTPATH OR CYCLEWAY ACCESS (TOO NARROW OR NOT IN GOOD CONDITION)."

"PLAYGROUNDS DON'T CATER FOR TEENAGERS OR ADULTS WHO WANT TO UTILISE PLAY EQUIPMENT."

"NOT ENOUGH ACCESSIBILITY FOR OUR DISABILITY COMMUNITY"

"BIKING TRACKS OFF THE ROAD ARE GREAT BUT DO NOT ALWAYS LINK UP... THERE IS NO SAFE 'URBAN LOOP' IN BLENHEIM"

SHAPING PLAYFUL PLACES ACROSS MARLBOROUGH

OUTCOME 2. Play Design IN Marlborough (Places)

This is about places—bringing engaging moments our communities can see, touch, and enjoy.

What we will do	Ensure play design is woven through parks, streets, waterways, trails, town centres, and the everyday infrastructure where Marlborough lives, works, and moves.
How we will do it	1. Embed inclusive design principles into planning, policy, and project design or upgrades. These include principals of Kaitiakitanga in Play Design. (Refer Appendix 2 of the implementation plan). 2. Deliver Playful placemaking trails in underused or upgraded urban environments. 3. Develop nature-based play opportunities. 4. Integrate play design into streets and transport networks (child-friendly movement + safety).
What success looks like?	• Play is visible and accessible across everyday places and movement networks, supporting child-friendly and people-centred neighbourhoods. • Inclusive, kaitiakitanga-led and nature-based play becomes standard in public spaces. • Playful places support wellbeing, increase activity, social connection, safety and strengthen local economies.

Community voice



GROWING TOGETHER THROUGH PLAY

OUTCOME 3. Play Design WITH Marlborough (People and partnerships)

This is about people—creating engaging and accessible spaces with our communities - listening to local voice, especially tamariki.

What we will do	Enable play design that reflects Marlborough's local identity and stories, shaped through co-design with communities, iwi, and youth.
How we will do it	1. Use co-design with iwi/hapū, young people and diverse communities. 2. Grow partnerships that support local identity and play. 3. Add bilingual and cultural stories in public places. 4. Use youth insights to guide planning around schools via the Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) or equivalent.
What success looks like?	• Tamariki, iwi, hapū, and communities see their stories and identity reflected in public places. • Codesign becomes normal practice for new play or place projects. • Youth insights shape safer, more connected environments around schools and neighbourhoods.

Community voice

"PLACES LIKE MARA HUPARA ARE A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE AND NORMALISE CULTURAL PLAY, A PLACE FOR PURAKAU, CONNECTION AND LEARNING"

"ACTIVATING URBAN SPACES, ESPECIALLY IN AND AROUND THE CBD, BRING NATURE INTO THE CBD AND UTILISE NATURE IN PLAY"

"WE WANT TO PLAY ON OUR WAY TO SCHOOL WITH FUN FOOTPATHS AND COLOURFUL PAINTINGS AND DESIGNS"

"BLENHEIM/MARLBOROUGH SHOULD AIM TO BE THE GREATEST PLACE FOR FAMILIES IN NEW ZEALAND."

"WE ARE TRULY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES... WE WOULD LIKE PLAY SPACES THAT INCLUDE FEATURES THAT REPRESENT OUR MULTICULTURAL CITIZENZ"

"IMPORTANT TO CONSULT WITH LOCAL IWI ... HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS AREA TO MAORI, AND INCLUDE KAITIAKI INFORMATION"

GLOSSARY – TE REO MĀORI TERMS

This glossary supports shared understanding of te reo Māori used throughout the strategy. Terms are grouped to reflect relationships between people, place, and values.

Play, Worldview and Environment

Tākaro:	Play; a holistic concept encompassing joy, learning, connection to people and place, and wellbeing across generations.
Te Ao Māori:	The Māori worldview; the cultural lens through which relationships, Knowledge, and values are understood.
Te Taiao:	The natural world; the interconnected environment including land, water, plants, animals, and people.

People and Community

Hapū	Sub-tribe; a smaller kinship group within an iwi
Iwi	Tribe; a large kinship group.
Kaumātua	Elders within the community.
Mana whenua	Local iwi or hapū with authority and connection to a place.
Mokopuna	Grandchildren; future generations.
Rangatahi	Young people / youth.
Tamariki	Children.
Whānau	Family, extended family and wider support networks.

Values and Principles

Kaitiakitanga	Guardianship and care for the environment and future generations.
Kotahitanga	Unity and collective action.
Manaakitanga	Care, hospitality, generosity, and respect for others
Mauri	Life force or essential essence of a place or being.
Whanaungatanga	Relationships, connection, and a sense of belonging.

Place and Identity

Awa	River
Moana	Sea or ocean
Whenua	Land

Knowledge and Expression

Kōrero	Conversation, story, or dialogue.
Whakapapa	Genealogy; connections between people, place, and history.
Whakataukī	Proverb or expression carrying cultural knowledge.

Partnership and Practice

Pou	Foundational pillars or guiding principles
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Foundational agreement guiding partnership between Māori and the Crown.

GLOSSARY – CONCEPTS

Term / Concept	Definition
Play Spaces Network Plan	A long-term plan mapping play opportunities, identifying gaps, and guiding investment for equitable, inclusive access.
Neighbourhood Play System (NPS)	A child-centred assessment of how neighbourhoods support tamariki movement, independence, and play.
Playable Spaces	Any environment designed or adapted to invite play beyond traditional playgrounds.
Play Equity	Fair access to quality, nearby play opportunities.
Universal Design	Designing spaces to be usable by as many people as possible across ages and abilities.
Placemaking / Playful Placemaking	Improving public places through community-led, creative and playful design.
Nature-Based Play	Play that uses natural materials such as logs, rocks, water, and landforms.
Co-design	Designing with communities, iwi, tamariki and rangatahi (youth) through shared decision-making.
Bilingual Storytelling / Bilingual Elements	Use of te reo Māori and English in signage, markers, or play features.
Active Travel	Walking, wheeling, scootering, or cycling as everyday movement.
Destination Identity	How play design and public spaces contribute to a sense of place and local identity.



Play design inspiration: In Gisborne, a simple, locally sourced tree log becomes a playful element — using repurposed materials and local artists to reflect stories, whakapapa and connection to place.

APPENDIX 1: How Play Design Supports Council Outcomes

Purpose: Shows how play design contributes to MDCs long-term outcomes, demonstrating its strategic value across wellbeing, infrastructure, environment and economic priorities.

Council Outcomes	Play Design Contribution
Thriving, Safe and Inclusive Communities: <i>People and communities across Marlborough feel valued, safe, included, and connected, with equitable opportunities to live, learn, work and play.</i>	- Creates welcoming spaces that foster connection, belonging and safety - Supports intergenerational play and participation - Advances equity through inclusive design - Enables everyday play and movement across our communities
Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Natural Resources: <i>Marlborough's natural resources are maintained or restored to a healthy condition, enabling sustainable access, use, and enhancement for current and future generations.</i>	- Strengthens connection to and education about nature through play - Supports kaitiakitanga and everyday environmental stewardship - Integrates play design into environmental, stormwater and climate adaptation projects.
Strong Partnerships and Trusted Leadership: <i>Council leads with integrity, transparency, and accountability, working in genuine partnership with iwi/Māori, communities, and stakeholders to enable meaningful engagement and the shared achievement of quality outcomes.</i>	- Supports creative and accessible community engagement that builds trust and collaboration - Partners with iwi/Māori through locally grounded co-design - Enables alignment through shared play design principles
A Diverse, Innovative and Resilient Economy: <i>Marlborough grows a diverse, innovative, and resilient economy supported by adaptable industries, competitive markets, quality jobs, skills pathways, and value-adding opportunities aligned with regional strengths.</i>	- Enhances the attractiveness and vibrancy of town centres and destinations - Strengthens place-based identity and distinctiveness to support local economies - Adds value through low-cost, innovative interventions - Supports local creatives and community participation through co-design
Resilient, Connected and Future-Focused Infrastructure. <i>People, businesses, and industry can move, connect and trade easily through resilient, well-planned transport, digital and community infrastructure that meets today's needs, sustains growth and is responsive to future challenges.</i>	- Encourages safer streets and active travel through playful prompts and cues - Enhances infrastructure to deliver functional, social and experiential value - Enables adaptable, multi-use spaces that respond to changing community needs

APPENDIX 2: Play design in practise Across Marlborough.

Purpose: Illustrates what play design looks like in practice across Marlborough's everyday places, highlighting the real-world experiences and outcomes it creates for communities.

■ Connected Streets and Spaces

What this looks like

Playful street design improves safety, access and everyday movement, creating inclusive and connected environments that support walking, wheeling and interaction across all ages.

Key assets

Streets • Footpaths • Shared spaces • Intersections • CBD

■ Town Centres as Destinations

What this looks like

Playful places attract visitors, increase dwell time and strengthen local identity, helping town centres feel vibrant, welcoming and active throughout the day.

Key assets

CBDs • High streets • Public squares • Waterfronts

■ Nature Connection and Stewardship

What this looks like

Nature-based play invites exploration and discovery, strengthening connection to Te Taiao and supporting care for natural systems and waterways.

Key assets

Parks • Reserves • River edges • Stormwater areas • Coastal edges

■ Inclusive for All

What this looks like

Spaces designed for all ages and abilities create welcoming environments and reduce barriers to participation, supporting equity, creativity and everyday social connection.

Key assets

Playgrounds • Parks • Community facilities • Public spaces

■ Cultural Connection

What this looks like

Embedding Māori narratives and local stories into design strengthens identity, visibility and connection to place, reflecting shared history and community values.

Key assets

Public spaces • Civic areas • Reserves • Signage

APPENDIX 3: Delivering Smarter, working together.

Purpose: Demonstrates how play design enables more efficient delivery by aligning projects, supporting cross-department collaboration, and maximising value from existing investment

TRANSPORT + URBAN DESIGN + SMALL TOWNSHIPS	Project opportunity Street renewals and town centre upgrades happening at the same time What happens Footpaths, crossings and kerb build-outs are delivered alongside small activation elements such as playful markings, seating or wayfinding Efficiency gains One traffic management plan • one contractor mobilisation • one communications approach → reduced costs and less disruption for the community
ARBORISTS + PARKS CONSTRUCTION	Project opportunity Tree removals and routine arborist work What happens Felled trees are repurposed into natural play elements such as edging, stepping logs, balance features or informal seating within nearby parks Efficiency gains No disposal costs • reduced material procurement • lower carbon footprint → added value from existing maintenance work
STORMWATER + ENVIRONMENTAL / INFRASTRUCTURE TEAMS	Project opportunity Stormwater upgrades and raingarden projects What happens Playful or interpretive elements such as stepping markers, water cues or learning features are integrated into stormwater design Efficiency gains Uses existing earthworks and landscaping budgets → no additional delivery cost while improving community engagement

Implementation Plan

Imagine Marlborough Play Design for Our Future

*From the sounds to the streets - leading Marlborough
toward a more playful, connected, and resilient future.*

Contents

1. Overview – Play Design Implementation Plan (2026–2032).....	2
2. Strategy on a page	3
3. Purpose of Implementation Plan.....	4
4. Guiding pou and principles (how we will work)	4
5. Governance, roles, and accountability	5
6. Phased delivery (2026–2032).....	5
7. Capability transfer plan (Play Advocate transition)	6
8. Investment and funding pathways	6
9. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting.....	7
10. Roadmap by outcome: How we will activate the strategy.	8
Outcome 1 — Play FOR Marlborough (Systems).....	8
Outcome 2 — Play IN Marlborough (Places & design).....	9
Outcome 3 — Play WITH Marlborough (People & partnership).....	10
11. Strategic risks and mitigations.....	11
12. Templates and tools (to be developed)	11
Appendix 1 — Key Strategy, Policy and System Levers.....	12
Appendix 2— Kaitiakitanga in Play Design.....	13

1. Overview – Play Design Implementation Plan (2026–2032)

This overview summarises the Imagine Marlborough – Play Design Implementation Plan and outlines the key shifts for Council.

Why this matters:

Marlborough faces rising expectations for wellbeing, cultural identity, safety, accessibility, and climate resilience. By embedding play design as business-as-usual, Marlborough positions itself as one of the first regions in Aotearoa to apply play design systematically across infrastructure, planning, and public space delivery.

What will change for Council: “What’s different on Monday?”

- Play design lens are applied at project scoping across planning, design, and renewals.
- All design briefs include the Play Design Toolkit inserts to ensure consistent delivery.
- The Play Spaces Network Plan guides investment decisions to improve equitable access.
- Renewals and minor works include low-cost, high-impact enhancements by default.
- Inclusive design and cultural visibility are embedded in visible public spaces.
- Projects report against shared play design measures via the annual dashboard

Phased delivery (at a glance):

- 2026–27: Foundations & Quick Wins – Tools, pilots, early adoption.
- 2027–29: Scaling & Network Planning – Network Plan completed; trials expanded.
- 2029–32: Business-as-Usual – Capability embedded; Play Advocate exits.

Success by 2032:

- Play design routinely embedded in Council processes.
- More visible, accessible, nature-based play across Marlborough.
- Stronger iwi partnership and cultural storytelling.
- Tamariki and communities shaping projects through codesign.
- A clear, equitable network guiding investment.

Result: No new capital commitment, stronger value from existing investment, and clear assurance of community return.

Key risks & mitigations:

- Funding pressure → Low-cost trials and existing budgets.
- Siloed delivery → Shared tools and cross-team processes.
- Cultural misrepresentation → Codesign with mana whenua.
- Capability loss post-2028 → Early, structured knowledge transfer.

2. Strategy on a page



3. Purpose of Implementation Plan.

This plan translates the Imagine Marlborough – Play Design Strategy into a practical, phased programme (2026–2032). It sets out how playability will be embedded into Council systems, places, and partnerships so that play is routinely considered in planning, design, investment, and decision-making.

Three outcomes → 12 actions → 3 phases → measures & targets → annual reporting.

Please see Appendix 1 for further information on Key strategy, policy and system guides.

4. Guiding pou and principles (how we will work)

Reproduced from the Strategy for quick reference

Tamariki and mokopuna first: (Children and future generations first).	When we design for children, everyone benefits.
Te Tiriti (treaty of Waitangi) partnership:	We work with mana whenua in ways that uphold partnership and support shared aspirations for Marlborough's future, ensuring our shared places reflect local identity, environmental care, and community wellbeing.
Co-design	We work alongside communities to shape play that reflects local identity. Through co-design and kōrero, community values are woven into the places we create.
Universal design and equity:	We apply equity lenses — gender, culture, disability, and accessibility — to ensure diverse voices shape our planning.
Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in design	We honour and protect the mauri of our environments through nature-based, sustainable design that supports environmental care and future generations. Refer to the Implementation Plan for further detail.
Play design lens applied early	Early decisions save time and money.
Low-cost, high-impact	Start small with low-cost trials to learn what works.
Play as resilience.	We support community wellbeing, including through emergency response and recovery.
Evidence-led	We use evidence and regular reporting to guide decision-making.

5. Governance, roles, and accountability

Governance and delivery are shared across Council. Clear ownership is essential to sustain the programme beyond the Play Advocate role. The following groups hold shared responsibility for implementing this plan.

Role / group	Responsibilities	Cadence
Executive Management Group	- Support the strategy. - Make sure play design is included in Council planning and Annual/LTP decisions. - Adopt the Play Design Mandate: From 2027, 70% of public space, movement, parks, town centre, and neighbourhood projects document play design at scoping.	Quarterly
Play Advocate	- Support changes across the organisation. - Help teams build the skills they need. - Provide tools, and quality checks. - Lead the monitoring and reporting	Jan 2027
Department Leads (or nominated managers)	- Apply play lens in business cases and design briefs. - Report progress	Monthly / project-based
Iwi partnership reference group	- Give cultural advice. - Help with codesign.	Per project basis.

6. Phased delivery (2026–2032)

Delivery happens in three stages: build foundations, show what works, and shift ongoing delivery into business-as-usual.

Phase 1: Foundations & quick wins (2026–2027)	- Include play design in early project thinking (scope, design, consultation, procurement). - Create playability inspiration, toolkit, and checklists. - Deliver 3–5 small-scale pilots (e.g., streets, town centre trails).
Phase 2: Network planning & scaling (2027–2029)	- Complete the Play Spaces Network Plan and equity mapping to guide priorities. - Grow trial projects into standard ways of working. - Use consistent play design standards across projects.
Phase 3: Business-as-usual & enduring capability (2029–2032)	- Council teams take full ownership of the work. - Continue annual reporting and ongoing improvement.

7. Capability transfer plan (Play Advocate transition)

A staged approach ensures delivery continues beyond Dec 2028 by building ownership within core teams.

Year	Key transition activities
2026	• Create play design toolkit and support staff to utilise.
2027	• Council Team leads and staff start using a play design lens in decision making.
2028	• Confirm long-term owners and document the process.
2029+	• Play Advocate role ends and teams carry on with oversight • Keep doing yearly reporting and improving how we support play.

8. Investment and funding pathways

Most play design outcomes are delivered through existing operational, renewal, and capital programmes, with an emphasis on small-scale interventions that enhance projects already underway.

Cost band	Typical scope & pathway
under \$20k	Micro-interventions: Stencils, prompts, wayfinding, temporary play cues; delivered via minor works / operations budgets / tactical trials.
Approx. \$20k–\$150k	Tactical trials: Pop-up play streets, semi-permanent installations, small placemaking upgrades; delivered via town centre activation, pilots, external grants.
Approx. \$150k+	Capital upgrades: Major Park upgrades, inclusive playground builds, corridor upgrades; delivered via LTP capital programme, renewals, partnerships.

9. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring focuses on outcomes across systems, places, and people, with baselines set in 2026 and reviewed annually. This monitoring and reporting provide councillors with clear assurance that play design is improving outcomes and maximising community return from existing investment.

Play Design FOR (Systems)	• Planning: Percentage of Council strategies and plans that include a play design elements. • Projects: Number of projects using playability design • Equity: Completion and map updated.
Play Design IN (Places)	• Visible play: An increase in public places including playful elements. • Accessibility: More accessibility features are added annually. • Transport: More street or transport projects include child-friendly playful design features.
Play Design WITH (People)	• Co-design: More projects co-designed with iwi, hapū, youth or community groups. • Cultural visibility: More bilingual / cultural storytelling appears in public spaces. • Youth insights: Youth feedback shapes decisions around schools. (e.g., NPS insights)

10. Roadmap by outcome: How we will activate the strategy.

How Section 8 and Section 9 connect.

Section 8 explains what we will track to understand whether play design is improving across Marlborough — things like more playful places, better accessibility, stronger partnerships, and play showing up in Council planning. Section 9 shows what we will do to make those improvements happen. Each action in the roadmap contributes to one or more of the things we measure in Section 8.

In short:

- Section 8 = the things we're measuring
- Section 9 = the actions that help move those measures in the right direction

All actions in this section should involve early partnership with mana whenua, and appropriate engagement with youth, disabled communities, and rural communities so the work reflects local identity, needs, and lived experience.

Outcome 1 — Play Design FOR Marlborough (Systems)

About:

Our priority is building systems that create long-term change. Embedding play design into systems and standards improves consistency, reduces duplication, and helps Council achieve stronger outcomes from existing investment.

We will:

Ensure play design is embedded across Marlborough's policy, planning, and investment decisions, contributing to a vibrant future for current and future generations.

Action	MDC Team Alignment	When	Measures (baseline/target)
1.1 Include play design in key Council plans and decisions.	Policy & Planning / Corporate Strategy <i>(with support from Parks, Transport, Community Development, Māori Partnerships, Comms)</i>	Phase 1–3	Check plans each year; aim for play to be included in all relevant plan reviews from 2027. Use the toolkit on 80%+ of relevant projects by 2028.
1.2 Create play spaces network plan (which assesses equitable play).	Parks & Open Spaces <i>(with support from GIS, Community Development, Māori Partnerships, Transport)</i>	Phase 1–2	Network Plan finished by 2028; update every 2 years; publish the play equity map.

Outcome 2 — Play Design IN Marlborough (Places & design)

About:

This is about places—bringing engaging moments our communities can see, touch, and enjoy.

We will:

Ensure play design is woven through parks, streets, waterways, trails, town centres, and the everyday infrastructure where Marlborough lives, works, and moves.

Action	MDC Team Alignment	When	Measures (baseline/target)
1.3 Embed inclusive design principles in planning, policy and project design or upgrades. <i>(These include principals of Kaitiakitanga in Play Design. (Refer Appendix 2)</i>	Parks & Open Spaces + Urban Design <i>(with support from access groups, Community Development, Māori Partnerships, Small townships manager,)</i>	Phase 1–3	Increase universal design additions each year (targets set after baseline in 2026).
2.2 Deliver playful placemaking trails in underused or upgraded urban environments	Arts & Heritage, Property, Assets and Services	Phase 1–2	3–5 pilots by 2027; scale successful interventions into BAU by 2029.
2.3 Develop nature-based play opportunities.	Parks and open spaces plus & Environment teams <i>(with support from Rivers/Drainage, Māori Partnerships)</i>	Phase 1–3	Annual audit of nature-based play additions; maintenance plan confirmed at design stage.
2.4 Integrate play design into streets and transport networks (child-friendly movement + safety).	Transport (Marlborough Roads), Parks and Open Spaces, Assets and Services teams.	Phase 1–3	Count transport projects that include playful or child-friendly features; track safety perceptions and active travel where possible.

Outcome 3 — Play Design WITH Marlborough (People & Partnerships)

About:

This is about people—creating engaging and accessible spaces with our communities - listening to local voice, especially tamariki.

We will:

Enable play design that reflects Marlborough's local identity and stories, shaped through co-design with communities, iwi, and youth.

Action	MDC Team Alignment	Phase	Measures (baseline/target)
3.1 Use co-design with iwi/hapū, young people, and diverse communities.	Community Development + Māori Partnerships <i>(with support from Policy & Planning, Parks)</i>	Phase 1–3	Increase the number of co-designed projects each year; check in on partnership satisfaction.
3.2 Grow partnerships that support local identity and play.	Economic Development / destination partners <i>(with support from Arts & Heritage, Community Development)</i>	Phase 1–3	Track partnership funded initiatives; use activation or “dwell time” measures where available.
3.3 Add bilingual and cultural stories in public spaces.	Arts & Heritage + Parks and open spaces, environment, and Rivers teams <i>(with support from Māori Partnerships, Comms)</i>	Phase 1–3	Set a cultural visibility baseline in 2026; improve it each year.
3.4 Use youth insights to guide planning around schools via the Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) or equivalent.	Youth / Community Development <i>(with support from Transport, Park and Open Spaces)</i>	Phase 1–2	Complete NPS assessments in priority areas; include actions in capital and renewals programmes. Run youth-led workshops; show what changed (“you said / we did”).

11. Strategic risks and mitigations

As we move from planning into delivering the actions in this roadmap, it's helpful to recognise the challenges that might arise along the way. By identifying these early, we can stay prepared, minimise disruption, and keep the programme moving steadily toward its long-term goals.

Risk	Mitigation
Funding and competing priorities	Focus on low-cost trials, early integration into existing projects, and use of current budgets to demonstrate value before scaling.
Play becomes siloed	Use shared tools and processes.
Cultural misrepresentation	Co-design with mana whenua and check content.
Inconsistent application across projects	Use the toolkit and standards on every relevant project.
Loss of capability after 2028	Transfer knowledge early and clearly.
Procurement risk	Embed play design items as provisional sums within existing contracts to avoid new procurements for small enhancements.

12. Templates and tools (to be developed)

These tools will be created during Phase 1 and refined as they are used in pilots.

- Simple checklist for early planning.
- Short statements for design briefs.
- Easy guide for codesign with communities, including tamariki and youth.
- Movable (semi-permanent) play items for temporary use.
- Checklist for cultural and bilingual content.
- Simple dashboard template for progress and annual reporting.

Appendix 1 — Key Strategy, Policy and System Levers

This appendix lists the key plans, policies, and processes that support the actions in this Implementation Plan. Some are formal Council documents—like the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, and Reserve Management Plans—while others are practical tools Council teams use in their day-to-day work, such as stormwater planning and the Combined Waters Asset Management Plans. Together, they show where play connects into existing Council systems.

Council-wide Planning & Strategic Levers	• Long Term Plan (LTP) • Annual Plan • PMEP variations • Climate adaptation and environmental programmes • CBD upgrade and activation programmes
Parks, Open Spaces & Environmental Levers	• Play Spaces Network Plan (to be developed) • Parks & Open Spaces Plans and Policies • Reserve Management Plans • Biodiversity Strategies • River Corridor Plans • Environment & Climate Programmes • Accessibility Guidelines
Urban Design, Infrastructure & Transport Levers	• Growing Marlborough urban development planning documents • Walking & Cycling Strategy • Roding AMP • RLTP • Streets for People Guidance • Subdivision Code • Water Supply Asset Management Plan • Stormwater Plans
Community, Partnership & People-Focused Levers	• Community Development Policy • Youth Strategy • Engagement Policy • Urban Development Strategy • Arts & Heritage Strategy • Arts & Heritage Policy • Tourism Strategy • Town Centre Plans
Supporting Programmes & Operational Levers	• Small Townships Programme • Community Engagement Policy • School Travel Planning Processes • Transport Programme (school areas)

Appendix 2— Kaitiakitanga in Play Design

Kaitiakitanga is a responsibility. It means guardianship, protection, and stewardship—especially of the environment, resources, and taonga (treasures). In the context of play design and urban spaces, it is about designing and managing places in a way that respects and cares for the whenua (land), wai (water), and ecosystems, while ensuring these spaces remain vibrant and accessible for future generations.

- What this looks like in practice:
- Sustainable Materials & Design – Using natural, locally sourced, and eco-friendly materials for play design elements or spaces.
- Nature play design Integration –water features, and natural landscapes into areas that only use native plants endemic to the region.
- Cultural Storytelling – Embedding Māori narratives and art that honour the land and its history.
- Future-Focused Planning – Ensuring spaces are adaptable and resilient to environmental changes.
- Community Guardianship – Encouraging whānau and local communities to co-design and care for these spaces.

By applying kaitiakitanga (guardianship), play design and spaces become more than recreational—they become places that honour the environment, celebrate culture, and uphold our responsibility to future generations.

9. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM)

(The Chair)

D050-001-S03

1. The Minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) meeting held on 13 August 2026 are **attached** for ratification by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) meeting held on 13 August 2026 be ratified.

**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of the
CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP (CDEM)
held in the Council Chambers and via Teams, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on
THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2026 commencing at 10.40 am at the conclusion of the
Finance Committee**

Present

Cllrs B G Dawson (Chair), J D N Croad, D A Dalliessi, T P Sowman, B D Stace and Mayor N P Taylor and
Ms D McConnell (Iwi representative)

Also Present

Cllrs S J Arbuckle, C M W Dawson, R J Innes, G A Hope, J C Hyndman and M J Taylor

In Attendance

Matt Kerr (Emergency Services Manager), Kaja Mazzotti-Vetter (MDC – Senior Advisor Welfare and Planning), Katy McRae (National Emergency Management Agency) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

The Chair/Cllr Hope:

That the apology for absence from Cllr S R W Adams be received and sustained and the apology for non-attendance from Cllr B A Faulls be noted.

Carried

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) E210-003-06

The minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) meeting held on 21 May 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

The Chair/Cllr Dalliessi:

That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) meeting held on 21 May 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Carried

2. Marlborough Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) E210-003-06

The minutes of the Marlborough Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) meeting held on 15 July 2026 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Cllr Croad/The Mayor:

That the Committee receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Coordinating Executive Group meeting held on 15 July 2026 and notes that formal confirmation of those minutes remains subject to endorsement by the Coordinating Executive Group at its next meeting of 14 October 2026.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Sigmund, Council's Strategic Planner (Implementation & Review) was present for the following item and Bryce Davies, IAG NZ, was present for the item via Teams.

3. IAG Presentation – ‘A Long-term Approach to Natural Hazard Risk Reduction’

Jamie Sigmund noted that the purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with an insurance-sector perspective on the scale, trajectory, and implications of natural hazard and climate change risk in New Zealand, and the relevance of these issues to local government decision-making.

The report was available on the IAG website [here](#)

Bryce Davies, IAG New Zealand, presented the findings of IAG's report 'A Long-term Approach to Natural Hazard Risk Reduction'. He advised that natural hazard risk in New Zealand is increasing in scale, complexity and consequence and that, while progress has been made, further work is required to improve the effectiveness of the national risk reduction system.

Mr Davies outlined IAG's view that the current system contains a number of gaps relating to governance, planning, funding, information and coordination. He highlighted the importance of national leadership, clear strategic objectives and independent oversight to ensure progress is maintained over time. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening national direction for natural hazard decision-making and establishing more consistent Crown co-investment arrangements to support risk reduction infrastructure, including flood protection works.

In response to questions from members, Mr Davies discussed the increasing use of risk-based insurance pricing and advised that insurers are progressively adopting more property-specific pricing approaches, particularly in relation to flood and earthquake risk. He stated that where risk reduction measures demonstrably reduce exposure, affected properties may benefit from reduced insurance costs. He also noted that affordability may become a greater challenge than availability of insurance in some locations as risk levels and replacement costs increase.

Members sought clarification regarding insurance approaches to properties located in high-risk areas, including flood-prone and coastal environments. Mr Davies advised that IAG's preference is to continue insuring as many properties as possible while encouraging measures that reduce exposure to risk. He noted that risk reduction initiatives can improve insurability and highlighted the value of ongoing engagement between council's and insurers to support informed decision-making and improved resilience outcomes.

Jamie Sigmund noted that the presentation was relevant to the work of the Risk Reduction Sub-group and the development of Marlborough's regional risk reduction programme. He noted the alignment of the discussion with upcoming regional risk assessment work and future spatial planning, adaptation planning and long-term planning processes. Relevant insights arising from the presentation would be considered through those workstreams.

The Chair/CIr Stace

- 1. That the Committee receive the presentation from Bryce Davies, IAG New Zealand, on 'A Long term Approach to Natural Hazard Risk Reduction'.**
- 2. Note the findings and observations presented by IAG regarding New Zealand's natural hazard risk reduction system and emerging challenges.**
- 3. Note the relevance of the presentation to the Committee's responsibilities for resilience, risk reduction, and emergency management across the Marlborough region.**

Carried

4. CDEM Group Committee Update Report

E210-003-06

The Committee received an update from Matt Kerr, Emergency Services Manager, on strategic, operational readiness, planning and community resilience activities undertaken by the Marlborough

Emergency Management Group Office during the period April to July 2026. Mr Kerr advised that emergency management activity remained significant across the region, with ongoing responses to recent severe weather events, continued development of operational systems, community resilience initiatives, and preparation for the anticipated enactment of the Emergency Management Bill (No. 2).

Mr Kerr reported on the continued implementation of the D4H operational management system and advised that this work would complement future national Emergency Management Sector Operational Systems initiatives being developed by the National Emergency Management Agency. He also highlighted progress made in community resilience initiatives, enabled through additional funding support, which had strengthened engagement with communities and contributed to a more structured and comprehensive approach to resilience planning across Marlborough.

The Committee was advised that planning activity was increasingly focused on severe weather preparedness, including the development of catchment-based rainfall threshold frameworks and associated response planning. Mr Kerr also referred to the recently developed MEM Plan Register, which provides a consolidated view of planning priorities and readiness activities and identifies a significant programme of work to improve the maturity and validation of emergency management plans.

Mr Kerr updated members on progress of the Emergency Management Bill (No. 2), noting that while the legislation had not yet been enacted, planning for implementation was underway. He advised that proposed changes would introduce additional obligations, including strengthened representation requirements on the Coordinating Executive Group. Discussion occurred regarding the requirement for rural community representation and the need to further consider the most appropriate mechanism for representing the diverse interests of Marlborough's rural communities before any recommendation was brought back to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the proposal to establish a formal on-call Duty Controller arrangement to strengthen operational readiness. Members supported the principle of improving controller availability and succession planning and discussed opportunities to investigate whether existing Council resources might allow implementation to commence prior to consideration through the Long Term Plan process.

In response to questions, Mr Kerr advised that severe weather planning would include consideration of vulnerable and high-risk communities across the region, supported by telemetry, monitoring and operational decision-making frameworks. Members noted the importance of ensuring that communities with known flooding risks were appropriately reflected in future planning work.

The Committee also discussed the proposed retention of \$30,000 within the Marlborough Emergency Management budget for the Te Taihu iwi resilience partnership. Concerns were raised regarding the funding arrangements and the relationship to previous Council decisions requiring contributions from neighbouring council's.

Following discussion, the Mayor proposed the following amendment to point four that Marlborough's existing funding provision should be retained in principle and that a further report be provided to Council once the proposed partnership arrangements and co-funding commitments had been clarified.

Members acknowledged the progress made by the Group Office across operational readiness, planning, community resilience and recovery activities and noted that implementation of forthcoming legislative changes would continue to form a significant component of the Group Office work programme over the coming year.

Cllrs Croad/Stace:

That the CDEM Group Committee:

Receive an update report from MEM Group Office on key matters.

- 1. Note that the Coordinating Executive Group, at its meeting of 15 July 2026, received the Group Office report for the period April to July 2026 and carried all recommendations before it.**

2. **Note that the Emergency Management Bill (No. 2) has not yet been enacted, that the Group Office is planning on the basis of its passage, and that enactment before the dissolution of Parliament is expected but not assured.**
3. **Endorse in principle, the retention of \$30,000 within the Marlborough Emergency Management budget for the Te Taihū iwi resilience partnership, and that a further report be provided to Council once the proposed partnership arrangements and co-funding commitments have been clarified.**
4. **Note the Coordinating Executive Group's endorsement of the scoping and establishment of an on-call Duty Controller arrangement as a Group readiness requirement, at an indicative annual cost of approximately \$13,000, subject to a Long Term Plan bid.**
5. **Note the development of the MEM Plan Register and the intent to undertake severe weather planning as a next priority.**
6. **Note that further work will be undertaken on rural community representation before a recommendation on CEG representation is developed for the Committee, with a progress report back at the next reporting round.**
7. **Note the Group Office's workplan reprioritisation for FY 2026/27 in response to the Emergency Management Bill, NEMA Assurance scoping, and the internal restructure.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Meeting adjourned at 11.48 am and resumed at 11.53 am.

ATTENDANCE: Nikki Hannan, Advisory Community Resilience, was present for the following item.

5. Community Resilience Programme

Nikki Hanna noted that the purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with a strategic overview of the Marlborough Emergency Management (MEM) Community Resilience Programme, and to seek the Committee's endorsement for MEM to adopt and apply the programme across the district's communities

To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 26179563).

Ms Hannan outlined the development of the programme following a review of how resilience is understood and measured within communities. It was noted that the programme had been designed to provide a consistent, evidence-based methodology for assessing resilience across Marlborough's communities, enabling progress to be measured and reported over time. The framework incorporates resilience measurement, community engagement processes and community emergency planning into a connected system that provides an auditable and repeatable approach to community resilience.

The presentation highlighted the development of a resilience measurement matrix that assesses communities against a range of indicators relating to preparedness, risk and vulnerability, infrastructure and resources, community characteristics and cultural factors. Members were advised that the framework enables trends and potential vulnerabilities to be identified across communities, informs prioritisation of resilience activities, and provides a mechanism for evaluating the impact of emergency events on community resilience.

Ms Hannan also outlined a revised community emergency planning approach that places ownership of plans with communities while ensuring plans remain practical and action-focused. Members were advised that the programme had been designed to reflect the different needs and characteristics of Marlborough's communities and that effective engagement and relationship building would remain a critical component of successful implementation.

Members commended the development of the programme and acknowledged its potential value not only for emergency management purposes but also as a broader tool for understanding community characteristics, strengths and vulnerabilities. The importance of continued engagement with communities and the opportunity to share the methodology with other emergency management organisations were also noted.

It was reported that the programme aligns with legislative and strategic requirements, including the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, the Guide to the National CDEM Plan, the National Disaster Resilience Strategy and the Marlborough CDEM Group Plan 2025-2030. It was noted that implementation across all communities would be dependent on available resourcing and capacity, and that a number of organisations, including New Zealand Red Cross and Health New Zealand, had expressed interest in collaborating and sharing data.

The Chair/Clr Dalliessi

That the CDEM Group Committee:

Receive the report on the Community Resilience Programme.

- 1. Endorse the adoption and application by Marlborough Emergency Management of the Community Resilience Programme: the five-phase engagement framework; the Resilience Measurement Matrix (v6.2); and the three-tier Community Emergency Plan (v4.1), as the district's systematic means of delivering the community-resilience objectives of the Marlborough CDEM Group Plan 2025–2030.**
- 2. Note that the programme is grounded in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, the Guide to the National CDEM Plan 2015 and the National Disaster Resilience Strategy 2019, and that its measurement matrix is aligned with recognised international and New Zealand resilience frameworks and post-event evidence.**
- 3. Note that the programme currently addresses the twenty-one geographic communities and is designed to include communities of population and interest, including culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), faith-based, marae-based and disproportionately affected groups as capacity allows.**
- 4. Note that delivery across all communities is constrained by team capacity, that the intended next step is engagement with wider sector networks and system partners to share and test the methodology. New Zealand Red Cross and Health New Zealand (formerly NMDHB) have expressed interest in collaborating and data sharing.**

Carried

6. Mass Relief Planning for Catastrophic Events

The Committee received a report from Matt Kerr on the development of the Marlborough Emergency Management Mass Relief Planning Suite and the planning assumptions underpinning the region's approach to responding to a catastrophic emergency event. Members were advised that the planning work was designed to support the coordinated provision of shelter, food, water, sanitation and other essential services in circumstances where normal infrastructure and supply chains had failed and large numbers of people had been displaced.

Mr Kerr advised that the planning suite had been developed around Marlborough's maximum credible event scenario, namely a magnitude 7.5 or greater earthquake on the Wairau Fault, resulting in prolonged regional isolation, widespread infrastructure failure and the displacement of an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people. He noted that the plans had been intentionally designed to focus on the consequences of catastrophic events rather than a single hazard type, allowing the planning framework to be adapted for a range of emergency scenarios.

The Committee was advised that the Mass Relief Operations Plan, Mass Relief Sanitation Plan and Mass Relief Workstream Activity Matrix had reached draft status and represented a comparatively advanced stage of development within the emergency management sector. The plans had not yet been approved, exercised or validated and would benefit from wider engagement with other South Island emergency management groups and external partners as planning progressed.

Members discussed a range of catastrophic planning scenarios, including earthquake and tsunami risks. In response to questions, Mr Kerr advised that tsunami planning remained a future planning priority and would be supported by ongoing changes to tsunami evacuation mapping, public information and signage programmes. Members noted the significance of a major regional earthquake and the importance of maintaining readiness for associated consequences, including possible tsunami impacts.

Discussion also took place regarding the proposed use of neighbourhood shelter villages and repurposed facilities as part of a layered accommodation strategy. Mr Kerr explained that catastrophic events require different approaches from traditional emergency responses, with communities expected to be more self-reliant and supported through a range of accommodation options rather than relying solely on Civil Defence Centres. Members noted that the planning framework emphasised maintaining community connections and supporting self-sufficiency wherever possible.

Members acknowledged the significant amount of planning work completed to date and supported the continued development of the mass relief planning suite as resources and work programme priorities allowed.

Cllrs Croad/C Dawson

That the CDEM Group Committee:

- 1. Receive this report update on Mass Relief planning for catastrophic events.**
- 2. Note the maximum credible event planning scenario of a magnitude 7.5 or greater Wairau Fault earthquake, and the resulting planning assumptions of extended regional isolation and the displacement of an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people.**
- 3. Note that the Mass Relief Operations Plan, Mass Relief Sanitation Plan and Mass Relief Workstream Activity Matrix are recorded on the MEM Plan Register at Level 2a (Drafting) and have not been approved, exercised or validated.**
- 4. Note that further development of the Mass Relief planning suite remains subject to the Group Office's workplan prioritisation, with progress reported at a future reporting round.**

7. National Emergency Management Update

The Committee received an update from Katy McRae, Regional Emergency Management Advisor, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), who introduced her colleague Sean O'Hello who was present in Chambers and provided a brief overview of current national emergency management matters.

Ms McRae advised that NEMA remained optimistic that the Emergency Management Bill would progress during the current Parliamentary term and acknowledged the significant amount of change already occurring across local government. She noted that NEMA was actively considering how best to support local authorities and emergency management groups through the implementation of any legislative changes arising from the Bill. Ms McRae also acknowledged Council's recent investment in additional emergency management staffing resources and advised that the increased capacity would provide significant benefits to the Marlborough Emergency Management Group Office.

In response to a question regarding the proposed requirement for representation of rural communities, iwi and Māori, and disproportionately affected communities on Coordinating Executive Groups, Ms McRae advised that emergency management groups across New Zealand were currently considering how best to address these requirements. She noted that approaches were likely to differ between regions, reflecting local circumstances and community needs, and that NEMA would continue to monitor emerging practice and provide guidance where appropriate.

Members acknowledged the ongoing support provided by NEMA to Marlborough and noted opportunities to share locally developed planning initiatives and approaches more broadly across the emergency management sector.

The Chair/The Mayor:

That the information be received.

Carried

8. Information Package

-

The Chair/The Mayor:

That the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Information Package dated 24 September 2026 be received and noted.

Carried

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

Record No: 26187690

10. Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee

(The Chair)

D050-001-S03

1. The Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 July 2026 are **attached** for ratification by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 July 2026 be ratified.

**Minutes of a meeting of the SMALL TOWNSHIPS PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE
held in the Committee Room, Seymour Street, Blenheim on 23 July 2026
commencing at 1.00 pm**
Present

Clrs B G Dawson (Chairperson), S R W Adams and B D Stace

Also Present

Clr S Arbuckle, G A Hope and B A Faulls (from 1.28 pm)

In Attendance

Heather Graham (Small Townships and Projects Manager) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

An apology from Clr Faulls for lateness and apologies from Mr J Lyall (Property and Community Facilities) and Ms J Tito (Manager, Parks and Open Spaces) were noted.

1. Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee Minutes

Clrs B Dawson/Stace:

That the Minutes of the Small Townships Programme Sub-Committee meeting held on 19 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Actions

	Description	Notes
1.	Confirm the date for the Queen Charlotte Drive Community Consultation 'Drop-in Day' and circulate to members. Tentatively scheduled for May.	Complete

2. Progress Report

E105-002-04

Small Townships — Update
Grovetown
2. Fell Street to Steam Wharf Road Walking/Cycling Link

This project is in the early stages of stakeholder engagement. Initial discussions with Marlborough Roads (MR) and Parks and Open Spaces (POS) have provided an understanding of the area and its relationship to wider walking and cycling network objectives. A site visit with MR and POS is planned to identify site opportunities and constraints, after which discussions will be held with the landowner and other key stakeholders. Outcomes from this engagement process will inform the design phase.

3. Speed Limit Review

In June, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) began consultation on proposed speed limit reductions on State Highway 1 (SH1) between Spring Creek and Blenheim.

Through the Small Townships consultation process undertaken in 2023, the Grovetown community highlighted the significant influence of both SH1 and the railway line on daily life in Grovetown.

Key concerns raised by the community included:

- Difficulties for pedestrians crossing SH1 due to traffic speeds and volumes.

- Safety concerns when entering and exiting SH1 by vehicle, affecting both residents and people travelling to and from key community destinations such as Grovetown Lagoon and the Wairau Rowing Club.

In consultation with the Sub-Committee, feedback has been shared as part of the NZTA consultation process to help ensure local concerns are considered in decisions regarding the proposed speed limit changes.

- Consulted stakeholders were appreciative of the opportunity to comment on the speed limit as part of the Grovetown Township Plan consultation.

Motuweka/Havelock

4. **Pedestrian Refuge**

The Small Townships programme has supported engagement with local businesses regarding the proposed installation of a pedestrian refuge to address community concerns about safely crossing the road in Havelock.

These discussions focused on the purpose and location of the pedestrian refuge and also provided an opportunity to explore broader issues and ideas related to parking and wayfinding.

A summary of the feedback has been provided to the Marlborough Roads (MR) team for consideration.



Figure 1 State Highway 6 Main Street Havelock - looking north and south

5. **Community Resilience Project - Solar**

Okiwi Bay community hall has been included in the EECA Community Resilience-Solar project, referred to later in the update report. Many thanks to the OBRA representatives for their pre-installation work, including painting the hall roof and preparing the battery/inverter installation location.

Queen Charlotte Drive

6. **Community Engagement**

As part of the development of a township plan for the Queen Charlotte Drive area, consultation with residents continued through a drop-in engagement event held on 14 June 2026 at Linkwater Hall.

The event was attended by approximately 30 local residents and provided an opportunity to speak directly with Council staff and elected members, and to share views on the issues, opportunities, and priorities that matter most to their community.

It also enabled local groups—including Havelock Lions, Pelorus Promotions, Link Pathway, Pest Free Ngakuta Bay, and the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust—to engage with attendees, raise awareness of their activities, and strengthen community connections.

In addition, the event provided an opportunity for Council teams, including Community Development and Strategic Planning, to share information on current work programmes and initiatives.

Feedback received through the initial online survey and at the engagement event will inform the preparation of a draft township plan and help identify potential projects for consideration.

Small Townships acknowledges and thanks Councillors Stace, Dawson, Faulls, Innes, and Taylor for their time and support in attending.



Figure 2 Queen Charlotte Drive community consultation event 14 June 2026

- Key areas of interest from the consultation to date:
 - o *Grove Jetty* - a key recreational area for the community and further investment in the jetty would be appreciated.
 - o *Mahakipawa road reserve* – further investment requested
 - o *Views* – important to keep road reserve area maintained so as not to obstruct the views
 - o *Link Pathway track* – which is well used and valued but numerous comments were received regarding the ongoing maintenance of it.
 - o *Momorangi Bay playground* – feedback indicated that it is great asset, however, there was more emphasis placed on opening the shop.
 - o A draft township plan and priority projects will be presented at the October meeting.

Rai Valley

7. Gateway Signpost Location

Marlborough Roads has commenced work in Rai Valley to upgrade the road reserve area at the corner of State Highway 6 and Bryants Road, adjacent to the former mussel factory site. The area is commonly used for parking by trucks and other large vehicles, and the improvements are intended to provide a safer and more durable parking facility.

The project includes the installation of kerb and channel and the construction of a sealed parking area.

During project planning, it was identified that the current location of the Rai Valley township gateway sign would no longer be suitable once the upgrades were completed. As previously planned, the sign will be relocated from its existing position and reinstalled at an approved location further north of the township.

Seddon

8. Newcome Street – Pedestrian Safety Improvements

This project is in its final stages, with line marking and landscaping works remaining to be completed.

The completed works have significantly improved both the function and appearance of the area, delivering:

- A safer and more accessible pedestrian route, including a clearly defined crossing zone.
- Clearly marked parking areas to support safer and more efficient vehicle movements.
- Improved access to the school back field (orchard/farm area) and the bowling green.
- "Play Along the Way" elements, including stepping poles and balance ramps integrated within the landscaped area.

Thanks are extended to Marlborough Roads and the Assets and Services team for their contribution to the project, and to the community for their patience during construction.

Financial commentary is included in the Financial Statement (Agenda Item 2).

Councillor Stace acknowledged positive feedback offered when he was in the area recently.



Figure 3 Newcome Street Seddon - Looking towards SH1

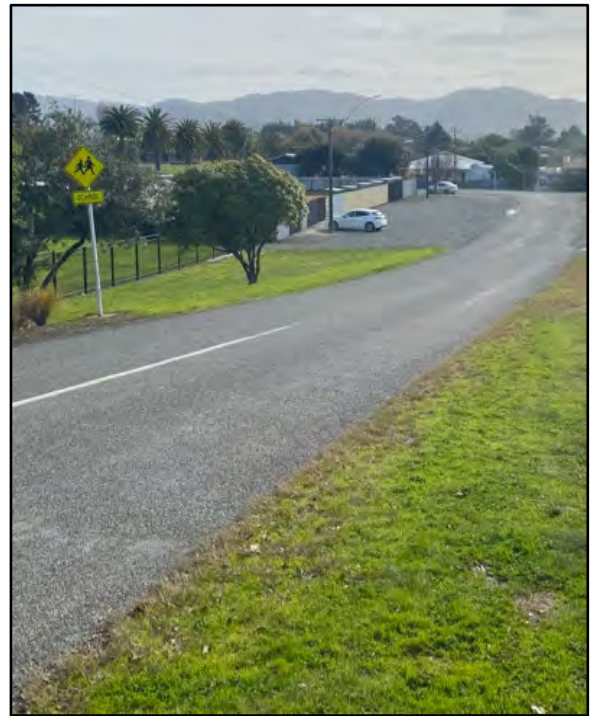


Figure 4 Newcome Street Seddon - Looking towards Redwood Street and bowling green



Figure 5 Newcome Street Seddon – Stormwater infrastructure being installed



Figure 6 Newcome Street Seddon - Aquafort Soakpit being installed



Figure 7 Newcome Street Seddon - new footpath adjacent to Bowling Green and carpark prepped for sealing



Figure 8 Newcome Street Seddon - New footpath from corner of SH1

Te Whanganui/Port Underwood

9. Lookout

The draft resource consent for the development of a public viewing area overlooking Te Whanganui/Port Underwood and Horahora Kākahu Island is currently being reviewed and will be lodged in the next few weeks.

Alongside this progress, the iwi working group have been working independently to progress the project cultural narrative, with an updated version circulated for iwi review and confirmation.

Tua Marino

10. Tua Marino Cycle Pathway Wairau Bridge to Blind Creek Road.

This project is being progressed alongside the Grovetown Cycle Pathway Project discussed earlier in the report. Activities currently underway include stakeholder engagement, site assessment, and the identification of opportunities and constraints to inform future design work.

Community Project Fund

Update On Current Projects

11. Havelock Lions Bird Observatory

Small Townships attended a public meeting in April hosted by the Havelock Lions Club. The meeting featured a range of speakers, including Club President Siobhan Skinner, bird enthusiasts Trish and Linton Brown, observatory architect David Lightfoot, Tom Lennon from Port Marlborough, and Anna Bensemman from Baseline Group, who outlined the resource consent process.

The meeting provided an opportunity to update the community on the project's progress, including the club's successful resource consent application and the anticipated benefits the observatory will bring.

Following the information evening, the club has secured the majority of the required \$68,000 funding and is awaiting the outcome of an application to the National Lions Charitable Trust for the remaining balance.

Construction is scheduled to commence in August, with Small Townships continuing to provide advice and guidance as required.

Bird Observatory – Confirmed Funders	Amount
Small Townships	\$25,000
Havelock Community Association	\$14,000
Private Donation	\$10,000
General Donations	\$510
Havelock Club Charitable Trust	\$2,500
Fundraising	\$1,900
	\$53,910

- Havelock Lions has successfully secured the remaining funding needed to complete the project through the National Lions Club. Sub-committee continues to be open to offering further support.



Figure 9 Club President - Siobhan, opening the community information evening in April 2026



Figure 10 Members of the Havelock Lions Club visiting the site in June. Visiting the site with 202E District Governor Council Chair. L to R: Deb Healy, Dave Farrant, Pam Harvey, Ian Cameron, Brian Cameron

ATTENDANCE: Clr Faulls joined the meeting at 1.28 pm during the following item.

12. **Renwick skatepark**

Path

Some amendments to the footpath design approach from Uxbridge Street have been required to accommodate water runoff from the car parking area. Improved accessibility can also be achieved by installing wheel stops to delineate the parking area from the pedestrian walkway in front of the skatepark. STP is seeking costings for these amendments and will update the Sub-Committee accordingly.

Mural

Stakeholder engagement with senior students from Renwick School provided feedback on the look and feel they would enjoy. Feedback was also sought from Marlborough Skate, who were supportive of the initial paint concept, which, in their view, provides not only vibrancy but also helps show the flow of the park and guide users between features. They felt it would make the space more welcoming, particularly for new and younger skaters.

Work is scheduled for late August.



Figure 11 Renwick Skatepark - Artist concept plan

- Heather Graham has met with the artist, who has revised the design to align with the available budget.
- Positive feedback has been received from Marlborough Skate on the concept plan.
- Updated cost estimates for the footpath have increased from approximately \$13,000 to \$23,000 due to car park runoff issues that require a revised design. As a result, an additional \$10,000 in funding is being requested.
- Members discussed the pathway project and the additional funding required to cover the shortfall. The potential for financial contributions from user groups for future add value projects was raised Heather Graham advised that no community groups have been approached at this stage but will explore this further.

Cllrs Adams/B Dawson

That the Small Townships Programme approve additional funding of up to \$10,000 for the Domain Pathway Project.

Carried

Okiwi Bay

13. Boardwalk

A pre-consent meeting was held with the Okiwi Bay Ratepayers Association (OBRA) In May, during which Small Townships proposed delivering the project using a community partnership model, similar to that used for the Ruataniwha Stream Bridge.

Under this approach, the community would provide in-kind support to help deliver the project. OBRA was receptive to this proposal and work is underway to confirm the details outlined below.

Community Partnership Model

Under this arrangement, Council would undertake the resource consent process as landowner, and the completed boardwalk would become a Council asset. As such, there would be no ongoing maintenance obligations for the community and the existing track would remain the responsibility of OBRA.

Potential opportunities identified through the partnership model include:

- MDC managing the engagement and payment of contractors.
- Survey set-out and foundation construction being undertaken by contractors under engineering oversight.
- Materials being sourced at reduced cost through community contacts.
- Contractor accommodation being provided by OBRA members.
- Boardwalk construction and associated planting being completed with support from OBRA volunteers.

Land Use Agreement

There is an existing verbal agreement between OBRA and the neighbouring landowner regarding a small section of the current track that encroaches several metres onto private property. Work is underway to formalise this arrangement through a written land use agreement.

Funding

Once the level of community contribution and in-kind support has been confirmed, the project costs will be reviewed and updated. At this point the project can be presented to the sub-committee for formal funding consideration.

Neighbouring Property Engagement

A pre-consent meeting was also held with the neighbouring property owner, attended by several community members. The discussion provided valuable insight into the landowner's perspectives and considerations regarding the project.

Community Communication

Since these discussions, Council has received strong feedback from a small group of residents regarding communication about community projects, particularly updates provided through the Ratepayers Association and information about the boardwalk proposal. Some residents have also questioned the prioritisation of the boardwalk project in comparison with other community concerns, including pathways and flood management.

In response to the level of community interest and the range of views expressed, the Small Townships team will prepare a broader community update. This update will outline current projects, priorities, and next steps, and will provide an opportunity for the wider Okiwi Bay community to share feedback. This feedback would inform project funding decision-making.

- Members were provided with an update on the current situation with the community and the boardwalk, as there are differing views within the community.
- Following discussion, members agreed to test community sentiment on the proposal, after which a decision could be considered.
- The budget allocated to Okiwi Bay will remain until a preferred course of action is determined.

Other Projects – Update

14. Community Resilience Programme – Solar Project

Community Sites

During the last quarter, installation and ownership agreements were successfully secured and signed for the four community sites participating in the project. Feedback from the participating organisations has been positive, noting that, without the funding support provided through DIA, they would not have been able to participate in the programme.

Site Assessments and Installation

Sunshine Solar was confirmed as the successful tenderer for the project and has completed technical assessments for each participating site. Installation proposals for all sites, except Stadium 2000, were submitted to and subsequently approved by EECA.

The contractor has lodged the Distributed Generation application with Marlborough Lines and is currently working with Council to finalise suitable locations for the ground-mounted battery inverter units at each site.

Stadium 2000

Council successfully obtained a variation to the project agreement, extending the completion date to allow sufficient time to assess the Stadium 2000 site and to complete the EECA approval process.

Stadium 2000 Trust engaged Engenium Ltd to undertake a structural assessment of the stadium roof and evaluate the feasibility of the proposed solar installation.

The assessment identified the need for minor roof strengthening works, which once complete would accommodate a solar array. The Trust is now undertaking this work.

With the project's viability and scope now confirmed, Council will contact those who tendered for this site as part of the original RFIP and retender the work.

Reporting

Monthly reporting requirements have been met, and regular meetings with EECA have been attended throughout the quarter. No issues or concerns have been raised.

Claims

The project milestones and claims schedule continue to be met as planned. Claims 1 and 2 have been approved and paid. Claim 3 has been submitted and is currently awaiting payment. The final claim will be submitted once the Stadium 2000 installation is complete and all project deliverables have been delivered.

- The solar installation at Okiwi Bay has been completed and is awaiting final inspection and handover to the community group. Installation work in Havelock is underway this week, with Ward and Linkwater scheduled to follow. The only matter requiring resolution has been the location of the inverter and battery systems, this has since been resolved. Overall, the programme is progressing well, with no significant issues encountered. The Stadium remains the only outstanding site. Following investigations of the roof, it was determined that only minor remediation work is required. A meeting was scheduled for 24 July to discuss the next steps and progress the project.

Clrs Adams/Stace:

That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Fauls declared a conflict of interest in the Link Pathway part of the following item.

3. Small Townships – Financial Report

E105-002-04

Heather Graham presented the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2026 and advised that the Small Townships Programme total expenditure for 2025/26 was \$350,642 comprising \$291,928 for township projects and \$58,714 through the Community Projects Fund. Members noted that unallocated funding from Rai Valley and Ward would be returned to the programme's carryover reserve for future reinvestment in township projects.

Discussion highlighted the ongoing value of the Community Projects Fund in enabling community-led initiatives and the importance of continuing to promote the fund.

Members also noted that the Community Resilience Project was funded separately from the Small Townships Programme and therefore was not included within the financial statement.

Members requested that staff provide an annual summary of township expenditure and investment since the programme's inception to assist with tracking the distribution of funding across communities over time. It was noted that this information could be incorporated into an annual report.

The carryover reserve was discussed, with members expressing support for maintaining sufficient reserves to enable delivery of significant future projects while ensuring funds continued to be invested prudently and for the benefit of local communities. It was acknowledged that the programme provides opportunities to fund projects that may not otherwise be prioritised through other Council funding mechanisms.

Clrs B Dawson/Stace:

That the financial report be received.

Carried

4. General Business

4.1 Small initiatives

CCTV

CCTV in smaller communities has historically been challenging to implement due to the infrastructure requirements needed to support connectivity. It was noted that Jodie Griffiths, Council's Community Partnerships Advisor, has had discussions with Police who shared that some smaller townships have successfully established tailored community camera networks using alternative approaches. Police would be supportive of Council exploring this option further. Members noted that, while this may not be a project that STP directly funds, it could be an area where STP provides advice and guidance to support communities in the future. Members agreed to keep a watching brief.

Community Newsletters

Small Townships is working with the Community Partnerships team to host a workshop to support rural community associations with their engagement with their community via newsletter and other comms channels. STP will keep members informed.

The meeting closed at 2.10 pm

Record No. 26186059

11. Flood Damages June & July 2026 Report

(Cllr Adams) (Report prepared by Gregor Punzel)

R710-05-001

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Council with an initial summary of the drainage and flooding impacts resulting from the heavy rain events that occurred during winter 2026, and to outline the response actions completed and underway.

Executive Summary

2. The Kings Birthday weekend flood on 2 June 2026 and the subsequent flooding experienced from 6-9 July 2026 occurred within a relatively short period of each other.
3. The June event primarily affected the Wairau River catchment, while the July event resulted in significant flows and flooding across southern Marlborough, particularly the Omaka and Taylor River catchments, as well as Picton and Waikawa. The Awatere River catchment also experienced very high flows.
4. **Peak Flows recorded:**

Wairau River (SH1)	– June 26:	3,000 m ³ /s (1-in-20-year event)*
Wairau River (SH1)	– July 26:	1,990 m ³ /s*
Ōpaoa River (Blicks Lane)	– July 26:	330 m ³ /s (1-in-50-year event)*
Omaka River (Gorge)	– July 26:	200 m ³ /s (1-in-40-year event)*
Taylor River (Hutchesons St.)	– July 26:	100 m ³ /s (1-in-15-year event)*
Awatere River (River Mouth)	– July 26:	550 m ³ /s (above 1-in-100-year event)**

*Sourced MDC Hydrology Summary Flooding Winter 2026

**Sourced Council Website Environmental Data: <https://hydro.marlborough.govt.nz/environmental> [08/09/2026]

5. Overall, the flood protection system performed well during both events, with the majority of stopbank and flood protection infrastructure continuing to provide the intended level of service. However, significant localised erosion and damage occurred at a number of locations.
6. The most significant damage occurred along the lower Waihopai River, Wairau River and Omaka River systems. In particular, the stopbank at WP01, at the Waihopai–Wairau confluence on the true right bank of the Waihopai River, experienced very low or no remaining freeboard during both flood events. Significant erosion of the adjacent buffer area as well as the stopbank itself has occurred, increasing the vulnerability of the main stopbank.
7. Stormwater pumping in Blenheim and rural areas continued for several days following the July event.
8. Both events resulted in minor to moderate damage at a number of locations. Progress on repairs requiring rock has been constrained by available rock supply and competing existing capital projects as well as flood damage 2021 and 2025 repair requirements. However, urgent non-rock-related works, including stopbank repairs, SVIS intake repairs and clearing of tributary blockages, have been completed.
9. A final recommendation for the permanent repair programme, including works required within the tributary network, will be brought forward once the detailed assessment and prioritisation process has been completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee:

1. **Receives the report.**
 2. **Notes that approximately \$255,000 has been committed to flood response activities and completed emergency works arising from the June and July 2026 flood events, with funding to be covered from the Wairau Operating Reserve.**
 3. **Notes the importance of progressing the repair works, estimated at \$4.6m as soon as practicable to reduce the risk of further erosion and potential damage to critical stopbank infrastructure.**
 4. **Notes that the funding source for the remaining repair programme is still to be confirmed and that a further report will be presented as an update or to seek approval, if required, once funding is confirmed.**
-

Background/Context

10. **June 2026 Flood Event**
The 2 June 2026 flood event was within the design capacity of the Wairau flood protection system and was closely monitored by the Rivers and Drainage team throughout the rainfall event and during the subsequent recession.

The Wairau River catchment was the primary area affected, with the river at SH1 reaching a peak flow of approximately 3,000 m³/s.
11. **July 2026 Flood Event**
The rainfall event from 6–9 July 2026 affected much of Marlborough, resulting in widespread high river flows, surface flooding and road damage.
12. Rivers and Drainage staff received numerous requests for advice and assistance from across the region. Civil Defence arrangements were activated in preparation for and during the event.
13. Although the Wairau River peaked at approximately 1,990 m³/s, the most significant impacts within the Rivers and Drainage network occurred across southern Marlborough, particularly within the Omaka and Taylor River catchments, as well as Picton and Waikawa.
14. “Heavy rainfall and flooding occurred in the catchments exposed to storms along the east coast, including the Waima, Flaxbourne, Awatere, Ōpaoa, Omaka, Taylor, Tuamarina, Waitohi, Kaituna, and Wakamarina Rivers (this is a non-exhaustive list).” [MDC Hydrology Summary Flooding Winter 2026]
15. “The most significant rainfall fell in the headwaters of the Omaka and Taylor catchments. The Omaka at Ramshead gauge recorded 178 mm of rain in 24 hours, which has a return interval of 50 years, with less than a 2% chance of occurring in any given year. 180 mm of rain fell in Picton within 24 hours, which has a return interval of 10 years.” [MDC Hydrology Summary Flooding Winter 2026]
16. “The largest measured flood flows were in the Ōpaoa River and the Taylor River. Peak flow in the Omaka River at Tyntesfield Gorge was 200 cumecs, which has a return interval of approximately 40 years. This is the second largest flood since the monitoring site was established in 1994. Downstream, the Ōpaoa River at Blinks Lane recorded a peak flow of approximately 330 cumecs, which has a return interval of 50 years (less than a 2% chance of occurring in any given year). [...] This is the largest flood on record since the Blinks Lane site was established in 2004.” [MDC Hydrology Summary Flooding Winter 2026]
17. “In the Taylor catchment, peak flow at Borough Weir (above Taylor Dam) was 90 cumecs, with a return period of about 7.5 years. Downstream at Hutcheson Street, peak flow was 100 cumecs, with a return period of 15 years. This led to the closure of Nelson Street (State Highway Six). A flood of a similar size occurred in June 2025 and also led to the closure of Nelson Street. This is a good

example of how a 15-year return period flood can occur in successive years, as there is about a 6% chance of a 15-year flood occurring in each year” [MDC Hydrology Summary Flooding Winter 2026].

Flooding Issues – Key Observations

18. Wairau River – Mouth to Waihopai Confluence



Figure 12: Wairau River TRB below Waihopai Confluence, significant loss of crucial berm area near Groyne 23 & 24 (June 2026)

19. The Wairau floodway system generally performed well during both events, with no significant concerns identified with the ongoing project around Peninsula Road stopbank upgrade.
20. A minor berm breach occurred near the SVIS, with the potential to compromise the integrity of the flood protection system if left unaddressed. Temporary repair works have been completed.
21. Several sections of riverbank experienced slumping and erosion and will require permanent repair.

Taylor River / Lower Ōpaoa River



Figure 13: Taylor River Amphitheatre during July 2026 event

22. Nelson Street was flooded during the July event and was subsequently closed. All seven Blenheim stormwater pumps operated as designed during the peak of the event and continued operating for several days afterwards.
23. The stopbank system through Blenheim comfortably managed the July flood flows. However, localised damage occurred, including bed scour and degradation between approximately Meadowbank Bridge and Burleigh Bridge. This has resulted in exposure of irrigation intakes, undermining of weirs crossings and other localised damage.
24. The Taylor Dam performed well, with only moderate increases in water levels recorded.
25. In the Taylor River around the Amphitheatre a further noticeable drop in fine sediment levels was observed after water levels receded, resulting in localised river bed aggradation.

Picton / Waikawa / Ngakuta Bay



Figure 14: Kent Street Drain below Dublin Street a few hours after the peak flow in July 2026

26. Council-maintained waterways in Picton, Waikawa and Ngakuta Bay generally came through both flood events in good condition, with no minor damage or ongoing flooding issues identified.
27. Sandbagging around residential properties adjacent to the Kent Street Drain was undertaken as a precautionary measure in the July event.

Omaka River



Figure 15: Omaka River just below Tyntesfield road bridge, river escaped existing channel during July 2026 event



Figure 16: Omaka River between Lake Timara Ford and Tyntesfield road bridge, river escaped existing channel during July 2026 event

28. High flows in the Omaka River caused damage to the approach to Tyntesfield Road Bridge and resulted in flows leaving the existing active river channel at two locations between Tyntesfield Road and Lake Timara Ford.
29. A number of private landowners also experienced damage to existing rock protection works and associated loss of land.
30. The toe of the stopbank at Lions Reserve, immediately upstream of Hawkesbury Bridge, was eroded. The nearby located SVIS pipe crossing was also exposed within the riverbed.
31. Overall, the Omaka River system performed well considering the magnitude of the flows. However, fairway clearing and rock protection works are required at several locations downstream of Lake Timara Ford.

Tuamarina Pocket

32. Waterfall Creek exceeded capacity and overtopped the stopbank, causing ponding in the Tuamarina pocket.

Waihopai River (Lower and Upper Reaches)

33. Significant erosion occurred along the true right bank buffer area and stopbank WP01 of the lower Waihopai River, where the active river channel was in close proximity to the main stopbank.
34. The erosion has reduced the buffer between the active river channel and the stopbank and represents an increased risk to the integrity of the flood protection system. Temporary repair works have been completed.



Figure 6: Looking downstream, Waihopai River upstream of the confluence during the June 2026 event, showing the active channel established against the true right bank and increasing the risk to stopbank integrity in a subsequent flood event. The remains of the temporary gravel bund installed to protect the stopbank are visible in the bottom right.



Figure 7: Looking upstream. Temporary repair works nearing completion in July 2026, including river realignment and reinstatement of the gravel bund for stopbank protection.

35. In both events the SVIS intake structure was destroyed during the event and the canal upstream to the control gate became heavily silted. The intake has since been repaired in preparation for the upcoming irrigation season at the time and is operating as intended.
36. Upstream of SH63, significant damage occurred to vegetated buffer areas, resulting in substantial timber debris within the riverbed.
37. A local winery also sustained significant bank erosion and associated vineyard damage.

Awatere River / Starborough Creek

38. The Awatere catchment experienced very high flows during the winter rainfall events, including a significant flow in Starborough Creek during the July event.

Assessment

39. An initial assessment of flood damage has identified approximately 30,000 tonnes of rock required for priority repairs across the flood protection network.
40. The majority of the identified damage requiring significant rock quantities is located within the Wairau and Omaka River systems.
41. The current estimated cost of the identified repair programme is approx. \$4.6 million, subject to final design, quantities, rock availability and detailed site assessment.
42. The repair programme will need to be prioritised alongside outstanding repair works from the June 2025 flood event, which remain a higher priority at several locations due to the existing vulnerability of the affected assets.
43. Insurance and funding requirements will be updated once available.

Sum of Estimated flood damage cost				
Area	A	B	C	Grand Total
Wairau	\$10,000	\$1,057,500	\$1,318,188	\$2,385,688
Waihopai	\$85,000	\$100,000	\$370,625	\$555,625
Tributary	\$17,500	\$87,500	\$162,313	\$267,313
Taylor River	\$18,750		\$121,375	\$140,125
Picton/Waikawa	\$2,500		\$45,563	\$48,063
Omaka	\$50,000	\$157,500	\$979,750	\$1,187,250
Emergency Response	\$21,083			\$21,083
Grand Total	\$204,833	\$1,402,500	\$2,997,813	\$4,605,145

Next Steps

44. Funding for these repairs remains under review but an initial exploration of insurance suggests the LAPP threshold of \$3m is unlikely to be met and the potential recovery from NEMA is limited to \$1.3m.

Jun/Jul Floods	
Total Cost	\$ 4,605,145
Recoveries	
LAPP	\$ -
NEMA	\$ 1,335,621
MDC	\$ 3,269,524

45. Once funding sources and options are identified a report will be brought back to Committee for approval.
46. Confirm the preferred funding approach and present a further report to Council seeking a decision on how to proceed with the repair works.

Presentation

A short presentation will be given by Gregor Punzel (15 minutes).

Attachment

Attachment 11.1 - MDC Hydrology Summary Flooding Winter 2026

Page [97]

Author	Gregor Punzel, Rivers Operations and Project Manager
Authoriser	Geoff Blake, Chief Financial Officer

A trough embedded in a humid northerly flow brought heavy rain to north-west Marlborough over King's Birthday weekend. The heaviest rainfall was in the Richmond Ranges and also spilled over into southern tributaries of the Wairau River, particularly the Branch/Leatham catchment. This led to a flow of 3,000 cumecs in the Wairau River at State Highway One on midday Tuesday, 2nd of June. This flow has a return interval of just over 5 years, or slightly less than a 20% chance of occurring in any given year.

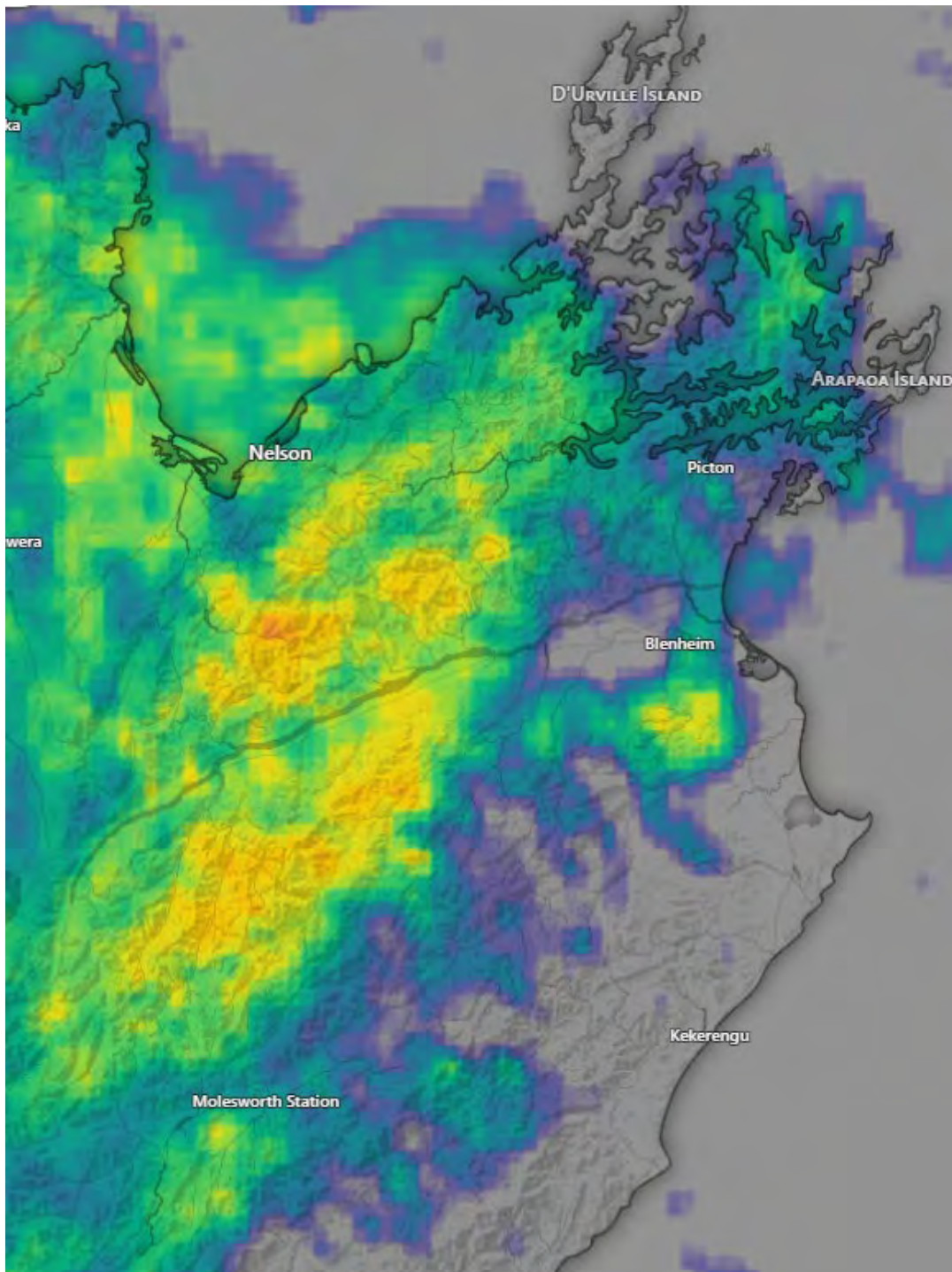


Figure 1. Rain radar as at 11pm, 1st June 2026, showing heavy rainfall in the Richmond Ranges and the Branch/Leatham catchment.

Heavy rainfall was very localised to the north-west mountainous parts of the region during this event. The most significant rainfall fell in the Branch catchment and on the Wairau River northbank. The rain gauge in the lower Branch catchment recorded 205 mm of rainfall in 48 hours, which has a return interval of 50 years, with less than a 2% chance of occurring in any given year. A full summary of observed rainfall depth-duration with frequency classification is shown below in Table 1 (note the exclusion of the Awatere catchment and further south-east, as there was no significant rainfall in these catchments).

Table 1. Rainfall totals (mm) for the June 2026 flood event. The colours correspond to the ARI (average recurrence interval - the average time between floods of a certain size). Equivalent AEPs (annual exceedance probability, expressed as a percentage likelihood of occurring in any given year) are also given for context.

Site	30 min	1 hr	2 hr	6 hr	12 hr	24 hr	48 hr	72 hr
Tunakino	12.5	22.5	43	112	166	212	350	354
Rai at Rai Falls	7.5	14	26	68	106	150	250	254
Wakamarina at Twin Falls	4	6.5	11	28	42	73	126	127
Kaituna Rainfall at Higgins Bridge	2.5	4	6	16	23	35	48	48
Kenepuru Head NRFA	4.2	7.2	11	21	27	41	67	67
Picton Climate at Waitohi Domain	2	2.8	4	9	11	18	27	27
Waikawa at Boons Valley	2.5	3	4	8	12	19	30	30
Red Hills	5.5	10	16	43	70	92	113	122
Branch at Branch Recorder	8	14.5	26	70	111	155	205	208
Wye at Charlies Rest	4	7.5	12	33	49	74	100	102
Top Valley at Staircase Ridge	6	10.5	20	48	78	122	223	233
Waihopai at Spray Confluence	4.5	7.5	13	36	50	66	82	82
Waihopai at Craiglochart	1.5	2.5	4	9	14	20	26	26
Wairau Valley at Southwold	3.5	5.5	10	26	42	59	84	84
Onamalutu at Bartletts Creek Saddle	4	5.5	10	26	42	74	133	138
Omaka at Ramshead Saddle	2	3	5	11	17	25	34	34
Taylor at Tinpot	1	2	3	6	8	12	18	18
Taylor at Beneagle Station	1	1	2	4	4	4	5	5
Taylor at Taylor Pass Landfill	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	5
Blenheim at MDC Office	1.5	1.5	2	4	4	5	6	6
Waikakaho	2.5	2.5	4	8	12	18	24	24
Koromiko NRFA	1.6	2.6	5	9	13	23	39	40
Rarangi at Driving Range	2	2	2	5	6	8	10	10

ARI (years)	< 2.33	≥ 2.33	≥ 5	≥ 10	≥ 20	≥ 50	≥ 100	≥ 200
AEP (%)	> 43	≤ 43	≤ 20	≤ 10	≤ 5	≤ 2	≤ 1	≤ 0.5

The largest tributary flows were in the upper Wairau tributaries, the Goulter and Branch Rivers. The Goulter recorded a peak flow of approximately 480 cumecs, with a return interval of 7.5 years. Peak flow at the Branch River was not accurately measured due to equipment damage, but the rainfall totals show that this was a large flood in the catchment. Peak flows in the upper catchment tributaries were at 4am on the 2nd of June, with peak flow occurring at the Wairau at SH1 site around 1pm. Peak flows in the Wairau River catchment are given below in Table 2.

Table 2. Peak river flows for the June 2026 flood event.

Site	Date & time of peak	Peak flow (m ³ /s)
Wairau River at Dip Flat	02-Jun-2026 06:10	320
Branch River at Recorder	02-Jun-2026 04:10	> 500 (equipment damaged so peak flow not captured)
Goulter River at Horseshoe Bend	02-Jun-2026 04:30	480
Waihopai River at Olive Grove	02-Jun-2026 08:25	335
Wairau River at SH1	02-Jun-2026 13:10	3000

Flooding 6-9th July 2026

A strong southeast flow lay over the South Island. A Red Heavy Rain Warning was issued for Marlborough south of Ward (as well as Kaikoura/North Canterbury), with Orange Rain Warnings covering the rest of the Marlborough region. Heavy rainfall and flooding occurred in the catchments exposed to storms along the east coast, including the Waima, Flaxbourne, Awatere, Ōpaoa, Omaka, Taylor, Tuamarina, Waitohi, Kaituna, and Wakamarina Rivers (this is a non-exhaustive list).

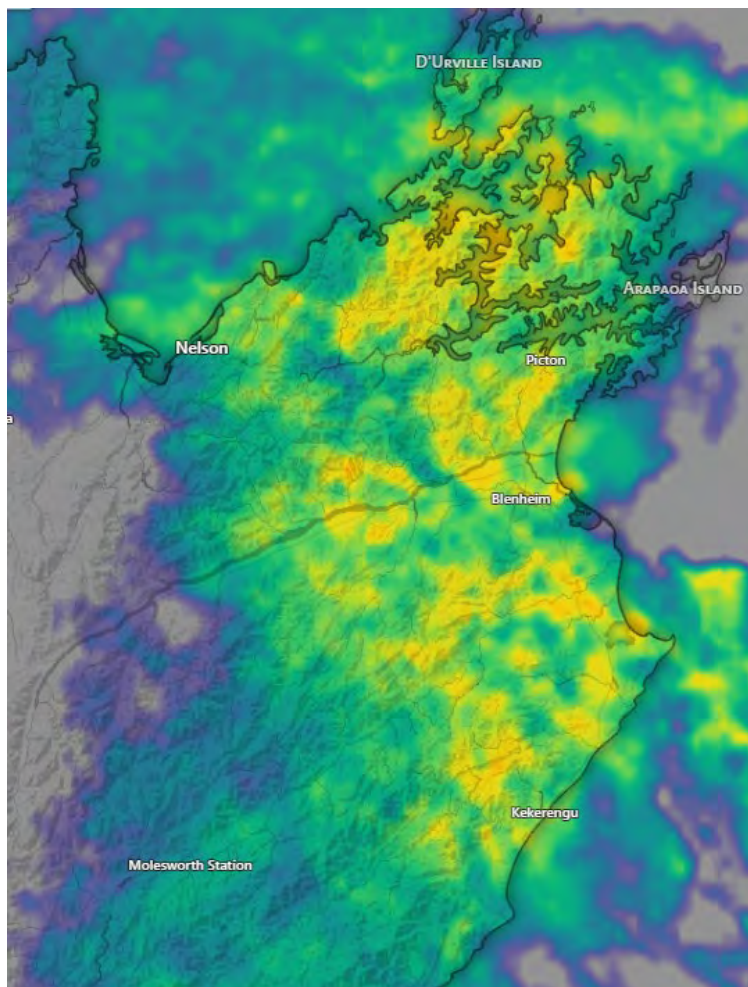


Figure 2. Rain radar as at midday, 7th July 2026, showing heavy rainfall in eastern coastal areas of Marlborough from Ward to the Marlborough Sounds.

The most significant rainfall fell in the headwaters of the Omaka and Taylor catchments. The Omaka at Ramshead gauge recorded 178 mm of rain in 24 hours, which has a return interval of 50 years, with less than a 2% chance of occurring in any given year. 180 mm of rain fell in Picton within 24 hours, which has a return interval of 10 years. A full summary of observed rainfall depth-duration with frequency classification is shown below in Table 3.

Table 3. Rainfall totals (mm) for the July 2026 flood event. The colours correspond to the ARI (average recurrence interval - the average time between floods of a certain size). Equivalent AEPs (annual exceedance probability, expressed as a percentage likelihood of occurring in any given year) are also given for context.

Site	30 min	1 hr	2 hr	6 hr	12 hr	24 hr	48 hr	72 hr
Tunakino	6	10.5	16	38	70	106	117	117
Rai at Rai Falls	4	7	12	26	46	67	74	74
Wakamarina at Twin Falls	6.5	10.5	18	41	75	116	132	132
Kaituna Rainfall at Higgins Bridge	9.5	15	23	52	95	157	183	184
Kenepuru Head NRFA	6.4	9.8	14	28	44	69	88	89
Picton Climate at Waitohi Domain	11.6	19.6	28	65	120	180	210	211
Waikawa at Boons Valley	11.5	16	28	46	73	117	167	167
Red Hills	3	3.5	6	14	26	28	29	30
Branch at Branch Recorder	4.5	6.5	10	25	46	56	56	56
Wye at Charles Rest	6	9.5	17	42	73	102	102	102
Top Valley at Staircase Ridge	3	5.5	10	21	34	46	48	48
Waihopai at Spray Confluence	4.5	8.5	14	29	51	80	80	80
Waihopai at Craiglochart	4.5	6.5	11	25	44	68	74	74
Wairau Valley at Southwold	9	15	23	50	67	86	88	88
Onamalutu at Bartletts Creek Saddle	11	19	32	64	80	106	106	106
Omaka at Ramshead Saddle	7.5	14	24	66	118	178	194	194
Taylor at Tinpot	9	16.5	26	60	104	178	190	190
Taylor at Beneagle Station	8.5	10.5	16	35	60	95	100	100
Taylor at Taylor Pass Landfill	8.5	10.5	17	30	58	93	97	98
Blenheim at MDC Office	4	6	10	20	31	45	47	48
Waikakaho	5.5	9	13	20	34	47	48	48
Koromiko NRFA	9.4	15.6	24	50	83	126	138	138
Rarangi at Driving Range	3.5	4.5	6	11	18	28	32	32
Awatere at Awapiri	4	7.5	13	34	63	101	112	114
Awatere Glenbrae NRFA	3.2	5.2	9	17	26	48	50	51
Flaxbourne at Corrie Downs	6.5	11.5	15	36	52	74	92	94
Ward NRFA	6.8	12.8	17	31	43	79	95	98
Te Rapa	7	12	18	34	48	81	102	105

ARI (years)	< 2.33	≥ 2.33	≥ 5	≥ 10	≥ 20	≥ 50	≥ 100	≥ 200
AEP (%)	> 43	≤ 43	≤ 20	≤ 10	≤ 5	≤ 2	≤ 1	≤ 0.5

The largest measured flood flows were in the Ōpaoa River and the Taylor River.

Peak flow in the Omaka River at Tynesfield Gorge was 200 cumecs, which has a return interval of approximately 40 years. This is the second largest flood since the monitoring site was established

in 1994. Downstream, the Ōpaoa River at Blicks Lane recorded a peak flow of approximately 330 cumecs, which has a return interval of 50 years (less than a 2% chance of occurring in any given year). The monitoring equipment at the site was damaged by debris during the event, but post-flood surveying of the high-water mark enabled the peak flow to be reconstructed. This is the largest flood on record since the Blicks Lane site was established in 2004.

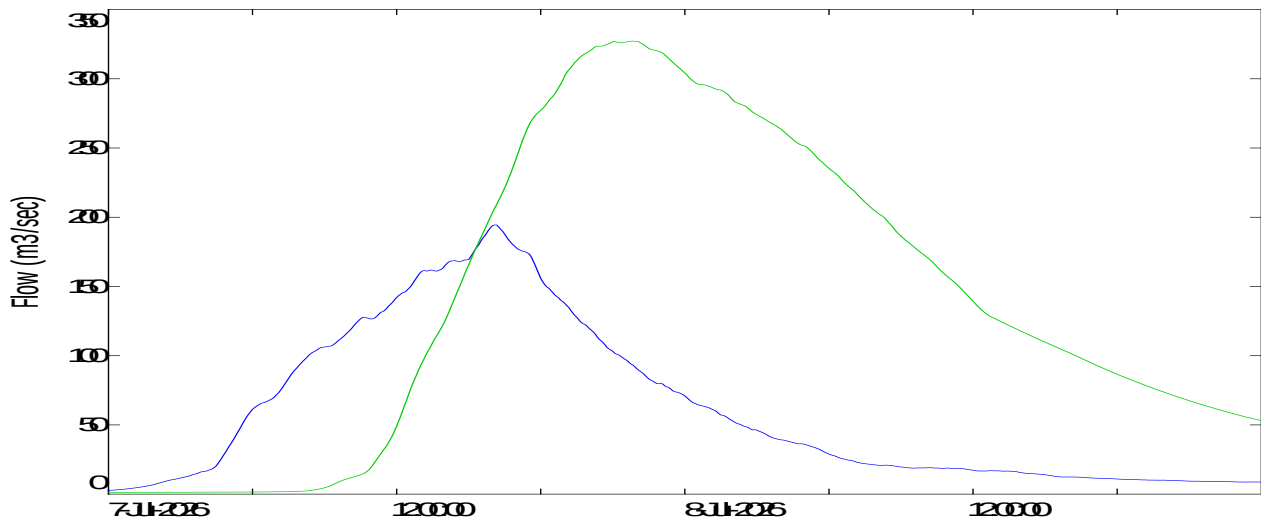


Figure 3. Hydrographs for the Omaka River at Gorge (blue) and Ōpaoa River at Blicks Lane (green), from the 7-9th of July 2026.

In the Taylor catchment, peak flow at Borough Weir (above Taylor Dam) was 90 cumecs, with a return period of about 7.5 years. Downstream at Hutcheson Street, peak flow was 100 cumecs, with a return period of 15 years. This led to the closure of Nelson Street (State Highway Six). A flood of a similar size occurred in June 2025 and also led to the closure of Nelson Street. This is a good example of how a 15-year return period flood can occur in successive years, as there is about a 6% chance of a 15-year flood occurring in each year.

In the Wairau River catchment, peak flows were below an annual flood at all measured sites. The Wairau River at State Highway One had a peak flow of 1,990 cumecs, slightly below the mean annual flood.

Peak flows are summarised below in Table 4.

Table 4. Peak river flows for the July 2026 flood event, along with the event AEP (annual exceedance probability, expressed as a percentage likelihood of occurring in any given year).

Site	Date & time of peak	Peak flow (m ³ /s)
Wairau River at Dip Flat	07-Jul-2026 14:25	130
Branch River at Recorder	07-Jul-2026 12:50	180
Goulter River at Horseshoe Bend	07-Jul-2026 14:00	88
Waihopai River at Olive Grove	07-Jul-2026 17:05	391
Wairau River at SH1	07-Jul-2026 20:45	1990
Omaka River at Gorge	07-Jul-2026 15:45	200
Ōpaoa River at Blicks Lane	07-Jul-2026 20:35	330
Taylor River at Borough Weir	07-Jul-2026 15:50	90
Taylor River at Hutcheson Street	07-Jul-2026 23:00	100

12. Conders Bend Pine Forest Harvest

(Clr Adams) (Reported prepared by James Mills-Kelly)

Purpose of Report

1. To consider and approve the harvest and replanting of the pine forest block at Conder's Bend following a tree failure incident. **(List number)**

Executive Summary

2. A pine tree failure at Conder's Bend River Reserve resulted in injury to a member of the public. The incident has highlighted safety risks associated with the ageing pine forest located within a high-use recreational river reserve environment.
3. An independent assessment undertaken by M&R Forestlands confirms that the forest is at maturity and requires harvest.
4. It is recommended that Council approve the harvesting of the pine block and reinvest a proportion of the proceeds into re-instating tracks and replanting the area with suitable native species, improving long-term public safety, ecological outcomes, and alignment with river reserve management objectives. This would allow future recreational use of the block without risks associated with commercial forestry plantation.
5. The estimated cost of this preferred option is \$135,000 which can be funded by the expected net proceeds from the harvesting of the block.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities recommends that Council:

1. **Approve the harvesting of the pine forest block at Conder's Bend River Reserve.**
2. **Approve the replanting of the site with appropriate native species using funds realised from timber harvest.**

Background/Context

6. This 12.4-hectare section of floodway reserve land was planted in plantation pine forest in 1986. It has since become a popular recreational area that includes mountain-bike trails through the forest.



Conders Bend Pine Forest / Mountain Bike Park

7. A recent incident involving the failure of a pine tree resulted in injury to a walker. This incident has been investigated and recorded in DoneSafe.
8. Following the incident, M&R Forestlands undertook a forensic assessment of the pine forest. Their report (Attachment 5.1 - M&R Forestlands Assessment Report) confirms that the forest is at maturity, and makes the following recommendations:
 - *Recreation area should remain closed due to the significant risk from standing trees falling over or tops and branches falling to the ground.*
 - *Harvesting the trees is the only option to remove the site hazards if the recreational area is to be reopened.*
9. As a result of M&R Forestland's report, the forest has been closed to public access until a decision can be made. Since closure, Council Rangers report members of the public regularly accessing the block despite security fencing and signage to recreate and for the illegal harvesting of firewood. This presents ongoing risk of injury to these users.

Assessment/Analysis

10. The forest is now beyond its optimal growth phase, reducing its economic value over time while increasing maintenance and risk management costs. The ageing pine forest presents an increasing risk of tree failure, particularly in high winds or adverse weather conditions. The location within a river reserve with regular pedestrian use elevates the potential health and safety risk. There is an opportunity to mitigate safety risks through removal of hazardous trees, realise economic value from timber harvest, and transition the site to a more sustainable and ecologically appropriate native riparian planting.
11. Council has a responsibility to manage risks within its river reserves while maintaining public access, ecological function, and amenity values.
12. Harvest of the block is estimated by M&R Forestland to generate a net return to Council of between \$135,000 and \$145,000 plus GST.

Option One (Recommended Option)

13. Harvest the pine forest and replant the area with suitable native species appropriate to a river reserve setting, using funds realised from the harvest.

Advantages

14. Significantly reduces public safety risk.

15. Aligns land use with floodway reserve and riparian management objectives.
16. Generates revenue to fund replanting.
17. Improves biodiversity, bank stability, and resilience of the site.
18. Reduces ongoing maintenance and hazard management costs.

Disadvantages

19. Short-term visual disruption during harvest.
20. Temporary loss of river berm protection provided by tree block.
21. Requires project management and replanting programme.

Cost and timing

22. The total cost of this option is estimated of \$105,000 (plus a further \$30,000 for track re-instatement if this is desired).
 - a) Pre-plant spray and site prep (March /April 2027): \$8,000
 - b) Plants and planting (May/June 2027: \$67,000
 - c) Post planting maintenance over three years (2027-2030): \$30,000

Option Two – Replanting of Commercial Forest

23. Harvest the existing pine and replant in commercial plantation forestry

Advantages

24. Similar reduction to public safety risk in the short / medium term.
25. Aligns land use with floodway reserve objectives.
26. Generates revenue to fund replanting.
27. Possibility of commercial return after 35+ years.
28. Reduces ongoing maintenance and hazard management costs in the short / medium term.

Disadvantages

29. Short-term visual disruption during harvest.
30. Temporary loss of river berm protection provided by tree block.
31. Requires project management and replanting programme.
32. Reduced amenity and biodiversity outcomes compared with native planting.

Cost and timing

33. The total cost of this option, if replanting in radiata pine, is estimated at \$38,000 (plus a further estimated \$30,000 for track re-instatement if this is desired)
 - a) Pre-plant and site prep (June 2027)
 - b) Plants and planting (September 2027)

- c) Post-planting maintenance in first year (November 2027)

Option Three – Status Quo

34. Leave the pine forest unharvested to deteriorate naturally over time.

Advantages

35. Less short-term disruption.
36. Maintains current landscape in short term.

Disadvantages

37. Loss of popular recreational area.
38. Loss of opportunity to extract some return on timber recovered.
39. Ongoing and increasing health and safety risk to those people ignoring closure of the forest.
40. Continued liability exposure for Council.
41. Increasing maintenance and monitoring costs.
42. Poor alignment with river reserve management objectives.
43. Missed opportunity to transition to more appropriate land use.
44. Ongoing risks associated with illegal firewood harvesting.

Cost

45. There is no cost associated with this option.

Next steps

46. Obtain Council approval.
47. Undertake stakeholder and public communication (spring 2026).
48. Implement M&R Forestland's harvest plan (spring 2026).
49. Re-instate tracks (summer / autumn 2027).
50. Implement riparian-focused native replanting programme (winter 2027).

Attachment

Attachment 12.1 – M&R Forestlands Assessment Report

Page [107]

Author	James Mills-Kelly, Natural Rivers and Drainage Engineer
Authoriser	Gregor Punzel, Rivers Operations Manager

Summary of decision-making considerations			
Fit with purpose of local government The proposal enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and relates to providing a public service and it is considered good-quality and cost effective.			
Fit with Council policies and strategies	<i>Contributes</i>	<i>Detracts</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
LTP / Annual Plan	☐	☐	X
Financial Strategy	X	☐	☐
Infrastructure Strategy	X	☐	☐
Social well-being	X	☐	☐
Economic development	X	☐	☐
Environment & RMA Plans	X	☐	☐
Arts & Culture	☐	☐	X
3 Waters	☐	☐	X
Land transport	X	☐	☐
Parks and reserves	X	☐	☐
This proposal contributes to floodway / berm management under infrastructure strategy relating to infrastructure strategy, while providing for ongoing public recreation.			
Nature of the decision to be made Option 1 involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water. The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga have been identified, and iwi input will be sought on replanting options.			
Financial considerations The project has been budgeted for in the Rivers Group 2026/2027 existing operational budget, and includes revenue realised by plantation forestry harvest on the site.			
Significance The decision is considered of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.			
Engagement Engagement has occurred with the Marlborough Mountain-Bike Club President, Fraser Brown, to describe the reasons for closure of the forest and associated risks. Mr Brown expressed a wish on behalf of the Club to see ongoing public use of the area in the future. A wider public communications and stakeholder engagement plan will be developed.			
Risks: Legal / Health & Safety etc The recommended option carries some health and safety risk associated with forestry harvest. These risks will be managed through contractor processes and procedures, including traffic management, PPE, training, etc. As existing pine stumps and roots will be left in the ground while the replanting establishes, flood-induced berm erosion on the site is not considered a material risk.			
Climate Change Implications In assessing the preferred option, staff have considered the effects of climate change. While some carbon will be released during harvest, native replanting will capture exponentially more carbon over a longer time horizon.			



Marlborough District Council Condors Forest

Inspection Date: 27th March 2026

Inspected By: M&R Forestland Management Ltd Philip Woodwood & Olivia Crighton

Location: Condors Forest Recreation Area

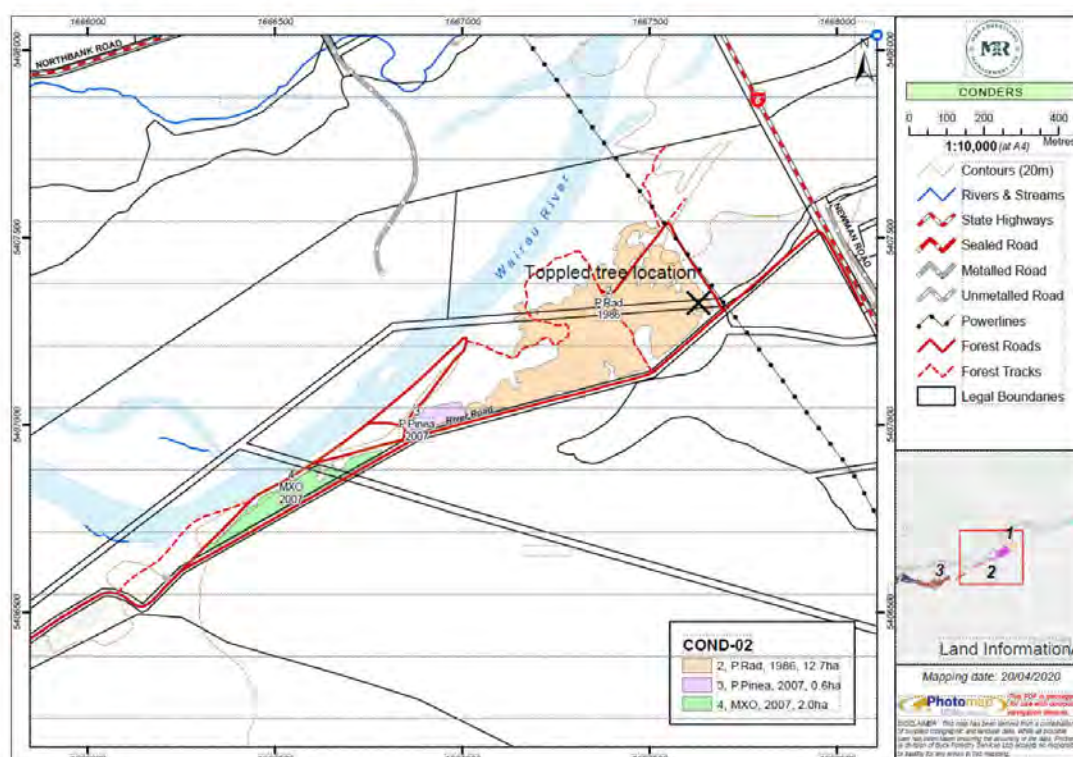


Figure 1 Condors Forest Recreation Area Map showing the approximate toppled tree location.

Site Observations

The tree crop at the location of the incident is 1986 Pinus Radiata and will be 40 years old in June 2026.

The tree in question has partly toppled from a previous wind event some time ago and has hung up in the branches of another tree close by on the opposite side of the track. Over time one of the stem leaders in the toppled tree has died and decayed resulting in it breaking off at the tension point and falling to the ground.

Due to the age of the crop, there is increased likelihood of more trees toppling over or branches/tops falling to the ground causing significant hazard to members of the public using the site.



Photo 1 Toppled tree with the dead broken leader on ground and live leader still hung up.



Photo 2 Rotten leader at the tension break point indicating the age of the hang up.



Photo 3 Previous tree broken top that has snapped showing potential overhead hazards within the block.

Recommendations

- Recreation area should remain closed due to the significant risk from standing trees falling over or tops and branches falling to the ground.
- Harvesting the trees is the only option to remove the site hazards if the recreational area is to be reopened.



13. Information Package

RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Information Package dated 24 September 2026 be received and noted.

14. Decision to Conduct Business with the Public Excluded

Decided That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- Stopbank Repair

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Stopbank Repair	To enable the Council, as holder of the information, to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) as provided for under Section 7(2)(i).	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.