



HAVE YOUR SAY...

Long Term Plan now open for public consultation

Marlburians are now encouraged to make a submission on Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said at Council's meeting to adopt the draft LTP the biggest challenge was how to fund the local share of the Marlborough Sounds road repairs, which were damaged by storms in 2021 and 2022.

"This is one of the most significant decisions facing us in Marlborough: 'who pays what' towards rebuilding the transport network in the Sounds over the next decade and beyond," Mayor Taylor said. "The good news is the New Zealand Transport Agency is planning to contribute 71 per cent of the cost of the repairs and 51 per cent of the road improvements. But that still leaves Marlborough ratepayers needing to find \$104 million dollars, the local share of the repair bill."

Five options are outlined in the Consultation Document, alongside a range of other items for public feedback. They include increased general roading maintenance funding of \$27.5M over the next three years, flood protection improvements for Spring Creek and funding for a sports pavilion at A&P Park in Blenheim.

"Council's preferred option is to split the Sounds roading repair bill across five Sounds zones with the rest of Marlborough contributing via a uniform

annual charge. This would mean non-Sounds ratepayers would contribute about 70 per cent of the cost of repairs," Mayor Taylor said.

The proposed rates increase this year is below the average across the country at 12.58 per cent, not including Sounds roading repairs. If the repairs go ahead as proposed, an additional 0.37 per cent will apply, bringing this year's increase to 12.95 per cent.

The LTP continues Council's strong capital expenditure programme with a focus on core infrastructure and public services – pipes in the ground, water treatment facilities and road maintenance with Council proposing to invest \$1 billion over the next 10 years, \$277 million more than the previous ten-year plan.

To make a submission go to <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay> Copies of the Consultation Document are available at Council's customer service centres.

The Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-2027 is also available for public feedback over the same period via Council's website.



Tā mātou mahere tekau tau
Our ten year plan

Marlborough District Council
Consultation Document

Māhere wā roa 2024 - 2034
Long term plan 2024 - 2034



Former library new home for tech hub

Marlborough's new technology and innovation hub will be up and running in the old Blenheim library building later this year.

Economic, Finance and Community Committee Chair David Croad said the tech hub would go upstairs in the old library building, on the corner of Seymour and Arthur streets.

The tech hub aimed to foster start-ups, boost the agritech sector, increase productivity and enhance local investment opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Mr Croad said it was exciting an existing Council building would be utilised for the tech hub, which would add vibrancy to the town as an incubator for start-ups.

"Council took the former library building to the market and it didn't sell, but with a number of enquiries from the rental market a decision has been made to put the tech hub upstairs and seek

co-tenants for the downstairs area," he said.

The tech hub had been in the planning stage for some time and Mr Croad said it was fantastic to move into the implementation stage of this economic development project.

"The region's business ecosystem needs a place where innovative companies can meet with aspiring entrepreneurs, scientists, technologists, investors and business support providers," he said.

The former library site was an ideal location, and it was hoped other tenants would be confirmed shortly.

The tech hub received a \$578,000 boost from the Government's Kānoa fund last year which will help with fit-out costs with programme

and operational costs coming from existing budgets. Fit-out will include a co-working space, a prototyping room for product development and shared meeting rooms.

Council's Economic Development team researched similar models around New Zealand before embarking on the project.

Economic Development Portfolio Manager Dorien Vermaas said the hub aimed to help businesses create more value in Marlborough's agritech sectors, support start-ups working on wellbeing and sustainability and create investment opportunities and highly paid jobs in the region.

She looked forward to future events taking place in the space.

Expect night works at Picton Elevation

If you're travelling between Picton and Blenheim, make sure you plan ahead for stop/go traffic management at the Picton Elevation from 15 April between 6pm and 6am (Monday to Saturday). Delays of up to 15 minutes are expected.

The night works are part of the ongoing repairs at the Picton Elevation

with contractors working to repair the slumped road surface and restore the slow vehicle lane. The highway remains open but under a 30km/h temporary speed restriction between 7am and 5.30pm.

For more information go to: <https://nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh1-picton-elevation-repairs/>



Wairau River Bridge works planned

Stop/go works are also planned for the Wairau River bridge on SH6 on Sunday 21 April between 7am and 6pm.

Drivers should plan for 15 minute delays and follow the temporary

30km/h speed limit. Contractors will repair abutments and connections on the bridge.

For safety reasons, this work must be carried out during the day and needs to be completed before winter.