

Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study survey launched

An online survey for the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study is now open. Council embarked on the study to support the case for funding safe and resilient long-term access solutions for the storm-affected areas of the Sounds.

People are encouraged to fill out the online survey, which closes at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 22 February. The survey is aimed at Sounds' residents, homeowners and businesses to help inform future transport options in and out of the Sounds.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she encourages the Sounds' community to provide their views through the survey.

“Over the coming weeks, the project team will gather the community’s views collated from the survey and public meetings, before analysing them.”

“While there will be another opportunity to provide feedback later in the study, this survey will help set the foundation for addressing the Sounds’ access issues,” says Mayor Taylor.

A link to the survey and more information can be found at www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study

People are encouraged to fill out the survey online. If this is not possible, please call the Council on 03 520 7400. You will be put through to a staff member who can fill out the survey for you over the phone.



Protecting Marlborough’s unique biodiversity

Marlborough’s remaining indigenous biodiversity is significant and needs protecting.

While the government’s exposure draft on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) provides national direction to ensure it is protected, maintained and restored, many Council concerns are not addressed.

Council’s strategic planner Kim Lawson told a recent Planning, Finance and Community Committee meeting that a submission had been made outlining those issues.

“There is concern regarding the significant responsibilities placed on local authorities and the resourcing available,” she said.

One of the primary concerns was the shift in responsibility for highly mobile species from the Department of Conservation to local authorities.

“There are approximately 30 highly mobile fauna in Marlborough that Council would be required to record and manage including the kārearea falcon, black front tern and red billed gull,” Ms Lawson said.

“This is a major shift in responsibility and puts the burden on Council to provide additional resourcing and expertise.”

Another area of concern is the requirement for local authorities to identify and map significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna as SNA (Significant Natural Areas) on both public and private land.

“Approximately 30 per cent (300,000ha) of land in Marlborough is Crown land,” Ms Lawson said. “Identifying and managing SNAs on Crown land would require significant resourcing that Council does not currently have.”

While the Ministry for the Environment had advised funding will be made available, those details have yet to be released.

Council maintains that responsibility in respect of Crown land should rest with the government and not local authorities.

Ms Lawson said the shift from a voluntary and confidential programme as currently in place with SNAs in Marlborough, to a mandatory regime under which SNAs would have to be identified in the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan, would be a significant change for landowners.

“Council will continue to work with landowners and help with transitioning to a mandatory system,” she said.

Consultation on the exposure draft has now closed with the NPSIB under final review. You can view Council’s submission at <https://bit.ly/3PxWnhJ>



Black front tern on a Marlborough beach



Council’s Harbours team - working to ensure our waterways are safe for everyone to enjoy.

Contact the Harbourmaster’s Office if you need advice or information about Marlborough’s harbours.

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