



## Engagement on Sounds transport network brings more than 1,700 responses

The second phase of public engagement on the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study wrapped up on 11 July.

The public were asked for their views on the 'emerging preferred option' and 'hazard adaptation pathway' and their estimated costs for each of the five storm-damaged areas of the Sounds, via a survey.

Over the engagement period, 500 people attended seven public drop-in sessions and an online webinar. The survey received more than 1,700 responses. The data received from the community will now be analysed by engineering consultancy Stantec as part of the business case development to be presented to Council later this year.

Acting Mayor David Croad said it was encouraging to see the level of interest in the study. "It was clear from the engagement drop-in sessions and the number of surveys completed that people are passionate and concerned about the future transport network in the Sounds."

"This is the first time Marlborough has worked through such a complex Waka Kotahi business case process. The transport challenge facing the Sounds is significant and we appreciate everyone's willingness to embrace the engagement process."

"Getting constructive feedback about the different options and pathways strengthens our proposal for funding, and ensures we make the best decision possible for the Sounds, and the whole region."

Acting Mayor Croad said the project team will now analyse feedback from Marlborough residents and ratepayers gathered through the online survey. This feedback will inform the business case, which is scheduled to be finalised by the end of August 2023.

Council will then review and consider adoption of the final business case before providing it to Waka Kotahi for endorsement before the end of this year.

It's likely to be 2024 before Council will consult with all of Marlborough on the proposed options and costs through a special consultative process, before making a final decision. Waka Kotahi will then make a decision about its funding contribution.

It's hoped that a staged rebuild could begin at the end of 2024 in some areas.



## Culling feral goats in Essons Valley

Picton's large feral goat population will be the target of a recreational hunting campaign in the Essons Valley and Waitohi water catchment.

DOC has asked Council for recreational hunting with firearms to be allowed in the area where such hunting has previously not been allowed.

At last week's Assets and Services Committee meeting Reserves and Amenities Officer Kiri Whiteman said it was proposed to engage an experienced contractor to undertake a targeted goat cull as well as allowing in recreational hunters to get on top of increasing goat numbers.

"DOC considers recreational hunting with firearms a useful control method," she said. "Controls for public safety will be put in place."

Permit applications will be subject to vetting by Picton Police and hunts will be monitored. A maximum of six hunting permits would be issued a year with two hunters per hunting party.

No hunting would be allowed during the Christmas period or when events or significant works were taking place.

Those approved would be required to hunt with a handheld GPS and would not be allowed to hunt within 200 metres of residential areas, walking tracks, public spaces or water catchment areas.

Councillor Scott Adams said he encouraged the safe and responsible use of firearms and supported allowing recreational hunters into the area.

## Brightening up Marlborough streets through cabinet art

Cabinet art is coming to Marlborough and now is the time for artists to get designing.

Chorus is partnering with Council to beautify six cabinets across the district and artists are encouraged to submit designs before the deadline of 31 August.

Chorus Community Relations Manager Jo Seddon said it made sense to partner with local councils as they knew their communities.

"We are thrilled to be working with Marlborough District Council and we're really looking forward to seeing what local artists come up with to reflect their community's stories," she said.

The painted cabinets bring colour and vibrancy to the streets, often telling stories about the communities in which they are located and help to discourage tagging.

Mayor Nadine Taylor is pleased to welcome the cabinet art programme to Marlborough.

"This is our first year managing the Chorus Cabinet Art Programme and we're excited to work with the local community to bring creativity to our streets," she said.

Submissions are open until 31 August and the winning design will be chosen from entries received.

Information can be found at: [www.chorus.co.nz/community/cabinet-art-programme](http://www.chorus.co.nz/community/cabinet-art-programme)

Current nationwide murals can be seen at: [www.chorus.co.nz/blog/cabinet-art-gallery/](http://www.chorus.co.nz/blog/cabinet-art-gallery/)



Now's your chance to brighten Marlborough streets