

High level of feedback on Sounds Future Access Study

The first phase of public consultation on the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study concluded last week. The study is investigating sustainable future access in and out of the Marlborough Sounds.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was pleased with the level of public engagement.

“It was great to see so many people take time to engage with us on this important study,” she said. “There were well over 500 people at the public workshops, which demonstrates the critical importance of access routes into the Sounds for the local community.

“We received 125 submissions on the study scope and 919 people completed the main survey during the consultation period, which ran from the end of January until Wednesday last week. There were also 55 written submissions received during the survey period.”

Mayor Taylor stressed the importance of public consultation in the development of infrastructure planning.

“We need to ensure that transport solutions are resilient for the long term. It was important that the community provided their feedback on this first phase of the study, and I thank everyone who was able to contribute.”

She said recent weather events in Marlborough as well as cyclone Gabrielle’s impacts on the North Island had highlighted the importance of resilient transport routes.

“New Zealanders are acutely aware of how important a safe and resilient transport system is to their community as we all grapple with the impacts of climate change.”

“The significant storms that hit the Top of the South in 2021 and 2022 created serious access challenges in the Sounds, the Awatere Valley, the Waihopai Valley and the Northbank. Resilient and safe transport access is a key part of supporting our communities into the future.”

The Sounds Future Access Study project team will now consider the public’s input and other key information and develop a business case with options, which the public will again be able to provide feedback on, probably in June this year.

Mayor Taylor said that following the second phase of public consultation the preferred option will be costed and submitted to Waka Kotahi and the Council for consideration.

Further information can be found at www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study



Picton sewer work underway

Work continues on upgrades to Picton’s earthquake damaged sewer pipes.

On Monday, contractors began the work, initially in Waikawa Road and Hampden, Devon and Scotland streets, relining sewer mains and lining lateral connections to property boundaries.

Council’s Three Waters Projects Engineer Graeme Jackson said pipes in the area had been inspected by CCTV and those requiring repair identified.

“We found a lot were cracked or broken and leaking,” he said. “When it rains the sewer pipes often leak the other way causing infiltration which causes issues for us with pumping and wastewater treatment. Damage to the pipes probably occurred during earthquakes and subsequent ground movements. Rather than replace the pipes, which would be expensive and disruptive, new stronger PVC pipes are installed within the existing pipes helping sewage to flow easier and avoid leaks.”

Work is expected to take about six months however Mr Jackson said that was dependent on whether other issues were found during the course of the work.

Traffic management will be in place and there may be some diversions and stop/go and some of the work may take place at night to keep disruption to a minimum, particularly in the CBD and industrial areas and to access critical sewer manholes in the middle of main roads.

“Residents should only be affected when lateral connections are made to their properties, but contractors will work with them to coordinate and try to keep these minimal,” he said.

“Due to the nature of this work we have had a lot of contact with residents and businesses to resolve any issues beforehand.”

Picton wellbeing workshop

A wellbeing clinic in Picton later this month is designed for people who have experienced loss, faced challenges or undergone change.

The workshop provides an opportunity to learn strategies to better understand, cope with and reduce stress, anxiety and exhaustion.

Held at the Endeavour Park Pavilion on Friday 24 March, the session starts at 10.30 am (please arrive at 10.15 am and bring lunch) and finishes at 3.00 pm. There is no cost as it is sponsored by Te Whatu Ora Nelson-Marlborough. Everyone is welcome.


Course facilitators will explain how to identify stress and why it affects people differently. Practical strategies to build resilience and reduce symptoms of stress and trauma will be given.

Marlborough Recovery Navigator Charlotte Wood has attended the course and described it as fun, thought-provoking and interactive. Spaces are limited so please book now by emailing Charlotte.Wood@marlborough.govt.nz or text 027 213 0341.

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7 March 2023

Census | Stats NZ





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