



# MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Marlborough's Road to Recovery

### Business Update

Tuesday 21 September 2021

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#### Introduction

This newsletter is to provide an update for businesses affected by the 17 July storm.

A group has recently been formed – the **Flooding Economic Recovery Group** - to discuss the impact of this significant weather event and to help identify some solutions.

Surveys of storm-affected businesses are underway for the Kenepuru Sound and vicinity, Queen Charlotte Track and the Awatere and Waihopai Valleys to help identify the impacts and work towards some solutions. The initial results from the Kenepuru survey are covered in this newsletter.

There is also free or low cost advice available for affected businesses and details on how to apply are included in this first issue of the Council's **Recovery Business Update**.

Updates on the Queen Charlotte Track and the wider roading response and recovery effort are also included.

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#### Flooding Economic Recovery Group

The Flooding Economic Recovery Group has been convened to discuss the impact of the storm on businesses.

It consists of members from central and local government, local businesses, and iwi and business support agencies. The group is chaired by Trevor Hook of Te Mahia Bay Lodge in Kenepuru Sound.

Other members include:

- Councillors Nadine Taylor, Barbara Faulls, Brian Dawson and David Oddie (Marlborough District Council - MDC)
- Marlborough Recovery Managers Dean Heiford and Marianne Aitken, Economic Development Manager Neil Henry (MDC)
- Lynley Perkins, Braden Moleta, Jess Jones (local businesses)
- Bev Pitts (Awatere Valley)
- David Johnston – Ngati Kuia, Corey Hebbard - Rangitane, Shane Graham – Ngati Rarua (iwi representatives)
- Craig Churchill – Ministry of Social Development, Nova Mercier – Ministry of Primary Industries, Margot Ferrier – Department of Conservation (DOC), Steve Murrin – Waka Kotahi/Marlborough Roads Recovery Manager (Government)
- Jacqui Lloyd – Destination Marlborough, Pete Coldwell – Marlborough Chamber of Commerce

## ***What is its role?***

The role of the group is to:

- Discuss the current and future impact of flooding
- Discuss potential solutions
- Agree the picture of impact to be communicated
- Agree on solutions to be investigated for implementation by government, the Council and others
- Communicate with community and other stakeholders

## ***What progress has the group made?***

- The group has met twice – on 3 and 10 September
- A business support voucher scheme has been implemented, providing free or low cost advice for businesses affected by the storm
- Results of the survey of Kenepuru businesses have been discussed
- Updates from DOC and Marlborough Roads were provided at the meeting on 10 September
- Potential solutions for the Kenepuru area have been discussed by the group
- The group meets again on 24 September



*Picture of meeting 1 of the economic recovery group that took place on Friday 3 September 2021*

## ***What is the group aiming to achieve?***

The group will identify the transport services required to support businesses in the Sounds e.g. barges and water taxis. Once we have finalised the support needed, we will be actively working on solutions and funding.

We will analyse the responses to the business surveys to again determine what support is required in the areas affected throughout Marlborough and to work on solutions. The more responses we received the better informed we will be so please encourage any business you know to be affected to complete these **(see links below)**.

The group will continue to engage with the Council's recovery team, the Marlborough Roads Recovery Team, Department of Conservation and other stakeholders and Government agencies to keep them informed of ongoing impacts for businesses.

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## Business Surveys

A community/business survey was sent to Kenepuru businesses on 30 August seeking information on the impact of the storm event. Thirty eight businesses had responded by 9 September.

Here are the key insights from the survey:

- 8 primary/agriculture, 6 tourism and 19 'other' businesses responded
- 30 of the 38 businesses employ 1-5 people
- 8 stated the impact to be a threat to their business' survival; 10 very negative and 11 somewhat negative
- The biggest impacts were: loss of income (20), supply chain interruption (15) and cancellations (11)
- 11 of the businesses said they were not at risk of closure, five were closed but could reopen and 8 said they could carry on for another 3 months
- 9 requested business support advice follow up
- 7 offered resources to support their community (boats/jetties)

Surveys of other storm-affected areas are underway:

Queen Charlotte Track storm affected businesses  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCBusinessNeeds>

Awatere Valley/Waihopai Valley storm affected businesses  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AwatereWaihopaiBusNeeds>



*The first truck and trailers navigate the Awatere Valley Road under strict controls recently*

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## Business support voucher scheme

The Council is offering a limited amount of support to flood-affected businesses, to access local business advisory services.

This support is administered on Council's behalf by Business Trust Marlborough and the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of this funding is to provide advice that helps businesses that have been negatively affected by the recent floods to respond to the immediate impacts, and to remain sustainable as they do so.

To qualify for this support, businesses will need to demonstrate a material impact to their revenue or ability to operate as normal, as a result of the July flooding. The financial support provided will be used to procure business advisory services or business coaching, to enable businesses to restructure their operations, reduce costs or access alternative revenue sources. As funding is limited, it is recommended that interested businesses get in touch as soon as possible.

Please [click here](#) to complete an application form, if you think your business qualifies for this support. You will be contacted to obtain further information.



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## What other support is available?

We understand that this is a difficult time and 'life as we knew it' has been disrupted.

The Council's Recovery Team is looking at providing assistance and support for water taxi and bargaining alternatives to the closed roads.

We really want to hear from you if you need help with alternative transport solutions to the road being closed. We'd like to invite you to complete the following survey to enable us to capture the post-storm long-term support requirements for your community, including local businesses.

Please complete the survey here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/PostStormRecovery](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PostStormRecovery)

Anyone with welfare needs associated with the July storm should contact the Council at [recovery@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@marlborough.govt.nz)

**Work and Income** offers a range of products and services to support New Zealanders.

- [Information for employers](#)
- [Information for individuals](#)

The Top of the South Employment Team is also available to offer direct support to you or your employees. This includes recruitment, re-training, redundancy and redeployment support. If you would like a member of our team to contact you to discuss your needs please email us at [TOTSEmploymentTeam@msd.govt.nz](mailto:TOTSEmploymentTeam@msd.govt.nz)

In the following links you will find information about the range of financial supports available for COVID-19:

### **COVID-19 Financial Support Tool**

*You can use this tool to find out what financial help may be available to you*

### **Information on financial supports for employers on supports for COVID-19**

*Find out what financial support you can get for your business*

### **Information on financial supports for individuals and whanau**

*Find out what supports are available when your income has been affected by COVID-19*

Inland Revenue also has the following support available:

<https://www.ird.govt.nz/updates/news-folder/flooding-in-the-west-coast-tasman-and-marlborough-regions>

<https://www.ird.govt.nz/updates/news-folder/order-in-council-passed-for-west-coastnelson-tasman-marlborough-floods>

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## **Port Marlborough**

Port Marlborough understands some Kenepuru Sound residents are facing additional transport costs due to the extended road outages.

To assist, they will waive **all** wharfage fees for Kenepuru Sound residents who have no road access as a result of the July flooding. This waiver is offered in good faith to Kenepuru Sound residents only that are facing these additional costs. The offer is not available to bach owners or holiday makers. Residents or businesses that used Johnson's Barge operations prior to the flood are also excluded.

Port Marlborough's parking and berthing initiatives to subsidise parking in Havelock and Picton marinas have also been extended into September. Car parking is free for the month of September – by prior arrangement with the Marina Manager. We are investigating the possibility of this arrangement being extended.

**Visitor berthing:** Short term (under 2 hours) - free for the month of September; standard rates to apply to longer than 2 hour stays – this is a due to capacity and to ensure there is room to share around. The cost is \$6 for 4 hours and \$15/day.

**Longer-term berthing:** Berths (where available) are offered at a greatly reduced rate of \$210 per month for vessels under 8 m e.g. a runabout for the month of September. Car park included (no overnight stay on vessels).

**Contact Port Marlborough for further information.**

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## Kenepuru Community Meeting

A Zoom meeting took place on 3 September to discuss roading and recovery matters with those affected by the closure of the Kenepuru Road and all its associated side roads.

The meeting was recorded and can be watched again, see here:

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/civil-defence-emergency-management/july-2021-storm-event/general-recovery-information-july-2021-storm-event/community-recovery-meetings/kenepuru-sound-residents-meeting-3-september-2021>

A second 'special community meeting' by zoom to discuss Marlborough's Road to Recovery post the July storm and specifically, to hear an update regarding work on the Kenepuru Road and associated side roads is scheduled for this **Friday 24 September from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm**. Please help spread the word.

Click here to join this meeting – enter Passcode 738936:  
[Kenepuru Sounds Residents Online Meeting 24 September 21](#)



*The Kenepuru Road near Portage*

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## Queen Charlotte Track update

There has been great track progress made to date despite the weather and some backtracking to repair new damage.

Department of Conservation teams are currently working on repairs and slip clearances at Resolution Bay to Endeavour Inlet and Anakiwa to Te Mahia. Team will then move to work on Kenepuru Saddle to Torea Saddle and Torea Saddle to Te Mahia.

The next announcement on track status is this **Friday 24 September**.

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## The road to recovery

With more than 1,000 issues identified across the Marlborough roading network, parts of the district are still operating under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act (2002).

This extension of emergency areas since the July 2021 storms includes:

- The full length of Kenepuru Road and any associated side roads
- Queen Charlotte Drive from Havelock to Picton and any associated side roads
- Awatere Valley Road to Molesworth Station and any associated side roads
- Northbank Road, including Top Valley Road and any associated side roads
- Waihopai Road from the Avon Valley Road intersection to the top of the Waihopai Valley and any associated side roads.

A Marlborough Roads Recovery Team (MRRT) has been stood up to work closely with the Marlborough District Council and Marlborough Roads, as the Response Team continues to forge ahead clearing minor faults, slips and debris.

Significant progress has been made since the 17 July storm. The rain event closed an estimated 350km of road network across Marlborough.

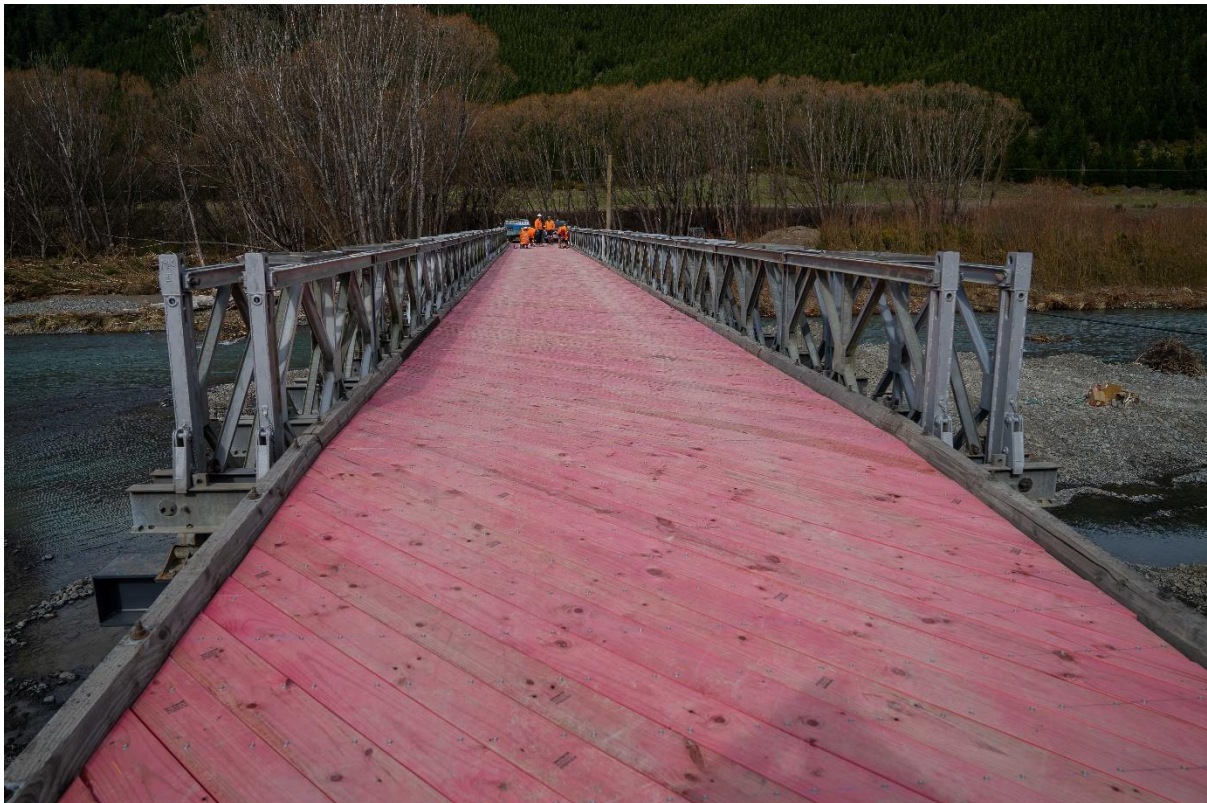
All roads have now been assessed for faults and through the response and recovery work to date there is now 55 km of closed road, 200 km of controlled access for residents only and 170 km of public access restored.

More than 50,000 cubic metres of soil and rock has been removed from slips so far. Early estimates predict more than 100,000 cubic metres of spill material will have been removed by the end of the clean-up.

This ongoing response is expected to take several more weeks before safe access is restored at a basic level of service across the entire network.

Crews are working in the Kenepuru Sound, Queen Charlotte Drive and the Awatere Valley daily.

While major inroads have been made to restore safe access, with restrictions, where possible - including in the Waihopai Valley, the Awatere Valley and now the length of Queen Charlotte Drive - there is still a lot to do.



*A temporary bailey bridge has been installed at Māori Ford on the Waihopai Valley Road*

Once safe access is restored for residents and essential services, disruptions to people's journeys will continue for some time as works progress to get roads fully open.

**The Recovery Team's priorities are:**



**Preserve**  
life and mitigate  
risk



**Reconnect**  
access



**Recovery**  
to agree levels of  
services for all  
users

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## For more information

- Community support: [recovery@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@marlborough.govt.nz)
- Roding information: [recovery@marlboroughroads.com](mailto:recovery@marlboroughroads.com)
- Access to free/low cost business advice: [alistair@marlboroughchamber.nz](mailto:alistair@marlboroughchamber.nz)
- Flooding Economic Recovery Group: [neil.henry@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:neil.henry@marlborough.govt.nz)

**He waka eke noa - we are all in this together**

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