

Marlborough Roads



Marlborough Roads Recovery Update

Tuesday 12 October 2021 · Marlborough Sounds

Updates for the Marlborough Sounds area may include Queen Charlotte Drive and associated side roads, Kenepuru Road and associated side roads, and the Outer Sounds recovery area.

The Marlborough Roads Recovery Team thanks everyone affected by the July storm damage for their patience during this difficult time.

Where to go for information between Marlborough Roads Recovery Updates:

- Receive notifications on your phone by [signing up for the Antenna app](#)
- Check the Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management Map [by clicking here](#)
- Check the Council's roading alerts at <https://bit.ly/RoadingAlertsMarl>

Information is available on [Road Access Definitions and FAQs](#) for clarification on road status and restrictions.

Access Update

After another thorough inspection, and review of completed work, we have been able to update the [road access timelines](#).

Highlights:

- All recovery areas past Sandy Bay, on Kenepuru Road and into the Outer Sounds, are now open for public access.
- 'Controlled access – resident only' has been extended on Kenepuru Road from Moetapu Bay Road through to Onahau Road.
- A later rain event caused the water tank slip on Kenepuru Road (RP 20.5), about 1km east of the Onahau Road turnoff, and has made this road unsafe to pass, even in light vehicles.

Construction Update

The teams have been making solid progress this week, even with the wet weather. Our focus has been removing hazards on Kenepuru Road to improve access for residents.

On Kenepuru Road, two significant areas have been cleared, Mistletoe slip and the under slip at Route Position (RP) 12.8, which is 400 metres before Mahau Road.



(Above) Mistletoe slip before and after



(Above) 400m before Mahau Road, at RP 12.8, earthworks have been undertaken to widen the road and restore the road width.

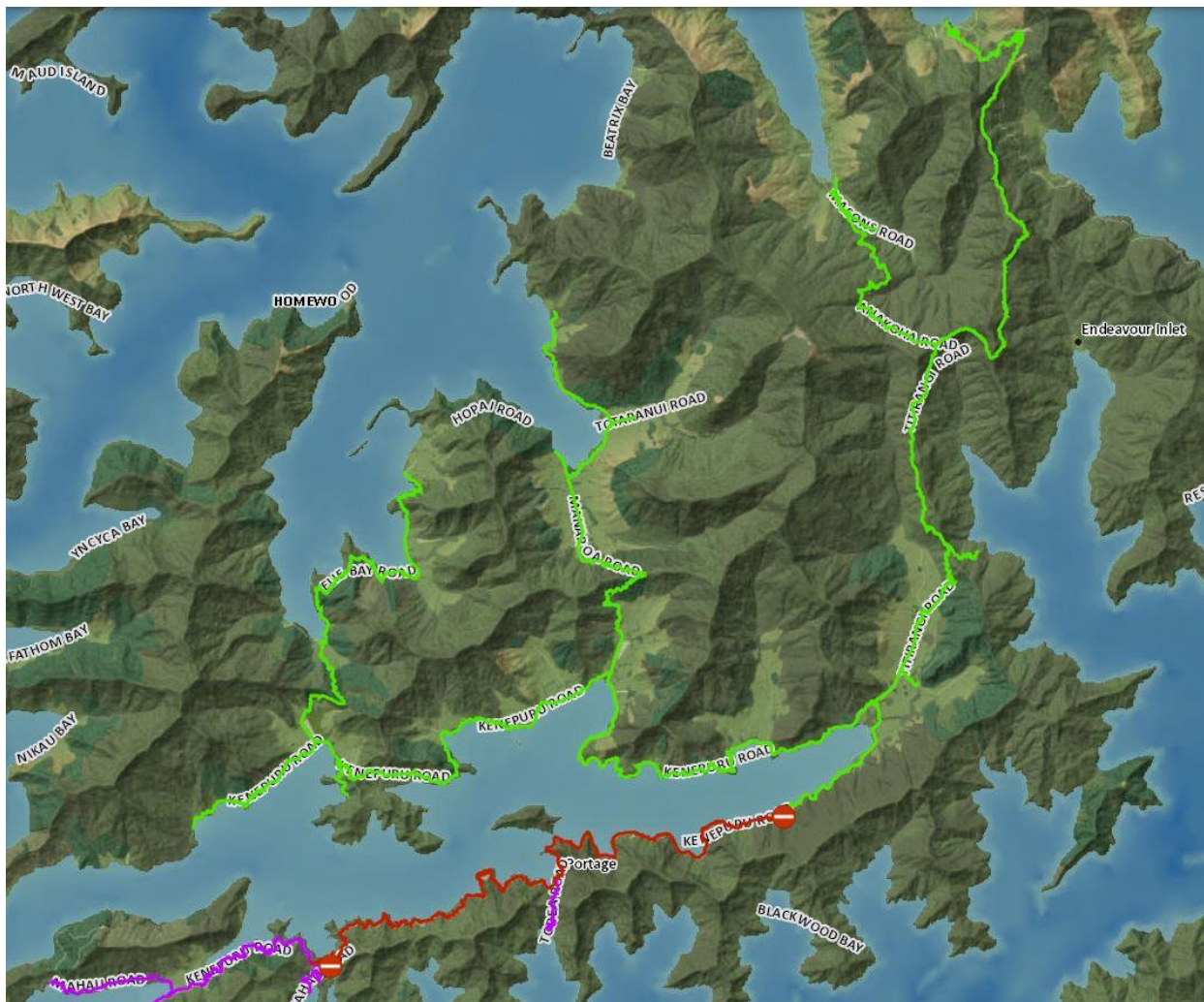
Torea Road (to Portage)

On Wednesday, 13 October, work to clear the slips and water tables on Torea Road will begin.

To undertake this work, Torea Road will temporarily close from Monday to Friday, between 9am to 1.30pm and 2pm to 4pm. This work is expected to take three weeks. These planned closures are the safest and quickest way to gain public access by 1 November, as the road is narrow. This target date for public access is subject to change, based on weather, further faults and changes in work plans.

Portage to Outer Sounds

After a review last week, the area from Sandy Bay through to Raetihi on Kenepuru Road will now be classified as Public Access. Delays can be expected as slips are still being cleared.



(Above) The green roads are now public access, from Sandy Bay Road to all Outer Sounds recovery areas. [Click here](#) for a closer look at the map.

This week, there will be more contractors, trucks and machinery in the Portage/Outer Sounds area. This will include additional excavator and truck teams which will focus on clearing small slips and water tables.

As the roads in the area are narrow, we need to carefully plan which crews are working at the same time. Two trucks cannot safely pass in some areas, and construction equipment may not be able to pass some worksites because of width restrictions.

In the coming weeks, we'll also see some new types of activity in the Sounds area, including geotechnical drill rig testing, culvert flushing and repair and pavement repairs.

To ensure the extra work crews can work safely, we'll be installing additional traffic management from this week.

Scoping and Design

Scoping and design for those faults that do not require earthworks or pavement repairs are well underway. Multiple consulting firms have been engaged to carry out this work, as quickly as possible.

While design work is underway, the teams in the field will continue to clear as many slips and water tables as possible before the long-term construction begins.

There are three significant sites in the design and review stage where construction will not be visible in the short term. These are slips at RP 20.5, 28.5 and 29.5. Further updates will be released when more information is available on these sites.

(Below) RP 28.5 and RP 29.5 around Portage Bay are complex sites undergoing design





(Left) The “water tank slip” at RP 20.5 is a complex site, which occurred well after the July storm. It is located about 1km east of the Onahau Road turnoff.

Below, the “before” photo (top) was taken 28 July with no visible faults.

The slip in the “after” photo (bottom) occurred after a later rain event.



Access beyond the RP 20.5 “water tank slip” on Kenepuru Road

Access on Kenepuru Road, beyond Onahau Road, is restricted by the water tank slip (RP 20.5), which occurred after the July storm. The road beyond this point is unstable and unsafe, even for light vehicles.

As a result, this section of road will be closed until further notice whilst we undertake geotechnical testing, surveying and design work to develop the best solution for repair. An earth bund is now blocking the road, and more information will be provided on this section of road at the end of November.

We expect this section of road to be closed for upwards of six months. We are aware that this will impact residents and property owners in this area and are working with them to provide support during this time.

From this site at RP 20.5 to Portage, a geotech drill rig is scheduled to undertake sampling on Thursday and Friday from 8am to 5pm. While this work is subject to change, this stretch of road remains closed.

Safety

Walking and cycling

There is significant risk to people walking and cycling on the roads while our crews are working. The roads are narrow, and our large trucks need a lot of room to maneuver. These trucks require a long stopping distance in an emergency.

We ask everyone to be aware and stay safe around our work sites, obey all signage, and to please avoid walking and cycling during the road closures.

Daylight hours

There are still significant risks within the ‘controlled access – residents only’ areas. This risk increases when it is raining, as roads can become greasy and new slips may occur.

We highly recommend that you avoid travel outside daylight hours (7pm-7am).

[Click here for information about water taxi service](#)

Towing

It is the driver’s responsibility to ensure that the road condition is suitable for towing. There is currently a 12.6m length combination limit on Kenepuru Road and side roads. The road surface shape, or the width of road around some hazards might mean that your trailer will not be able to fit through.

We recommend you refer to the latest [programme of access document](#) for more detailed information before you start your journey.

Holiday Weekends

Our work crews will be having a well-earned break on Labour weekend and Marlborough Anniversary weekends. Please continue to obey all signage.

Resident and Essential Service Passes

If you require a Resident or Essential Service pass, please email us at recovery@marlboroughroads.com

Weather

We aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information and work schedules on the dates we publish.

However, the impact of weather events may cause delays in progress. The team is working behind the scenes on alternative plans to help us keep to the work schedule, but even with these there may still be delays. Thank you for your patience.

The ground conditions are nearly always impacted by rainfall events. Please ensure that you are alert to possible changes in road conditions and be prepared to change your plans if necessary. We inspect the roads after a rainfall event, and sometimes we will need to alter the road access arrangements.

For more information

For the latest road status updates please visit our Marlborough Emergency Management Official Public Information Map before your journey: <https://bit.ly/RoadToRecoveryMarl>

For the latest roading alerts: <https://bit.ly/RoadingAlertsMarl>

Phone us: 0800 213 213 or 03 520 8024 between 8.00 am - 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday

Email us: recovery@marlboroughroads.com
