

Marlborough Roads



Kenepuru Road & Associated Side Roads Update

Monday 20 September 2021

NB. The information contained in this update is correct and current as at the above date.

The current status

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.

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



Kenepuru Road, near Portage

PHOTO: Dougal Townsend/GNS

Safety first

Your safety, your neighbours' safety and that of our work crews is paramount.

Please do not access closed construction sites, remove rocks or remove barriers. Sites identified as 'complex' require geotechnical and engineering guidance.

The risk to people accessing these severely damaged roads is **high**. Many of these complex sites are surrounded by homes or baches above and below serious faults.

Marlborough Roads is in contact with Fire and Emergency New Zealand and will provide information on emergency routes as required. Changes to the network for emergency purposes are not occurring on a daily basis.



Timeframes

The response team has been working on both ends of Kenepuru Road, aiming to open sections for controlled, resident-only access as they are deemed safe.

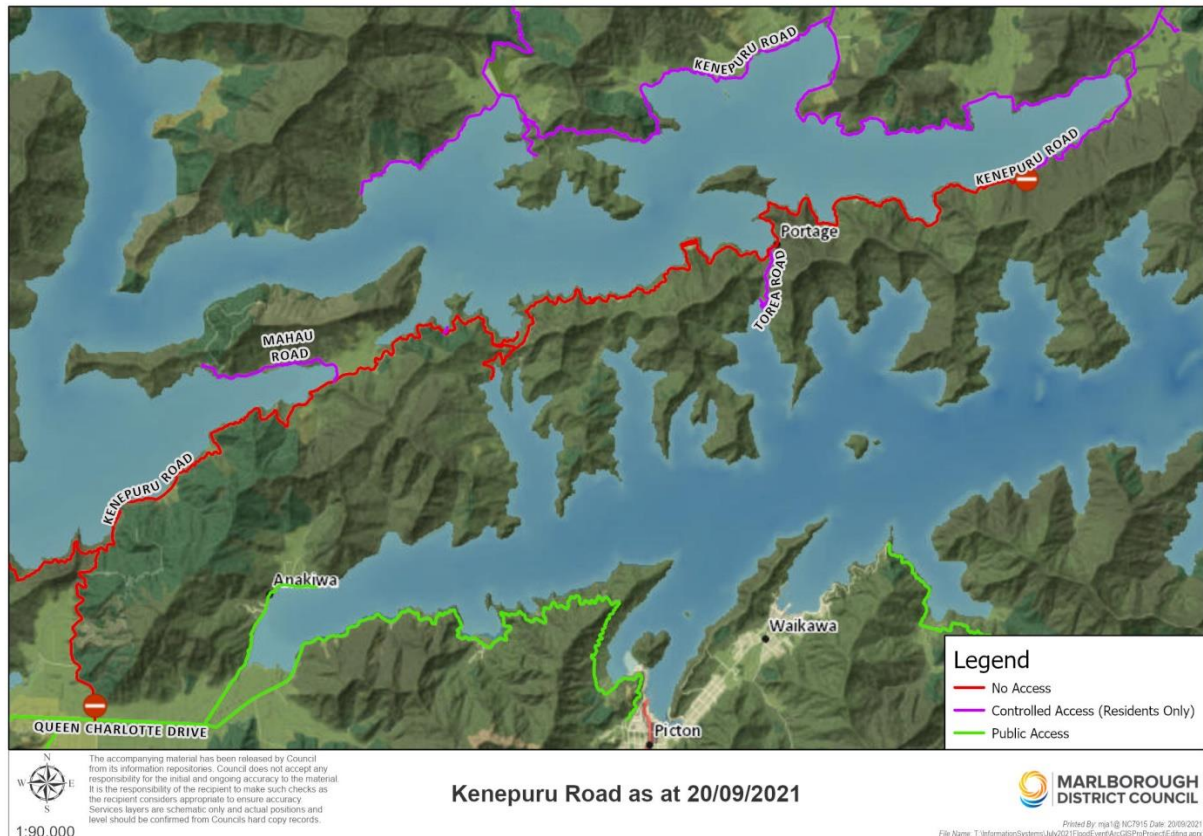
Kenepuru Road is now 'controlled access – residents only' from Sandy Bay through to the Raetihi end. There is no public access to Kenepuru Road and the road remains closed from Linkwater to Sandy Bay.

This week the Recovery Team is finalising a high-level programme of work for each area, including estimated timings for levels of access. This information will be shared with the community this **Thursday 23 September**.

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](#)

Please see the covering email with this update for all the zoom details.



Current status of Kenepuru Road as at today, Monday 20 September

Progress report

Crews have been working on several sections of the Kenepuru Road:

- All slips and water channels have been cleared from Portage Heights to Kenepuru Heads, and the heads to Punga Cove;
- Contractors are currently working from the heads to Waitaria Bay, clearing slips and water channels. This work should be completed this week, subject to weather;
- A different roading crew, supported by a local Kenepuru Sounds contractor, will continue clearing beyond Waitaria Bay;
- Today, work began to stabilise the site of the failed retaining wall about six kilometres in from Linkwater;
- After the work is complete at the 6 km mark, this same team will move to the drop out at about the 13 km mark.

‘The Rock’

Contractors have been working at ‘The Rock’ and have already brought a considerable amount of rubble down. This site is much more complex than originally assessed on the surface.

There is a 200m slip above the site which meant further geotechnical assessments were undertaken. The sheer volume of material required to be safely removed means this site is going to take longer than expected to clear.

A lack of spoil sites available in the area has delayed progress. However, a new site has been located near the Mahau Road intersection. There is at least a week’s worth of work preparing and securing the road between the spoil site and ‘The Rock’ before the contractors can safely start carting spill material.

This work started today – Monday 20 September - and it is estimated it will take around four weeks to clear; weather dependent.

Moetapu Bay Road

Crews are working to secure ‘controlled access for residents only’ on the Moetapu Bay Road, from the Kenepuru Road turnoff, by next week. More details will be confirmed as soon as these are available. This is subject to any adverse weather events.

Recent weather events

Fortunately, last week’s weather did not cause any further issues on the Kenepuru Road or any side roads, other than a tree down at Fish Bay which has already been cleared. The network is still very fragile and spring rain could cause further damage.

Your welfare

[We are here to support you.](#)

The Council has established a sector group which meets weekly – the Marlborough Weekly Recovery Group – to discuss impacts across multiple fronts and including the agencies involved in roads, lifelines, business, tourism, health and the rural sector.

The Council’s recovery managers, Dean Heiford and Marianne Aitken, coordinate requests for support from the community via a dedicated email – recovery@marlborough.govt.nz – and continue to connect those affected with the appropriate support services. **Please contact them if you require assistance.**

Work is ongoing between barge operators and the Marlborough Sounds farming community, with the help of the Council and Rural Support Trust, to better coordinate transport efforts and requirements for stock movements.

The Council is continuing to support Sounds communities with subsidised barge trips to deliver fuel, household goods, feed, and to assist with vehicle movements.

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.

Business support

The **Flooding Economic Recovery Group** has now been established to look at the impact of the weather event and to help identify some solutions for local businesses.

Members include central and local government representatives, local businesses, and iwi and business' support agencies.

The role of the group is to:

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

Surveys of the Kenepuru Sound and vicinity, Queen Charlotte Track and Awatere Valley and Waihopai Valley storm-affected businesses are underway. These will help identify the impacts and assist the group to work towards some solutions.

There is also free or low cost advice available for affected businesses. This support is being administered on the 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.

The community/business survey was sent to Kenepuru businesses on 30 August seeking information about 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 – if you are a Queen Charlotte Track

Storm-affected business, please make sure you complete this survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCBusinessNeeds

If you would like to receive the dedicated **Recovery Business Update** or would like more information about any of the above please email the Council's Economic Development Manager Neil Henry on neil.henry@marlborough.govt.nz

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
