

Sounds Advisory Group Meeting Notes held at Mt Richmond Estate, Rai Valley on 20 March 2017 at 9.30 am

Present

Clr Hook, Alan Johnson, Steve Ulrich, Steve Murrin, Alec McNeil, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Linda Booth, Debbie Stone, Kristen Gerard, Tim Greenhough, Eric Jorgenson, Shelly Sidley (DOC), Raymond Smith, Poneke Rene and Ken Roush

In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (MDC Secretary)

Apologies

Clr David Oddie, Clr Nadine Taylor, Clr Jenny Andrews, Monyeen Wedge, Ian Mitchell, Dave Hayes, Rachel Drake and Vic Koller

1. Salmon Working Group Report - Rob Schuckard and Eric Jorgensen

- Rob expressed dissatisfaction and concern at the Salmon Working Group Review process.
- Rob noted that in 2012 the Board of Enquiry had set a baseline for marine farming allowing for 10,000 tonnes of salmon feed to go ahead at Waitata Reach under careful adaptive management. The application for an additional 23,000 tonnes in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere is changing the baseline. He suggested reading the Ben Knight report from the Cawthron Institute. Link below:

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16135>
- Rob expressed interest in how the Councillors would proceed. He noted that at the time of the Board of Enquiry, the Council had said it would defend the division between Coastal Zone 1 and Coastal Zone 2 in perpetuity.
- Eric noted that the process had been very frustrating and that the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) intend to contest the application.
- Eric had been surprised to learn that Julie Hall (Sustainable Seas Science Challenge Programme Director) had been unaware that peace and quiet and the general amenity value of the Sounds were among the strongest values coming out of Marlborough.

Questions/Answers

- It was clarified that greater monitoring coverage of marine farms may be a result of the process. Eric noted that quality is relative to what it is compared against.
- Raymond reinforced the other members of the Working Group's concerns on how the Ministry had supported the industry over the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan and the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (the Plan). He noted that there is some disagreement within Iwi and that there is a distrust of the process. He clarified that there will be no financial gain for the Iwi from the process.
- Ross noted that the proposal for research into the water column would be welcome; however having only six monitoring buoys would not be adequate.
- Trevor commented:
 - He had pushed for SAG members to be on the Panel with the understanding that the process would be run differently than it was.
 - Council were keen for a process to happen which would resolve some of the issues of low flow and non-performance. The power in this process has been taken away from the local authority.

- Council will submit to the Panel and highlight the Plan. Legally the Plan has to be taken account of. The navigation of one of the sites will also be highlighted. This has not been ratified by Council yet.
- Discussion followed surrounding Council's position on this matter.
- It was noted that the Minister does not have to accept the recommendation of the Panel.
- Rob asked if the Council felt comfortable with the concerns that have been identified at Waitata Reach by the Board of Enquiry (additional 23,000 tonnes of feed). Trevor clarified that the Council did not have unlimited resources to deal with the specific issues but was going to work at a higher level rather than going into the details of each consent or water quality issue.
- Eric asked if Council would be submitting on the King Salmon Process. Trever clarified it would not. Eric also noted that there were some concerns around water quality monitoring and asked if they had been resolved, and if there were concerns around the modelling, would it be something that Council would submit on? Steve commented that MPI have modelled some permeations and are going to model what they believe are the preferred scenarios at the end of March.

It was noted that Steve has not seen the water quality data/models (unavailable at this point) and would be unable to give Councillors definitive advice. Steve has been consistent, in that MPI needs to model the preferred scenarios. He noted that if the Plan changes are accepted they would still have to follow the resource consent process. He noted there is some doubt about the mid-Waitata Reach.

- The three members were thanked for their participation in the Working Group and for their well written report.

2. Aquaculture Working Group

- The Council led initiative – The Aquaculture Working Group will have its first meeting on 29 March 2017. Judy, Rob and Eric are representing SAG on the Group.
- Iwi representation has not yet been confirmed.
- It was noted that SAG members would appreciate receiving an agenda so that they will be able to provide some input into the meeting.
- How to communicate back to the wider community will be discussed at the meeting.

3. Climate Change – Rob Schuckard

- Rob noted that the Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP) uses a model for climate change of 1°C by 2040 and 2°C by 2090. He asked what buffer is integrated into the PMEP and suggested that there is not much room for error using this model?

Alan noted that there is a new chapter in the MEP that deals specifically with climate change. Council is anticipating doing more modelling around sea level rise etc. There is an anticipated State of the Environment trigger (AER) in the MEP for Council to do high level work on climate change but this won't happen until the PMEP is operative. The engineering department has done some work with regard to long term effects on infrastructure issues.

- Alan clarified that the Council would have to be adaptive to results of modelling to mitigate hazards and that there is flexibility in the MEP to allow this.

4. Roading Update – Steve Murrin

- There was between five and six million dollars of damage caused by the 14 November earthquake and storm.
- There have been teams working continually since then to repair the damage and this is nearly all completed now.

- There has been a big effort in the Kenepuru and new retaining walls have been built there. This includes new “living” retaining walls. These are earth walls with bunds filled with a fern and grass mix. There is also a wall which Marlborough Roads may use in the Sounds that is built out of sterile willow brush which is unable to spread, the root system binds the wall together and takes the moisture out of the road which works well in areas of high rainfall.
- Culverts are being inspected as there was a lot of damage to them in the earthquakes.
- Repair work will begin on Te Aumiti/French Pass/Tennyson Inlet roads when Kenepuru is finished. (End of March).
- Te Aumiti/French Pass seal extension is halfway through.
- Bylaws for stock crossings are out for consultation at the moment. Link below:

<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Council-Publications/Plans-Policies-and-Documents/~//media/Files/MDC/Home/Your%20Council/Plan%20and%20Reports/Bylaws/2010/MDC%20Bylaw%202010%20Chapter%203%20Traffic.ash>

- Steve clarified that the new bylaw will give Council the ability to charge if there are issues with crossings. As the road is a place of work it is necessary to comply with the new Health and Safety Employment Act. The NZTA document covering this issue was circulated to the group.

Questions/Answers

- Marlborough Roads was thanked for the speed that the roads were cleared in the Kenepuru after the 14 November events and for using local contractors to do the work. Steve noted that Health and Safety is an issue when using local contractors and that HEB have employed a person to work with the smaller contractors to make sure they are complying - this seems to be working well.
- Steve was asked how work was progressing on State Highway 1 down to Kaikoura. Steve clarified that there is a huge push from Government to have the highway open by mid-December.
- Civil Defence infrastructure in the Sounds was discussed. It was confirmed that there are Civil Defence groups being formed in the Sounds which are community led and receive some assistance from Council.
- Concern was expressed about the sterile willow retaining walls. Steve has received assurance that the plants cannot spread.
- Concern was expressed that gravel coming in for road works may contain wattle seeds. Steve clarified that gravel supplies in the Sounds are in short supply and that if any wattle is seen - to let Marlborough Roads know so they can eradicate it.

5. Progress on the Kenepuru Barge Site – Ross Withell

- There has been an additional budgetary provision passed through the Annual Plan process to be added on to the initial amount for the barge site.
- Council's Assets and Services Department will be the resource consent applicant.
- There is consultation happening between Council, the landowner, Forestry and the Residents Association.
- The timeframe is June 2018.

6. Road Reserve Spray Programme – Rob Schuckard

- Rob outlined the background for the item: Halfway to Te Aumiti/French Pass, an area which had been logged was replanted, including an area of native bush on road reserve under power lines. A spraying operation took place resulting in the spraying of 6 kms including the buffer between the road and the forestry block, destroying native trees including beeches and 50 year old pungs.

Rob asked if Council was consulted by Marlborough Lines on this issue and if notice is being taken of water supplies when these types of operations are carried out?

Steve replied to Rob's question: Marlborough Roads only involvement was to close the road while the spraying took place. This is an issue in other areas as well and spraying is the only option as the cost to put gangs in to cut the wilding pines out is too expensive.

It was noted that a spray could be used which would eradicate the pines but leave the natives. Steve will take the suggestion from SAG –“that a different spraying regime should be looked at in these areas”, back to Marlborough Lines and Marlborough Roads.

- It was suggested that Marlborough Lines be invited to the next SAG meeting.

7. Septic Tank Inspections – Tim Greenhough

- There is a clause in the MEP which allows for Council to inspect septic tanks. Tim suggests most septic tanks would fail and that in a community such as Okiwi Bay where there are two hundred households – there would be approximately 100 failures and it would cost \$2.5-3 million in the Bay to upgrade the sewage. The community there feel it would be better for the Council to put in a public sewage system if this were the case. There has been a submission lodged with regard to this by Okiwi Bay Ratepayers Association Inc. They would like other Sounds communities to be aware of this issue.
- Cllr Hook clarified that Council will be reactive rather than proactive about inspections. However; if there is a complaint or failure then inspections will be carried out.

8. Integrated Management Trust Update - Eric Jorgensen

- Funding which was allocated from Council has not yet been accessed.
- There have been no signals from Central Government, agencies or politicians that they will support the Trust's collaborative management processes for the Sounds.
- The Marine Protected Area (MPA) has stalled.
- Fisheries consultation last year - included discussion on fine scale management of fisheries.
- Scallop fisheries are closed.
- The Trust, with strong backing from Council does not intend to wait for Central Government and are looking at what they can achieve in the next 12 months:
 - Fisheries – deal with the whole, not species by species.
 - Identify opportunities to get stakeholders together to protect, restore and utilise the environment. This touches on points in the MPA. The Trust is aware that there are obligations to Tangata Whenua and have talked about including Mataitai, as the inclusion of Mataitai could take care of some of the issues around recreational and commercial fisheries management.
 - Julie Hall spoke to Council on the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge last week. In the next two years, two more focus areas need to be chosen and the Trust would like Marlborough to be chosen as one of them. The Trust will take the lead in identifying how to apply leverage to the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge to get research focussed on Marlborough.
 - Working with Council on the Coastal Research Strategy.

- Sustainable Seas have \$5 million available every two years for discretionary projects.
- How to make research programmes aware of each other.
- Identify opportunities – protection utilisation, restoration.

Questions/Answers

- What are the research priorities?

Eric suggested that research priorities are being driven by the scientists. Cnr Hook mentioned that research is often opportunistic and is driven by the funding that is available.

- Rob noted that the last SOE report from Council (page 150) (link below), states that biodiversity is declining in the Sounds and asks how this is being dealt with?

http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/~media/Files/MDC/Home/Environment/State%20of%20the%20Environment/2015/SER_Coastal.pdf

Steve Ulrich answered that he has been leveraging funding from LINZ, MPI, Marine Farms Association, Forestry and that broader discussions on priorities are just beginning. The money from Coastal Occupancy Charges will be spent in the same area.

It was clarified that Coastal Occupancy Charges are subject to the MEP hearing process and that if implemented, fees will then be subject to a consultation process.

- Raymond noted that from an Iwi perspective the MPA process foundered when the Crown tried to take the Kermadec Islands.
 - Mataitai applications will increase in the Marlborough Sounds.
 - Sustainable Seas – Iwi have some reservations about the philosophy of maximising value and understanding environmental limits.

9. Doc Update - Shelly Sidley

- Shelly circulated the DOC report (Appendix 1) the Sounds Foreshore Reserve factsheet (Appendix 2)

Questions/Answers

- Shelly noted that if issues on the Sounds Foreshore Reserve are drawn to DOC's attention they will deal with them on a case by case basis and that DOC are trying to establish clear policies to enable transparency, consistency and fairness.
- Shelly clarified that a Planner is employed by DOC to oversee all resource consent applications in Marlborough. Local DOC employees will make comment to the Planner where they see concerns. If communities would like DOC to know their concerns about resource consent they can approach Shelly who will pass the information on.
- DOC is striving to make integrated, collaborative approaches to planning. Te Tau Ihu Project is an example; DOC, Marlborough District Council, Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council and Iwi are involved, looking at conservation strategies for the whole top of the south.

10. Waste and Recycling Issues Update – Alec McNeil (MDC), Ross Withell

- Ross Withell noted that there are a high proportion of glass bottles in the coin skips which are going to landfill instead of being recycled. Alec noted that it is worthwhile recycling glass – it goes by train to Auckland where it is remade into glass bottles.

Cross contamination will happen if there is free glass recycling beside the coin skips. The challenge is to change people's behaviour

- The Skip Sorting Centre is now open. This is currently diverting 45% of skip waste from the landfill and the target is to divert 60%.
- The Marlborough Litter Project is a two year funded project by Ministry of the Environment and ratepayers. This project is the information gathering phase. Follow the link below to participate:
<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Services/Refuse/Marlborough-Litter-Project.aspx>
- The Picton Marina trial litter collection and recycling bins have started to be abused, and have become an issue for local tourist accommodation. This service is being withdrawn and replaced with a wheelie bin service at the public boating ramp and Fishermans Wharf.
- The Council has been working with a company on a pyrolysis plant (low heat timber treatment facility) which will process timber from the waste sorting centre and the viticulture industry. The charcoal product produced will be sold to industrial markets. This facility will be subject to the resource consent process.
- Climate change – the Government is sending signals that it will be withdrawing carbon credit. This will result in a dramatic increase of the cost of disposal to landfill in the next three years. This could affect the carbon price which will make tree planting more attractive. Since 2009, Council has been modifying the gas extraction system at the landfill to make it as efficient as possible and the next stage is to find a use for the gas.
- There is a flat rate for tyre disposal of approximately \$5.75 per tyre.

The meeting adjourned for a 30 minute lunch break at 12.15 pm, recommencing at 12.45 pm.

11. Policy Update (MEP, Annual Plan) – Alan Johnson, Trevor Hook

Marlborough Environment Plan

- There is an in-committee paper being presented to the Planning, Finance and Community Committee on Thursday 23 March 2017 to suggest the appointment of an independent commissioner for the Hearing of Submissions to the Marlborough Environment Plan. There will be one Iwi Independent Commissioner and one general Independent Commissioner. Councillors will appoint the committee.
- It is still expected that submission hearings will begin in August. They will possibly last between 13 and 16 weeks. The four Councillors on the Hearings Panel are Councillors; Jamie Arbuckle, Laressa Shenfield, David Oddie and Trevor Hook.
- It was clarified that the submitter's original submission and any further submissions will be dealt with at the one hearing session.
- There will be a two week period for further submissions.
- It was noted that the two week period for further submissions may not be long enough if it were to clash with the New Zealand King Salmon Hearings period.
- No decision has been made on whether submitters will automatically receive the Submission Summary and Decisions Requested Report in hard copy.

Annual Plan

- It has been decided that the Annual Plan will be going out for consultation. Submissions open on 6 April and closes on 10 May. There is no significant variation to the Long Term Plan. Proposals include:
 - \$80,000 per year for marine biosecurity to develop a small scale management programme to manage the Mediterranean fan worm.
 - Additional resources for a Land Management Scientist.

- Trevor noted that the Long Term Plan will be reassessed next year (third year in three yearly cycle) and that it is important for communities to engage in the process.
- Due to lack of time the Science and Monitoring Update will be held over to the next SAG meeting.

12. General Discussion (other items)

- Updates on the FENZ Transition and the state of the rivers in Marlborough were suggested as items for the next agenda.
- It was suggested that two SAG meetings per year be held out in the community.

13. Positive Feedback

- Thanks to SAG reps on the Salmon Working Group.
- Thanks to Marlborough Roads for their response to the events of 14 November.

The date of the next SAG meeting is 19 June 2017.

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

Record No: 1758528

Appendix 1



Sounds Advisory Group Meeting 20 March 2017

Department of Conservation activities and issues of interest from the last three months, including conservation work done by others.

Recreation and Historic

1. QCT reroute Ship Cove
Funding for the QCT reroute Ship Cove to Schoolhouse Bay has been approved by MBIE/the NZCT and we are working through all the required processes for a planned start next summer. There has been an iwi visit to the site and the work on detailed track plans and environmental management continues.
2. Ship Cove sewage system
We are now working on options to replace the failing Ship Cove sewage system. A temporary repair has been made however we will need a new system by next summer. A wastewater engineer has been engaged to work with DOC staff on options which will take into account the importance of the area to iwi and the historic status of the reserve.
3. Annual track upgrade on the QCT
The annual track upgrade on the QCT continues with staff now at the head of Big Bay heading for Kenepuru Saddle. Many bridges are being replaced with culverts and the track surface is being repaired. They are also repairing the earthquake/flood damage along the way including slips, large cracks and sinkholes.
4. Increased camp usage
Increased camp usage is being well managed by our (mainly) volunteer camp hosts who keep the camps clean and ensure fees are paid. The increased use is increasing the wear and tear on facilities and the workload for staff, as well as the number of pumpouts of containment tanks.
5. Elaine Bay toilet block
We may need to replace the Elaine Bay toilet block due to an issue with the containment tank. Our project manager from Nelson is working with our qualified drainlayer on staff to arrange a fix as soon as possible.
6. French Pass campsite
French Pass campsite has experienced serious erosion along the foreshore meaning several campsites may be lost unless repairs can be made. A rock 'seawall' is one possible solution and our project management staff are working with the MDC, iwi and local contractors to find the best option.
7. Weather dependant, our track spraying programme is underway for tracks such as the Nydia, Cullen Point and Cullensville.
8. The increased popularity of the Te Araroa Trail is showing yet again with more of these walkers on the Queen Charlotte Track and also through the Pelorus Track with some huts seeing more use than they have in years. Captains Creek hut had approx 190 users in the month of January alone.

9. Jacobs Bay Wharf

A large tree has fallen clean through the middle of Jacobs Bay wharf. DOC has issued an INV closing the wharf while assessments can be completed to determine repair options.

Biodiversity

10. Wasp Control

Approvals are in place to undertake wasp control using vespex bait at 10 sites: Pelorus Bridge, Ronga Rec Reserve, Butchers Flat, Jacobs Bay, Nydia Bay, Cowshed Bay, Momorangi Bay, Aussie Bay, Governors Bay, Ratamira Bay. To ensure effective uptake of the bait pre-operational monitoring must identify densities of 20 wasps per 1hr. Monitoring in the 2nd week of March at Pelorus yielded identified 3 wasps in one hour, 1 wasp at Ronga; indicating that numbers are not high enough to commence vespex control. Individual nests are being treated as they are found with Permex. This situation will continue to be monitored.

11. Possum on Arapaoa

Confirmed evidence of a possum on Arapaoa Island which has previously been possum free, has meant a major shifting of resources to try and catch the possum and any possible offspring. DOC is working in partnership with MDC but have yet to catch the possum. Community members are encouraged to notify DOC of sightings of possum on Arapaoa.

12. D'Urville/ Moawhiti wetland

Moawhiti wetland has been identified as a significant wetland and will receive targeted national funding. Restoration work undertaken will focus on enhancing the eel fisheries and restoring the hydrology of the wetland. The project is being undertaken in partnership with Ngati Koata and OMV.

13. Pacific Discovery Work

Biodiversity work for the region has been enhanced by Pacific Discovery volunteers who have been engaged in planting and weed control at Ronga Recreation Reserve, relocating traps at Pelorus, establishing new traps lines on Arapaoa and Chetwodes.

14. Kaipupu Point

Kaipupu Point has undertaken its 2nd release of robins (27) onto the peninsula.

15. Picton Dawn Chorus

Picton Dawn Chorus launched its urban trapping programme at a public meeting attended by 100 people. 75 traps were sold to support the programme.

16. New staff on Takapourewa/ Stephens Island

Sandi and Scott VanLeeuwen have completed induction and handover with previous caretakers and are now looking after Takapourewa.

Community

1. Summer Explorer Programme.

28 events were planned. 11 community groups were involved and hosted events alongside DOC. Unfortunately 6 events got cancelled, 4 due to weather, one due to lack of numbers and one due to logistics failing. In total approximately 550 people attended, down from over 1000 from last year. This year there was greater emphasis on the groups planning and providing H&S plans prior to their event. Despite lower numbers the programme was successful and remains a way to get people engaged with conservation and local community groups.

2. SMART programme

The SMART programme has concluded another successful season. The highlight was employing Amy Healey on a temporary part-time 12 month contract to oversee the programme and explore new opportunities. This season 86 new people attended courses in Picton, Abel Tasman and Akaroa. Kaikoura was postponed to next season. This winter Bay of Plenty will join the programme. Amy also presented the regulations to Sanfords, and will present the course to NMIT 's Diploma in Adventure Tourism (May 2017), and Tauranga Polytech Marine Studies (June 17).

3. Seaweek

This year's Seaweek in Marlborough focused on a multi-group, multi-location approach to beach clean ups: The Massive Marlborough Clean Up. There were three public cleans ups, as well as three clean ups by residents associations, and King Salmon did additional clean ups on the beaches adjacent to their farms. In total 110 people participated at 15 locations, collecting approximately 60 council bags of rubbish. There was great exposure on social media – accounting for at least 5000 page reaches.

4. Camp hosts

This summer's camp host programme is coming to an end. By the end of March there will have been 28 hosts covering four camps over 17 weeks. Hosting (and camping) has been made easier with the provision of mobile eftpos machines.

5. Concession monitoring

This summer we have developed a concession monitoring programme, focus was given to monitoring marine mammal concessionaires. It was well received by the operators.

6. Sounds Foreshore Reserve

The Department continues to devote significant resources to following up on infringements into Sounds Foreshore Reserve. The main purpose of the Sounds Foreshore Reserve is to preserve the rights of the public for access purposes; maintain the scenic, historic, and natural features of SFR and to protect the coastline from sedimentation and other land use effects

Please remind your communities that a licence and or permit is required to undertake any work on the Sounds Foreshore Reserve. Details are available on the DOC website: doc.govt.nz; keyword: sounds foreshore reserve

7. Community fund recipients.

The total amount funded for all regions is \$4,249,522 (excluding GST). Sounds recipients included:

Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust	Outer Pelorus Wilding Pine Control	\$50,000	The Trust will employ contractors to drill and inject the wilding pines with herbicide in two sectors of the Outer Pelorus Sounds. An area at high risk from wilding pines with large open spaces of retired grazing land being rapidly colonised by wind-borne seed, this will allow native bush to regenerate and dominate again.
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D'Urville Island Stoat Eradication Charitable Trust	Operational Plan - D'Urville Island Stoat Eradication	\$25,000	This project will develop an operational plan as the next stage of eradicating stoats from D'Urville Island. A feasibility study has confirmed that stoat eradication is technically feasible on the island.
The Link Pathway Trust	Link Pathway: The Grove to Momorangi Bay Section	\$30,000	The Link Pathway is a community initiated project to create a high quality pathway from Havelock to Picton. This project will prioritise a 2.5 km section of coastal margin between The Grove and Momorangi Bay.
Nelson-Tasman Weedbusters - incorporation pending	Ronga Restoration Project	\$60,000	The aim of this project is to provide effective pest plant control to complement existing pest plant programmes. This will be critical to ensure restoration plantings remain viable and for the protection of existing native forests from pest plant infestation.

Appendix 2



The Marlborough Sounds coastline is approximately 1500 km long and the Sounds Foreshore Reserve (SFR) occupies 900 km of this as a strip of land approximately 20 metres wide above the mean high water spring tide mark. The Sounds Foreshore Reserve is owned by all New Zealanders and is managed on their behalf by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Purpose of Sounds Foreshore Reserve

The main purpose of the Sounds Foreshore Reserve is to:

- Preserve the rights of the public for access purposes. For the public, this means the right to traverse the reserve for any lawful reason.
- maintain the scenic, historic, and natural features of SFR and
- protect the coastline from sedimentation and other land use effects

Establishing the boundary

A distance of 20 m above the mean high water mark may be used as a rough guide to determine the extent of the SFR. Marlborough District Councils Smart Maps-Property can also be accessed for an indication of boundary lines.

However, it is the landowner's responsibility to determine private property boundaries. To be certain of the boundary, either a survey is required or the original survey pegs must be located. Note, erosion or accretion of the shoreline does not affect the boundary of the reserve.

What may be licensed/permitted

Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.

New structures

Legislation allows limited exclusive occupation of public land by buildings used for private purposes where natural, historic or recreational values will not be adversely affected. There are to be no new structures on the SFR except for boatsheds and access structures. There is to be no new or further extensions to existing living accommodation.

New boatsheds and access structures on Sounds Foreshore Reserve may be permitted in special circumstances where:

- No acceptable site exists on the owner's adjacent property;
- The building is of low profile and will have a minimum impact on the surrounding environment
- Public access along the foreshore will not be restricted
- No acceptable form of alternative access to the owner's adjoining property exists.



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- No new buildings will be permitted on Sounds Foreshore Reserve for commercial use.

The Department interprets “access structures” to include luggage lifts and tramways as these provide access for property owners to their adjacent freehold land.

Existing structures

Existing structures and extensions that were built prior to the Building Act 1991 may be considered for licencing.

Structures built without authority on Sounds Foreshore Reserve after 1991 will not be approved and will need to be removed (unless they meet the same criteria for new structures as described above).

Clearing vegetation

A permit is needed for any clearing of vegetation or modification to Sounds Foreshore Reserve. A permit for minor vegetation clearing may be considered, if

- The track is required for boat access to the property
- The track has minimal effect on the natural scenic, historic and natural features
- The track does not prevent natural processes such as stream flow, or exacerbate erosion or sedimentation
- Agreed restoration planting takes place.

Permits to establish access tracks will not allow for exclusive use of the access way.

Rentals and licence fees

An annual market rental is charged for the private use of public land. The rental fee is based on the floor area of actual encroachment, and the location, as set by DOC in accordance with approved valuation practice.

When an adjoining property changes hands, the licence must be transferred to the new owner through DOC's Picton/Waitohi Office. DOC charges cost recovery fees for processing these applications.

Permits for clearing vegetation for access will be required to pay a one-off fee.

What to do next

If you are uncertain about your boundaries, check with the Marlborough District Council. The Smart Maps - Property provides an indication of your boundary.

If you want to build new structures on SFR, or clear any vegetation, you must apply for a license or permit. The information on how website will help you determine if approval is likely, or contact the Picton Office. The application must also meet safety standards set by DOC, and resource and building consent approvals. You must check with the Marlborough District Council for any building permit or resource consent requirements.

If you have an unlicensed structure on SFR, go to www.doc.govt.nz (search sounds foreshore reserve) for more information and links to the application forms. Contact the Picton Office if you are uncertain if your structure meets the criteria.

Picton Office

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