

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 3 August 2020 at 9.30 am

Present

Clr Faulls (Chair) Rob Schuckard, Eric Jorgensen, Ross Withell, Tim Greenhough, Judy Hellstrom, Vic Koller, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Rick Osbourne, Lynley Perkins, Ned Wells and Monyeen Wedge

Guest Speakers

Kaja Vetter (DoC), Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads), Heli Wade (Te Hoiere Project)

MDC Staff

Alan Johnson, Oliver Wade, Pete Hamill, Neil Henry, Dean Heiford, Jane Tito, Pere Hawes, Gina Ferguson, Richard Coningham and Alec McNeil

In Attendance

Chris Hines (Council Secretary)

1. Welcome

- Clr Faulls welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present introduced themselves and advised where they are from and who they were representing.

2. Apologies

- Clr Oddie and Clr Taylor (for lateness – other Council business), Jodi Milne (MPI), Emma Hopkinson-Young, Poneke Rene, Margot Ferrier (DoC) and David Hayes (DoC)

3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

- There was no confirmation of previous minutes, however, Eric noted a point as follows -
He talked about the number of items discussed at the meeting that related to feedback and how the group would keep up track of issues through Council that Council would commit to. At the time, it was decided that they would talk to the CE and Mayor; however, it is in the minutes as talk to staff.

4. PMEP – Pere Hawes (MDC)

- The PMEP was publicly notified in February this year. The appeal period was extended because of Covid-19. There have been 51 notices of appeal received which can be viewed on the MDC website along with appeals information: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan/decisions-on-the-pmep/appeal-process>
- On Friday 31 July 2020 Council replied to the appeals. There is now 2 weeks for the appellants to lodge a reply to Councils reply. A pre-hearing conference is to be held by the Court in Blenheim on 29 August 2020 to consider the reply and appellants' response to it. The hearings when held were structured by topic and it is proposed to the Court to manage the process of addressing appeals by similar topics.
- This is expected to take a long time, hopefully shorter than previous plans. There can be negotiations around resolutions of the appeals and in some cases this has already commenced. One has already been negotiated and Council is in discussions with three other parties.

- Resources are available on the website for those directly involved or interested:
 - A copy of Councils response to the appellants lodged on 31 July 2020;
 - The proposed topic and sub-topic structure. The two largest are biodiversity and coastal environment;
 - Suggestions of provisions to go into which sub-topics;
 - A list of appellants and 274 parties involved in those provisions;
 - A table of all appeal points of which there are more than 1200.
- Now awaiting confirmation from the Court regarding management of the process.
- Clarification of a 274 party – when there is an appellant, a person who has an interest in that appeal greater than that of the general public, can effectively lodge a notice with the Court to say they would like to be involved in that specific appeal point. It can either be in support or in opposition to the appellant. There are 230 274 notices and they are noted on the table mentioned above.
- There were some at the meeting namely Rob Schuckard (French Pass Residents Association), Tim Greehough (Okiwi Bay), Nick Wells (NZ Marine Farming) Kaja Vetter (DoC) and Friends of Nelson & Tasman Bay who declared themselves a party in the appeal process and wanted it minuted. They were reassured that Pere was imparting information; there was no voting and consequently no conflict of interest.
- Regarding the possible proposed repeal of the RMA and replacement with three pieces of legislation. It will be up to the incumbent Government to decide what will happen. It will take at least a term to write the legislation associated with the changes. Added to this would be a transition period where different pieces of legislation would continue to apply and may continue to apply into the future.
- The document 'Resource Management System: A comprehensive review' is publicly accessible on the MfE website: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rmreview>.

10.00 am Pete Hamill joined the meeting

- Of concern is the Three Waters project going on with a move to separate entities for water supply and waste water management which will be a challenge.

5. Aquaculture – Pere Hawes (MDC)

- The working group appointed to assist Council reported back in July last year. There is a statutory obligation to consult with the Crown and iwi authorities. That has been occurring since the recommendations were made by the working group.
- There has not been as much success as would have been liked in engagement with iwi, but another attempt will be made very soon because of their importance as marine farmers as well as being kaitiaki.
- There have been in-depth discussions with MPI and DoC which continued over lockdown. A lot of focus was on using an authorization process to manage allocation into the future. The plan was to identify areas that were appropriate for aquaculture. Who got what and where would be managed through the system called 'authorizations'. It is a new approach and sits in the RMA under section 165. Haven't yet consulted with the MoT or the Minister for the Environment and there is a requirement by law to do so. Ready to go to the four Crown bodies again and iwi authorities to undertake statutory consultation. There has been feedback from the Crown regarding authorizations which has been very helpful.
- The next milestone is to provide an explanation for the draft variations which accompanied the recommendations made to Council last year. Helen Marr is currently involved in this process. Under statutory obligation, the variations must be notified to the iwi authority.
- Pere acknowledged the working group and advised that the meaningful recommendations made to Council by them was invaluable.
- When recommendations were made to Council last year, there was a dissenting opinion and a concern expressed. Both formed appendices to the report. Rick expressed a desire to have a copy of

the report but was advised that he may have to do an OIA as Pere believed it was reported under 'public excluded'. The reason being that the content was commercially sensitive.

- It was disclosed that the disappointment for the working group was that marine farming groups whose consents expire in 2024 and who know that there will be less space in the future are going for extensions to their existing consents now, 4 years ahead, to beat the new regulations. There was no discussion of this possibility in the working group. Pere confirmed that that wasn't in the scope of the process or the task of the working group and if looked at from a business perspective, is quite a rational outcome for some people. These resource consent applications still have to pass the sustainability test at Council.
- Pere confirmed that the working group did address the marine farming effects of human activity both on land and water and made recommendations in respect of both of these issues along with concerns of cumulative effects.

6. Septic Tanks – Pere Hawes (MDC)

- This issue has not been accurately represented in the media.
- The method in the Plan which is subject to Appeal relates to a warrant of fitness (WOF) scheme for onsite waste water management systems, not just septic tanks. The intent is that if you look at it in the context of the objectives of that part of the Plan, that there are some locations where coastal water quality might be degraded because of bacterial contamination.
- If following investigation it is found that the contamination is from a human source (either boats or waste water management system) one of the options Council has available to manage this would be to ensure that either one is operating in responsible manner in terms of their waste water management system. That doesn't include as reported in the media a requirement to replace the waste water system.
- There are a range of options. Firstly there must be a contamination issue, it has to be from a human source, human source has to be proved to be from a septic tank and then Council may look at the option of introducing a warrant of fitness scheme. The warrant of fitness would say that system on that property is suitable for managing the load from that dwelling. However, the options available go from maintenance through to replacement with a whole suite of options in between. There would be a community consultation process.
- This is the method in the Plan and Pere could not comment further as it is subject to Appeal and before the Court.
- At the moment Council does not have a widespread sanitation type survey process and there is currently no intention to implement one. There is currently the recreational bay water programme where sampling does take place and sometimes will result in an investigation. The Compliance Department will also go out and investigate complaints made to Council and in addition consents are monitored.
- Cllr Faulls suggested that working in with the Harbourmaster when he does his patrols with his staff, there could be a possibility he could do some water sampling. She will talk to Pete and Alan about it to gauge whether there is an opportunity to do that. Cllr Faulls also mentioned that if anyone suspects there is an issue in their local environment to contact her and she will pass the information on to Compliance.
- There was discussion about responsibility of the individuals in the community and Council and the ensuing costs that affect rates.

7. Post Covid Update – Dean Heiford (MDC)

- Dean is Manager Economic Community and Support Services at Council. One of his roles is Incident Controller and Recovery Manager for Marlborough Emergency Management which was critical during lockdown and the Covid response. The local response team partnered with Central Government and Health who supported the local community with everything from food, medicine to firewood.

- With Health doing the response a lot of the work for the local response team entailed not getting community transition and making sure testing regimes were in place.
- When out of response phase the recovery was led by Central Government with Ministry of Social Development in partnership with Health. One of the elements was the foreign nationals that were caught in New Zealand. At last count there were 55,000 still left in the country. There is the RSE in Marlborough which means that there are a large number of foreign workers here for vintage. There are some here studying and others just working generally. Current visa restrictions have been extended. These people are being looked after by Department of Internal Affairs and the Red Cross. RSE workers will be sent home when they can, but with international travel restrictions, border closures and/or the expense it is difficult to repatriate people back to their home countries. There are a number that would rather stay in NZ during this time.
- Council has processes in place for any further outbreaks in partnership with Health and Police.

8. Post Covid Update – Neil Henry (MDC)

- Neil is the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Manager at Council. Early on he was asked to take a lead in identifying the economic recovery for Marlborough over and above what the Government was doing with Ministry of Social Development and wage subsidies, tax breaks and so on.
- From late February there were meetings in Council weekly with industries such as crayfish and forestry. This was at a time when borders hadn't closed, there wasn't an infection rate and the lockdown wasn't in place. When lockdown happened there was a wider discussion, particularly with the wine industry which was just going into harvest and had a lot of people just arrived in the country.
- Council closed on 25 March with staff going home. In early April Council was asked to establish a group or several groups and contact with the community mostly over Zoom, regarding economic recovery. A structure was established, with a leadership group called Team of which Cllr Taylor was the Chair. The members of the leadership group were from industry, iwi, Government and Council and had networks to local professionals such as lawyers and accountants connected to local business. An industry advisory group was also established drawn from the bigger group of people that had been meeting from late February.
- There was some difficulty trying to gauge the impacts on business as best could be determined, during Level 4 and Level 3. In addition what projects did business think would help them overcome problems they could foresee? The group did about 40 interviews asking questions around supply chains, customers, markets and workforce and so on, to build a picture of what the impact would be as best they could tell and what projects could be to help overcome that. The report was launched on 22 May 2020.
- There were three data sources: the survey with 40 companies, 182 surveys done by the Regional Business Partner Programme and Infometrics did an early estimates report in April. The industries most effect appeared to be hospitality, tourism and retail. Forestry looked like they were going to be affected, and from a market point of view is way below nationally where it could have been. Wine is subject to what happens in the market which is a little unknown right now. However they did get through a very good harvest so supply is good.
- Council did put money aside for funding additional support for community organisations, some key buildings such as the swimming pool and others, to help fund them over period when there was loss of revenue. \$860,000 was put aside in May, some of which was for the likes of free parking (\$89,000 per month), not charging for a year for occupying the footpath (table and chairs), local campaign of Buy Marlborough, providing additional business support which the Government support did not cover, more recently into the under 30's through the Graham Dingle Foundation. This latter group has been significantly affected because of the downturn in hospitality, retail and tourism industries.
- Neil gave everyone a brochure outlining Phase 1 of Marlborough's Economic Recovery Response Plan for Covid-19. This along with the full report of Phase 1, and The Economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Marlborough District – Early Estimates May 2020 are available on the MDC website:

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/civil-defence-emergency-management/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/the-economic-action-marlborough-team-group/reports-team-group>

- The end of Phase 1 was 22 May. Phase 2 is a bigger piece of work, asking people what they think the impact is at Level 1, hoping to get a richer picture of what the impact might be in the future. Then identification of key projects that might be able to assist them.
- There have been some successes with Government asking for 'shovel ready' projects which have already provided some additional funding to Council.
- It will probably take another 3 months to get another image of what is going on. There will surveys, discussions with industry, more information from Infometrics and from there a better picture of what needs to be done.
- In order to get a Sounds perspective, Neil suggested that if members are noticing changes in their local economies, is there a new 'normal' in the Sounds, differences in bach use, different groups using or not using the Sounds as a destination, and so on, he would be open to members emailing him direct on: neil.henry@marlborough.govt.nz
- Recent information from Infometrics is that their predictions done in April have been revised and they are now saying that the impact will still happen but it will be later, that is, it may not be as bad in the next 9 months as they thought it would be, but it may take another 9 months longer to recover at the end of it. There is a huge impact hidden at the moment which will become more apparent over the next 6 months.

9. Post Covid Recovery Update – Alan Johnson (MDC)

- Alan gave an update on environmental projects, attached as **Appendix 1**.
- During lockdown Government announced a \$1.3 billion funding and asked for 'shovel ready' environmental projects. This is about jobs, putting money into the environment as well as infrastructure. The first slide is about where the funds are in different agencies. (This is not easily read in the appendix unless using x400.)
- The Government has already made announcements about where some of the money is going but there is still a lot to be applied to the community and stakeholders. Some of the money will be phased out over 2020, 2021 and beyond.
- The \$200 million will be allocated to DoC and then distributed through the Kotahitanga Alliance, who will be the lead for the Jobs for Nature. They will allocate the funds to various alliances that will be set up around the country. The Top of the South already has an alliance in place Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance formed by all of the Councils, the eight Iwi of Te Tau Ihu and DoC.
- During the lockdown, Alan's team put together a set of proposals for 'shovel ready' environmental projects. Priorities were to submit projects that were existing 'shovel ready'; were in the Environment Plan or community plans already in place and could be scaled up. Proposals put forward for Government funding were: predator control around SNAs; key ecosystem sites and some in the Sounds; biosecurity wilding conifer control outside the scope of the existing programme; SNAs and wetland protection which was seen as underfunded and needing further resourcing; land management catchment care; Te Hoiere Project and coastal process including multibeam data interpretation of Pelorus and more multibeam work.
- Some decisions have been received, including funding (\$3.7 million out of a potential \$13.9 million over the next 4 years) for wilding conifer control most of which is for South Marlborough, but some also for the Marlborough Sounds. (Slide 2 of presentation.)
- MfE have allocated funds for the catchment care programme (total cost \$1.75 million over 5 years) for work in degraded catchments such as Are Are Creek, Linkwater and Tuamarina. All the programmes are co-ordinated partnership programmes.

11.40 am Steve Murrin joined the meeting

- NMIT are looking at training young people coming out of college to work in the Jobs for Nature Programme.

- Any potential projects – speak with Alan.

10. Te Hoiere Project – Heli Wade Project Manager

- Heli gave a presentation, attached as **Appendix 2**, the Indicative Business Case Summary, attached as **Appendix 3** and the Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project Newsletter #1, July 2020, attached as **Appendix 4**.
- This project has been going on for a few years and with Heli's employment in March this year, is being driven forward. An Indicative Business Case was developed which outlines the strategic background. The attached Appendix 3 gives a good understanding of what is happening with the project. The lead agencies are Marlborough District Council, DoC and Ngati Kuia with support from MPI and MoE who sit in the governance group established in June 2020.
- The project is about identifying the issues and involving the community and having their participation from the start. The community is starting to be involved now with the first community meeting held at the Havelock Hall on Thursday. 106 community members turned up which was a fantastic response.
- Any questions or want to get involved in project next steps please contact Heli at email address: heli.wade@marlborough.govt.nz.

11. Marlborough Roads Update – Steve Murrin

- Generally Council's policy is that signage for a bay will occur if there is public beach access in that bay. Alternatively DoC will also do signposting.
- There has been a new contract for Marlborough Roads which commenced on 1 April 2020. It is a 50/50 joint venture between HEB and Fulton Hogan, with about 50 people.
- Lucan Orchard manages the network north of the Wairau River and the Sounds has been split into two zones; Picton (including Queen Charlotte Drive, Kenepuru, Port Underwood area) and the Pelorus (including Pelorus, Rai Valley, French Pass, Tennyson Inlet). There are cyclic crews operating in both zones.
- A requirement of the contract is that 30% of the work is undertaken by local contractors.
- Still responsible for bridges and all Council owned jetties, besides roading.
- Any problems with maintenance can be reported to: adminsadmin@marlboroughroads.com or admin@marlboroughroads.com or alternatively ring 0800 213 213.
- Kenepuru Road is short of gravel – this will be rectified shortly.
- French Pass Road above McLaren Bay Road – WSP Geotech looking at it now and Steve hoping for an affordable design before Christmas.
- The Marlborough Roads office is taking on two new staff, a network manager and a planner. There is a lot more strategic planning and programming going to happen with the new team. Strategic planning is something they have struggled with in the past. The new planner will be looking at the whole of the district.

12. Monitoring Enforcement – Gina Ferguson (MDC)

- There is a regional special interest group for compliance and monitoring in New Zealand, made up of regional and unitary authorities. Council compliance managers and some staff attend this about twice a year. Through this they have worked on Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Activity (CME) Best Practise within New Zealand. One of the initiatives rolled out was audit by peer review of everyone's CME which involves two different Councils auditing another Council and providing a report and giving feedback. This audit process has been rolled out through the country. Marlborough's report card from this audit process has been very good. This audit looked at process of how CME is done, training, record keeping, enforcement practises, and investigation and so on.

- MfE were capturing information that all Councils do with regard to resource consenting, monitoring of consents, enforcement action etc. Comparisons between Councils using these statistics are difficult because the group didn't feel they were capturing a full picture. The special interest group started running their own CME report which has been done twice now. It gathers similar data as the Ministry but in a way that makes it more comparable.
- The latest full report can be viewed at: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/CME-Metrics-Report-2018-19.pdf>.
- There is a strategic monitoring programme in Marlborough. Not all consents are monitored, priorities are based on risk. Risk is based on the potential environmental risk, whether there is any NES or regional direction that might drive the monitoring; the public expectation; compliance history; and so on. At the moment forestry is number one; others include dairying, winery waste water, marine farms, New Zealand King Salmon. The monitoring strategy is reviewed every couple of years.
- There are QA panels (panel of peers) that review non-compliance decisions, look at what has occurred, the effects, the recommendation and then support the decision or recommend an alternate decision. Where there is an escalation to Court, there is an enforcement and prosecution committee that makes the decision which includes an independent legal counsel from Wellington. These processes are put in place to try to keep a separation not just for Council but also providing consistency in a proportionate response to enforcement across all matters being dealt with.
- There are reports on enforcement that go to Environment Committee on a regular basis and are available on the MDC website.

Clr Oddie joined the meeting

Lunch 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm

13. SNA Programme – Terrestrial, Pete Hamill (MDC)

- Pete's presentation is attached as **Appendix 5**.
- The Significant Natural Areas Programme (SNA) is a voluntary programme. When a habitat looks like it would meet the significance criteria, an approach is made to the landowner. They may choose to have nothing to do with the programme in which case Council just moves on. There has been a reasonable success rate with 75 to 80 percent over the period and an increasing participation over the years. All information is held confidential between Council and the landowner.
- There is a set of assessment criteria which is ranked by an ecologist to determine whether it is an SNA. The purpose is to identify, protect and carry on into perpetuity, the SNA. When identified there is Council funding which is used for enhancement and protection.

1.10 pm Richard Cunningham joined the meeting

1.12 pm Councillor Taylor joined the meeting.

14. SNA Programme – Marine Coastal Area, Oliver Wade (MDC)

- Oliver talked about the findings from the programme this year. Monitoring is usually done through the latter half of the summer. Monitoring in the field this year to identify new sites was limited with the advent of Covid.
- The report for the year can be found at: https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Significant%20Marine%20Sites%20Monitoring%20Update%20List/Significant_Marine_Sites_Monitoring_Report_2020.pdf
- 13 new sites were identified throughout Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui and Tory Channel. Only two were physically visited. Using multibeam data collected a couple of years ago and bathymetry data were able to better delineate the edges of the sites more effectively than was previous. This led to an increase to the level of information.

- NIWA are doing further work to identify areas where there are going to be significant marine sites and there is further information being collected in the Pelorus Sound. Funding is being requested from Central Government for further work.
- The SNA is being reviewed this winter, and will be looking at ways to incorporate the multibeam data, how to use new data types to determine new sites. In addition will be looking at whether the SNA Marine Site Programme is going to meet the needs to implement the new Marlborough Environment Plan.
- The SNA Marine Programme does take into account some of the estuaries, not all. Part of an estuary might be a significant marine site, part might be a significant wetland in the freshwater sense and part might be a SNA. There may be overlaps, and this needs to be reviewed.

1.27 pm Jane Tito joined the meeting

15. Three Waters – Richard Coningham (MDC)

- This is a Government reform resulting from the Havelock North water infection of campylobacter.
- In the last 6 months there has been national restructuring of three waters – water supply, sewerage and stormwater with current concentration on water supply and sewerage. Legislation has been put through to put in a new regulator with much stronger powers than the water assessors have had previously.
- There is a new definition of water supply under the new drinking water standards. Previously a population of 25 or more would be classed as a small water supply. The new regulations are that if there is a bore or water supply out of the ground wherever it is coming from that is supplying more than one household it would be classed as a water supply and that community would then fall under the new drinking water regulations.
- Government are aware of smaller private communities around the country (similar to those in the Sounds). The response when brought to their attention, is these smaller communities will be dealt with further down the track. The next three years there will be focus on municipal supplies.
- Part of the restructuring is that five to six publicly owned water companies will be established across the country and Council assets will be merged into those groupings. In those groupings will be a larger metro which will help subsidize costs for smaller schemes. It is expected these companies will be formed by mid-2023.

1.45 pm Ned Wells left the meeting

- Cllr Taylor added that this in effect is a nationalisation of assets. There has been a lot of feedback by Councils to central Government. There is an opportunity for Councils to opt out, but the Government will more than likely incentivise funding for these entities, which means ratepayers would be going it alone if they opt out. For ratepayers it is a matter of significance so will have to go out for consultation. Councils would be trading assets for a shareholding in the companies.
- More information is available on the Department of Internal Affairs website: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme>

1.50 pm Richard Coningham left the meeting

16. Freedom Campers – Jane Tito (MDC)

- If having issues around freedom campers, please call Council on 03 572400. You will be put on to a ranger or contractor.
- There will be no cross-warranting between DoC and Council.
- If unsure about whether DoC or Council is responsible for a particular area, call Council on the above number to find out.

- The Freedom Camping Council By-law is going out on Thursday and is open for submissions from 7 August closing on 7 September. The Statement of Proposal, Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2020 and other information is on the website and submissions can be made on-line at the following address: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/bylaws/freedom-camping-bylaw-2012/proposed-freedom-camping-bylaw-2020/?ed-step=1>

1.55 pm Alec McNeil joined the meeting

- Some central Government funding was available to employ an independent expert to do a full review of freedom camping in Marlborough. This was to ensure there was going to be a balanced review. That report and the site assessment report, data etc will become available on the website when the bylaw is notified. Not all recommendations made in the report were adopted.
- Central Government are going to do a review of the Freedom Camping Act next year.

2.00 pm Jane Tito left the meeting

17. Land Transitional Fund – Eric Jorgesson

- Eric attended the Planning and Finance Committee meeting to support the concept around the sustainable Land Transitional Fund which was well received. The initial proposal for three stages has been pared back to two stages. Initial funding of \$50 K was received from Council.
- This work will support Te Hoiere Project and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao strategy.
- MPI have made contact to team up to do this work.
- Next steps will be to sit down with Council to discuss how to progress this.
- Eric thanked Alan and Clr Faulls for progressing this issue after the February meeting.

18. Green Waste – Alec McNeil (MDC)

- Linda advised that with the closing of the green waste disposal facilities for the Penzance community there have been increased instances of waste being dumped over the side of the road. She understands that options are being investigated, but in the interim she urged Council to make dumping facilities available at the Rai Valley Refuse Station.
- There is no private, Council or DoC land available in Penzance Bay suitable for a burning site. She requested that a portable commercial mulcher funded by Council travelling around the Sounds visiting smaller communities with road access on monthly basis would solve the problem. Enquiries with Marlborough Tree Care, a commercial operator from Blenheim suggests it could be workable.
- It is believed that unless some solution is found there will be an abundance of domestic flowers and weeds throughout the Tennyson reserve. Linda believes this also applies to Duncan Bay.
- Alec suggested that even if Council provided a service at a cost, the same behaviour of dumping will more than likely continue. The behaviour of those dumping needs to change rather than looking at whose responsibility it is. Clr Taylor reinforced that solutions can be found but this will involve a rating cost.
- A new 6 year waste plan with strategic direction is being drafted for the Long Term Plan. This should reflect conversations that have been had with the community. More information to be released in the next month about part one of the consultation and that is the opportunity to put views forward.

2.35 pm Alec McNeill left the meeting

19. .DoC Update - Kaja Vetter

- Kaja's update is attached as **Appendix 6**.

20. General Discussion (other items)

Goats on Ronga Saddle and southern side of Okiwi Bay – Rob Schuckard

Rob brought up the issue of goats at the last meeting in February. The goats are now in vicinity of Elaine Bay turnout. Kaja will follow this up with DoC.

DoC have limited resources for carrying out goat control, however, the department is looking at coordinating goat control in bays using the Deer Stalkers Association.

Action 2 above – Judy Hellstrom

Judy brought up the issue of the letter sent by Council and DoC to ratepayers regarding driving across the wetlands. The letter has not been effective and behaviour has worsened with about six quadbike events each day. There are a number of people who live in the bay who are not ratepayers and unless the Council and/or Doc are prepared to have a face to face with the offenders, nothing will happen.

The Russians community celebration – Judy Hellstrom

A local Picton Russian resident called Sergei wants a celebration of the 200th anniversary of Fabian Bellingshausen's visit to New Zealand in 1820. He is keen to bring the Russian Navy training ship to New Zealand early next year for a celebration. Volunteer/s are wanted to work with Sergei and the wider Russian community to help make an event happen.

Open Ocean Aquaculture – Eric Jorgesson

Eric attended a working group for 2 days in Nelson to develop guidelines and monitoring regimes. He was concerned with the apparent lack of strategic planning and complementary guidelines and wanted to bring this to Council's attention.

Clr Faulls suggested Eric document his thoughts on this issue and send them to the Sounds Ward Councillors for on-sending to the Chief Executive and Mayor.

3.00 pm Judy left the meeting

3.05 pm Linda left the meeting

Coastal Erosion – Vic Koller

Clr Faulls advised she had received a letter from Peter Standish and has forwarded this on to find out what is likely to happen. Vic advised some Sounds residents would like to help out more with this issue but have been advised that they are not to do so as it would more than likely not be compliant. Some Best Practise guidelines would be helpful.

New Cellphone Tower – Tim Greenhough

The new cellphone tower in Okiwi Bay is G4 and has to be for G4 compatible phones. G3 is needed as well.

SAG Review – Alan Johnson

To be discussed next meeting. Some work is being done on the SAG review. An early draft will be sent out before the next meeting and Alan will welcome any comments/feedback.

Proposed Dates for meetings in 2020

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 November 2020.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

Actions from the Previous Meeting – 17 February 2020 – not discussed on account of lack of time.

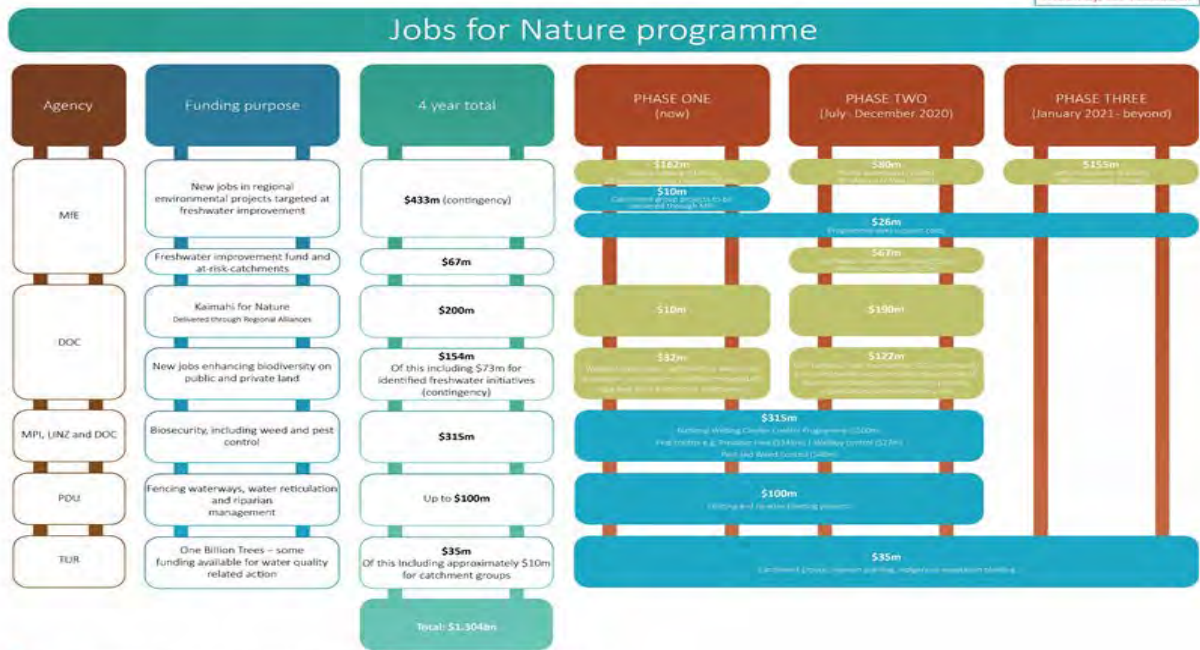
	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Provide an update on the SNA Programme and how to determine an SNA and the role of Council and DOC in relation to these areas.	Oliver
2.	Talk to David Hayes about a letter to residents of Endeavour Inlet (and possibly Queen Charlotte Track) regarding driving across the wetlands.	Alan/David Hayes
3.	Invite Policy team member to provide an update on NZCPS. (Deferred until post MEP notification.)	Alan
4.	Meet with other Ward Councillors, Christine McNeil (Waste Management Plan) and Council staff to develop a template for small Sounds communities to remedy their waste management issues.	Barbara
5.	Set up a meeting with DOC and MDC staff (Jane Tito of Parks and Reserves) to discuss how the community should respond when freedom campers are in a prohibited area. Who should they contact? Should rangers be cross-warranted? How to determine what area is DOC and what is MDC?	Margot/Barbara
6.	Follow up on the Aquaculture Review working group members grievances and email them before the next meeting.	Barbara
7.	Speak to Steve Murrin about signage for the bays, similar to that used up to Port Underwood.	Barbara
8.	Follow up Linda's correct address – Duncan Bay v Tennyson Inlet.	Barbara
9.	Sustainable Land Transition Fund – Barbara will find out what has occurred with this proposed work and let the members know.	Barbara/Alan
10.	Barbara will identify Council staff to meet with a small group headed by Eric to talk about Council process and feedback to project participants.	Barbara
11.	Determine possible venues for the two offsite meetings for SAG this year.	Alan/Barbara
12.	Enquire about SAG invitations to the launch of the MEP.	Alan
13.	Are Alerts being duplicated on the MDC website (along with Antenno)?	Barbara

Actions from the Meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Discuss with Pete Hamill and Alan Johnson re the possibility of Harbours doing water sampling in the Sounds	Clr Faulls
2.	Follow up eradication of goats on the Ronga Saddle	Kaja Vetter DoC

Appendix 1

Mock up for feedback



● Not subject to joint SLU Minister decision making as already within an existing programme. Total: \$486 million
 ● Subject to joint SLU Minister decision making. Total: \$818 million

Jobs for Nature

MDC proposed 5 year environmental projects;

- Predator Control \$3.46 million
- Biosecurity (wilding pine control) \$1.090 million
- Biodiversity (SNA and wetlands protection) \$9.75 million
- Land Management (Catchment Care) \$3.3 million
- Te Hoiere Project \$4.9 million
- Coastal Multilbeam \$18.5 million

Jobs for Nature

- National wilding Conifer programme-\$13.9m
- Catchment Care Programme-\$1.7m (\$600k crown)
- Te Hoiere

Project Drivers

- ▶ *Exemplar Catchment* as part of the *'At-Risk Catchment'* programme.
- ▶ National and regional legislative and kaitiakitanga responsibilities.
- ▶ Working together to stop further degradation of the Te Hoiere/Pelorus



Forest & Bird
MARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
Ministry for Primary Industries
Department of Environment
LANDCARE
Ngāi Tahu

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project

A wide-angle photograph of the Te Hoiere/Pelorus River flowing through a lush, green forested valley. The river is surrounded by dense trees and rocky banks. The sky is clear and blue.

Te Hoiere/Pelorus River

Te Hoiere Project Outcomes

1. Ecological integrity of terrestrial, estuarine and river systems are maintained and enhanced.
2. Resilient, environmentally sustainable and thriving primary sectors.
3. Taonga are protected through partnerships – kotahitanga.
4. People and communities enjoy the well-being of the river.

Project Scope

The Hoiere Project seeks to bring people together to carry out landscape scale restorative actions to increase catchment health and put measures in place to prevent further degradation.



What's in it for the community?

- Build relationships within the community to bring about change in the catchments.
- Access to funded or part funded projects in your catchment.
- Enhance your catchment for now and into the future
- Community representation in the Project Steering Group

Project Next Steps

- Initiate Steering Group and Project Technical Advisory Panel.
- Run Sub-catchment coordinator training
- Form community based sub-catchment groups.
- Identify sub-catchment coordinators.
- Identify industry and community Champions
- Commence 'early win' project opportunities
- Start Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan development

PHASE 1

Te Hoiere/ Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project,

Indicative Business Case Summary

A landscape scale proposal focused on improving freshwater and land resources in Te Hoiere and Kaituna Rivers and Cullen Creek Catchments – ki uta ki tai

Case for change

Te Hoiere catchment has been identified as an exemplar catchment as a part of the MfE's 'At Risk Catchments' programme and by DOC as one of its 14 'high value' national sites.

The MDC seeks to meet its legislative responsibilities for water quality and Ngāti Kuia strives to implement their kaitiakitanga responsibilities associated with the catchment.

The current environmental quality of Te Hoiere catchment is good, but is deteriorating. This is evident in some of the sub-catchments, where water quality is being degraded, with impacts on the receiving environment; the Motuweka/Havelock Estuary suffers from sedimentation. The Project aims to tackle these problems before the state of the catchment is beyond repair.

Te Hoiere is a landscape with a rich cultural history, multiple stakeholders, a strong primary industry presence, a range of community and customary values and recreational uses. This Project seeks to bring people together to carry out landscape scale restorative actions to increase catchment health and put measures in place to prevent further degradation. Without engaging the local community, integrated management of the catchment will not be possible. Without the structure, direction and resources that the Project proposes, the communication needed to bring about large-scale changes, risks becoming diluted and ineffective.

Due to restricted Agency and Iwi resources, the Project partners alone cannot achieve the outcomes necessary to implement change. A collaborative approach is vital to improve whanaungatanga – the relationships required to reach mutually desirable catchment outcomes; where the pride of work effort and sense of belonging belongs to the people and future generations.

Strategic context

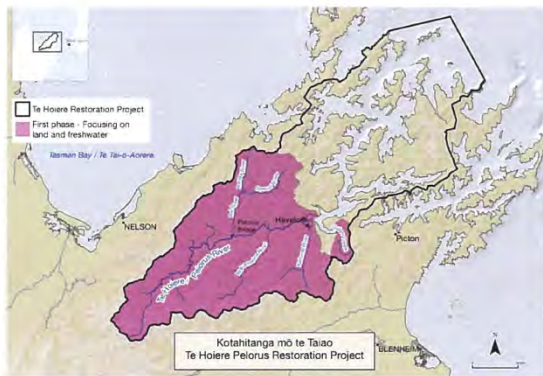
Te Hoiere Project is proposed under Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance umbrella; formed by all of the Councils, the eight Iwi of Te Tau Ihu (Top of the South) and the Department of Conservation.

The Project outcomes have been specifically developed by the Project Partners – Marlborough District Council, Department of Conservation and Ngāti Kuia, who share the leadership to take this proposal forward.

To achieve Project outcomes, a holistic and collaborative approach is proposed, to ensure community stakeholder involvement in planning and implementation.



Phase I Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment Restoration Project



What we want to achieve

Expected project benefits

Ecological integrity of terrestrial, estuarine and river systems are maintained and enhanced.	<p>Improved water quality through reduced sediment nutrient loading and bacteria concentrations.</p> <p>Te Hoiere habitats and ecosystems maintain their ecological structure and support thriving species and habitat biodiversity.</p> <p>The catchment has a strong Mauri (life energy) and Wairua (spirit and character).</p> <p>Social enrichment is experienced through increased opportunities to harvest kaimoana and aesthetic and recreational enjoyment of the rivers and estuary.</p> <p>Increased community commitment to enhancing catchment biodiversity, ecosystem and species health.</p>
Resilient, environmentally sustainable and thriving primary sectors.	<p>Improving economic returns, lower environmental footprints; sustainable industries and increased employment.</p> <p>Community partnerships increase business and community confidence and wellbeing.</p> <p>Economic sustainability of whānau on their land.</p> <p>Diversification of land use results in greater resilience of rural communities.</p> <p>Climate change mitigation implemented.</p> <p>Community partnerships create unique opportunities for increased returns and employment.</p>
Taonga are protected through partnerships - kotahitanga.	<p>The mana of iwi is strong and aligned with environmental resilience.</p> <p>Resources for traditional activities are available for customary harvest.</p> <p>The community are able to enjoy Te Hoiere for a range of uses, such as fishing and recreational pursuits.</p> <p>A strong Mauri (life energy) and Wairua (spirit and character) is felt and visible within the catchment.</p> <p>Awa (rivers) flow naturally Ki Uta Ki Tai (from the mountains to the sea).</p> <p>Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) guides taonga management to improve catchment hauora (health).</p>
People and communities enjoy the well-being of the river.	<p>The community develops stronger connections with the natural environment and takes an active role in the guardianship of Te Hoiere.</p> <p>Iwi customs, spiritual values and traditions are strengthened.</p>

How will we get there?

We will work together to create a connected and aligned catchment landscape (ki uta ki tai) that understands, protects, enhances, and future proofs our values, where healthy communities enrich nature, and healthy nature enriches its communities



Community members, partners and key stakeholders participating in an initial field trip to discuss Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project potential, August 2019

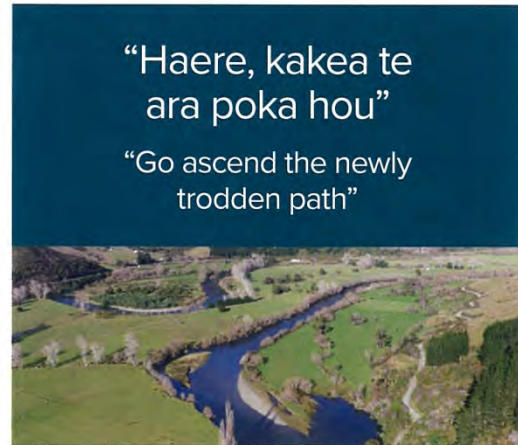
Options

A long list was assessed to determine the best course of action.

Option 1: Do nothing	Requires no action from Project Partners and no additional work.
Option 2: Do Minimum (Status quo)	Meets the minimum requirements of the regulatory agencies. Remedial action only occurs on land where landowners willingly engage and is largely self-funded. Biodiversity protection work is maintained at current levels of operation.
Option 3: Partial Restorative Change	Current knowledge used to establish the extent of restoration work required to meet the Project outcomes. Land based mitigation based on farm planning and self-regulation. Biodiversity work expands on current protection programmes. Community engagement is directed at restoration of specific areas and/or values.
Option 4: Targeted Restorative Change	Modern tools are used to identify problem areas; with community engagement is targeted towards restoration efforts. Catchment plan focuses on problem areas only. Water quality is improved from present levels, with greater protection of biodiversity. Some taonga species are reintroduced to the catchment.
Option 5: Integrated Restorative Change	Offers a combination of partial, targeted and complete restorative change (preferred way forward)
Option 6: Complete Restorative Change	Focuses on entire catchment Ki uta ki Tai – from the mountains to the sea. All productive land receives high quality planning advice redesign.

Option 5: Integrated Restorative Change – the recommended and preferred way forward, offers a combination of Partial, Targeted and Complete Restorative Change options. In short, this solution seeks to:

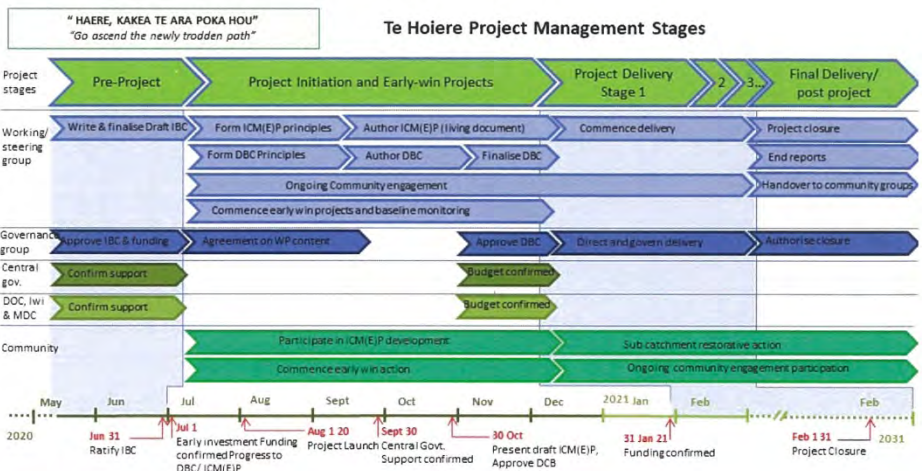
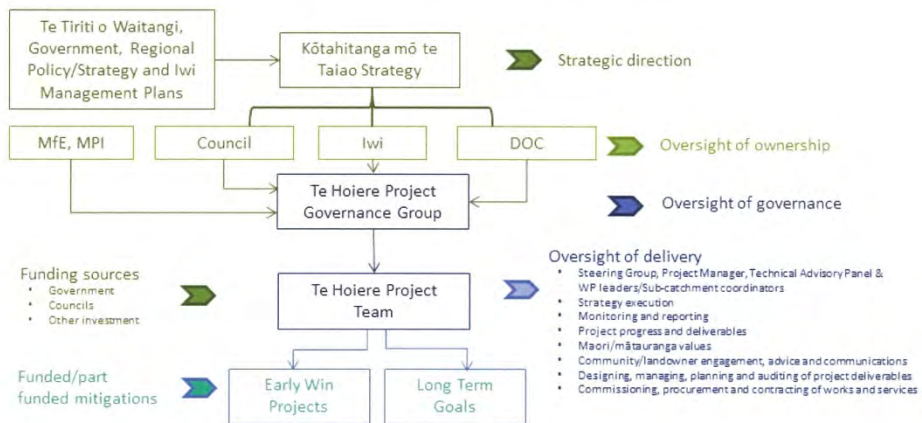
- Engage extensively with communities, partners and key stakeholders to maximise participation in the Project and ensure the realisation of community and cultural benefits into the future;
- Develop an Integrated Catchment Management Enhancement Plan to identify issues, capture the management strategies and objectives, record baseline information and measure the success of associated activities;
- Engage in a series of 'early win' projects on the ground, to provide immediate benefits to the community, economy and environment;
- Employ mitigation measures, which are underpinned by sound baseline analysis of catchment water quality and current state of health; this will lead to improvements in catchment management;
- Develop a suite of spatial tools to provide empirical evidence that mitigation measures have high likelihood of success, as demonstrated through the Project;
- Capitalise on the early wins through a series of longer-term restoration projects; these projects will include expansion of existing biodiversity work and re-introduction of taonga species; and
- Provide sound national leadership via a series of collaborative exemplar projects.



“Haere, kakea te ara poka hou”
“Go ascend the newly trodden path”

Project management and Governance arrangements

Te Hoiere Project is complex, with a wide array of Project Partners, stakeholders and community members – all participating in planning and delivery, as well as receiving the benefits of the project outcomes, according to kotahitanga. The management approach will allow for multi user contributions, coupled with robust and established lines of authority. This will ensure the Project achieves agreed objectives on time, and to an agreed standard.



Financial case – indicative costs

Example Targeted Mitigations	\$ over 10 years	Funding Sources
Phase 1 - Terrestrial, Freshwater, Estuary		
Water quality monitoring	\$892,824	MfE, MDC
Soil monitoring for erosion and nutrient management	\$259,715	MfE, MDC
Catchment condition survey	\$397,500	MfE, MDC
Cultural Sites Mapping/baseline assessments	\$271,700	DOC, Iwi
Transformative farm planning and re-design.	\$354,198	Fonterra, MPI, MDC
GIS Spatial tool analysis	\$583,489	MfE, MDC, DOC
Automated Native Nursery	\$5,812,318	NKT, DOC
Fencing (Cultural, SNA, Wetland and Riparian)	\$2,372,070	MDC, DOC, MPI
Predator & Browser control (Rats, mustelids and ungulates)	\$2,932,649	DOC, MDC, NGO
Weed control (Wilding pines, vines, other pest species)	\$2,814,911	DOC, MDC, NGO
Eco Sourcing & Restoration Planting	\$3,029,570	NKT, DOC, NGO, 1BT
Production Forestry Environmental Impact Improvements	\$993,310	Forestry, MDC, MPI
Estuary Enhancements	\$706,303	MDC, DOC, FNZ
Infrastructure/Access Improvements	\$1,171,658	MDC, MBIE, NZTA, DOC
Phase 2 - Receiving Coastal Marine and Sounds		
Coastal Marine Outer Sounds Multibeam	\$2,000,000	MDC, DOC, FNZ
Marlborough Sounds Coastal Marine (Spatial tools and interpretation)	\$11,500,000	MDC, LINZ
Coastal Marine Enhancements	\$1,056,973	MDC, DOC, FNZ
Backbone Project Team Costs (Governance/Steering Groups, Project Manager/Administrator, Work Programme Leads, Technical Advice, Communications and community engagement)	\$4,631,000	MDC, DOC, MfE, MPI
Total:	\$41,780,188	

What the future looks like?

The extraordinary natural heritage of Te Hoiere is flourishing, with large areas restored. Ngā taonga are managed and protected through partnerships – kotahitanga.

People live, care for, and benefit from the environment in ways that bolster terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecology and the communities that live within them.



Te Hoiere/Pelorus River at Totara Flat



Appendix 4

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Project Newsletter #1, July 2020

**The next community event is on 30 July at 7.00 pm
in the Havelock Town Hall
Come along to the project update and hear about
the baseline monitoring studies that are
underway in the catchment**

Project update

Te Hoiere/Pelorus Landscape Restoration Project is starting to gain some traction on the ground since the budget announcement on 6 December 2019. **The Project is a landscape scale proposal focused on improving freshwater, land and community resources - ki uta ki tai - 'from the mountains to the sea'**. Through using a holistic and collaborative approach, the Project's focus is on addressing land use derived issues and achieving wider conservation goals that have environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits. For further details please look through the brochure included with this newsletter.

Over the past few months we have been through an extensive scoping stage for the Project to secure central government funding, and we are finally in a place where we can begin our community engagement activities in earnest. More information on the Project can be found on our new website at <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/te-hoiere-pelorus-catchment-restoration-project>

One of the first steps identified in the initial community engagement in August last year was to start baseline monitoring in the catchment. Baseline monitoring is recognised as a priority action to identify the areas that need work, but also for us to be able measure successes from everyone's efforts, as we start enhancing the catchment with you.

In response to this we are developing a **baseline water quality monitoring programme**, funded by the Ministry for the Environment, to analyse water quality in the upper and lower catchments across all key tributaries. This study will help us develop a full picture of the catchment condition and fairly attribute potential water quality issues to their sources. The sites selected for the study will incorporate all land uses, including native catchment, forestry, dairying, low intensity grazing and urban inputs. We will be contacting landowners seeking permission to cross their properties when the proposed monitoring sites are on private land. The study will consist of monthly monitoring over a 12-month period.

We are also conducting catchment condition surveys to map the terrestrial state of the lower catchment. You may have already seen people in the catchment talking to landowners and the community.

The **Long-Tailed Bat/Pekepeka Project** that Forest & Bird have been working on at the Pelorus Scenic Reserve since 2010 has received a boost in funding as part of the post COVID-19 funding initiatives. The funding could extend the area of the predator control network, expanding on the Ronga Reserve plantings and tackling some of the serious weed issues in the reserves and alongside the river. Forest & Bird has worked closely with the community for some time now and is keen to network this into the Te Hoiere Project.

Cultural footprint mapping and research on the historic state of the environment has been undertaken by Ngāti Kuia.

We continue to explore the possibilities for a **native plant nursery** in the catchment and other initiatives to bring innovative jobs back to the area, focusing on low impact, sustainable and high quality products from native plants and bee products.



Project next steps

1. Form **community based sub-catchment groups**. How these will unfold will largely depend on what you, the community, key stakeholders and partners want to achieve. Actions identified by the sub-catchment groups will form the principles of an 'Integrated Catchment Management Enhancement Plan'.
2. Identify **sub-catchment coordinators**. There are up to 10 paid part-time positions proposed, with training taking place towards the end of this year. Two sub-catchment coordinators would also sit on the Project Steering Group.
3. Identifying **industry and community champions** to represent the different interests in the catchment and to represent those various interests within the Project Steering Group.
4. Commence **'early win' project opportunities** to utilise the infrastructure fund and soften the economic impact from COVID-19 in the short term. These projects feed into the longer term project goals and outcomes and could include:
 - Weed control programmes
 - Immediate action identified from the catchment condition surveys (fencing, critical source areas, problem weeds, etc)
 - Stock number surveys
 - Winter grazing monitoring and advice
 - Regenerative agricultural training and training in soils, nutrient management, farm planning and biodiversity, for farmers and landowners
 - Fencing wetlands and riparian areas
 - Soil moisture probes on farms

- Fertiliser and irrigation management planning on farms
- Native nursery establishment
- Riparian plantings
- Extension of the Long-Tailed Bat Monitoring Programme; and
- Marlborough Sounds' coastal marine spatial tools and interpretation.

If you want to participate on any of these actions in the coming months, get in touch with Project Manager Heli Wade at heli.wade@marlborough.govt.nz

Information evening, Havelock

We value community involvement that is open and honest and would like to continue to make sure that the Project intentions are well communicated. Please come along to **Havelock Town Hall on Thursday 30 July at 7.00 pm** to hear more about the Project, the baseline monitoring that is happening in the catchment and ask any questions you may have.

Further engagement events, talks and community drop-in sessions, as well as the Project's official launch event, are planned for the coming months - watch this space!

Project survey

And finally, to have your say, please **fill in the project survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJD3BDR> so we can start building an understanding of the things you think are important in Te Hoiere/Pelorus, Kaituna and Cullen Creek Catchments.

The results from the survey will feed into the Te Hoiere Integrated Catchment Management Enhancement Plan and serve as the starting point for further discussions, in order to build an action plan for Te Hoiere/Pelorus Catchment.



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mo te Taiao

NZ LANDCARE TRUST



Ngāti Kūia
Te Iwi Pukāke

Appendix 5



Background

- Since 2001
 - Extensive field based ecological surveys
 - Private land

Highlights of SNA Programme 2020

- 10,000ha of new SNAs identified this year.
- MDC has invested over \$1million to improve condition of SNAs since 2003; \$120,000 spent in 2020.
- This helped leverage another \$2million from landowners and others, including \$200,000 in 2020.

Wildlands Consultants External Review 2017 Recommendations

- Legal Protection of SNAs
 - New 70ha QEII Covenant over rare coastal limestone and dune habitat.
 - Nine of the 25 projects funded in 2019/20 were protected, with \$24,376 spent by Council.
 - Covenants are actively promoted, and protection status of SNAs is reported on annually.
 - Covenanted SNAs = 74
 - 5 new covenants over 200ha being processed



Needles Point Covenant

- Targeted ecological restoration in threatened land environments.
 - Agreement reached with landowners at Lake Elterwater to fence stock from the lake edge.
 - Eleven wetlands received funding for weed control and restoration in Marlborough.
 - Spinifex plants are ready to plant on the East Coast dunes this spring.



- Target sites in the EDs with the least native cover (Kekerengu, Flaxbourne, Grassmere and Blenheim), as well as inland Marlborough.
 - Restoration of Lake Elterwater in Kekerengu ED and two other wetlands in Blenheim ED.



- Continue to engage with landowners in relation to having SNAs and managing the threats on them.
 - 10 new SNAs on Upper Awatere station
 - 3 properties with greatly expanded SNA boundaries in the Sounds and Wairau Valley
 - 30 SNAs with current Assistance Programmes



- Target sites on Pallic Soils (eg dry soils from the Wairau south)
 - Targeted weed control: maritime pines at Ward Beach and marram grass on Spinifex sites along the East Coast near Marfells Beach and Cape Campbell.



- Identify ecological corridors and target potential SNAs and restoration areas within them.
 - The new Zonation based Biodiversity Prioritisation System developed for MDC recognises and prioritises the value of habitat linkages and corridors.
 - Four properties resurveyed to include ecological corridors naturally regenerated since initial survey which now link SNAs.



Threatened Land Environments

- Dunelands and wetlands
 - Marfells Beach – Marram control
 - Needles Point – Covenant and pine control
 - Lake Elterwater – Fencing and willows
- Huge opportunities to restore these important places.



Spinifex seedball providing micro habitat for juvenile katipo spider



No room for spinifex here

Appendix 6

Department of Conservation Activities and Issues of Interest.

Prepared for Sounds Advisory Group meeting 3 August 2020.

Recreation

- The Meretoto/Ships Cove septic system has been upgraded to cope with the gradual increase in numbers of people visiting this site. Unfortunately, this couldn't happen when planned due to Covid 19 and had to be done during the wetter months. This means that we will not be able to fully reinstate the grass area until early Spring.
- Staff had relatively minor work to do Post-Covid with the majority of recreation facilities receiving no to minimal use during lockdown. Good weather meant only a few windfalls to clear off tracks.
- More of our campsites are now on the national booking system so this should lead to an easier service for campers as well as helping to reduce the amount of cash that we handle.

Biodiversity.

- Considerable effort has gone into planting at Moawhitu reserve on D'Urville Island as part of the wetland restoration project being managed with Ngati Koata. Over 3000 plants have gone in so far this season with two more planting days planned. Plans are underway to address a recurring algal bloom situation in the dune impounded lake.
- Our hunters have spent time on goat control in the Mt Stokes and Tennyson Inlet areas. They have also targeted pigs within the reserve area at the northern end of Arapaoa Island.
- Weed control has concentrated on sites on Te Pakeka/Maud Island, Long Island and Oruawairua/Blumine Island. Weeds such as Perriwinkle and Old Mans Beard have been the targets.
- Members of the public have continued to report evidence of higher than usual deer numbers, especially in the Queen Charlotte Sound. Staff report similar evidence such as well grazed picnic and campsites with trimmed vegetation around the edges. Deer are back on Oruawairua/Blumine Island and 3 have been removed recently with several more to go.
- GPS trackers have been fitted to more King Shags to bring the total to around 20 now. One hundred birds have now been banded. This will contribute to an improvement in our overall understanding of this species.
- The annual rat monitoring work on D'Urville Island has been completed with usual numbers of Kiore and mice monitored.

Community

- We have not been successful yet in replacing the leases at Titirangi Farm Park. It is our intention to still provide for camping and bookings at the Shearers Quarters accommodation over the coming Spring and Summer months with interim grazing arrangements in place.
- Staff have visited approximately 75% of the sites that have a Sounds Foreshore Reserve Permit. This is to check what is in place compared to what is on the permit before these permits are renewed in December. We are finding a growing list of things that will need to be addressed as part of this process.