

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Nicole Chauval

Annual Plan Consultation Document submissions
Marlborough District Council

PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

Email: nicole.chauval@marlborough.govt.nz

Ross Withell

President KCSRA

*2725 Kenepuru Road
RD 2*

Picton 7282

email: president@kcsra.org.nz

WWW: kcsra.org.nz

2 May 2016

Dear Nicole

Submission to Marlborough District Council 2016 Annual Plan – Campervan Discharge Station.

This submission is made on behalf of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association.

Who we are

The Association was established in 1991 and currently has over 230 household members whose residents live full time or part time in the Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds. The Association's objects include, among others, to coordinate dealings with central and local government and promote the interests of residents of Kenepuru Sound and adjacent areas and to promote and act in the best interests of residents, ratepayers and persons associated with the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area. AGMs of the Association are well attended.

Background

The pride New Zealanders exhibit in their clean, green and wonderful marine, freshwater and bush environments is well known. By way of example the MDC often promotes the Marlborough region using stunning photo shots of the Sounds and its environs in its publications. In turn Central Government and the Tourism industry are very excited as overseas-based tourists succumb to these and other publicity images and promises and flock to our shores in ever increasing numbers (over 3 million per annum at last count).

The Tourism industry is encouraging our overseas visitors to self-drive through New Zealand and they are heeding the message as the increase in campervans and similar on our roads attest.

It is clear we are good at attracting visitors, what is less clear is how good we are at providing basic infrastructure. The Association believes that many visitors to the Sounds come in campervans or similar for more than a day trip. The lack of basic infrastructure to adequately provide for basic

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| President | Ross Withell |
| Vice President | Andrew Caddie |
| Secretary | Brenda Sutton |
| Treasurer | Stefan Schulz |
| Chairman Roving Committee | Robin Bowron |

president@kcsra.org.nz
vicepresident@kcsra.org.nz
secretary@kcsra.org.nz
treasurer@kcsra.org.nz
roving@kcsra.org.nz

human needs around waste disposal needs to be addressed at many levels – we address one area in this submission.

Submission

Issue: Camper vans and lack of discharge of effluent facilities in the Mahau, Kenepuru and Outer Sound Area. The purpose of this submission is to seek an allocation of funding in order to identify and construct a waste dumping station situated closer to or in the Mahau Sound, Kenepuru and Outer Sounds Area.

The Situation: Over recent years the number of freedom campers and campervans using the Marlborough Sounds has increased dramatically. As noted Government has encouraged this both nationally and locally e.g. a recent DOC brochure, “Campsites”, shows 47 camp grounds in Marlborough, compared to 10 in Nelson/Tasman, and 10 in West Coast. Local DOC sources confirm that there has been a 100% increase in campground use in the last season. Clearly this promotional effort encourages tourists to Marlborough **but it** brings associated local infrastructure problems that **need addressing**.

One of the problems associated with campervan visitors is toilet waste and this issue is well documented New Zealand wide.

As we see it there are 2 main problems;

- **Campervans with Toilets - Dumping of Toilet Waste:** Rental van agencies insist on the holding tanks of vans to be clean when returned. Many holding tanks do not have a very large capacity. This leads to toilet waste being dumped on the side of the road due to a lack of dumping facilities or the occupants of the campervans do not use their toilets but use the bush or side of the road. Many campervans travel to the Mahau Sound, Kenepuru Sound and Outer Sounds via the Kenepuru Road. We submit that there is a pressing need for a Waste/Dumping station with water hosing facilities, to be developed by the MDC somewhere in this area for campervans.
- **Campervans without Toilets:** Small campervans have no toilets and their occupants are often seeking the least expensive options, so even staying at campgrounds with toilets are avoided. These vans should **have to** carry small portable toilets. These are effective and take little space. While there are dumping stations in Havelock, Picton and Blenheim, tourists often spend many days in the Outer Sounds area and need a dump station somewhere in that area. If there was a dumping station somewhere in the Kenepuru Road area, that was well identified, then it is much easier to encourage campervan users to use their campervan toilets/ portable toilets

Solution: An MDC operated waste dumping station situated closer to or in the Mahau Sound, Kenepuru and Outer Sounds Area and associated publicity as to its (and other such facilities) existence would be a long overdue start.

Conclusion

We believe that this project is of significance to residents and visitors to the Kenepuru Sound and Marlborough generally.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit the Association’s views and we would be pleased to speak to this submission at the proposed hearing.

Yours sincerely


Ross Withell

President

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association
c/- 2725 Kenepuru Road, RD 2, Picton 7282
Email president@kcsra.org.nz

cc The Mayor, Mr Hook, Mr Barsanti, Mr J Cunliff, c/- MDC