

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Annual Plan submissions
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6 May 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission One – Annual Plan 2019 – Outstanding Infrastructure Projects

This submission to the MDC Annual Plan 2019 is made on behalf of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association. We are a voluntary community organization with scarce resources that has nevertheless, since 1991, endeavoured to represent the interests of our many members (currently around 280, mainly household, members) on a variety of local issues. Among other things we look to identify areas where new infrastructure or upgrades of existing infrastructure in the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area is required.

This year we are not looking for new funding merely seeking to ring fence agreed funding so these basic infrastructure projects can continue to implementation.

Log Barge site to take pressure off Kenepuru Road

The start of this project goes back to 2014.

Members became alarmed at the increasing numbers of logging trucks on a road not designed to take such volumes. Council research suggests that in the next little while there could be as much as 500,000 tonnes due for market. There is no way the narrow and windy and hugely stressed Kenepuru Road is in a fit state to take such huge loads and heavy truck movements.

As a result of close work by the Association over a number of years with Council staff to establish the size and scale of the problem, the threat to both the stressed Kenepuru road and the health and safety of road users the Council agreed to put funding aside for a log barge site. Its purpose is to divert the projected increasing volumes of logging truck traffic away from the soft, narrow and windy Kenepuru Road.

This project has, unfortunately, stalled a little as Council staff were diverted away to other projects and/or the finding of one or more suitable sites proved problematic.

Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

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However we understand Council has now changed tack a little and has initiated dialogue with local foresters and forest owners as to the joint identification of two or more suitable sites. Media and other reports suggest the initial talks have been encouraging.

Whilst the Association holds its breath in anticipation we urge and submit accordingly that the money we have been long promised as having been set aside continues to be so ring fenced in this Annual Plan.

Sealing of a small section of Kenepuru Road

Some years back following repeated and extensive discussions and submissions with Council a sum was formally set aside for the sealing of a six km stretch of the Kenepuru Road between Taradale and Waitaria Bay.

For various reasons, for example difficulties experienced by Marlborough Roads in obtaining gravel, the project has been put back and back.

Naturally we became frustrated that planning for and organizing appropriate quantities of a basic and essential commodity for roading operations - aggregate (gravel) – had somehow fell down between the cracks. We may touch a little more on the governance shortcomings this operational failure represents at the hearing.

For now suffice to say we rolled up our sleeves and again worked closely with Marlborough Roads and Council staff to try and break this impasse by urging and encouraging the identification of a local source of gravel, obtaining the necessary resource consent and then facilitating the appropriate access agreement.

We understand that there is a good chance the work should happen this summer.

Accordingly, we submit that the allocation for funding of this project be retained in the Annual Plan.

Small Scale Road Maintenance in the Sounds

An ongoing source of intense frustration with committee members has been the apparent inability of the current contractual set up for the maintenance and upkeep of local roads to efficiently address small-scale roading maintenance jobs.

This seems particularly acute in more distant parts of the Sounds road network such as the Kenepuru Sound. The issue is that if the small jobs are not attended to, they escalate into large scale and costly jobs.

We were most encouraged when a plan was put forward for the current head roading contractor to form a dedicated Sounds Cyclic Road Crew so tasked. This is an excellent initiative from Council, which we **heartily applaud**. Whilst delivery has been patchy we have worked on that with Marlborough Roads and Council staff and feel these operational delivery problems are not insurmountable.

We have also worked with Marlborough Roads, other Sounds Resident Organizations, Council staff and Sounds Ward Councillors to retain the functional delivery of this excellent concept in the new up coming regional roading contract. Unfortunately we now understand this new contract will most likely not be in place until late in the first quarter of 2020.

This raises the question in the Association's mind as to how funding of the Sounds Cyclic Road Crew will be maintained in the interval between the expiry of the existing roading contract and the new one.

Accordingly, we submit that a sum be allocated for the retention of the Sounds Cyclic Road Crew in the Annual Plan to ensure the ongoing delivery of this much needed logical and economically efficient mechanism.

Upgrade at Te Mahia Jetty (Floating Jetty)

We were very pleased that our submission in 2018 for the urgent need to address real health and safety problems at this well used Jetty was taken seriously and funding allocated.

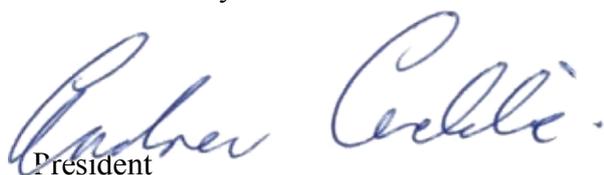
We have worked closely with Marlborough Roads as they have assessed the problem, commissioned design and costing studies and are now, we understand, working on obtaining the necessary resource consents.

Accordingly, we submit that the monies allocated for this important and well overdue upgrade be ring fenced and retained in this Annual Plan.

Attendance at Hearing

The Associations thanks the Council for the opportunity to make submissions on the 2019 Annual Plan. The Association wishes to talk to the above submissions at the hearing.

Yours sincerely



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