

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Annual Plan submissions
Marlborough District Council

PO Box 443

Blenheim 7240

Email: annualplan@marlborough.govt.nz

Andrew Caddie

President KCSRA

C/- PO Box 5054

Springlands

Blenheim 7241

email: president@kcsra.org.nz

WWW: kcsra.org.nz

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Dear Sir/Madam

Submission One – Annual Plan 2020 – Outstanding Infrastructure Projects

This submission to the MDC Annual Plan 2020 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. We would also like to take the opportunity to comment on the successful completion of some other Community Infrastructure projects.

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. At a policy level we also successfully ensured that Chapter 17 of the MEP (dealing with Transportation) now specifically refers to how the issue of transportation of harvested logs on unsuitable roads might be addressed.

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

Council then changed tack and initiated dialogue with local foresters and forest owners as to the joint identification of two or more suitable sites. Whilst Media and other reports suggest the initial talks have been encouraging NOTHING concrete has eventuated

The Association has become a little “blue in the face” holding its breath in anticipation!.

All jesting aside this project is long overdue to get going again. The money is there but it requires some application from the Executive.

We want to take the opportunity to urge Councillor’s to put their shoulder to the wheel and, COVID-19 notwithstanding, get this project moving again.

In the interim we urge and submit accordingly that the money we have been long promised as having being 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.

After many twists and turns (and some hard lessons forced on the Association about the need to assist Council in its basic road maintenance planning) we are very pleased to advise that this project was completed in the nick of time earlier this year.

Many thanks.

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 too 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 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 regional roading contract. Thanks to those efforts we are pleased to note that this has happened.

The Association is sufficiently battle hardened in these matters to realize we cannot assume that this will be a smooth roll out and continued diligence and liaison with Council Staff, Marlborough Roads and Councillor's on your the Assets and Services Committee will be required.

We urge Councillors not to let the COVID-19 crisis divert resources away from the rural sector and “overlook” the need to get the likes of the Sounds roading network back into a reasonable shape.

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 are now extremely pleased that this project has been successfully completed late last year as promised.

Thanks again Councillor's **for your support**.

Attendance at Hearing

The Associations thanks the Council for the opportunity to make submissions on the 2020 Annual Plan. The Association wishes to talk to the above submissions at the hearing.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Caddie

KCSRA

President

email: president@kcsra.org.nz