

# Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Long Term Plan submissions  
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Dear Sir/Madam

3 May 2021

## **Submission – Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031**

This submission concerns the MDC Consultation Document re the Long Term Plan 2021- 2031 and 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 260), 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.

Given the context of a Long Term Plan review (**LTP**) the Association is submitting on two matters of more than short-term importance. Namely:

- to ensure Council funds allocated for a vital piece of local infrastructure continue to be ring fenced; and
- the Councils obligations under the Marlborough Environment Plan to implement a plan of action to assess Climate Change risk on existing Council infrastructure.

## **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. There are also significant health and safety issues from any such proposal such that extensive remedial road works to mitigate the risks would be required,

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 for a variety of resource and technical reasons. Nevertheless we are pleased to see that the allocation for the project was at, 25 February 2021, still listed in the Council budget.

We appreciate the willingness of Councillor Maher – the Assets and Services Committee member responsible for barge sites - to engage with us. We want to take the opportunity to urge Councillor's to put their shoulder to the wheel and assist Councillor Maher and the Association in getting this project moving again.

In the interim we submit that the dedicated budget set aside for the purpose continues to be ring fenced going forward.

### **Climate change risk to existing Council Infrastructure**

A few years back the talk of the impact of Climate Change from rising sea levels became a more personal thing for the Association. We were required to work closely with Marlborough Roads to get a section of a threatened local unsealed road better protected and upgraded.

With this practical experience behind us we paid special attention to Climate Change issues as covered in the Marlborough Environment Plan.

As a result we argued for and achieved some changes to cover what we perceived as shortcomings. Thus a new Policy 19.2.2 was inserted to cover the need for Council to review and assess the risk to **existing** council coastal assets - such as roads. A new policy 19.2.3 was also inserted requiring Council to **active steps** to identify and prioritizes areas and assets under threat from inundation. This was backed up with a directive new Method of Implementation (19.M.10). This **requires** the development of an action plan by Council.

Accordingly when reviewing the current LTP consultation document we were initially heartened by various references to the need to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change on Council Infrastructure.<sup>1</sup>

However upon closer examination we were a little disappointed to see **no direct** reference as to how Council would or was going to meet its obligations as laid out in the MEP.

Accordingly, the Association **submits and urges** Councillor's to discuss this matter with Council staff and work to have a budget and other resources set-aside in the LTP to undertake this important work stream.

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<sup>1</sup> By way of example see page 6 and 30.

## Attendance at Hearing

The Association thanks the Council for the opportunity to make submissions on the Long Term Plan. The Association wishes to talk to the above submissions at the hearing.

Just to be clear we will also take the opportunity to brief Councillors at the hearing on other matters we have raised in previous AP submissions - such as the bedding in of the new region wide roading and maintenance contract.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Coddie".

President

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