

Media Statement

Potential loss of funding to repair Kenepuru Road damage “grossly inequitable”

Marlborough Roads, Waka Kotahi, and the Marlborough District Council are being “grossly inequitable” in wanting to re-allocate funding that was earmarked for the Kenepuru Road damage in July 2021 to repair wider Marlborough damage after the August 2022 storm event, residents say.

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents’ Association President Andrew Caddie says that delays by the Council and Marlborough Roads in repairing July 2021 storm damage to the Kenepuru Road and other areas meant that more than \$40 million had yet to be spent by the time the August 2022 storm arrived.

“It seems grossly inequitable that rather than continuing to carry out the repair schedule that Kenepuru Sounds residents were promised, the authorities are now proposing to re-allocate that money to other areas of Marlborough for repair work.

“The Kenepuru share of the money allocated to the July 2021 event should be used to finish those sites damaged in July 2021 first, as promised. The residents in the Kenepuru are under real stress and have been for some time. The suggestion that residents might now lose even light vehicle access along a 15 km strategic section of Kenepuru Road (between Moetapu Road and Portage) is a serious blow to the well being of the community”

Quick and relatively simple cleanups of obvious issues from the August 2022 event should be remedied, he said. That means clearing blocked culverts, re-directing water running across roads, and stopping further deterioration. Once that is done the more important (and complex) repairs from the July 2021 event should be carried out. This would go a long way to giving residents light vehicle and trailer access over the length of the Kenepuru Road.

“The Kenepuru area should also be allocated some new money to repair additional damage caused in August 2022 – such as for the repair of the important Waitaria Bay jetty and improved barge infrastructure ”.

He said the Residents’ Association was not after a “gold-plated solution” but rather a road that residents could legally use in light vehicles.

“That’s what we were promised last year.”

He said the Association was willing and able to help Marlborough Roads and Council devise and implement some common sense repair solutions that will be both effective and cost efficient.

Andrew Caddie

President

Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association