MIN-4148 Future Access Study

18 April 2023

The Minister's Office has asked for an update on the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- The Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study (MSFAS) is being led by Marlborough District Council (the Council). This study will inform the business case for Recovery of Transport System within the Sounds.
- The Council has so far received funding of $85.3 million following the July 2021 storm event and $3,450,467 following the February 2022 storm event. Before further funding is provided, the Council will undertake a Business Case (known as the MSFAS).
- The purpose of the study is to determine how a sustainable Transport System can be delivered in the Marlborough Sounds. It will consider all options from building back roads that are more resilient, to possibly abandoning roads and providing water-based access in the future. The study area has been broken down into 5 sub areas (French Pass, Pelorus, Kenepuru, Queen Charlotte Drive and Port Underwood).
- The study will access each sub area against a number of factors. These include the hierarchy of the road, the underlying geology and susceptibility of the geology to natural hazards, particularly climate change and storm events. The study will also consider environmental effects of proposed work programmes as well as economic and community wellbeing of each area if the levels of service are to be changed on a particular road.
- The study is progressing well, with the initial preferred programmes being presented to the Council on 18 April 2023. Following council approval of preferred programmes, council will consult with the affected communities through May and June 2023.
- As soon as possible following consultation, once a programme of works is agreed upon, the Council will submit a final recommendation to the Waka Kotahi Board.

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