

Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

Nicole Chauval

Annual Plan Consultation Document submissions
Marlborough District Council

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2 May 2016

Dear Nicole

Submission for Funding Allocation for Construction of a Barge Site and Associated Infrastructure - North Kenepuru – Roading Budget 2016

This submission is made on behalf of the Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association.

Who we are

The Association was established in 1991 and currently has over 230 household members whose residents live full time or part time in the Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds. The Association's objects include, among others, to coordinate dealings with central and local government and promote the interests of residents of Kenepuru Sound and adjacent areas and to promote and act in the best interests of residents, ratepayers and persons associated with the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area. AGMs of the Association are well attended.

Background

In late 2014 members of the Association became concerned at reports that at least one forest owner in the upper Kenepuru believed they would as of right send large volumes of logs to market over the narrow, winding and "soft" Kenepuru Road. This was contrary to members' understanding that logs harvested from such forests would have to be barged to market. Members were also (quite rightly) alarmed about road safety issues on such a narrow and windy road. Recent media reports of three logging truck and trailer units rolling on narrow windy roads in Northland in one week let alone a heavy truck recently losing its trailer unit near TeMahia **underscore** our members safety concerns.

Following research and review, the Association formally wrote to MDC expressing its concerns and raising, among other things:

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President	Ross Withell
Vice President	Andrew Caddie
Secretary	Brenda Sutton
Treasurer	Stefan Schulz
Chairman Roading Committee	Robin Bowron

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- did MDC know the size of the problem (the possible harvest profile over, say, the next five years)?
- the need for MDC to carry out a road safety/condition audit of the Kenepuru Road in order to identify remedial works if there was to be a large volume of logs going to market over the road,
- why was there a lack of a barge site alternative in the Kenepuru?

MDC staff from Assets and Services responded positively to the Associations' concerns. Following a period of intensive work by MDC, representatives of forest owners and representatives from KCSRA, a paper entitled "Establishing a Barging Loading Site on the Northern Side of the Kenepuru Sound" was presented by Jon Cunliffe of Assets and Services to MDC on 25 February 2016.

This paper clearly identified that there was a significant volume of logs for which barging was a potential option versus using the road to bring to market a volume of logs that over the next five years or so could be in the order of several hundred thousand tonnes (and growing!).

That paper suggested that to bring the relevant sections of the Kenepuru Road to the minimum road condition and safety standard would cost at least \$3.3 million (plus ongoing maintenance costs) as opposed to a barging site cost estimated at around \$430,000.

The recommendation to proceed with securing a barging site was accepted by MDC.

Submission

The Association **submits** that the case for allocating at least \$430,000 from the 2016 Annual Roothing budget for the construction of a barging site in the north Kenepuru is persuasive, rational and in the best interests of the wider community and is an **urgently** required facility. As we see it, just on road safety matters alone, this is a wise and prudent expenditure, to say nothing of creating a longer-term asset for the several thousands of hectares of forest coming on stream in the Kenepuru.

The Association **submits and urges** MDC to implement the paper presented by MDC Assets and Services staff by allocating the agreed funding in the Annual Plan Roothing budget for 2016.

Naturally, the Association will continue to assist MDC staff as they take the necessary steps to secure and arrange for the construction of this facility.

Conclusion

We thank you for the opportunity to submit the Association's proposal and we would be pleased to speak to this submission at the proposed hearing.

Yours sincerely


Ross Withell

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cc The Mayor, Mr Hook, Mr Barsanti, Mr J Cunliff, c/- MDC