



## MDC 2021-2031 Long Term Plan

### Picton Smart + Connected Submission

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**Purpose of this submission:** To request the continued funding and support for the Smart + Connected programme.

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Picton Smart + Connected (PS+C) has been active for seven years and strived to connect the community of Picton and build a resilient and forward-thinking town with a view to sustainable growth. We aim to represent Picton with a united voice to Council and other stakeholders. PS+C has made considerable achievements in the last seven years thanks to our hardworking volunteers and the ongoing support of MDC staff and Councillors.

Our achievements to date are:

- **Picton Library:** Advocacy on behalf of the community focused on site selection and accountability of MDC and other stakeholders.
- **Cruise Ship Think Tank:** Connecting across the community, planning for season, accountability and sharing of information.
- **Marina to Marina Pathway:** Completed track from Picton Marina to Waikawa Marina with signage.
- **Wayfinding signage:** Advocacy for new signage in and around Picton.
- **Freedom camping:** Advocacy resulting in a positive change to freedom camping bylaws for Picton.
- **Welcome to Picton signage:** Input into design and placement of welcome to Picton signage.
- **Heritage plaques:** New heritage plaques in and around Picton.
- **High Street banners:** Input into designs and locations.
- **Matariki Festival:** Introduction of new event for Picton in consultation with Te Atiawa.
- **America's Cup parade:** Campaigned for the team (and local Joseph Sullivan) to bring the Cup to Picton with subsequent event planning.
- **Foreshore electrics:** Advocated for improved lighting and electrics on the Picton Foreshore.
- **Iwi Engagement:** Secured Iwi participation in Steering Group meetings.
- **Foreshore Clean-up:** Launched an annual clean-up day on the Foreshore.
- **MDC Relationship:** An improved overall relationship with MDC for the Picton community.

## **Picton Smart + Connected Refresh**

It is an exciting time for Picton with the Ferry Precinct Redevelopment, the Visitor Solutions feasibility study, and the town plan. It is crucial that the community continues to have a strong voice with Council.

We are currently working through a refresh with a focus on how we work and identifying areas where we can improve. The first step was to renew the PS+C Terms of Reference in conjunction with the Marlborough Sounds Ward Councillors. That has been completed and we will soon host a public meeting in conjunction with Visitor Solutions, the consultants contracted by Council to conduct a feasibility study into a Picton Mountain Bike Park, Heritage and Environment Centre, and a Wellness Centre and Spa/Pool Complex. Through this public meeting we aim to reengage with the community, identify a new set of collaborative opportunities for the group and encourage new volunteers with fresh ideas to join us.

PS+C Steering Group has identified several focus areas which will be presented to the community at the public meeting:

- Feasibility Study: Pools, Bike Park and Heritage/Enviro Centre
- \$200K town plan
- Foreshore Management Plan
- Establishment of Town Maintenance Think Tank
- Marlborough Sounds Heritage and Environment Centre
- Improve communication with local community
- Improve lwi engagement

The Cruise Ship Think Tank is one of our most successful projects to date. Due to its success, we are remodelling our working groups into Think Tanks as follows:

**Cruise Ship Think Tank:** The aim is to anticipate and minimise the impacts on our local community of massive cruise ship visits and ensure a great visitor experience long term.

**Members:** Council, Port Marlborough, Destination Marlborough, Picton Business Group, Picton Marlborough Sounds Tourism, variety of tour operators

**Town Maintenance Think Tank:** The aim is to bring together key stakeholders, to lead design and planning of infrastructure and maintenance for Picton. Pre-Covid, Picton had evolved into an important and vibrant tourism town within the Marlborough region. With increased multiple Cruise Ship visits, amplified domestic and international visitation and recent residential population and business growth, Picton CBD is now at a juncture where a review of infrastructure and maintenance is required.

**Members:** Council, Te Ātiawa, Port Marlborough, Destination Marlborough, Picton Business Group, Picton Marlborough Sounds Tourism, Visit Picton

**Bike Walk Picton:** Picton is a vibrant hub for bikers and walkers alike and with the construction of the Whale Trail visitor numbers will increase. This group identifies and advocates for the clear priorities for the future of Picton in the bike walk space including a strong community mandate.

**Members:** Queen Charlotte Track Inc, Link Pathway Trust, Whale Trail, Picton Mountain Bike Club

## **LTP Draft Plan – Items of support**

- Picton Smart + Connected fully supports the proposed increase to levels of service for Picton in annual expenditure of \$108,000 from 2021-2022. As a group we have made a number of

submissions requesting improved town maintenance and have facilitated the new Town Maintenance Think Tank, which Council staff and Councillors are members of.

- Picton Smart + Connected fully supports the proposed \$960,250 budget for improvements in Picton to enhance the community and visitor experience. We ask that community consultation plays a key role in any development of the CBD including London Quay.

We thank Council for their funding and support and we ask that it continues.

Picton Smart + Connected