

MDC 2021-2031 Long Term Plan

Submission

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Purpose of this submission: To request funding for the coordination of a Marlborough wide Matariki Festival.

In 2018, Picton Smart + Connected, in consultation with Te Ātiawa, organised a successful Matariki Festival in Picton spanning over five weeks and featuring a variety of events including art installations, poetry readings, feast events, wildlife cruises, Matariki workshops and more.

The following year, the Tuia 250 ki Totaranui commemorations took place in Marlborough marking 250 years since the first onshore encounters between Māori and Pākehā in 1769. Tuia 250 celebrated Aotearoa New Zealand's Pacific voyaging heritage and was a national opportunity to hold honest conversations about the past, the present and how we navigate our shared future.

Matariki 2018 and Tuia 250 2019 events both involved the community and raised awareness of tikunga and Māori stories.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced the date of the inaugural Matariki public holiday, Friday 24 June 2022.

“Matariki will be a distinctly New Zealand holiday; a time for reflection and celebration, and our first public holiday that recognises Te Ao Māori,” Jacinda Ardern said.

I am requesting that Marlborough District Council make provisions in the Long-Term Plan for the Marlborough community to build on previous events; Matariki 2018 and Tuia 250 2019. With Matariki becoming a public holiday in 2022, we believe it is important to set the scene this year as a foundation for years to come.

Any Marlborough Matariki Festival must be lwi led and aim to:

- Shine a light on Matariki through a te ao Māori lens.
- Inclusiveness – celebrating our diverse community.
- Build community resilience by working together.
- Promote positive well-being that results from creativity

- Environment – focus on caring for our waterways, forests and native species.
- Providing local employment and supporting local businesses.

Matariki is traditionally a time of renewal – for nature, and for the wairua (spirit) of the people. It is also a time for innovation, an opportunity to learn from successes and failures and think about how things can be improved for the year to come. Tikunga will play an important role locally by bringing together our community to share a unique outlook and shared cultural values.

Investing in cultural events supports a community's wellbeing in the following ways.

- Growing knowledge and value of the stories, values and places of importance to mana whenua.
- Enabling diverse communities to express and celebrate their cultural identity.
- Supporting the revitalisation of Te Reo Māori and Te Ao Māori.
- Helping communities to understand and accept cultural differences.
- Creating a sense of belonging, connectedness, and greater understanding between communities.
- Building communities' connection to the whenua.
- Growing people's knowledge and providing opportunities to learn.

We propose that Council provides two funding streams as follows:

1. A one-off budget for the initial iwi liaison and research into the viability of a Marlborough Matariki Festival (\$20,000).
2. *Subject to the outcome of No.1:* An annual budget (\$40,000) for the coordination of the Marlborough wide festival in consultation with Iwi (further costs to be sourced through sponsorship and funding streams).