

2021-2031 Long Term Plan submission to Marlborough District Council

May 2021



About Sport Tasman

Sport Tasman is a charitable trust and one of 14 charitable regional sports trusts that operates around New Zealand. Our aim is to improve community wellbeing through getting more people, more active, more often.

We use active recreation, sport and play as our key tools and currently have a particular focus on reaching our Rangatahi and Tamariki who are less active.

Our region includes, Kaikōura, Marlborough, Buller, Tasman and Nelson and we have important strategic partnerships in place with Sport New Zealand, Rātā Foundation and multiple other community funders.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNCIL

Sport Tasman views the Marlborough District Council as a critical partner for the work we do and greatly appreciates the support and investment of the Council, particularly as a provider of sport and recreation facilities.

Play, active recreation and sport make an enormous contribution to the health and wellbeing of all residents and ratepayers of the Marlborough District Council. Physical activity, its wide-ranging benefits and its importance to our communities are fundamental to meeting the Council's vision: *"We invest in Marlborough's future, our people, quality lifestyle and outstanding natural environment."* We see particularly strong alignment between Sport Tasman's work and the following Council's community outcomes identified in the Council's long term plan consultation document.

1. Investing in Infrastructure
2. Investing in the Environment
3. Investing in the Community

We also acknowledge the challenges Council faces with balancing the various competing demands such as growth, transport, climate change, and water quality within a context of falling revenue. The impact of Covid-19 will be with us for some time to come, so too the decisions made in this 10-year Budget.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT SECTOR

COVID-19 has placed significant pressure on Aotearoa New Zealand's play, active recreation and sport system.

- Through our insights, we know the COVID-19 lockdowns have exacerbated inequalities, putting some population groups at even more risk regarding their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Analysis of media commentary also identified concerns about returning to previous activities in shared public spaces due to safety.
- Sector organisations which play a key role in allowing New Zealanders to be active were also impacted by COVID-19. These impacts include lost revenue, cash flow difficulties, reduced capacity and change of membership.

All these things have hit the sector hard and Sport Tasman is working with councils and other local stakeholders to find solutions to help address these.

Target audiences and activity areas

Sport Tasman has a particular focus on rangatahi and tamariki (aged 5 – 18). We aspire to increase the levels of activity for those tamariki and rangatahi who are less active.

Marlborough has pockets of communities we know are most at risk of missing out, including:

- Growth of new ethnic communities where physical activity preferences and norms differ.
- Māori and Pacific communities.
- Low income communities where participation is declining.

What Sport Tasman has achieved with our target audiences

Active Recreation programme:

- Sport Tasman partnered with 18 organisations across a number of sectors to deliver our Land, Sea and Air programme. This targeted Rangatahi from disadvantaged communities.
- Staged a Marlborough regional youth hui.
- Engaged with 187 rangatahi on a number of co designed events based in Marlborough.
- Provided support for numerous community events
 - Marlborough Sports Awards
 - Nelson canyoning trip
 - Marlborough environmental clean up
 - Marlborough youth hui
 - Kaituna Ridges Ramble
 - Marlborough Youth Trust climbing nights

Marlborough District Council investment in sport and active recreation

Sport Tasman acknowledges the challenges faced by Council in providing community services through its sport and recreation assets and that Marlborough has a large network of facilities, many of which are ageing and require significant renewal investment.

Sport Tasman, Marlborough District Council and Sport NZ have been working with the active recreation and sports sector to develop a co-ordinated and collaborative approach for future sport and recreation facility provision that provides Council with a high-level strategic view of infrastructure needs for the region and the evaluation criteria to prioritise investment and ultimately make better decisions. This has culminated in the publishing of the Regional Sport and Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy for the Top of the South Island. This document has been referenced by Council as an appendix in the Marlborough Sports Plan.

The priorities for this plan include:

- Infrastructure investment in regional sport and recreation hub development
- Delivery of more integrated community sport and recreation participation opportunities by supporting the sharing of resources and services realised through community partnerships and facilities.

Sport Tasman recommendations - summary

1. Investment in infrastructure

- Sport Tasman supports the Council's proposed additional investment for significant projects related to the provision of sport and recreation facilities, in line with the Regional Sport and Active Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy for the Top of the South Island.

- Sport Tasman supports the Council's loan guarantee proposal for the Stadium 2000 Trust to assist with its delivery of physical activity opportunities, in line with our support of and belief in, fit for purpose sport facilities
- Sport Tasman advocates that Council continues to develop all opportunities possible for walkways and cycleways, as they encourage an improvement in our environment through lower greenhouse gas emissions, and their encouragement of healthier, more active communities.

2. Investment in the Environment

- Sport Tasman strongly supports the connection and education opportunities for rangatahi to engage with the environment, partnering with groups such as DoC and the Marlborough Youth Trust. We would ask the Council to continue to support these initiatives.
- We support the development of active transport because of the benefits to the environment and opportunities for healthier, more active communities.

3. Investment in the Community

- Sport Tasman encourages the Council to continue to invest grant dollars into general community wellbeing and physical activity opportunities as part of creating a healthy, vibrant community. We encourage 50% of any such grants be aimed at encouraging more activity for our youth, in particular those who are missing out.
- We support Council investment in community led initiatives, particularly involving young people. We offer our support to Council in working with us around learnings and opportunities for rangatahi to be active.