

Date: Tuesday 20 August 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Meeting Room: Motueka Library
Venue: Wallace Street, Motueka

Motueka Community Board

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

ITEM	PAGE
RMCB24-08-6.2 Tasman Dog Owners Group	
Attachment 1 Tasman Dog Owners presentation	2
RMCB24-08-8.1 Motueka Ward roading update	
Attachment 1 Downer presentation.....	5

Tasman District Council – Public Forum – Tuesday 20 August 2024 at 16.00

Submission regarding the Dog Control Bylaw review, 2024.

Brendan Alborn

on behalf of the Tasman Bay Dog Owners Group.

1. Background

As local dog owners we are extremely concerned at some of the aspects included in the draft 2024 Dog Control Bylaw Review and specifically for dogs to be leashed at both Little Kaiteriteri, Dummy Bay and Stephens Bay at all times.

Firstly, this restriction would have an extremely negative impact on the lives of a large group of local residents who have been exercising their dogs on these beaches for many years without harming any of our precious native wildlife. The daily routine of walking with dogs along the beaches in our district is an important part of the mental and physical wellbeing for many people. At the same time, we do not believe these new restrictions will achieve the stated objective of protecting wildlife.

Secondly, the highly coordinated and ongoing campaign to lobby and influence Council by the Tasman Bay Blue Penguin Trust (TBBPT) to have these restrictions placed on responsible dog owners has been extremely divisive and has caused a great deal of disharmony within our community. The TBBPT has done everything in its power to vilify and demonize both dogs and their owners in its attempts to have dogs banned from our beaches. Over the past few years this campaign has caused a divide in our small community with neighbours now avoiding each other based on their dog ownership status. Confrontations between residents on our beaches have become regular occurrences in a community that had previously lived harmoniously for decades. The TBBPT has openly promoted the concept that dog owners are not animal lovers and have no regard for the protection of our precious wildlife, a narrative that could not be any further from the truth.

We have also found that the TBBPT has purposely presented false and fraudulent data both to Council and the local media to greatly exaggerate the threat dogs pose to local wildlife and specifically to Little Blue Penguins. At the sametime, it continues to understate the threats to penguins by other predators such as [weka](#), rodents, mustelids and cats as well as the impacts of urban development, vehicles, and food scarcity due to climate change.

2. False reporting

We have strong evidence that two penguin deaths the TBBPT has promoted into local and national media as being due to dog attacks were, in fact, due to other causes. We also believe many of the representations of the threats posed to penguins by dogs are at best greatly exaggerated and at worse, downright false.

biased against dogs and is designed specifically to evoke outrage. There was a devastating attack on a penguin burrow in December 2022 at Little Kaiteriteri during which a weka killed 6 penguins. This tragic case did not appear in local media and was not published at all by the TBBPT.

Other ways the TBBPT has used to promote division, and outrage has been to actively encourage its members to confront people attempting to lawfully exercise with their dogs on our beaches. There have been many altercations including dog walkers being screamed at to 'put that dog on a leash!' aggressively while their dogs are at the heel and under effective control. This behaviour reached its pinnacle last summer when a male member of the TBBPT, on his way to their regular Wednesday coffee morning kicked an extremely mild-mannered and well-trained, Labradoodle as it attempted to walk past him on Martin Farm Road. This resulted in another nasty confrontation, an extremely upset owner and a report to the police.

To further stoke the fires of outrage, the TBBPT installed blue crosses, similar in type to the fatal car accident cross markings, on public land with wording such as "dog attack" and "car strike". These signs were placed illegally on public land and were only taken down under protest, after a complaint was reported to TDC and instructed that these signs be removed. This is clearly outside of what could be sensibly labelled as 'creating awareness' and is designed specifically to stoke the fires of outrage.

4. The benefits of dogs

For dog owners like me, the time I spend exercising with my dog on our beaches and elsewhere is an important part of my lifestyle, and my physical and mental wellbeing. Having a high-energy Border Collie that requires a lot of exercise, I have spent as much as two hours every day over the past eight years either walking or running with my dog, mostly on the Mārahau, Riwaka and Motueka foreshore areas. Despite spending all these hours on the beaches, having my office in Mārahau overlooking the foreshore and also living on the waterfront in Riwaka, my dog and I have not harmed any wildlife. In all of those +5,000 hours I have spent on our beaches I have not seen anybody else's dog harm any wildlife either.

5. Specific issues with proposed changes to the bylaw

In essence we would like the current bylaws for Dummy Bay and Little Kaiteriteri to largely remain as they are currently. We propose that the requirement for dogs to be under effective control to remain as it is. However, we would like to propose this only apply on the beach itself, which we define as being from the low tide mark to the mean high tide mark. We suggest the bylaw is changed to require dogs to be leashed anywhere further up the foreshore, past the mean high tide mark, in the dunes and foliage. Dogs should only be allowed to pass through these areas on a leash until they reach the sand. The rationale for this is penguins and other birdlife may be present in the foliage, but they will not be on the beach itself unless they are passing across the beach to reach their nests which only occurs at dawn and dusk each day.

Additional Information

1. Dog parks

There has been some suggestion of a compromise solution where a dog park is established away from the beaches in Kaiteriteri. Most local dog owners do not see any value in a dog park for the following reasons:

- Dog parks are not a safe environment for humans or dogs. Dogs react differently in confined areas than they do in open spaces, as they can become protective and reactive.
- Dogs come in many sizes and with many different temperaments and forcing them into a confined space can create conflict.
- Exercising a dog in a closed-off area does not help the owner get any exercise, which is often the entire point of taking a dog for a walk.
- From an environmental and practical point of view the idea of driving to a designated area to exercise a dog, when a perfectly safe and much better option is right on many people's doorsteps, makes no sense.

2. Economic impact of further dog restrictions on our beaches

Many of the retired people who 'winter over' in their caravans and camper vans at our holiday parks, do so with their dogs. In speaking to ten visitors currently wintering over at Bethany Park who are dog owners, we have learnt one of the biggest attractions for doing so here in Tasman is they can take their dogs off lead to the beach. These people have stated they will not be returning if the proposed bylaw changes go through. These are valuable contributors to our region's economy during the quiet months. The people spoken to estimate they spend around \$2,700 per couple per month, excluding excursions. This will potentially be lost if the draft bylaw changes come into effect.

3. Mental health benefits of owning a dog

There is a large body of scientific research to support the fact that animal companionship has enormous benefits to the health and wellbeing of humans. Animal therapy, also called pet therapy or animal-assisted therapy, is used to help people with a wide range of challenges, from helping to build communication skills in autistic children to managing grief, loss, and stress in older adults.

4. Other references and links

<https://www.westcoastpenguintrust.org.nz/news/over-60-penguins-saved-statistics-show-that-fence-is-protecting-penguins/#:~:text=The%20penguin%20protection%20fence%20is,state%20highway%20and%20being%20killed>

<https://www.verywellhealth.com/animal-therapy-5212800>

The team behind our road network



Cyclic and Maintenance

The team behind
our road network



Pre Reseal Repairs

The team behind
our road network



Renewals

The team behind
our road network



ANNET HEIGHTS-00000-all
 BURSTHOUSE STREET-00000-all
 KING EDWARD STREET-01015-all
 WADY BARKLY GROVE-00000-all
 MAIN ROAD LOWER MOUTERE-00000-all
 MAIN ROAD LOWER MOUTERE-02235-all
 MOONRAKER WAY-00000-all
 MOOLE STREET-00762-all
 MOOLE STREET-00825-all
 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET-00000-all
 ALBOT STREET [MOTUEKA]-00000-all
 OKONGAWA DRIVE-00000-all
 OKONGAWA DRIVE-01200-all
 OKONGAWA DRIVE-01410-all
 ENTURE COVE WAY-00000-all
 WALLACE STREET-00116-all
 WILDMAN ROAD-00000-all
 WILDMAN ROAD-00436-all

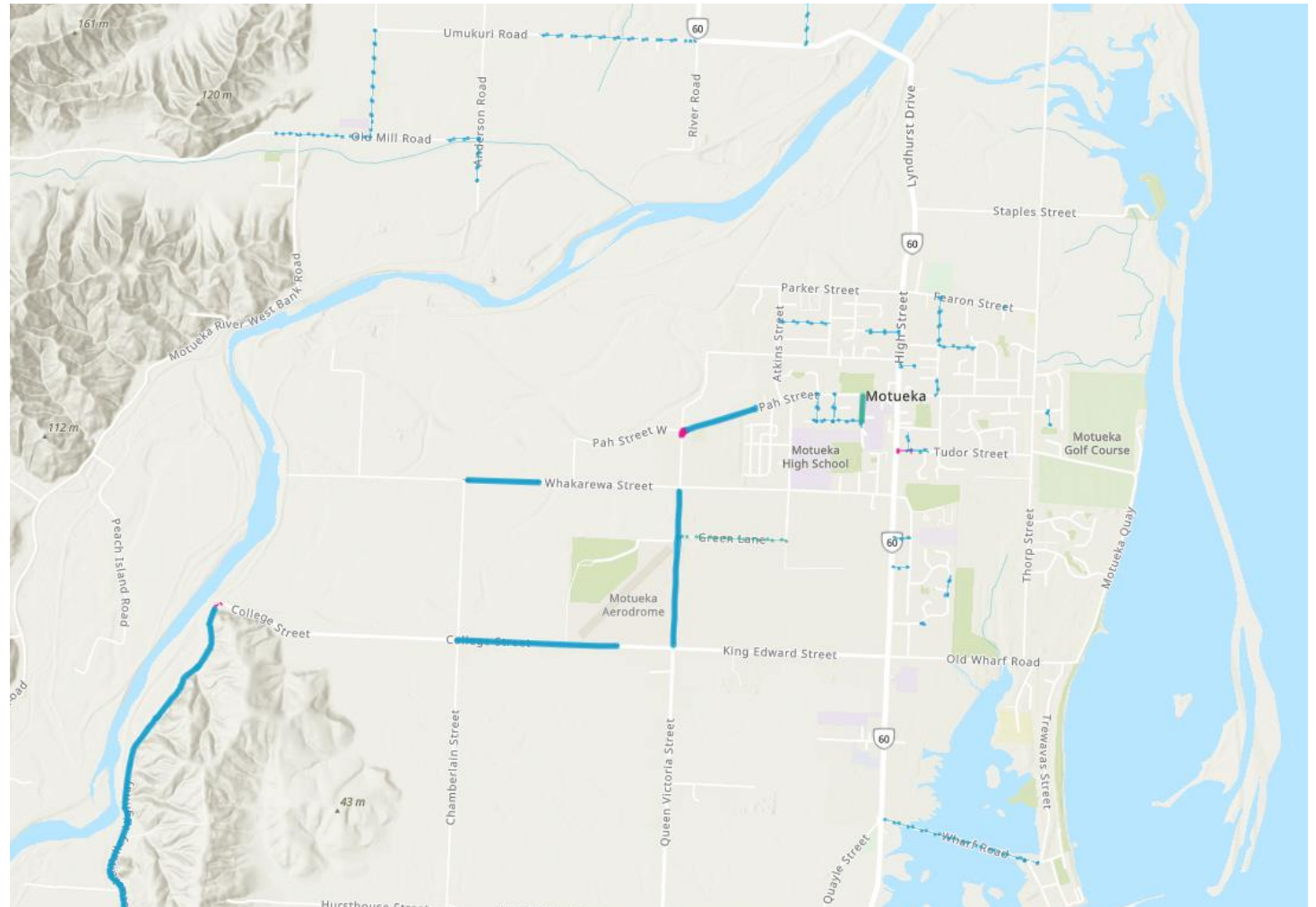


Renewals

The team behind
our road network



Looking Forward



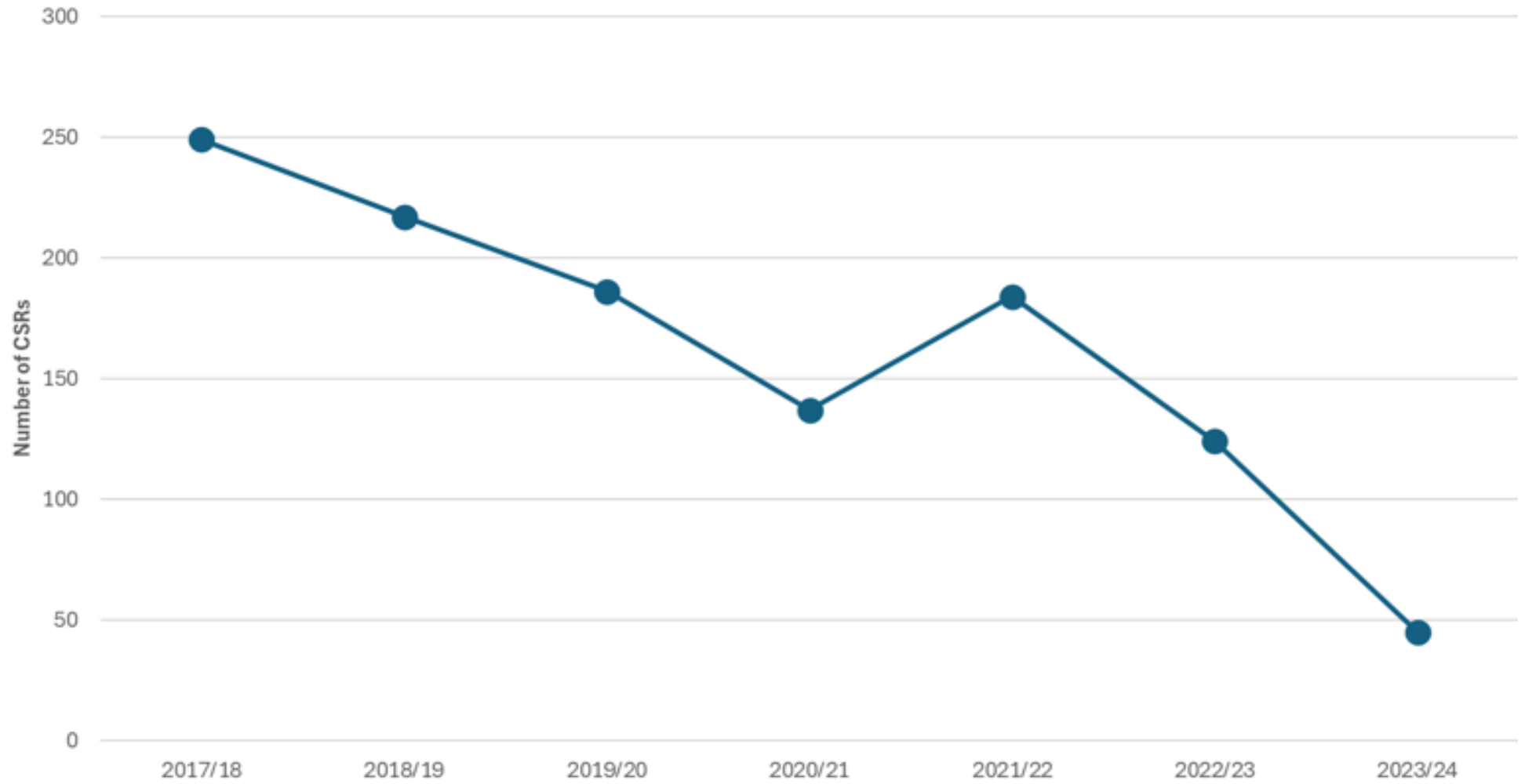
Insealed Maintenance Strategy

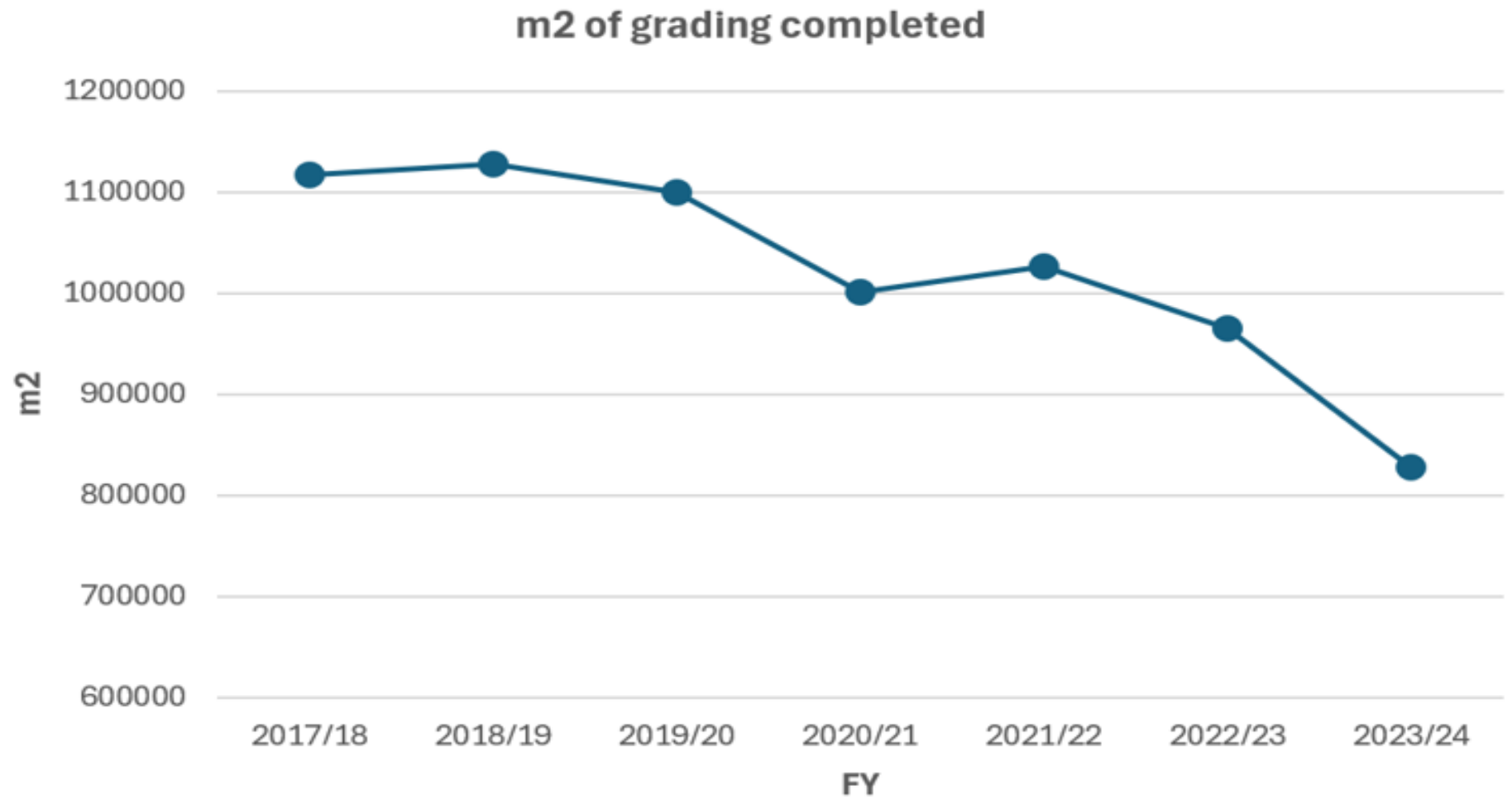


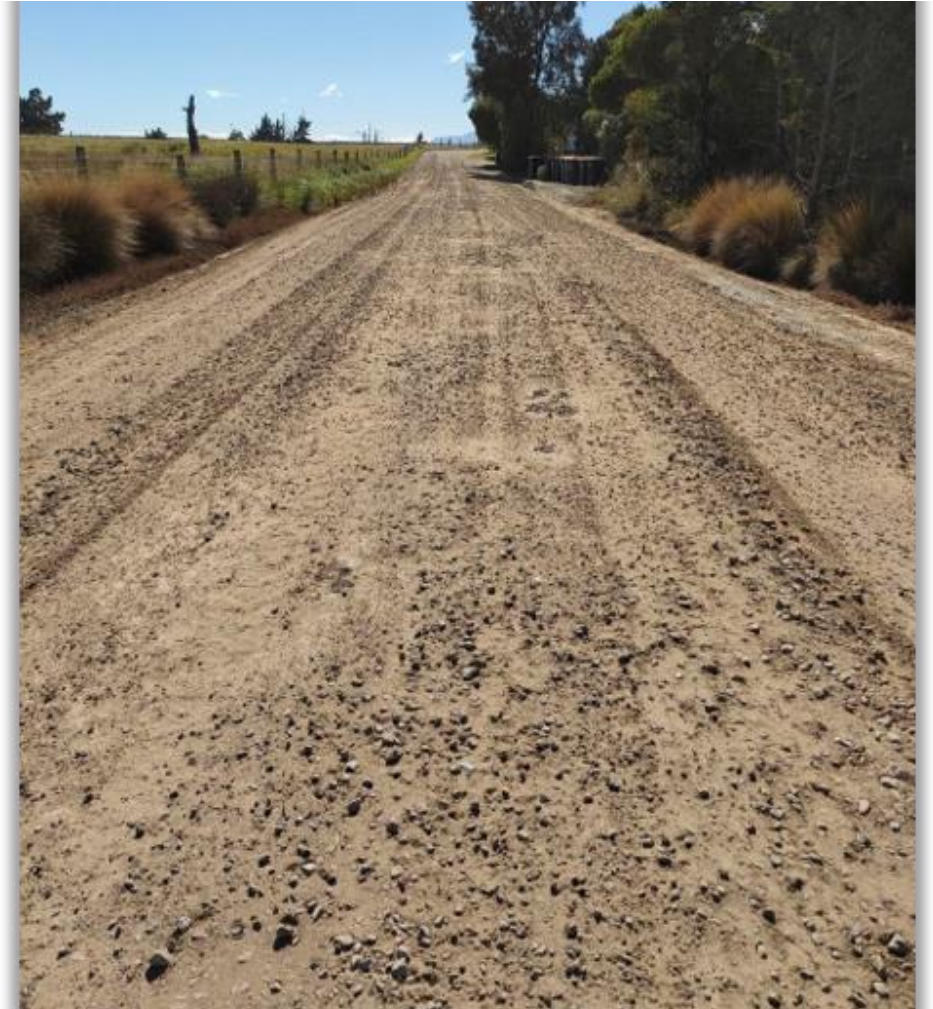
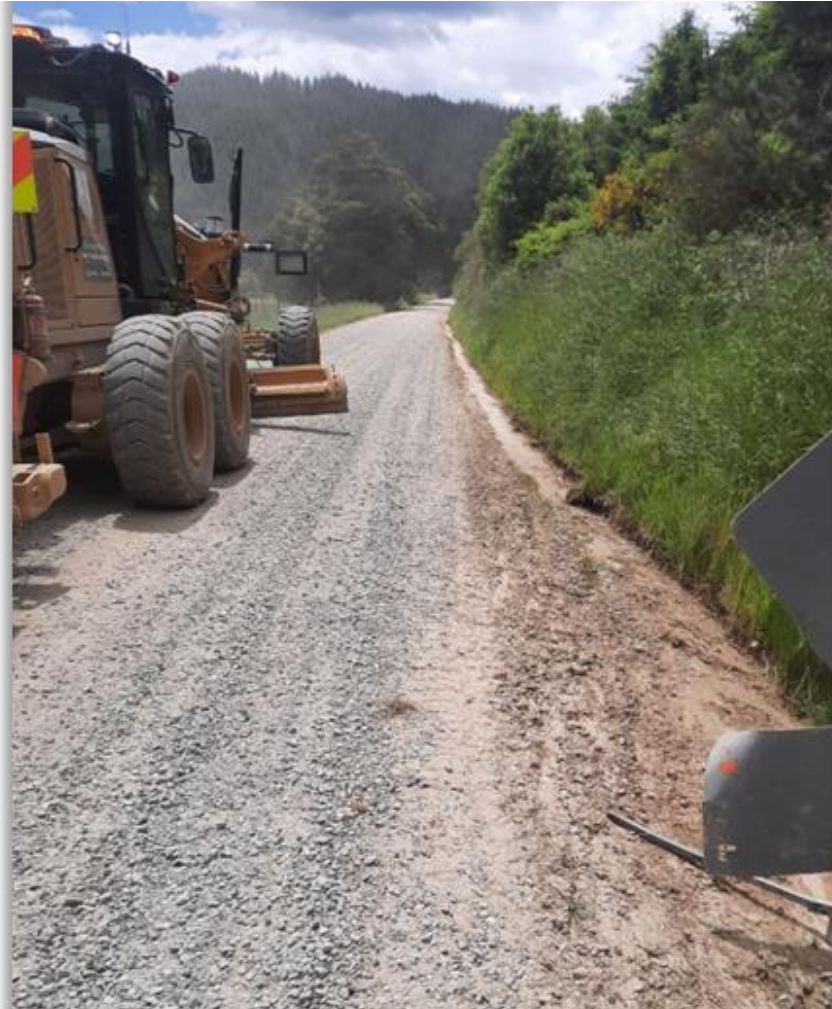












Community

Motueka Nets Sponsorship- George Gribble was successful in gaining \$500 towards the kids' basketball teams jersey this year. Great community sponsorship.

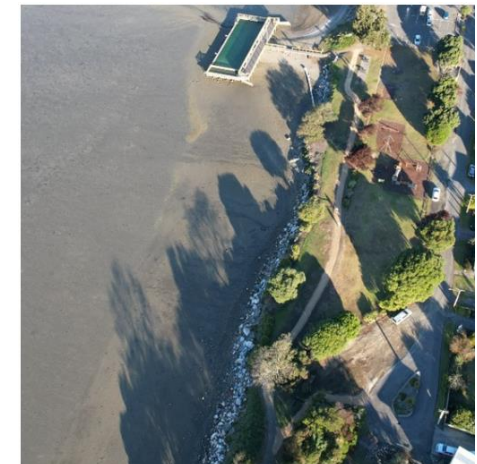


Investment in the Community - Sharing with you a recent project Tasman Alliance partner Downer NZ Ltd has completed through sponsorship to reinvest into a community our team live and work in every day. The Downer team voted on location of sponsorship and a project in the Motueka community was the winner. Downer worked with the local Councillors, Motueka Community Board and Council Parks and Reserves to look at options that would benefit the community but lacked funding.

The outcome of the investment is a 145-meter brand new path running through the reserve at the Saltwater Baths running parallel to North Street connecting two paths leading into the reserve.

... event by storm again this year seeing all entry fees donated to hospice. There was a huge amount of money raised seeing our family at TDC pick up the prize for most money raised. A great night for the good guys taking out the two trophies.

Our team of athletes weighed in at an average weight of 145kg with the heaviest heavers 165kg seeing our alliance manager be looked over for a job, however it turns out I'm quite a good Cox. Recipe for a highly oiled machine that took apart the competition.





ew Hayes
liance Manager – Tasman Alliance
7 807 3848