

2014-2015 Rates Remission and Postponement Policies

In certain circumstances Council considers it appropriate to assist ratepayers with their rates. Applications can be made on the approved form at any time during the rating year (1 July – 30 June). If approved, the assistance will start the following rating year. We are unable to backdate applications.

Full details of the policies, application forms, conditions and criteria are available from the Council Office in Blenheim, the Picton Service Delivery Centre or on our website: www.marlborough.govt.nz/rates

General Enquiries

Can be made between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday at:

BLLENHEIM Marlborough District Council Office, 15 Seymour Street
PICTON MDC Picton Service Delivery Centre, 67 High Street
EMAIL mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

Phone (03) 520 7400 or Fax (03) 520 7496
 Phone (03) 520 7493 or Fax (03) 520 3203

Below is a summary of Council's rates remission (provide relief) and postponement policies criteria.

Remission Policies Summary

Community, Sporting and Other Organisations	The land must be owned by the Council or owned, occupied or leased by an organisation (with liability for rates) which is not operated for private pecuniary profit; and be used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation, or community purposes.
Land Protected for Natural, Historic or Cultural Conservation Purposes	Rating units which have some feature of cultural, natural or historic heritage which is voluntarily protected may qualify for remission of rates.
Residential Land in Commercial or Industrial Areas	To ensure that owners of residential rating units situated in commercial or industrial areas are not unduly penalised by the zoning decisions of this Council and the former authorities.
Land Affected by Natural Calamity	Rate relief where the use that may be made of any land has been detrimentally affected by natural calamity.
Non-Contiguous Pastoral Rating Units farmed as a single entity; and Contiguous Rating Units in Separate Ownership, Used Jointly as a Single Entity	To provide relief from General-type Uniform Charges and Targeted Charges.
Separately Used or Inhabited Parts of a Rating Unit	Council has resolved to assess Uniform Annual Geographic General Charges and Targeted Charges on each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit. However, Council will remit such charges in excess of one set where, in the case of a farm, orchard, other horticultural type property or business, there is an additional part or parts which represents accommodation provided for the owner or staff; or in the case of a rating unit, where there is one additional separately inhabited unit or dwelling occupied by the owner's family members. In both cases, accommodation must be provided on a rent-free basis.
Subdivisions That Create Four or More But Less than Ten Rating Units	To provide a positive development incentive to commercial subdividers by remitting general-type uniform charges on unsold subdivided land without an occupied dwelling or commercial building, for a maximum period of three years.
Subdivisions That Create Ten or More Rating Units	To provide a positive development incentive to commercial subdividers by remitting general-type rates and uniform charges on all unsold subdivided land without an occupied dwelling or commercial building (<i>other than any balance of land</i>) for a maximum period of five years.
Rate Penalties	Where payment has not been received by the penalty date, due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control; or it is deemed equitable to remit the penalty for other reasons.
Water Losses	Partial rates remission where, as a result of the existence of a water leak in a metered water supply, the payment of full water rates is considered inequitable in certain circumstances. There will be no refunds for water losses for irrigation supplies.
Extreme Financial Hardship	Where Council is satisfied that extreme financial hardship exists or would be caused by requiring payment of the whole or part of the rates.



Postponement Policies Summary

Extreme Financial Hardship	To assist ratepayers experiencing extreme financial hardship where the ratepayer is the current occupier of a rating unit used solely for residential purposes and is unlikely to have sufficient funds left over after the payment of rates, for normal health care, appropriate provision for maintenance of his/her home and chattels at an adequate standard, as well as making provision for normal day to day living expenses.
Residential Ratepayers Aged 65 and Over	This policy gives qualifying ratepayers the option to cease paying rates when they are due, in favour of leaving them to be paid from their estate or when the property changes ownership. (Interest, Fees and Charges are added to the rates amount so that other ratepayers do not subsidise such postponements). Further information on the scheme is available from Council offices, or from the Council website www.marlborough.govt.nz/rates

Rates Relief on Maori Freehold Land

Rates relief for Maori freehold land is considered under the same criteria as shown above for remissions and postponements.

Valuation Enquiries

Can be made between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday at:

QUOTABLE VALUE LTD

Phone 0800 QV RATING (0800 787 284) or Fax (04) 576 4486

Website www.qv.co.nz

Inspection and Objection to Rating Information and Records

As the ratepayer for this rating unit you have the right to inspect the Council's Rating Information Database and rates records and object on certain grounds set out in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

These are available for inspection at the Marlborough District Council Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim during office hours. All objections will be determined by Council.

Rate Payment Options

When Making Payments

Your six digit Property No. is required (*as shown on your invoice*) for the Reference, and use the words 'Rates' for the code.

Direct Debit

If you pay by Direct Debit, we will debit your bank account either weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly depending on your choice. Complete the form* and return it to Council.

Internet Banking

Simply follow your bank's procedure for paying online. When selecting where you want the payment to go, you'll find **Marlborough District Council** included in your bank's list of payees.

Telephone Banking

To arrange Telephone Banking, please contact your bank for details. Tell your bank you want to pay **Marlborough District Council**.

Automatic Payment

You can make payments weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Fill in the form* and return it to Council.

By Post

You can post your cheque to Council.

Cash and EFTPOS

Pay at the Blenheim or Picton Offices.

Payment from Overseas

Council's bank is – BNZ, Corner of Market and Arthur Streets, Blenheim.

Select Rates

Select Property No. (*This is shown on your rates invoice*).

MDC account – 02-0600-0202861-02
Swift No - BKNZ NZ22

* Forms can be downloaded from Council's website (www.marlborough.govt.nz); picked up from the office; or you can request one by phoning (03) 520 7400.



Mayor's introduction

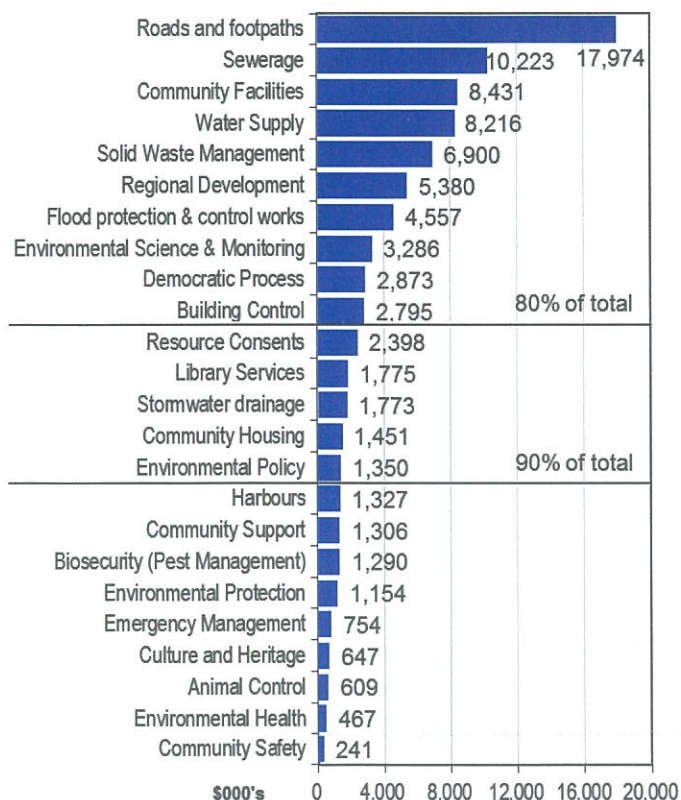
Councillors and staff always aim to keep rates as low as possible while still maintaining services. This year Council is also facing up to the need for some re-investment into the sports and leisure facilities that are part of the region's social infrastructure.

The increase in total rates and charges for the 2014-2015 year is 3.26%. Your actual rate increase is dependent on your property's:

- Land use—whether it's residential/rural or commercial/industrial
- Geographic rating area (what part of the district you live in)
- Land value (see your rates invoice for this information)
- Services received e.g. water and sewerage.

How Council Spends Your Money

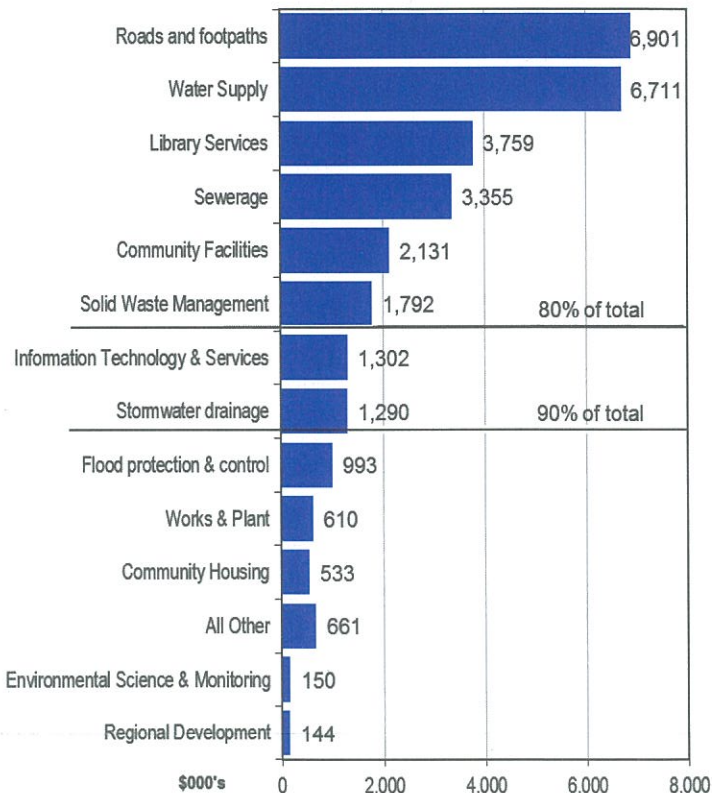
Operating Expenditure 2014-15 (\$000's)



Operating Expenditure 2014-2015—\$87,180,000

Operating expenditure to maintain our core infrastructure and provide Council services.

Capital Expenditure 2014-15 (\$000's)



Capital Expenditure 2014-2015—\$30,036,000

Capital Expenditure is heavily focused on developing and improving the District's core infrastructure. This includes roading, water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, stormwater and drainage.





MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RATES INFORMATION 2014-2015 (1JULY - 30JUNE)

Significant contributors to the overall rates increase

Total Rates and Charges for 2014-15 are estimated at \$57,892,333 (GST exclusive). This represents an increase of \$1,826,541 (3.26%) on last year's levy.

Activity	\$ Movement	Reasons for the Movement
General Rates and Charges		
Environmental	\$373,142	Reinstatement of the Coastal Monitoring Strategy implementation for compliance with marine biosecurity obligations.
Roads and Footpaths	\$201,894	Increased general roading infrastructure and depreciation costs.
Democracy	\$132,823	Increased operating costs including the 2015-25 Long Term Plan preparation and audit costs partially offset by no Council election costs this year as the last election was held on 12 October 2013, remuneration of an external Audit Committee member and increased funding to the Sister City Sub-Committee.
Reserves	\$120,762	Increased contract costs for Lansdowne and Sheps Parks, Blenheim street trees and protected tree management.
Resource Consents	\$96,680	Increased personnel costs which are a significant driver of the fee structure for resource consent processing. The operation is staffed to the minimum level needed to maintain operational capacity and service levels (ie; 20 day timeframes required by legislation). The effects of the recession has seen a significant reduction in consent volumes being received together with widely fluctuating consent numbers from week to week, both of which have affected the revenue flows. A significant proportion of the work is not cost recoverable such as the time spent servicing appeals to the Environment Court.
Regional Development	\$183,184	Establishment of a commercial events fund and increase in Destination Marlborough funding.
Biosecurity	\$66,105	Increased cost for AHB funding share for Tb programme, Wilding Contorta for Wye Reserve and adjacent areas and Sea Squirt long term management.
Libraries	\$58,145	Reinstatement of operating costs following a one-off reduction last year and increased overhead allocation.
Arts	\$52,814	Includes reinstatement of \$50,000 Arts Strategy implementation following one-off reduction last year due to previous years unspent grants.
Heritage	\$52,183	Includes grants to the Marlborough Heritage Trust and the Picton Historical Society.
Solid Waste Management	(\$54,244)	Decreased contract costs for Refuse Transfer Station and Resource Recovery Centre Operations (as a result of the new combined Waste Management and Minimisation Contract); offset by increased Refuse and Recycling Targeted Charges identified below.
Targeted Rates and Charges		
Wairau Valley River Works Targeted Rates	\$106,170	Increased flood protection and drainage pump station costs.
Water Supply Targeted Charges	\$92,711	Increased Picton treatment and depreciation costs and Renwick operating and depreciation costs.
Refuse and Recycling Targeted Charges	\$68,516	Increased refuse bag collection and household recycling collection costs; offset by general rate savings identified in Solid Waste Management above.

Where can I find more information?

For descriptions of what each Activity entails and details of the major projects that are included in Council's budget for next year take a look at the 2014—2015 Final Annual Plan (available on our website).

Rates rebate applications for the 2014-2015 rating year (up to \$605)

Council administers a Rates Rebate Scheme on behalf of government. You could be entitled to a subsidy for low income or superannuitant homeowners on the cost of your rates of up to \$605.00

Contact Customer Services on 520 7400 to find out if you qualify or visit : www.ratesrebate.govt.nz
Dedicated staff will be available at Blenheim Council offices from 1 August for 6 weeks if you prefer to speak to someone face to face.



31 July 2014

Mara Davison
PO Box 1151
Blenheim 7240

File Ref: M090-02-02-020 &
M090-02-02-021
Ask For: Sue Bulfield-Johnston

Dear Mara Davison

Landscape Rules - Update

In May 2013 the Council began consulting landowners regarding landscape management within the Marlborough Sounds. The extensive feedback the Council received on this matter has resulted in amendments being made to the 2013 draft landscape rules for this area. A summary of these amended draft rules is provided below.

As you will see within the amended provisions, the Marlborough Sounds Coastal Landscape has replaced the visual amenity landscape discussed with Marlborough Sounds landowners in 2013.

As shown within the attached map the Marlborough Sounds Coastal Landscapes encompasses the majority of Marlborough Sounds, with Outstanding Natural (Features and) Landscape (ONFL) being located within this broader landscape area.

In summary, the amended rules provide for buildings, structures and development in existing residentially zoned areas, and apply more restrictive controls over buildings, structures, land disturbance and commercial forestry in rural and more natural areas. If your property is zoned for residential purposes within the new Marlborough Resource Management Plan and it does not fall within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape, then it will not be subject to any landscape protection rules. An outline of this rule framework is set out below.

Area	Landscape Management Approach
Coastal Living Zone within the Marlborough Sounds Coastal Landscape. (The Coastal Living Zone is the equivalent to the current Sounds Residential Zone)	Exempt residentially zoned areas from any specific landscape protection rule, due to the reduced naturalness within these areas and the anticipated further development enabled by the zoning. The Council will use a non-regulatory approach through providing information and guidelines on paint finish reflectivity for new development.



Coastal Environment Zone within the Marlborough Sounds Coastal Landscape. (The Coastal Environment Zone is the equivalent to the current Rural 1 Zone)	Set external paint finish reflectivity limits at a maximum of 45% Light Reflectance Value to mitigate potential adverse impacts on perceived levels of natural character within the coastal landscape. Apply a discretionary activity and public notification requirement for any new commercial forestry within the Marlborough Sounds, due to the potentially significant adverse landscape impacts that may occur at the time of harvest and due to the wilding tree management issues associated with commercial forestry.
Coastal Living Zone recognised as being an ONFL in the Marlborough Sounds. (The Coastal Living Zone is the equivalent to the current Sounds Residential Zone)	Apply a permitted activity standard to any new building/structure with an external paint finish to have a maximum paint reflectivity value of 45%.
Coastal Environment Zone recognised as being an ONFL in the Marlborough Sounds. (The Coastal Environment Zone is the equivalent to the current Rural 1 Zone)	Set permitted activity controls for excavation less than 500m ³ (annually, per Certificate of Title). Apply a discretionary activity resource consent requirement for all subdivision. Apply a discretionary activity and public notification requirement for any new commercial forestry within the Marlborough Sounds due to the potentially significant adverse landscape impacts that may occur at the time of harvest and due to the wilding tree management issues associated with commercial forestry. Apply a limited discretionary activity resource consent for new buildings and structures over 10m ² , limiting discretion to the factors that will ensure landscape impacts on ONFLs will be avoided.

More information about these draft landscape rules will soon be found online at:
<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Review-of-Resource-Management-Documents.aspx>

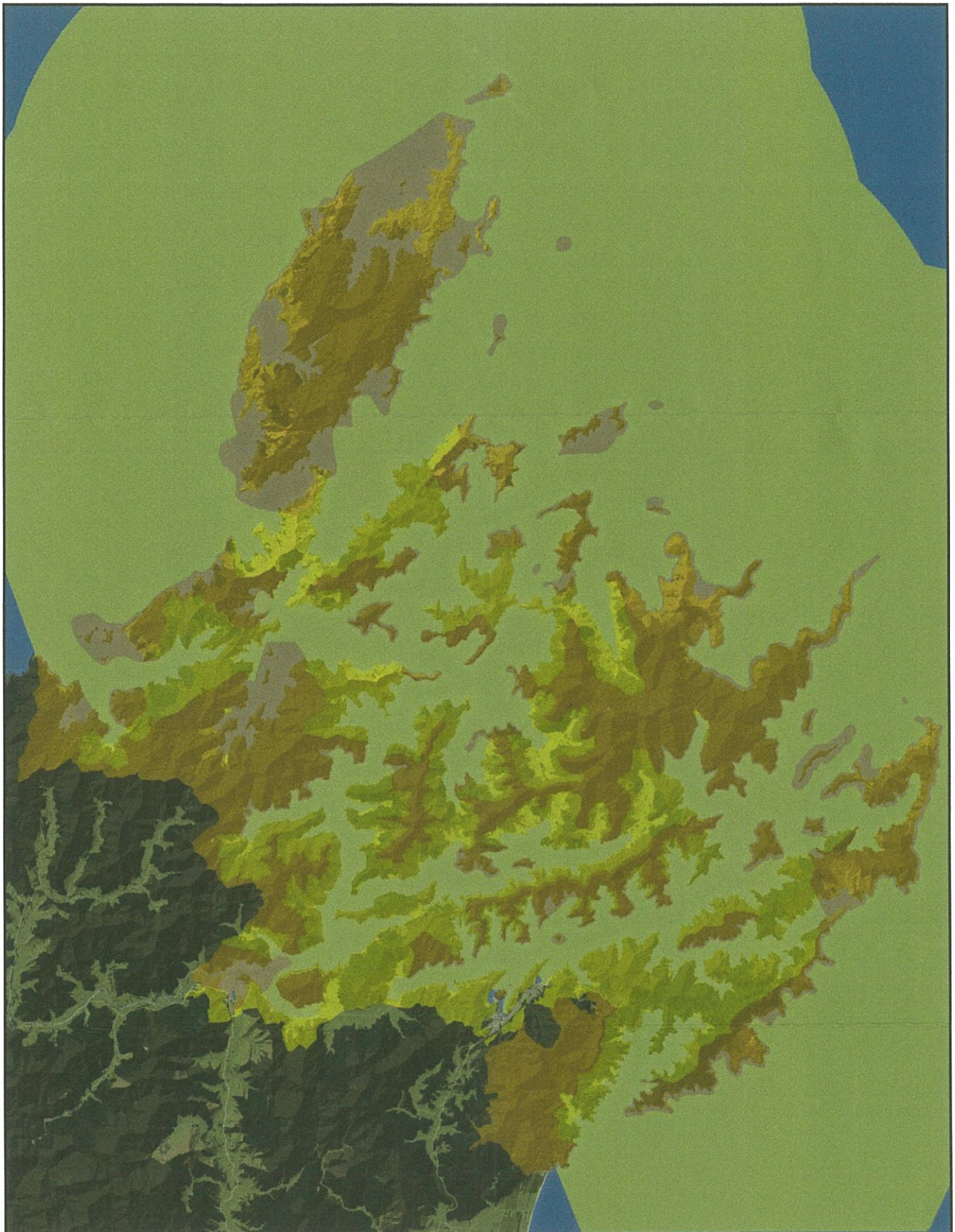
These rules will remain in draft form until the landscape provisions are publicly notified as part of the new Marlborough Resource Management Plan. When this occurs, you have the opportunity to make a formal submission in support, opposition or neutral to the notified provisions. Until such a time, if you would like to discuss these draft provisions, please contact Sue Bulfield-Johnston at:
Sue.Bulfield-Johnston@marlborough.govt.nz or call her on 03 520 7400.

Yours faithfully



PERE HAWES
MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Encl: Draft Marlborough Sounds Landscape Map (2014)



**Overview of Draft Outstanding Natural (Features and) Landscape
& Marlborough Sounds Coastal Landscape (July 2014)**



Legend

- Draft Outstanding Natural (Features and) Landscape
- Draft Marlborough Sounds Coastal Landscape



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