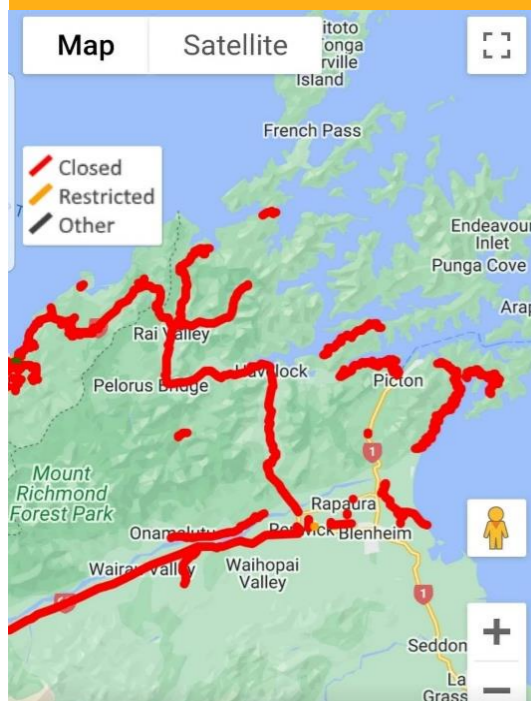


TOP REGIONAL IMPACTS



Four days of severe weather starting 17 August caused extensive damage to roads and property in Marlborough. This followed the wettest July on record and caused further damage to areas still recovering from the devastating storm of July 2021 [see July LIR]. Multiple parts of the region have been affected, with eighty-eight properties having been red (30) or yellow (58) stickered across the Marlborough Sounds, Waihopai Valley, Northbank and Waikakaho. There are over 2,500 faults to Marlborough's roads, compared to 1,600 in July 2021. The effects are wide ranging:

- Transport and logistics [see June LIR] were disrupted as State Highways 6 and 63 were closed, cutting Marlborough's direct routes to Nelson. Salmon from farms in the Sounds had to be transported for processing in Nelson via the Lewis Pass (a nine hour detour). The wine industry also incurred extra costs as containers of wine bottles made the same journey.
- Tourism businesses are effected, particularly in the Sounds. While some properties have boat access, many of those that rely on road access are inaccessible. The perception that the Sounds are closed will be a challenge for those who remain open for business.
- There are concerns for farming stock, particularly in the Rai Valley and Western Sounds where access to get feed in and milk, or lambs out, is limited. Other primary industries such as aquaculture, bee keeping, and viticulture have also been affected.
- It is unknown whether certain roads will be restored and this has significant implications for residents and businesses. There are significant sections of Māori land in the outer Sounds, and forestry blocks in remote areas.
- The construction workforce is already under pressure and the repair work will further increase demand [see July LIR].

RECOGNISED SEASONAL EMPLOYER (RSE) SCHEME

"Blatant exploitation" is how Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo described the conditions for some RSE employees in Marlborough. Leaking roofs, cold conditions and inadequate standards were identified by the Commissioner during an investigation in Marlborough. The Commissioner wrote to Workplace Relations Minister, Michael Wood, saying fundamental human rights are being breached and some of what she's seen warrants criminal investigation.

TVNZ's Sunday current affairs show reported "RSE workers crowded in substandard accommodation with workers unable to leave because of crippling debt to their employers".

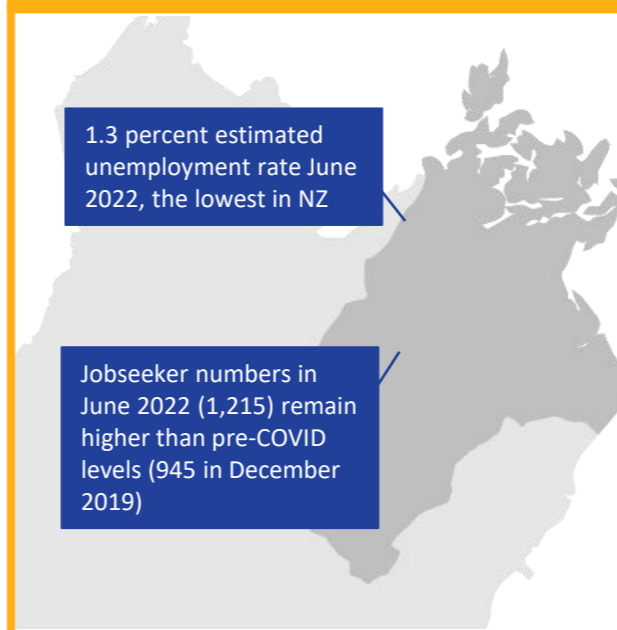
In response Wine Marlborough and NZ Ethical Employers issued a joint statement saying "The Marlborough community is justifiably outraged by recent media stories relating to some RSE employees in our community". They stated a lot of contractors go well beyond what is required. The majority of RSE workers are accommodated in purpose-built housing and cleaners, electricity, gas, linen and Wi-Fi are provided in the weekly board.

Marlborough as an attractive place to live and work, and **Perceptions of industries and careers** are two of the six focus areas in [Te Mahere Ahumahi ā-Rohe o Te Taihū o Te Waka-a-Māui | Marlborough Regional Workforce Plan](#). As a region we need to attract and retain people to make sure we continue to grow and are able to meet our current and future labour and skills needs. A number of our industries report that the community and job seekers have negative perceptions of the industry and what it means to work in it. For some of our primary industries negative perceptions include people's views on pay and working conditions.

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITIES

- 1. Over 600 students attended the inaugural Empower: Te Rangapikikōtuku Coding and Esports Festival in Blenheim 26-27 August.** Students came from across from Marlborough, West Coast, Tasman, Nelson and Kaikoura to attend workshops ranging from Minecraft to drone building, Virtual Reality and Pixel Art. They interacted with exhibits on robotics, coding and other technology careers; experienced Virtual Reality training tools; and competed in an Esport competition. Many students from West Coast, Tasman and Nelson were unable to attend due to the road closures. Two students left Nelson at 3:30AM to get to the festival! The 2023 event will be held in Nelson.
- 2. The Smart + Connected Aviation group is continuing to build momentum.** An implementation event was held on 24 August and identified four collaboration opportunities: Low Emission Leadership; Unlocking Marlborough Airport's Potential; Marlborough as an Aviation Training hub; and using the Classic Fighters Airshow 2023 to showcase aviation careers and training opportunities. The group is also building links with Ringa Hora (the workforce development council for aviation), and Aviation NZ (the national industry body).
- 3. The RSLG advocated to Te Pūkenga for Marlborough to be part of a whole of Te Waipounamu/South Island regional entity.** Te Pūkenga consulted stakeholders on their regional groups, leadership structure and business groups. Te Taihū (Marlborough, Tasman and Nelson) were proposed to be in a Te Tai Hau-ā-uru | West region with Taranaki, Manawatū, Whanganui and Wellington. The RSLG recommended a whole of South Island region, including Marlborough, would be a better geographic fit for both learners and employers, which would allow Te Pūkenga to be more responsive and effective in our region. There is also a stronger alignment of Marlborough's key industries and sectors (eg wine, aquaculture, aviation) with other South Island regions.

THE MARLBOROUGH REGION



3,000 RSE employees from nine Pacific nations working in Marlborough.



\$29.23 average hourly RSE wage 2021 pruning season before tax and employer deductions for accommodation, transport, etc.



20% GDP in Marlborough from the wine industry and one-in-five jobs in Marlborough directly or indirectly related to the wine industry.

OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 4 MONTHS:

The focus for the Marlborough RSLG is implementing *Te Mahere Ahumahi ā-Rohe o Te Taihū o Te Waka-a-Māui | Marlborough Regional Workforce Plan* [Link to Regional Workforce Plan]. A summary of the Year 1 (2022-23) actions for the six focus areas and five focus sectors can be found on the one-page [Marlborough Regional Workforce Plan summary](#).