

Council

Meeting of 02 September 2026

Business Unit: Infrastructure
Date Created: 19 August 2026

Amendment to Silver Fern Rally Closure

Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To consider the addition of Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension to the approved road closure for the Silver Fern Rally 2026, in order to allow a route change for the Peep-O-Day/Waipuru stage.

Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council, pursuant to Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, permit the following roads to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic between 08.55am and 01.25pm on Thursday 3 December 2026, for the purpose of allowing Ultimate Rally Group Ltd to conduct the Silver Fern Rally 2026. This remains subject to the receipt of current Public Liability Insurance and an approved Traffic Management Plan.

Roads proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic:

Sandon Block Road - from its intersection with Waipuru Road/Mangamako Road until its change into Sandon Block Road Extension.

Sandon Block Road Extension - from its intersection with Sandon Block Road, until 200metres before its intersection with State Highway 54 (Cheltenham Hunterville Road)

*** Note: To assist with the stage security, the closure is also to include 120 metres of each adjoining road, from where it intersects with the road being applied for.**

Adjoining Roads: Mangatieka Road (no exit).

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Approved for submission by:
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General Manager - Infrastructure

1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 At its meeting on 3 June 2026 Council approved closures for two stages of the Silver Fern Rally to be held on 3 December 2026.
- 1.2 Following the organiser's visits/letter drop to residents, it was identified that the timing of the Rally coincides with fawning season for a deer farm located on the Mangamako Road section of the Peep-O-Day/Waipuru Stage.
- 1.3 In the 2018 event a speed restriction for rally participants was enforced outside this property in an attempt to mitigate the stress caused to the fawning hinds, however after discussions between the organisers and the property owner it was agreed that the most suitable resolution was to amend the route to avoid Mangamako Road.
- 1.4 Ultimate Rally Group subsequently contacted Council requesting that the road closure process be initiated for the closure of Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension. This would enable the Peep-O-Day/Waipuru Stage to be amended to remove the Mangamako Road section from the proposed route.
- 1.5 A concern was also raised by a Peep-O-Day Road resident regarding the road closure. To address this concern, Ultimate Rally Group proposed relocating the stage start position on Peep-O-Day Road so that, if the amended route is approved, the resident's property would no longer be impacted by the closure.

2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 Not applicable as this is a legislative / operational item.

3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 Ultimate Ultimate Rally Group have been proactive and responsive in addressing the concerns raised and have demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively with affected residents and Council to identify practical solutions that accommodate the needs of all parties involved.
- 3.2 No objections to the proposed closures of Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension were received.
- 3.3 Should any major damage occur as a result of the Silver Fern Rally, the cost of repairs would be recovered from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd.

4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 This road closure application carries an element of reputational risk for both Council and the event organisers in terms of proceeding, or not. There are economic benefits to the region in supporting this, however if it is not supported then this traditionally biennially run event may select alternative regions to conduct the rally.

5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

Community Engagement

- 5.3 Public notice of the intention to temporarily close the roads was placed on the public notices webpage on 22 July 2026.
- 5.4 The closure information was sent out to the relevant community committees for distribution to local residents while the objection period was open.
- 5.5 A letter drop was undertaken on behalf of Ultimate Rally Group to all affected properties on Sandon Block Road and Sandon Block Road Extension.
- 5.6 Signage will be installed on all roads once the road closure is approved to notify residents and provide contact information and instructions should there be a matter arise whilst the Rally is in operation.

6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no operational implications with this report. Any major damage to the road would be recouped from Ultimate Rally Group Ltd who are required to have public liability insurance.

7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 Section 342 (b) and the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974 sets out the statutory requirements associated with proposals for temporary closure of roads.
- 8.2 Council must approve applications under section 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 Schedule 10 for temporary prohibition of traffic on a Council Road.

9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 A decision to temporarily close the roads is requested from the Council to enable prior public notice of the closure to be given to residents of the Manawatu District.

10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Appendix 1 Residents Letter Revised Peep-O-Day Waipuru Road Stage Route