



We're incredibly proud to share that Merrell Race Tekapo has been selected as a recipient of the government's Events Boost Fund, administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

This support is a significant endorsement of the role regional events play in driving visitation, strengthening local economies, and showcasing the very best of Aotearoa to the world. We are sincerely grateful to the Government and to Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston for recognising the impact events like ours have on both the tourism sector and the communities that host them.

"This is one of many exciting events the Government is supporting in 2026. From world-class international and homegrown musical acts to sports fixtures and arts and cultural celebrations, these events will bring fans, visitors and a big boost to New Zealand's economy," Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston says.

The funding will support our continued efforts to grow Merrell Race Tekapo's reach both domestically and internationally, and encouraging more visitors to experience the magic of Lake Tekapo and the wider Mackenzie Region. Over event weekend, accommodation providers, cafés, restaurants, retailers, activity operators, and community groups all feel the positive flow-on effects of increased visitation.

We are committed to ensuring that Merrell Race Tekapo continues to evolve in a way that benefits everyone - from the athletes and supporters who travel to be part of it, to the volunteers, local businesses, and community organisations who help bring it to life. This investment gives us further momentum to deliver an event experience that is welcoming, world-class, and deeply connected to the place and people who host it.

Thank you to the Government for backing regional events and for supporting the continued growth of Merrell Race Tekapo. We look forward to building on this momentum and delivering an unforgettable event for our community and visitors alike.