

11 April 2019

Moutere Hills Residents Association

Community Survey 'Future of the Moutere Hills' Report for Future Development Strategy

About the MHRA

The Moutere Hills Residents Association (MHRA) is an incorporated society that represents members and residents from throughout the wider Moutere Hills area.

Background

Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council are preparing a joint Future Development Strategy to manage population growth over the next 30 years.

To provide input to this strategy, MHRA has conducted a community survey to establish the view of local residents of the Moutere Hills area on population growth as well as economic and infrastructure development.

The survey was conducted online with above 60 responses received at time of writing and is considered to be representative of the opinion of residents in the area.

Moutere Hills Region

The Moutere catchment is a rural area of approximately 70 km² in the heart of the Tasman District with a population of 1,500 - 2,000 residents. The area comprises both farming and rural productive activities and rural residential living, and this balance is represented in the views of residents as shown by the outcome of the survey.

Key Outcomes

MHRA reports key outcomes of the survey as follows:

1. On the question of **general economic and population growth in rural areas**, the view of the population of the Moutere Hills is exactly balanced between supporting more growth and preferring less new development. The general consensus would be the maintenance of current levels.
 - a. There should be more growth in rural areas 33.9%
 - b. Less growth - the growth should be in cities instead 32.3%
 - c. Everything is fine the way it is 22.6%
 - d. Other responses 11.3%

2. On the question of **desired economic growth** in the Moutere Hills, residents responded that there is a certain interest in more horticulture (25% of answers) and more tourism and other activities (25% of answers), but the current levels of farming and production are generally perceived to be at the correct level (50% of answers).
3. On the question of **more housing development** in the Moutere Hills, there is a clear split and balance between residents supporting new housing, especially smaller lifestyle sections (42% of answers) and village sections for single homes (39% of answers) and residents stating that new housing is not necessary (33% of answers). Note that the percentages represent weighted number of responses and are not a share of total response.
4. With regards to **better infrastructure** in the area, there is a clear demand for more footpaths and bike paths, safer roads, and better public water supply:
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| a. More footpaths and bike paths | 79% |
| b. Better public water supply | 65% |
| c. Safer roads | 54% |
| d. Better telephone and internet connections | 49% |
| e. Improvement of existing roads | 46% |
| f. More public transport options | 44% |
| g. All is fine the way it is | 3% |
| h. More roads | 0% |
5. When asked about **additional services** needed, the clear majority indicated that the current level of services and facilities is sufficient. Additional items can be found in the comments section.
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|-----------------------------------|------------|
| a. All fine the way it is | 43% |
| b. More employment opportunities | 25% |
| c. More accommodation | 16% |
| d. More shops | 14% |
| e. More/better schools/preschools | 6.5% |
| f. More sports/entertainment | 4.8% |
| g. More pubs/restaurants | 3.2% |
6. Finally, the **liveability** in the Moutere is ranked very high – but some concerns exist about resilience and sustainability.
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| a. Liveable (it is a great place to live) | 82% |
| b. Resilient (we can cope with natural disasters) | 36% |
| c. Sustainable (we are using our resources carefully) | 17% |

Detailed Survey Results

Please follow this link for the detailed questions and survey results:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-23NK73NFV/>

Selected Individual Comments

Some responses have been edited for brevity.

More Housing Development		
For	Neutral	Against
More subdivision allowed without draconian clauses.	Build on hills grow on flats.	Starting to get concerned at the level of development, and number of new houses/subdivisions.
Allow multiple dwellings on rural titles. This supports extended families living together and supporting each other.	Growth should be closer to existing communities where there are amenities. Ideally within walking distance and smaller areas of land, so that they are sustainable and manageable.	Too much good arable land is being taken up by lifestyle blocks and housing and not being utilised efficiently.
Seasonal accommodation, and rental accommodation for our workers.	We can definitely house more people, and provide more affordable homes, by allowing more than one residence on a property, without all the current restrictions.	Housing to be placed on less productive land. We do not need to accommodate everyone who wants to live here. There needs to be a clear guide for development.
Subdivision of larger land parcels should be instigated so that there are greater opportunities to live rurally.	Allow for tiny houses as a solution to the housing crisis.	The Moutere does not have the infrastructure for more housing. One of the many reasons that the Moutere is such a special place is that it isn't over-populated and over-developed.

Productive Land & Economy		
More tourism, so long as it is sustainable and doesn't cause environmental damage and has the infrastructure to support it.	Building of water storage for horticultural irrigation.	We need more fresh produce available to buy locally.
A working rural community is essential to the health of that community - so a balance of development that fits with the land and offers a range of employment opportunities.	More development in areas that increase efficiency of social infrastructure, e.g. transport, education, governance, housing, communication, arts.	Could use better stock water option, separate stock water infrastructure from residential use.

Natural Land & Resources		
Planting a variety of trees and hedgerows on rural properties, thereby creating shade and shelter for stock and birds.	More native reforestation to protect water catchments, increase humidity. A Native Reserve where local people could walk, meet, enjoy nature etc	More focus on protecting our precious environment. Where is climate change response in all our planning?

Services & Infrastructure		
Water	Transportation	General Sustainability
All new builds should be installing their own water tanks not pulling water from the exhausted aquifers	Cycleways and footpaths are a big issue for my family and our community. It is currently not safe for our kids to walk to bike to school.	We need to reduce our impacts on the environment so increasing our outputs is going in the wrong direction.
Bylaws that make solar power and water harvesting in wet seasons mandatory for every home, existing and new.	Additional retail/business development in and around Moutere Village is a good idea to create a hub where commercial activity is focussed.	Consider the evidence of climate change occurring, the presence of more extremes, the Moutere is not sustainable. Example is the effects of two cyclones in February 2018.
Water should not be supplied. Individual household should be responsible for their own water storage and usage.	Ideally public transport options - the challenge is to make them viable...	Other communities are on the verge of it losing their long enjoyed natural character due to being over-crowded by tourism and newcomers who do not seem to respect the values of the past generations