

Moutere Hills Residents Association Submission to the Tasman District Council

Proposed Age-Friendly Policy Consultation (2018/19)

About the Submitter

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

The MHRA aims to promote interest in the social, environmental, economic and cultural life in the Moutere Hills area; to determine the consensual opinion of residents and ratepayers on the development of the Moutere Hills area; and to act as a channel of communication between the Tasman District Council and any other statutory bodies and the residents of the Moutere Hills area on matters relevant to the community.

Goals of the Proposed Policy

The draft policy document 'Proposed Age-Friendly Policy' highlights the following community outcomes to be achieved:

"Our urban and rural environments are people-friendly, well-planned, accessible and sustainably managed."

"Our infrastructure is efficient, cost effective and meets current and future needs."

"Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient."

The draft policy also specifically mentions transportation infrastructure including footpaths, pedestrian crossing, and cycleways.

Observations

The Moutere Hills Residents Association is of the opinion that in many populated rural areas the availability of safe footpaths along public roads is highly inadequate, often non-existent.

Many country roads in populated rural areas are now so busy with motorised traffic - often travelling at the full 100 kph allowable speed limit or even above, and often seeing the heaviest use by the most dangerous traffic (including but not limited to logging trucks), and often having no suitable verge for safe evasion either side of the road - that they cannot be considered safe to use by any person who is not themselves in a motor vehicle.

These roads are the only connection between places of life for most people in rural areas. They are the only available connection, even over relatively short distances, which could easily be travelled alternatively by foot or bicycle. Yet these alternatives cannot safely be used, thus limiting transportation to travel by motor vehicle only.

Conclusion

It is our opinion that limiting travel options to the use of a motor vehicle - even over short distances - cannot be considered people-friendly, well-planned, accessible, inclusive, or resilient. This limitation applies to elderly people, as well as families with children, as well as anybody who might not have a motor vehicle available at all times.

It is therefore our submission that, to work towards achieving the goals of the Proposed Age-Friendly Policy, the district-wide annual budget for public footpaths be significantly increased, specifically to allow for development of more safe footpaths in rural areas.

Many thanks and with kind regards.

Moutere Hills Residents Association
25/01/2019