

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2020



Contents

Introduction	2
Purpose	2
Setting the scene in Tasman	2
Strategies and Legislation	3
Let's Talk About Us.....	6
What does this mean for Tasman?	7
Cultural Well-being	8
Cultural Identity	8
Arts, Sports, and Recreation Participation	9
Subjective Well-being	9
Environmental Well-being	10
Natural Hazards and Climate Change	10
Biodiversity and Biosecurity.....	10
Aquatic Ecosystem Health	11
Air Quality	12
Recycling and Waste	12
Social Well-being.....	14
Housing	14
Youth Leadership	15
Voter Turnout	15
Health.....	15
Safety and Security	16
Deprivation Indices	17
Economic Well-being	18
Financial Well-being.....	18
Knowledge and Skills.....	18
Employment and Business	19
Tourism	20
Transport and Infrastructure	20
Digital	21

Introduction

The environmental scanning process encompasses several steps. We first gathered information about the world in which the Council operates, focusing around the four areas of Community Well-being (Environmental, Social, Cultural, and Economic) that the Government has restored focus on to encourage councils around New Zealand to take a sustainable approach to development. We also included a section on demographics.

Purpose

This document provides relevant context and information to Tasman District Councillors to assist with the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP). It looks at where the community has been heading and helps to provide background for Council decision making in the LTP.

While the environmental scan is intended to promote consistency across Council activities, it only provides a general picture. Further research will be required to support specific projects and decisions, and will be included in the Activity Management Plans.

Please note that some Stats NZ data is due to be finalised. Projections have not taken into account major world or regional events leading to sustained adverse economic downturn.

Setting the scene in Tasman

Tasman is one of New Zealand's Sunbelt regions and is generally noted for its mild winters, frequent sunny skies, and growing economic opportunities. These are a key drawcard for the District and one of the leading reasons why Tasman is a desirable place to live.¹

Tasman, like the rest of the country, is experiencing population growth, both in terms of regional and international migration, and higher life expectancies. There are already more people aged 65 and older than children aged 0 to 14 years in Tasman and population projections for Tasman see a growth of 20,000 people from 2020 to 2053.²

Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels.³ There's been a growing awareness of the impacts of climate change, seen in recent school strikes for climate and in the focus of insurance companies around the world. New Zealand has committed to act against climate change with the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Act that was passed in 2019 and is co-funding a methane-tracking satellite.⁴ Likewise, Tasman is committed, with 2019 seeing the Council adopt the Tasman Climate Action Plan.

Tasman has seen its fair share of natural disasters in recent years. Fortunately, Nelson-Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM), continue to review and make improvements to response and recovery plans. In the prevention space, there are many planning rules that local governments check

¹ Tasman District Council, 'Pre-Election Report 2019'

² Natalie Jackson Demographics Ltd, 'Tasman District Council and Wards – Population, Household and Dwelling Projections 2018-2053', <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/key-documents/more/growth/growth-model/>

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 'Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C', <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

⁴ Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), 'New Zealand joins MethanSAT climate mission in space', <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/news/new-zealand-joins-methanesat-climate-mission-in-space/>

before giving consent for further development in high risk areas. This disruption is likely to continue, and community resilience will be very important.

Iwi are involved in connecting Māori communities, assisting youth and older people, schools, and environmental groups. For example, Wakatū Inc. has been leading the Te Taihū Intergenerational Strategy that identifies various issues that people from the Top of the South care about. Iwi have also been involved in the Council's decisions for many years. More recently the relationship between iwi and the Council has improved through continuing dialogue, and expected to continue to grow with the appointment of a dedicated Kaihautū officer.

Digital technologies have helped New Zealanders connect to the rest of the world, provided an education resource, and expanded business opportunities. Digital flows now contribute more to GDP growth than trade in traditional goods. High speed broadband continues to be rolled out across Tasman. This will increase opportunities to develop high-value sectors, such as research and development and improve productivity through the increase in use of technology. However, there is still significant concern about data security and privacy and we must continue to make our interactions on the internet safe.

Strategies and Legislation

Central Government legislature and planning activity affecting local government is particularly dynamic at the moment. Below is a sample of legislation and plans under development which are likely to impact the Council.

Road to Zero

Road to Zero is a new road safety strategy for New Zealand. It aims to have zero fatalities or serious injuries as a result of road crashes. However, it recognises that people make mistakes. One of seven principles includes to design for these occurrences, and one way to make the roads safer for everyone on it, is to reduce the speed limit to 60km/h around rural schools and 30-40km/h around urban schools.⁵

Arataki

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has developed 'Arataki', a 10 year view of what the Government needs to do to deliver its objectives and priorities for the land transport system. It looks at trends in how people and goods move – regionally and nationally. This is used to ask whether what we have currently in our land transport system is enough, and if not, what priorities or opportunities can central and local government agencies and programmes take when forming strategies and planning for the future.

Emissions Trading Scheme

Many sectors of the economy must report their annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the Government. The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) puts a price on GSGs. The ETS leaves the choice up to the emitter of whether to reduce emissions or to purchase more emission units. The cap on available units means that there is less supply, and as demand for the units rises, unit prices increase. This provides disincentives to buying expensive units and incentivises actions that reduce emissions.

⁵ Ministry of Transport, 'Road to Zero Action Plan'

Consultation on the proposed reform to the ETS has recently closed, and recommended regulations will be put into place, with no date confirmed yet.⁶

Action for healthy waterways

The Government has released proposals to improve the current management of freshwater by changing legislation and regulation. The proposal includes amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), an updated National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, an updated National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water, and new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater and Wastewater. Consultation on the proposals has closed and the changes to legislation and new regulation is expected to be in place mid-2020.⁷

Three Waters Review

This is a cross-governmental initiative on how to improve the regulation and supply of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. The aim is to better support the prosperity, health, safety, and the environment of New Zealanders. From mid-2020, the Government will set a new regulatory framework. The new system is to be overseen by a dedicated regulator (Taumata Arowai) to lead change and drive improvement.⁸

Tasman Environment Plan Review

Tasman's key resource management plans are being reviewed. Our Tasman Regional Policy Statement (TRPS) and Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) describe important environmental issues in Tasman and how we will manage them. Since the TRMP was introduced in 1996, the Council have endeavoured to keep it relevant by undertaking plan changes as and when required. However, there has been significant changes in legislation that need to be reflected in the plan plus, new requirements to re-write it in a nationally prescribed format. To meet all these requirements, the Council decided to commence a full review of our TRPS and TRMP. We are likely to combine both documents into one combined plan that has a working title of "Tasman Environment Plan". We expect this will take six to ten years to complete, depending on the range and number of submissions received and any future appeals.⁹

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)

The Government has released its proposal for maintaining and protecting our indigenous biodiversity into the future. The proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity is being led by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and sets out the objectives and policies to identify, protect, manage and restore indigenous biodiversity under the RMA. It is currently out for consultation and expected to be in place by mid-2020.

National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (Air Quality NES)

The Government is proposing amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality 2004. These Standards set a guaranteed minimum level of health and protection for all New Zealanders. The MfE is currently seeking feedback on amendments that aims to better control the release of fine particles into

⁶ MfE, 'About New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme', <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/new-zealand-emissions-trading-scheme/about-nz-ets>

⁷ Barry Johnson

⁸ Beehive, NZ Herald, DIA

⁹ Barry Johnson

our air, as well as controls on mercury emissions.¹⁰ Potential changes could mean changes to how regional councils measure or monitor air quality.

Urban Development Bill

Kāinga Ora's development derives from the housing functions formerly from Housing NZ being carried across to it, with the addition of urban development powers. These latter powers are currently going through Parliament in the [Urban Development Bill](#). Part of the Bill is that Kāinga Ora may become a Building Consent Authority and Resource Consent Authority, for the specified development project area.¹¹

Proposed National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD)

Once gazetted, this proposal will replace the existing National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS_UDC). Richmond, within Tasman, is currently listed as a medium growth area as part of the Nelson Main Urban Area in the NPS_UDC.¹²

Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)

This proposal prevents the loss of more of our productive land and promotes its sustainable management. The overall purpose of the proposal is to improve the way highly productive land is managed under the RMA. Consultation has closed and expected changes mid-2020.¹³

Building Code Update

The MBIE are proposing updates to the Building Code. This is to ensure it is up to date with innovation, current construction methods and accounts for the needs of modern society. Changes proposed include aspects of: protection from fire, surface water, external and internal moisture, electricity, and foul water.¹⁴ Decisions are expected to be released mid-2020.

¹⁰ MfE website/Diana Worthy

¹¹ Jacqui Deans

¹² Jacqui Deans

¹³ MfE website

¹⁴ MBIE website

Let's Talk About Us

World population estimates for 2050 are at 9.7 billion.¹⁵ Migration is increasing, in New Zealand and the Tasman region, including movement internally and internationally. Today, 55% of the world's population live in urban areas, and is expected to increase to 68% by 2050.¹⁶ Along with the rest of the world, New Zealand, and Tasman, will experience this growth in population, due to factors including prolonged life expectancy, and immigration. Here are some quick stats on our changing demographics.

Tasman, like the rest of the country, is experiencing population growth and is projected to see growth of 20,000 people from 2020 to 2053. The proportion of Tasman's population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 21% in 2018 to 34% by 2048. Figure 1 shows the expected growth in population by age group.¹⁷

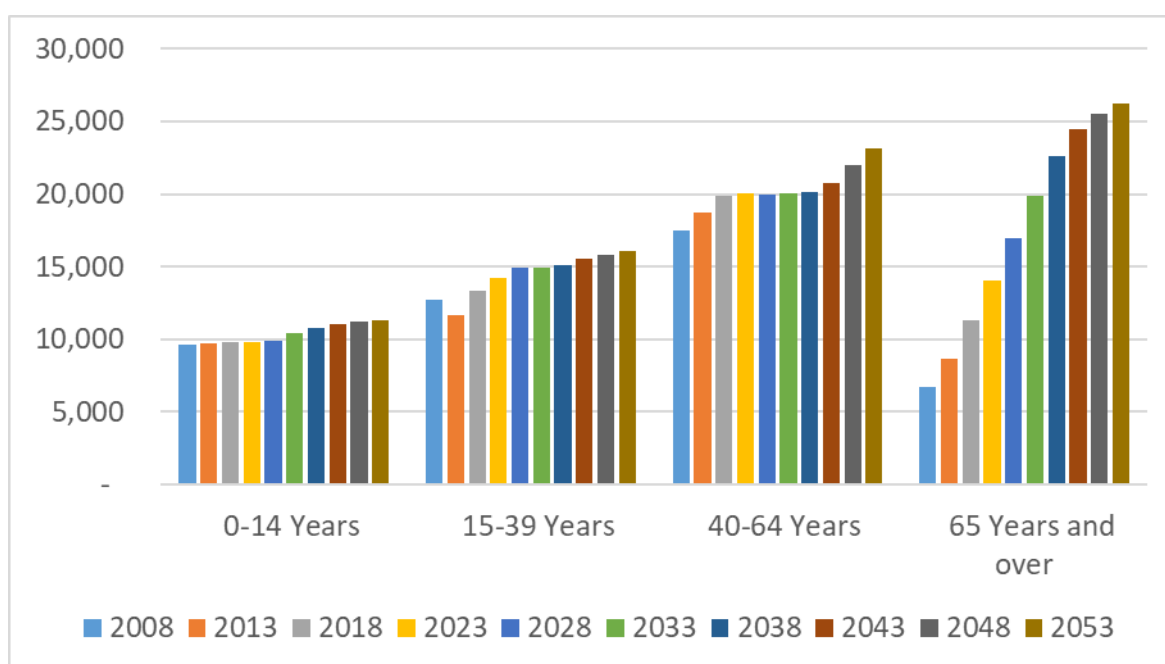


Figure 1. Tasman population by age group, 2008-2053

Tasman's population is becoming increasingly diverse but the European ethnic group is, and will continue to be, the predominant ethnic group. By 2038, the percentage of Tasman's population who identify as Māori is projected to reach 12%. Between 2013 and 2038, the number of Asian residents is projected to triple, from 2% to 6%, and the number of Pacific people is projected to double, from 1% to 2%.¹⁸ Figure 2 shows the make up of Tasman and New Zealand ethnic communities as they were in 2018.

¹⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs website

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Natalie Jackson Demographics Ltd

¹⁸ Stats NZ

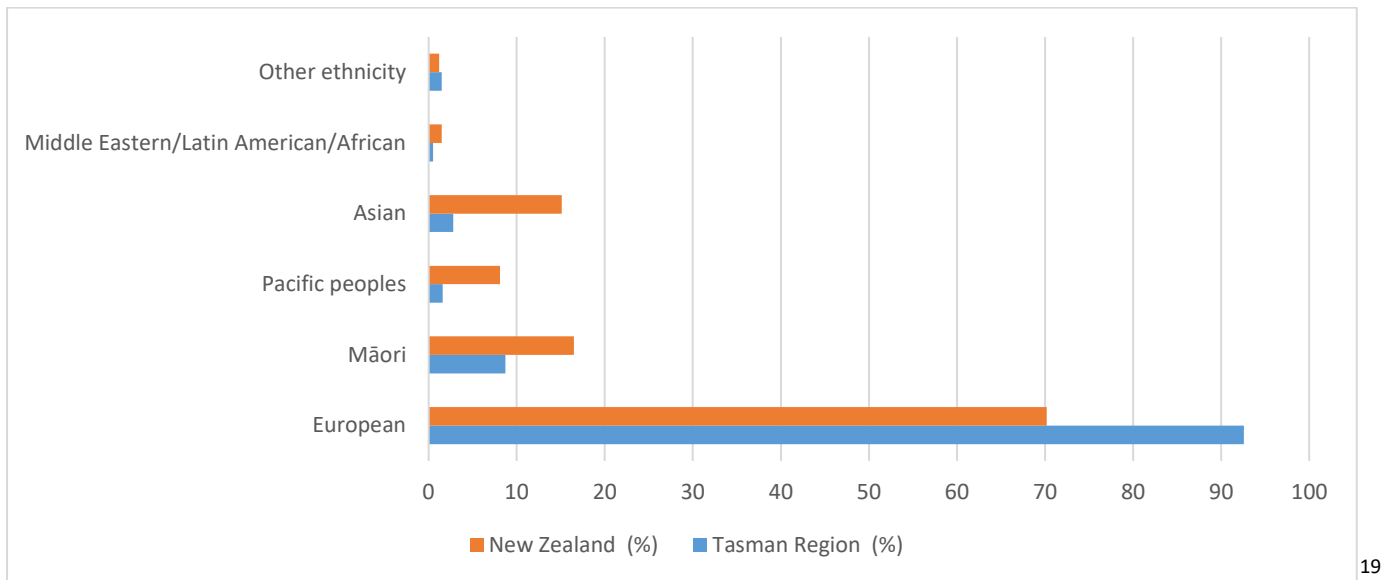


Figure 2. Ethnic Groups for people in Tasman Region and New Zealand in 2018.

What does this mean for Tasman?

Thinking about these changes, we should expect to see impacts on our economic, cultural, environmental, and social well-being. It means effective planning will be crucial to ensure we:

- have enough housing choices and in the right places;
- meet housing needs with appropriate levels of infrastructure;
- keep in mind that resources are finite;
- provide activities, facilities and services to create a sense of place for all ages and cultures;
- have a safe and efficient digital environment to meet the needs of individuals and businesses alike;
- care for our environment for us and future generations; and
- build safe and connected communities.

¹⁹ Stats NZ, 2018 Census

Cultural Well-being

The shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and identities reflected through language, stories, visual and performing arts, ceremonies, and heritage that make up our communities.

Cultural Identity

Table 1 shows the changing face of Tasman District’s population from 2006 to 2018.

	2006 (%)	2013 (%)	2018 (%)
European	82.7	93.1	92.6
Māori	7.1	7.6	8.7
Pacific peoples	0.8	1.1	1.6
Asian	1.3	2.0	2.8
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	0.2	0.3	0.5
Other ethnicity	14.7	2.4	1.5

Table 1. Ethnic groups for people in Tasman Region, 2006-2018 Censuses

In New Zealand, the proportion of Māori who could speak te reo Māori dropped. This is likely due to a decline in older Māori language speakers.²⁰ Figure 3 compares the percentage of common languages spoken in Tasman region and New Zealand in 2018.

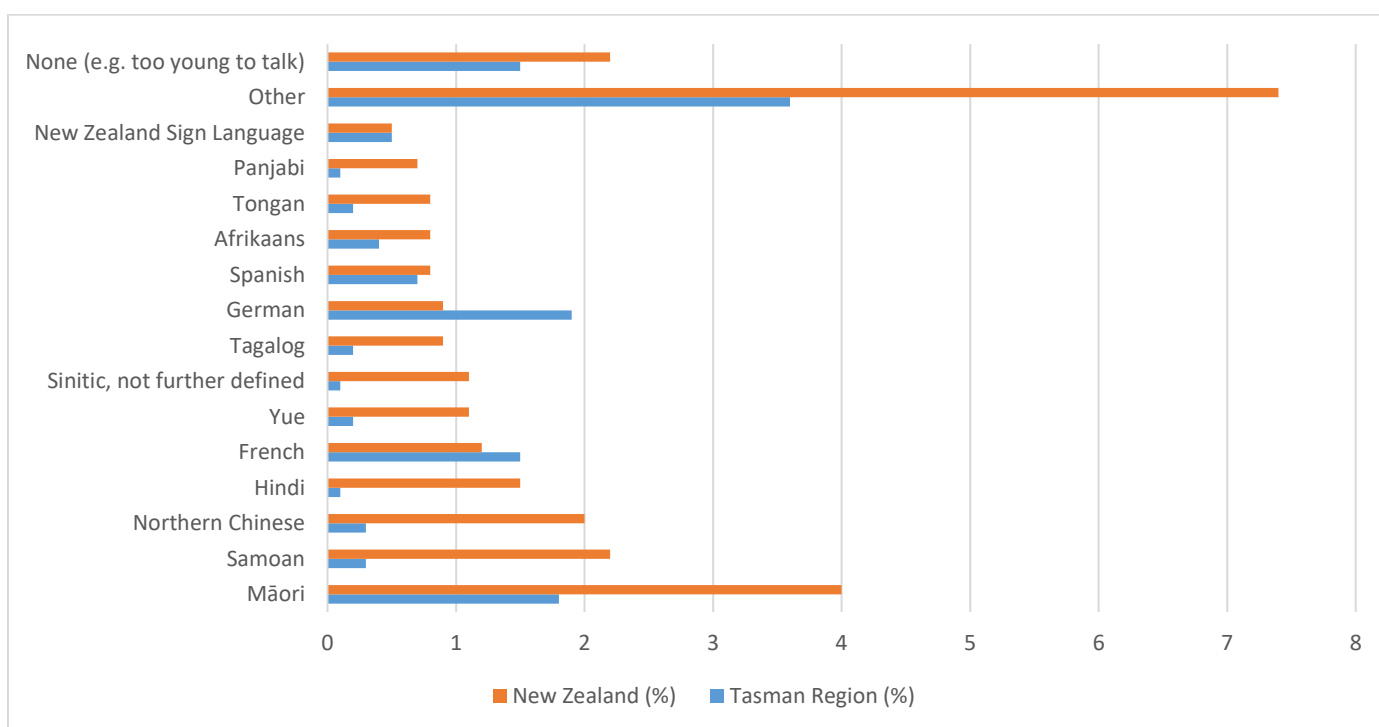


Figure 3. Common Languages in Tasman and New Zealand

In a 2014 survey, most people found it ‘very easy’ or ‘easy’ to be themselves in New Zealand. People in Pacific, and Asian ethnic groups, and those in lower socio-economic groups were less likely than others to say this.²¹

²⁰ Ministry of Social Development (MSD), ‘The Social Report 2016’

²¹ Ibid.

Since 2001, more New Zealanders state they have no religious affiliation, and the latest Census data shows that this now includes more than 2 million New Zealanders.²² Christianity has been decreasing since 2013, but is still the largest religious grouping, with large denominations of Anglican, Catholic, and Presbyterian. Since the last Census, religious affiliations that have grown in New Zealand (excluding Christian religions) include Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism. In Tasman, the two big trends are an increase in people stating they have no religious affiliation, and a decrease in people stating they have a Christian affiliation.

Arts, Sports, and Recreation Participation

In 2017, Creative New Zealand conducted a survey on New Zealanders’ engagement with the arts. Of Tasman residents, 82% had attended or participated in the visual arts, craft and object art, performing arts, literature, Pacific arts, and Māori arts. Compare this to 80% of New Zealanders. Attitudes towards the arts were positive, with over half of participants in Tasman indicating that the arts were an inclusive field, welcoming people from all walks of life, and should be included in the education system in New Zealand.

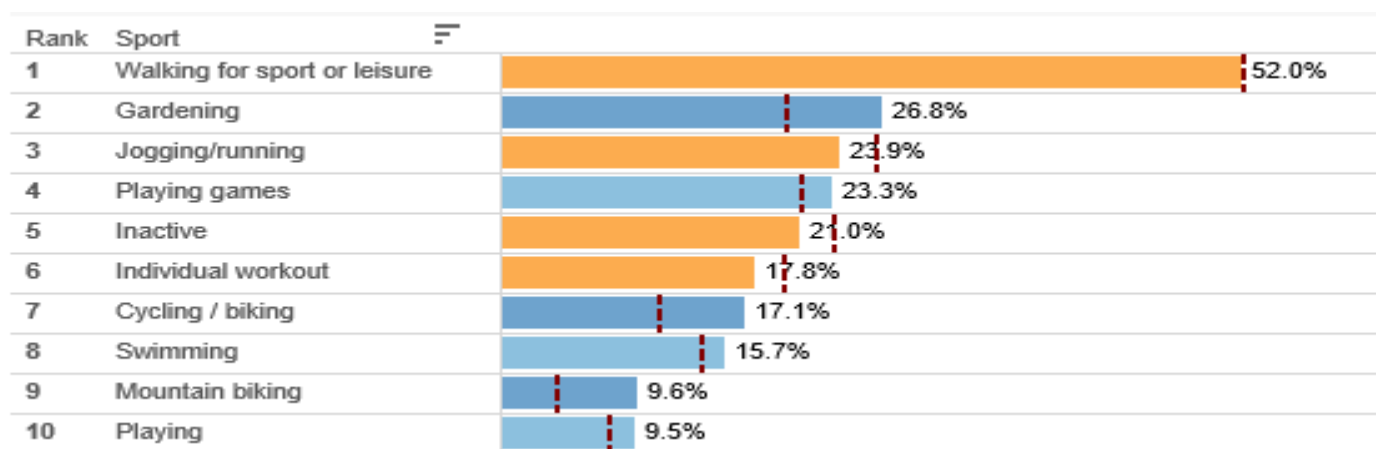


Figure 4. Ranked participation rates by activity in the Tasman District

Figure 4 is based on a 2017 survey from Active NZ and Stats NZ 2013 data, and shows the number one activity that the people of Tasman enjoy is walking.²³ The red line indicates the New Zealand results.

Subjective Well-being

Subjective well-being is a self-reported measure of well-being. Over the last eight years, New Zealanders who rate their general health as ‘excellent’ has dropped, especially amongst those between 15 and 44 years.²⁴ A New Zealand 2016 survey found that four in five adults (aged 15 years or more) have experienced mental distress personally or among people they knew and one in 10 young people (aged 15 to 24 years) reported that they had or have thoughts of suicide or self-harm.²⁵

²² Stats NZ, 2018 Census

²³ Sport New Zealand, insights tool

²⁴ Stats NZ, ‘Kiwis report feeling less healthy’

²⁵ Health Promotion Agency, ‘Well-being and mental distress in Aotearoa New Zealand’

Environmental Well-being

Considers whether the natural environment can sustainably support the activities that constitute healthy community life, such as air quality, fresh water, uncontaminated land, and control of pollution.

Natural Hazards and Climate Change

The Tasman region is subject to a range of natural hazards from weather and geological phenomena. These include earthquakes, slope failures, flooding, droughts, coastal storms etc. These natural hazards can impact both our physical and social environment depending on their severity and frequency. The Council responds to such natural hazards in a variety of ways that include managing land and resource use, mitigation of the hazard and emergency response to a hazard event. Further detail of the hazards and the risk they pose to the district can be found in the [Nelson-Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management \(CDEM\) Group Plan](#).

Climate Change will cause extreme weather events to become more frequent and intense into the future. The weather related events (flooding, soil erosion, slope failures, drought) that the District has experienced in recent years are consistent with the predicted impacts of climate change. Increased variability and intensity of rainfall will result in greater incidences of weather related events. Local Government New Zealand estimates that councils in New Zealand are facing an estimated cost of \$5-8 billion to replace vital infrastructure lost to climate change over the next half century. Challenges also bring opportunities. Investment in changes for horticulture, services, management, and technology will be required and may drive innovation from our region.²⁶

Low lying coastal land will be subject to increasing inundation and erosion hazard as a result of sea level rise and storm surge. The Council relies on MfE guidelines for estimates of predicted sea level rise. The current advice is to plan for a sea level rise of up to 1.0 metre for the period to 2100 and 1.9 metres by 2150.²⁷

Biodiversity and Biosecurity

Biodiversity and biosecurity (preventing damage caused by unwanted organisms) are interrelated and work together to enhance and protect our communities, ecosystems, human health, heritage, economic well-being, the environment, enjoyment of the natural environment, and the relationship between Māori, their culture, their traditions, and their ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu, and taonga.²⁸ The term biodiversity describes the wide variety of life on earth. This includes plants, bacteria, animals, and humans. Scientists estimate that there are 8.7 million species of plants and animals, and only 1.2 million species have been identified, most of these being insects.²⁹ Scientists also estimate that 1 million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, in what some are terming a 'nature crises'.³⁰ Biosecurity is the protection of an environment from biological threats. Countries and regions around the world will define

²⁶ Tasman District Council website

²⁷ Glenn Stevens

²⁸ Tasman District Council, 'Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029'

²⁹ National Geographic

³⁰ National Geographic/The Guardian

different organisms a pest species. There are a number of methods used globally to reduce pest species numbers, allowing native, threatened, or endangered species a better chance of surviving.

	Number of species	Percentage of species
In serious trouble	54	32%
In some trouble	81	48%
Doing OK	33	20%
Total	168	

Table 2. The conservation status of New Zealand’s 168 species of native birds.

Table 2 shows the status of bird species in New Zealand; only one fifth of our 168 native bird species are doing OK, and a third are in serious trouble.³¹ New Zealand has witnessed numerous species become extinct, and now, more than 3,000 plant and wildlife species are threatened.³² Coupled with impacts from the likes of mycoplasma bovis etc, biosecurity is a high priority for New Zealand. The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation have been looking ahead and have developed several initiatives to keep pest numbers down, such as the National Pest Pet Biosecurity Accord, Predator Free 2050, and biosecurity management, such as provisions in the National Environmental Standard for Marine Farming.

Despite considerable modification of its land cover by human activity, the Tasman region still holds nearly three-quarters of its indigenous dominated land-based ecosystem. The greatest losses of our land-based ecosystems are in lowland areas, particularly in the east of the region. Lowland forests in warm climates have been most affected, reducing by approximately 75%. Forests in mild climates have been less affected, reducing by around 60%, while forests of cool/cold climates still occupy more than 90% of their former range. Ecosystems occurring above the treeline and on ultramafic substrates (low nutrients and high metal concentrations) still occupy almost all their former range.³³

In the Tasman region, we now have the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan, which details programmes that will be used to eradicate or manage unwanted pests that may pose a risk to our environment or economy. It also details the range of pests that will be targeted during the 10 year lifespan of the Plan.

Aquatic Ecosystem Health

In the freshwater domain, Tasman’s ecosystem health and water quality is generally good and is characterised by diverse and abundant fish and invertebrate communities and good habitat. This is due in large part to our rivers which have a significant proportion of native forest in their headwaters, which substantially dilute pollutants from intensification of agriculture and residential development into the middle or lower reaches.

However, many streams have been straightened and riparian cover have been removed due to lowland pastoral farming and urban land use. This results in poor water quality and degraded ecosystems as it increases the speed of water flow leading to erosion; and reduces habitat quality through diversity of water depth and width, speed of the water, variety of bank shape, and provision of spawning sites. With

³¹ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, ‘Taonga of an island nation’

³² Department of Conservation Annual Report

³³ John Leathwick, ‘Indigenous biodiversity rankings for the Tasman Region’

increasing efforts to restore these streams, we hope to see improvement. Of the major contaminants discharged to waterways, fine sediment is of the greatest concern.

Overall, groundwater is of high quality, apart from parts of the Waimea River where there are elevated nitrate concentrations resulting from human activities such as market gardening and a historic piggery.

In the coastal marine domain, Tasman estuaries are generally in good health apart from parts of the Waimea, Moutere and Motupipi estuaries, which have experienced extensive loss of saltmarsh and seagrass, and increased sedimentation. Tasman Bays' seabed is relatively barren, partly as a result from bottom trawling (industrial fishing method) and a high level of fine suspended sediment near the bed.³⁴

Over recent years, we have seen a growing trend in collaborative works – e.g. catchment enhancement fund, community, iwi, business and Council-led, such as the Wharariki-Onetahua restoration project, the Waimea Inlet Management Strategy, the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Strategy, and Project Janszoon.

Water quality is regularly monitored at popular swimming and recreational water sport locations within the Tasman District. The risk of catching an infectious disease from swimming in clear, clean water is usually low. However, after rainfall, contamination occurs through runoff into waterways and there is an increased chance of human health ailments.³⁵ Different swimming sites are sampled by the Council every year. In the summer 2018/2019 period, 92% of samples for freshwater and marine sites during all weather conditions were compliant with national guidelines. This is higher than the 83% measured in the 2017/2018 summer period.³⁶

Air Quality

The main air quality issue in our District is during the winter season with smog due to wood burning. Wood burners used for home heating and outdoor fires associated with the burning of garden waste and land management practices contribute to this air pollution. The calm, clear and cold winter days don't allow smoke to rise and disperse. Instead, the smoke sits low to the ground. Other sources of air pollution include rural outdoor burning, motor vehicle emissions, secondary sulphate and marine aerosol (sea salt). Air pollution can cause significant negative health and nuisance effects; this impacts the vulnerable the most (the young, old, and those with pre-existing medical conditions).

The Council has tools in place via the TRMP to manage discharges to air, including specific rules for the Richmond Airshed. The airshed currently does not meet the Air Quality National Environmental Standards for particulates and is 'polluted' under the standards. The Council has also initiated an ongoing monitoring programme to better understand if there are air quality issues in our other townships, with an initial focus on Motueka.³⁷ The MfE is currently consulting on proposed changes to the Air Quality NES and the Council will need to give effect to any new standards.

Recycling and Waste

A recent survey found that New Zealanders are highly concerned with the build-up of plastic in the environment.³⁸ Long before China stopped taking everyone's recycling, innovative ideas were being trialled

³⁴ Biodiversity Stocktake by Mary Honey/Trevor James

³⁵ Tasman District Council website

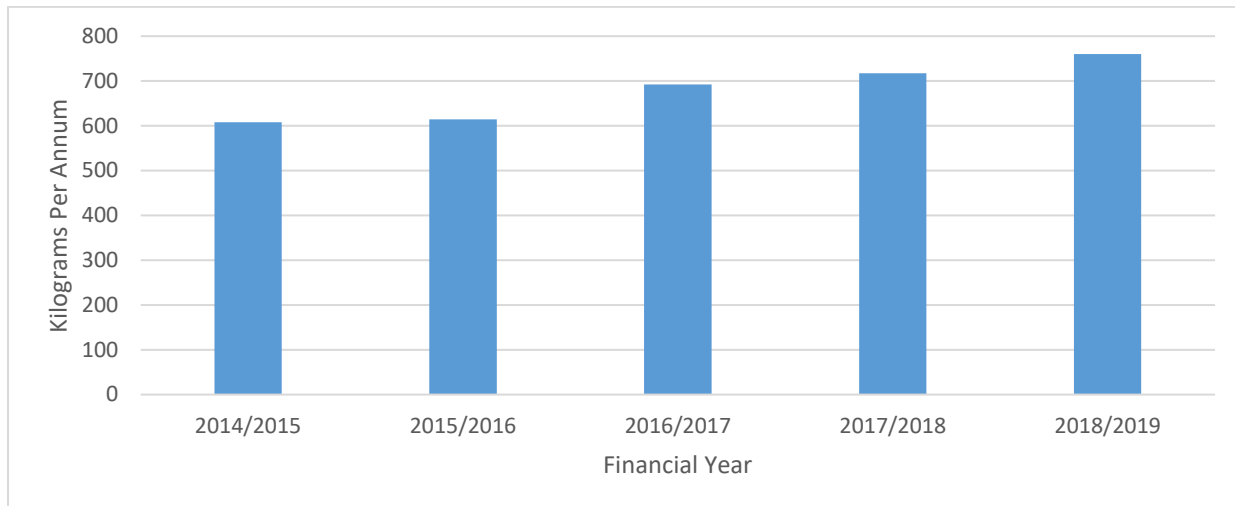
³⁶ Tasman District Council, 'Contact Recreation Water Quality Reports' – to the Environment and Planning Committee

³⁷ Diana Worthy

³⁸ Colmar Brunton Better Futures, 'Tracking New Zealanders' Attitudes and Behaviours Around Sustainability'

to solve the issue of waste, some with success. For example, Sweden uses household waste to generate heat for nearly 10 million of its residents.³⁹

There has been a growing awareness of waste and pollution. Plastic bags have been banned in New Zealand and around the world. Businesses and products are focusing on these higher priority values now with the likes of shampoo bars, reusable vegetable and grocery bags, make up removers, and coffee cups to name a few. Towns in the Tasman region were the first to start the cupcycling system in New Zealand.⁴⁰



41

Figure 5. Nelson-Tasman Waste to Landfill per capita

The results seen in figure 5 don't mean that each individual resident disposes of that much rubbish. Commercially generated waste make up for 55% of the waste to landfill.⁴² A waste composition study in 2012 found that compared to other landfills in New Zealand, Nelson-Tasman dispose of a slightly greater proportion of paper, cardboard, and plastics to landfill. The Nelson-Tasman region have a Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, which has an aim to reduce waste to landfill by 10% by 2030 for each person. The approach to achieving our waste minimisation objectives will be decided upon by each council during their three-yearly asset and LTP processes.

³⁹ The NY Times, 'In Sweden, Trash Heats Homes, Powers Buses and Fuels Taxi Fleets', <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/21/climate/sweden-garbage-used-for-fuel.html>

⁴⁰ Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA), 'Ideal cup'

⁴¹ Tasman District Council Annual Report 2018/2019

⁴² Nelson-Tasman Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2019

Social Well-being

Involves individuals, their families, whanau, hapū, iwi, and a range of communities being able to set goals and achieve them, such as education, health, the strength of community networks, financial and personal security, equity of opportunity, and rights and freedoms.

Housing

In over half the countries that the International Monetary Fund monitor, house prices have grown faster than rental prices and incomes.⁴³ New Zealand has been ranked as a ‘severely unaffordable’ housing market by the Annual Demographia International housing Affordability Survey⁴⁴, and is experiencing higher house prices, rising rents, and a lack of housing options. New estimates from Infometrics point towards a current shortage nationally of about 40,000 homes.⁴⁵ Also, the increased housing unaffordability has led to a tripling in the number of households on the public housing register (waiting list), up from 4,630 in June 2014 to 12,311 in June 2019.⁴⁶

Tasman house prices increased by nearly 50% between 2014 and 2019, reaching a median of almost \$600,000.⁴⁷ As of 2018, 85% of first home buyers could not comfortably afford a typical “first home” priced house. 63% of rental households cannot comfortably afford typical rents.⁴⁸ According to Massey University’s Home Affordability Index (June and September 2019), Tasman is the second least affordable region in the country, after Auckland.

Despite that, home ownership in Tasman is one of the highest nationally, with 76% of households owning their home or being held in a family trust.⁴⁹

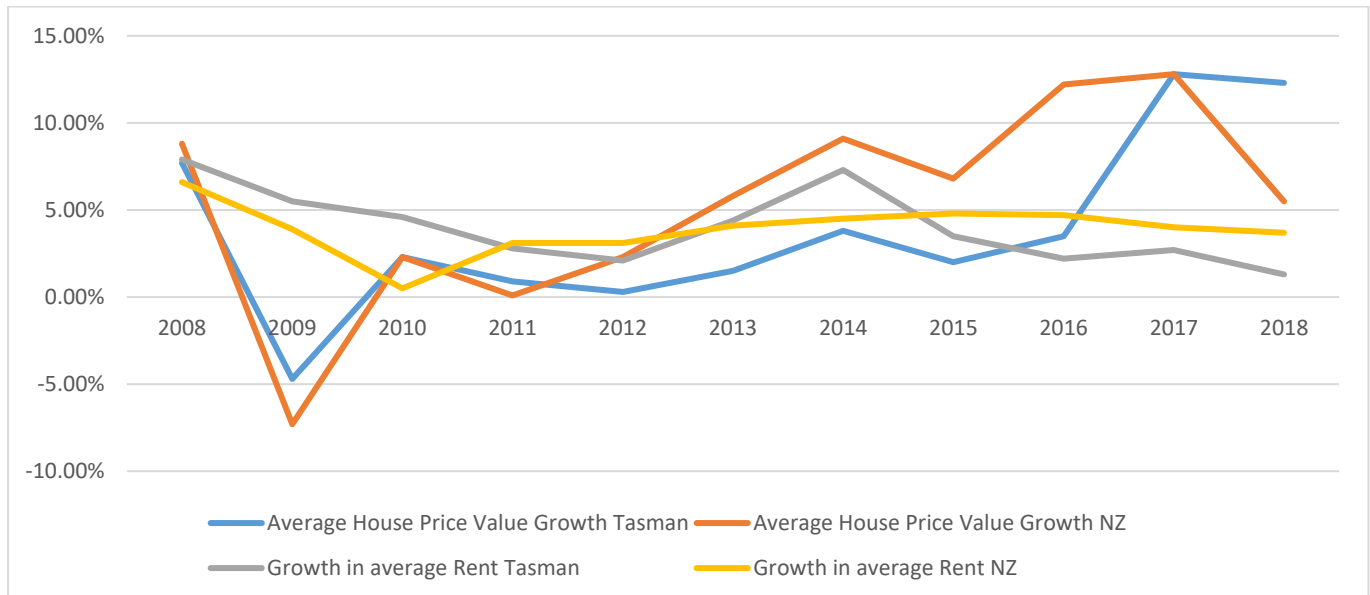


Figure 6. Average House and Rental Growth, 2008-2018

⁴³ International Monetary Fund, ‘Global Housing Watch’, <https://www.imf.org/external/research/housing/>

⁴⁴ Demographia, <http://demographia.com/>

⁴⁵ Infometrics

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ MBIE, ‘Urban Development Capacity dashboard’

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ StatsNZ, 2018 Census

Youth Leadership

Increasingly more common place, youth leadership is on the rise as can be seen more recently through the protests on gun violence, the #MeToo movement, and the global climate strikes. Young people are coming forward and stepping into central and local Government leadership roles, both here and across the globe. Youth have role models in the form of Chloe Swarbrick, Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg. In Tasman, we have four Youth Councils, Murchison, Golden Bay, Motueka, and Waimea. This provides youth in our Region the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills.

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for local government elections have been declining nationally over the past four triennial elections. There are several reasons that contribute towards this, including:

- the inconvenience of using post and reduced postal services means it is difficult for some to return documents in time;
- no on-line voting;
- lack of knowledge of local government, its role and how it affects everyone; and
- the view that it is not important to vote.

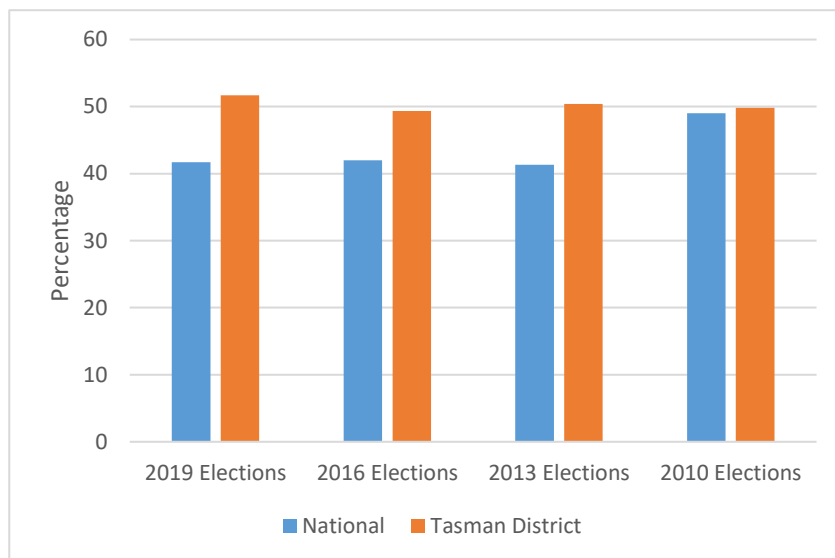


Figure 7. Voter Turnout Triennial Elections

Tasman District Council has resisted this trend over the years, and in the 2019 elections exceeded the national voter turnout by 10%. This was attributed to increased publicity and extensive information including visual recordings of profile statements online, as well as promotion that encouraged people to enrol and vote at locations outside of the Council offices.

Health

Having better health outcomes provides our community the opportunity to be active and engaged through their ability to participate in the community, in work, and in education. Based on 2018/2019 data, New Zealanders are smoking less but more people are experiencing psychological distress. There is an estimated 1.22 million obese adults. On a positive note, more children are undergoing regular dental checks, and more people are visiting their general practitioners and filling prescriptions.⁵⁰

As of January 2020, 99% of the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board population have enrolled with a primary health organisation.⁵¹ In Tasman specifically, life expectancy, suicide rates, and the percentage of people attending a mental health presentation is higher than the national average (note that the latter is not a true representation of people struggling with mental health).⁵²

⁵⁰ Ministry of Health, 'Annual Update of Key results 2018/2019'

⁵¹ Ministry of Health, 'Enrolment in a primary health organisation'

⁵² Infometrics

Just over half (53%) of Te Taihū residents report being in very good in excellent health, with 27% reporting good health status and 20% reporting fair/poor health status.⁵³

Safety and Security

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey interviewed over 8,000 New Zealanders in 2018 and found that 71% of adults experienced no crime, but young adults aged between 20-29 years (40%) and Māori (37%) are more likely to experience crime compared to the average New Zealander (29%).

Reported crime in the Tasman District has increased over the last two years, after generally declining since 2016. The majority (87%) are crimes against property (theft, unlawful entry and burglary).⁵⁴



Figure 8. Tasman District Crime Victimisations, 2015-2019

Infometrics has analysed the number of crimes committed and recorded in an area of 10,000 residents. From this, they have given Tasman a crime rate of 252.7, lower than the New Zealand score of 344.1.⁵⁵

Between 2012 and 2016, crashes that resulted in fatality and injury fluctuated on New Zealand roads, with total fatal crashes numbering between 230-290, and total crashes resulting in injury between 8,600 - 9,600.⁵⁶

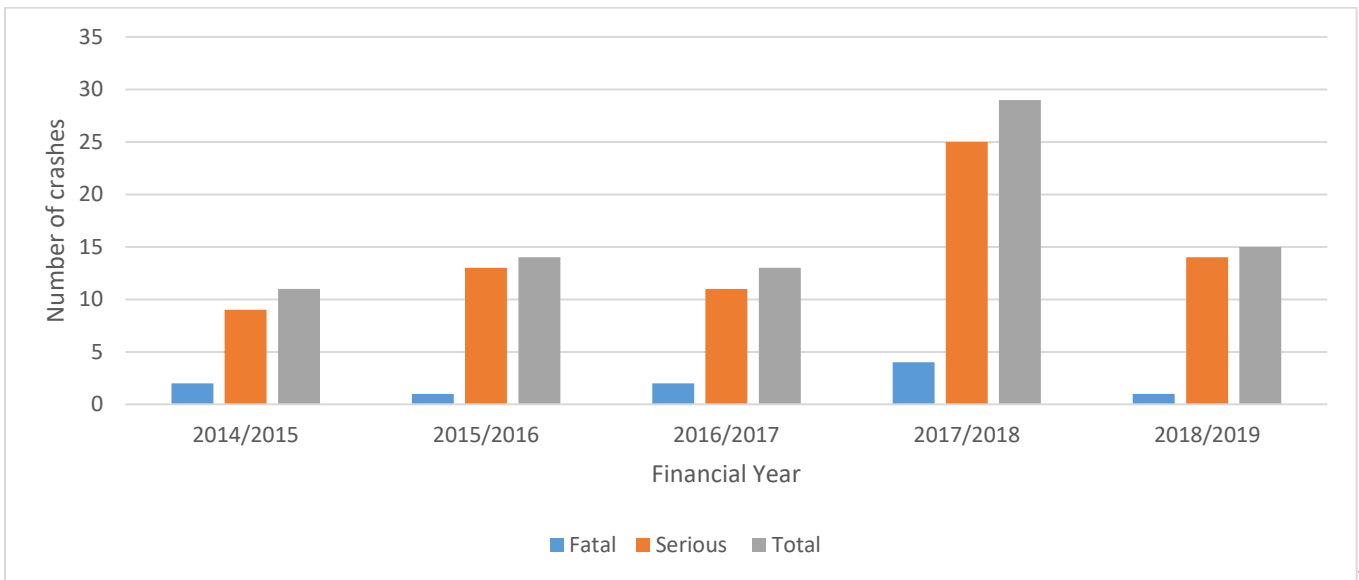
Over the past five years, total crashes on Tasman roads are slowly increasing. Note that the 2017/2018 spike is when traffic was diverted due to damage caused by the Kaikōura earthquake, and the increasing traffic correlated with more accidents.

⁵³ Stats NZ, 'Wellbeing statistics: 2018'

⁵⁴ Police NZ, 'Tasman District Victimisations', <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publications-statistics/data-and-statistics/policedatanz/victimisation-time-and-place>

⁵⁵ Infometrics

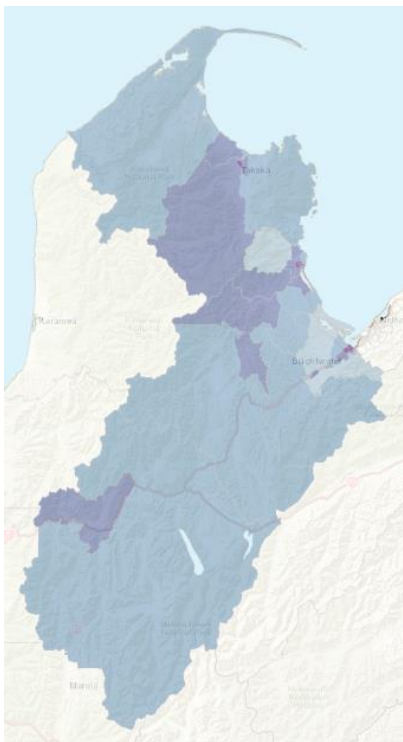
⁵⁶ Ministry of Transport, 'Motor Vehicle Crashes in New Zealand'



57

Figure 9. Fatal and Serious Crashes on Tasman District Council Roads for the past five years.

Deprivation Indices



This is a map showing the New Zealand Index of Multiple Deprivation, based on data collected in 2013 by the University of Auckland, Medical and Health Sciences School of Population Health, and Health Research Council of New Zealand. The darker the purple area is, the more deprived they are according to the index. Deprivation indicators used to measure this index are employment, income, housing, health, education, and travel required to access basic services.⁵⁸ Figure 10 shows us that areas in Richmond, Motueka, and Takaka are the most deprived in the region.

Figure 10. Tasman District map showing areas of six deprivations.

⁵⁷ Tasman District Council Annual Report 2018/2019

⁵⁸ New Zealand Indices of Multiple Deprivation: A new suite of indicators for social and health research in NZ, http://www.imd.ac.nz/NZIMD_Single_animation_w_logos/atlas.html

Economic Well-being

Looks at whether the economy can generate the employment and wealth necessary to provide many of the requirements that make for social well-being, such as health, financial security, and equity of opportunity.

Financial Well-being

While 67% of Te Tau Ihu residents report having enough, or more than enough, money to meet every day needs, 26% have only just enough, and 6% report having not enough.⁵⁹

Low incomes and housing affordability is an issue across most of the District, but Golden Bay and Motueka have the highest proportion of residents on relatively low incomes.⁶⁰ Table 3 shows a higher percentage of residents with incomes lower than \$50,000 across the Tasman than New Zealand.

Place	Percentage of residents with annual income less than \$50,000
Golden Bay	80%
Lakes-Murchison	73%
Motueka	80%
Moutere-Waimea	68%
Richmond	72%
Tasman Region	74%
New Zealand	68%

Table 3. Tasman Wards and Region residents, and New Zealanders with low annual income.

Knowledge and Skills

The qualification level of the Tasman workforce is comparatively low and jobs are becoming increasingly skilled. Less than half of Tasman's workforce have NCEA Level 3, and there's been a steady increase from over 2,000 to over 4,000 knowledge intensive jobs since 2000.⁶¹

The Tasman District is likely to experience a growing gap in knowledge and skills across generations. Since the retirement age was increased to 65, the New Zealand labour force for over 65 year olds has increased from 7.9% to 24% as they stay in the workforce. With the extra supply from the would-be retirees, and the low unemployment rate, it is likely that workplaces have had to adjust to capture the skills they need, such as offering flexible hours as many older people want to work part-time. Ensuring training and assistance is provided in the workplace to help older employees keep up with changing technologies has also become more important.⁶²

Technology is also impacting the type of jobs that will be available in the future. It is estimated that in New Zealand, 31% of our existing jobs will be at risk from automation and computers in the next 20 years, with lower skilled workers' at the most risk.⁶³

⁵⁹ Stats NZ, 'Wellbeing statistics: 2018'

⁶⁰ StatsNZ, 'Unemployment Rate', <https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/unemployment-rate>

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Infometrics Megatrends Report

There is a need to attract more highly skilled workers, and to ensure future skill needs are being catered for. Projections for New Zealand until 2028 show that an additional 39,400 workers per year will enter the workforce, with the strongest employment gains being retail trade, accommodation and food services, business services and construction, and employment growth being strongest for highly-skilled occupations.⁶⁴

NRDA research in 2019 found that talent attraction is one of the top 3 issues faced by over 60% of organisations and a concern for 88%. Many employers commented on housing being a key barrier to attracting talent.

Employment and Business

With the unpredictability of world politics and trade, and more recently the outbreak of the Covid-19, businesses may find it difficult to make decisions when some of the normal parameters are uncertain. New Zealand has been a strong advocate of free trade and at the forefront of negotiating bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements. Our relatively small and geographically dispersed population of New Zealand and our distance to markets means trade is critical to delivering the high quality and diverse nature of goods that New Zealanders produce and consume, at affordable prices. New Zealand has several international trade agreements to help New Zealand businesses.

Whilst the severity of the Covid-19 is unclear, we expect there will be challenges for a range of businesses including small food manufacturers who supply large companies, and disruption to our meat, seafood, and forestry sectors.⁶⁵ This will have flow on effects for employment and the Tasman economy. The Council may not be affected to the same extent as other businesses caused by the instability of the market. We do expect however that Council will see a reduction in revenue, and will have to take into consideration factors such as the cost of borrowing and reducing investment in infrastructure etc.

Since 2012, New Zealand unemployment has been declining.⁶⁶ The Nelson-Tasman region has a similar trend, with unemployment in our region at 3.3% in December 2019.⁶⁷

Among broad industries, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing was the largest in Tasman District in 2019 accounting for 13.7% of total GDP. The second largest was Manufacturing (12.5%) followed by Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (8.0%).⁶⁸

Biggest contributor to economic growth	Industries which created the most jobs
Retail Trade	Retail Trade
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
Rental, Hiring, and Real Estate Services	Health Care and Social Assistance
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	Education and Training
Transport, Postal, and Warehousing	Construction

Table 4. Top Five Industries in Tasman District, 2008-2018

⁶⁴ MBIE, *Medium to long-term employment outlook: Looking ahead to 2028*

⁶⁵ NRDA & Radio NZ

⁶⁶ Stats NZ, 2018 Census

⁶⁷ Infometrics

⁶⁸ Ibid.

Tourism

Much like the rest of the world, New Zealand and Tasman are seeing an increase in international visitor numbers, thanks to the easy accessibility of international travel. The experiences sought and offered are also widening. Ecological, historical, cultural, and educational tours are on the rise, with many people also enjoying the flexibility of last minute bookings.⁶⁹ Despite concerns around the impacts of climate change and growing political unease, airline and cruise ship travel has been on the rise since the early 2000s.⁷⁰ As of March 2019, tourism is New Zealand's largest export industry, and in Tasman, the industry was the third highest contributor to Tasman GDP at \$161.2 million in 2018.⁷¹ International and domestic tourists in our region spent approximately \$670 million during the year to September 2019, which was up from \$667 million in 2018.⁷² With the spread of Covid-19, the tourism industry are already targeting the domestic, Australian, and American markets.⁷³ Tourism businesses and their employees, including the aviation industry are expected to be hit hard by Central Government's recent restrictions that require travellers to self-isolate upon entering the country.⁷⁴ It is difficult to predict how long and how severe the impact of the Covid-19 will have on these industries and on the Tasman economy.

Transport and Infrastructure

The way we travel is changing around the world. The inclusion of technology, coupled with a focus towards customer experience has made travelling in cities easier e.g. ridesharing, e-scooters etc. As we enter into a world with increasing populations, limited space, and a growing awareness of our impact on the environment, attracting people to make use of 'sustainable' modes of transport is fitting. In New Zealand, electric vehicle registrations are increasing⁷⁵, as well as purchases for private e-scooters and e-bikes. Closer to home, over 1,000 people have signed a petition started by students from Nelson College for more frequent buses and more bus routes.⁷⁶ The Wakefield Community Bus has started two weekly trips from Wakefield to Richmond.⁷⁷ These are all examples of changing consumer preferences.

Growth in single occupancy vehicle movements is projected to cause (and we are already seeing some impact) congestion in Richmond and Motueka on State Highways (SHs). Over the past five years in Richmond, SH 6 has seen an increase in traffic of 5.6% pa, and SH 60 has increased at 10.3% pa.⁷⁸ This is also a concern for other road users' (cyclists, pedestrians etc) safety and accessibility.

There is evidence that people's chance of survival or avoiding serious injury decrease above certain impact speeds, e.g. a head-on collision between two cars at 70-80km/h.⁷⁹ The New Zealand strategy, Road to Zero, has high ambitions for zero fatalities or serious injuries from road crashes. One of the actions from this

⁶⁹ Trekk Soft, 'Travel trends that will drive the tourism industry in 2019'

⁷⁰ Statista, 'Number of flights performed by the global airline industry from 2004 to 2020, and Stats NZ, 'Cruise Ship Traveller and Expenditure Statistics'

⁷¹ Tourism NZ, and Infometrics

⁷² Infometrics

⁷³ NRDA

⁷⁴ Radio NZ, 'Travellers' self-isolation: Warning tens of thousands of tourism jobs in jeopardy'

⁷⁵ Ministry of Transport, 'Monthly electric and hybrid light vehicle registrations'

⁷⁶ Change.org, 'Better Public Transport in and around Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough regions'

⁷⁷ Stuff, 'Wakefield-Richmond bus trial succeeds, trust eyes Motueka service'

⁷⁸ New Zealand Transport Agency's counters data

⁷⁹ Ministry of Transport, 'Road to Zero Strategy'

Strategy has seen lower speed limits in SH 60, as well as some lengths along Lower Queen Street and Lansdowne Road to name a few.⁸⁰

Digital

Cyber security is essential for everyone to conduct themselves safely on the internet, whether it's personal or for business. In 2018, New Zealanders lost \$14 million to cyber-attacks.⁸¹ Risks lie in a number of places. Growing popularity in the Internet of Things (IoT) enabled the Mirai botnet in 2016, where millions of IoT devices were taken over, and disrupted all internet users for almost the entire eastern United States. There is still significant concern in data privacy.⁸² It is predicted that over 21.5 billion devices will be connected to the internet by 2025.⁸³ The IoT also enables us to conduct our lives and businesses more efficiently and conveniently, as well as allows us to focus on health and conservation. With the ability to collect massive amounts of data, opportunities for artificial intelligence technologies is on the rise. The use of artificial intelligence in Nelson-Tasman focuses in the Information Technology, conservation, and aquaculture industry.⁸⁴

New Zealand has seen a decline in manufacturing work since 1976.⁸⁵ Digital flows now contribute more to GDP growth than trade in traditional goods. We are leaders in driving innovation, but sustaining this high momentum is challenging and requires the use of public policy to shape digital economies.⁸⁶ In the Tasman District, Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) and Rural Band Initiative phase 2 (RBI2), which is high speed broadband for rural communities, continues to be rolled out by Chorus and the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG). Figure 11 shows where installations have been completed in the Tasman region, and where it is planned to take place. Note that it is not cost effective to provide UFB across all of New Zealand.⁸⁷ These improvements help small businesses, connects regions to enable them to attract talent, enables flexible work schedules, and helps provide better education outcomes. It is estimated that over the next 20 years we will see an increase of \$5.5 billion in GDP as a result of these upgrades in New Zealand.⁸⁸

⁸⁰ NZTA, 'Lower speed limits Appleby Highway, Tasman District from this week'

⁸¹ Interest.co.nz, 'Cyber security threat to New Zealanders and their businesses is growing even if it is hard to quantify, with CERT citing a significant increase in email extortion'

⁸² New Zealand's cyber security strategy 2019

⁸³ Tech Jury, 'How many IoT Devices are there?'

⁸⁴ Stuff, 'Artificial intelligence in aquaculture may be smart key to top of the south growth'

⁸⁵ Productivity Commission, 'New jobs, old jobs: the evolution of work in New Zealand's cities and towns'

⁸⁶ Digital Planet, 'How competitiveness and trust in digital economies vary across the world'

⁸⁷ Peter Darlington

⁸⁸ Alcatel-Lucent New Zealand, 'Building the Benefits of Broadband'



Figure 11. Tasman District’s UFB and RBI2 installations as of March 2020⁸⁹

⁸⁹ <https://broadbandmap.nz/>