



Te Ope Whakaora

Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

STATE of our COMMUNITIES 2021

**SUMMARY
DOCUMENT**

Carterton

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We welcome your feedback

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CARTERTON

Carterton is a small rural community, but what they lack in size they make up for in virtue, values and character. Many of these facets locals would attribute to the size of Carterton—which continues to grow. As housing and living costs in neighbouring urban centres rise and exceed people's income, they began to drift to more affordable areas, such as rural Carterton. Whilst Carterton boasts of their inclusiveness and welcoming nature, unmet growth has social, economic and physical implications for the community. Some of the challenges locals identified were around housing, infrastructure, the elderly and the young.

What do you like about Carterton?

Over 80 percent of locals in Carterton liked their community—it is the people that make the place. Locals described their community as friendly, supportive, diverse, connected, inclusive and easy-going. Locals said that their community is close-knit and connected and this is because of its small size. Many locals appreciated that Carterton is accessible to bigger cities, but also valued the quiet and slower pace of life. Other aspects locals liked were the local facilities and amenities, like the park and local businesses, that Carterton is a safe community and the cost of living is affordable.

COMMUNITY (83%)
SIZE AND LOCATION (23%)
LIFESTYLE (10%)
FACILITIES, AMENITIES, EVENTS (10%)
CARTERTON IS HOME (7%)
OTHER (6%)

How did Covid-19 impact you and your family?

Over 40 percent of locals shared that there were minimal impacts. Many locals shared that they adjusted to the restrictions and new normal we live in. They highlighted the severe impact of Covid-19 on their families and friends overseas, compared to the New Zealand situation. A third of locals shared positive impacts around more family time and the ability to rest. A quarter of locals talked about negative impacts, such as loss of employment and income, isolation and mental health concerns.

MINIMAL IMPACT (43%)
POSITIVE IMPACT (32%)
NEGATIVE IMPACT (25%)

In my shoes the Prime Minister will see...

Almost half of locals shared that the Prime Minister would see a vibrant and hardworking community. Locals also shared that Carterton is a solution-based community with many great initiatives. There are also some major challenges that the Prime Minister would see in Carterton. These included a housing crisis with overpriced rental properties and families locked out

of homeownership. Locals also identified an aged infrastructure that doesn't reflect the growth in the community, struggling local businesses, increase in inequality and lack of opportunity to engage youth and older people.

POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES (46%)

CHALLENGES (54%)

The major ones being...

Housing (28%)
Infrastructure (18%)
Business (16%)
Inequality (11%)

As Prime Minister I would...

The first things locals would do would be to make housing more affordable by increasing housing stock and regulating the housing market, for both homeownership and renting. Locals would build a bypass road, increase public transport options and earthquake-proof the red-stickered buildings. Other things locals would do as Prime Minister would be to support local councils to lower the local land rates, make healthcare and mental health support more accessible, build more facilities and activities for children and youth and create jobs for locals.

BUILD MORE HOUSES (28%)
SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNANCE (13%)
INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE (19%)
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES (9%)
INVEST IN HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH (18%)
CREATE JOBS (6%)

What changes would you like to see in Carterton in five years' time?

An aspirational Carterton in 2026 would be a place with opportunities for youth and children, a place with an affordable housing market, thriving local businesses, upgraded infrastructure and a revamped town centre. Locals hoped that the healthcare and mental health services would be more accessible, schools would be resourced and supported and that there would be more facilities and activities for youth, families and older groups. In amongst the growth, locals hope that Carterton will not lose its heart and soul.