



Te Ope Whakaora

Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

STATE of our COMMUNITIES 2021

**SUMMARY
DOCUMENT**

Tokoroa

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We welcome your feedback

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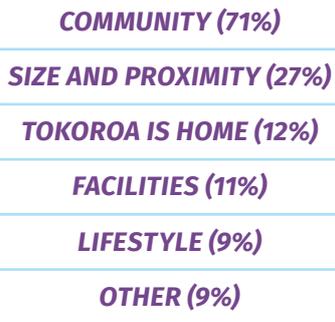
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TOKOROA

Tokoroa is a diverse, generous and resilient community. One local summed it up as 'a community that doesn't have much but is always willing to help'. The empathetic and caring nature of locals was evident throughout their stories, challenges and aspirations. Whether locals were talking about their challenges or solutions, their responses were for the betterment of their community. Locals identified some big challenges facing their community: housing affordability and quality, dying businesses, unemployment, displacement, addictions and crime. However, in amongst all these challenges locals continued to show resilience in being aspirational and hopeful.

What do you like about Tokoroa?

The people were the number one reason locals liked Tokoroa. Locals described their community as diverse, friendly, generous and close-knit. Tokoroa locals were described as empathetic and this was one of the reasons they are always willing to help and support each other. Locals liked that Tokoroa is small and many attributed their community bond to size. Other key attributes of Tokoroa are that it is close to bigger towns, it is peaceful and quiet, it is home and a place of belonging for others.



How did Covid-19 impact you and your family?

More than half of the respondents shared that the impacts of Covid-19 were minimal. Locals shared that they were able to adapt to the new restrictions, so many aspects of their lives continued as normal. The most consistent positive outcomes were the ability to spend time with family and loved ones, strengthening of family relationships and people being able to rest and reset. The key challenges locals faced were loss of income and employment, health issues, isolation and anxiety.



In my shoes the Prime Minister will see...

Tokoroa locals talked about both positive attributes and some big challenges they face. In their shoes, the Prime Minister would see a community that is resilient, supportive and



diverse. The Prime Minister would also see some big challenges in housing, particularly homelessness and unaffordable and cold rental properties; the decline in businesses and high levels of unemployment; the lack of support and opportunities for rangatahi (young people). Some other challenges the Prime Minister would see are the impacts of addictions (drugs, alcohol, and gambling) on families, inadequate healthcare and mental health services and poorly resourced schools.

As Prime Minister I would...

If Tokoroa locals had the mandate and the resources of the Prime Minister their priority would be to build more warm, quality and affordable houses. Locals would also create more facilities and activities to support and engage rangatahi, children and families. Building a proper hospital, bringing other industries to Tokoroa to create jobs and supporting local businesses were some of the things locals would do for their community.



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

An aspirational Tokoroa in 2026 for locals would be a place with warm and affordable homes and employment opportunities. A place with opportunities so that families are not leaving, particularly for rangatahi. A place with adequate healthcare and mental health services that can meet the needs of the community. A safer community with less crime and no addictions. Overall, locals hoped for a community that would be united and thriving.