

**SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**  
**BY THE MOTUEKA COMMUNITY BOARD**  
**REGARDING THE PROPOSAL**  
**UNION OF NELSON CITY AND TASMAN DISTRICT**

1. The Motueka Community Board comprises seven members, of whom four are elected as Board members, and three appointed members are Motueka Ward Councillors for the Tasman District Council.
2. The population of the Motueka Ward (which the Community Board represents) exceeds 14,350 (Census Night 2006). The population of Motueka township is 7,797, and the other principal components include Kaiteriteri 1,482 and Riwaka 969.

While Motueka is the largest town, there are eight rural but close-knit settlements within the Ward. These include Marahau – Sandy Bay – Toko Ngawa; Kaiteriteri – Little Kaiteriteri; Stephens Bay – Tapu Bay; Riwaka; Brooklyn – Umukuri – West Bank; Mariri; Lower Moutere; Pangatotara – Whakarewa.

Population growth for Motueka township between 2001 and 2006 was 6.69% although the growth for the ward was 2.15%.

The Motueka Ward population constitutes 29.7% of the Tasman District (48,312).

3. Essentially, Motueka is a service town, with the Motueka district economy based on horticulture / agriculture, fishing, forestry, and tourism. The moderate climate (2400 hours sunshine, 1200mm of rainfall) attracts many residents, particularly over 60's, and the rivers, Tasman Bay, and National Parks underline that appeal.

Motueka district is a vibrant, self-reliant and a strongly independent community.

4. The Motueka Community Board and the Golden Bay Community Board devolved from the Local Government amalgamations of 1989. Its constitutional status is according to the Local Government Act 2002 (Sections 49 – 54 inclusive and Schedule 7 Part 2 Sections 37 – 39).

The Board's role is per the Local Government Act 2002 (S.52) except that "other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority" are minimal.

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5. The Tasman District Council has prepared a detailed submission to the Proposal for the Union of Nelson City and Tasman District.

The Motueka Community Board supports the Council's conclusions in recommending that the Union should not proceed. Although the Board has not formally surveyed local attitudes, it is of the opinion that most Motueka residents oppose the proposed Union / Amalgamation.

6. This support of the Tasman District Council's submission is qualified by the following proposition:-
- (1) that the Community Board concept for Motueka, Golden Bay, (and possibly other areas) be continued both currently and also should an amalgamated Nelson – Tasman be instituted.
  - (2) that the Local Government Commission require the Tasman District Council, or an Amalgamated Council, to delegate to each Community Board specific functions / activities with the appropriate resources so that each community is empowered to make its own decisions on as many activities as practicable.

The Community Board considers that providing these functions and activities locally will be more efficient, more cost effective, more democratic and will give the each community "ownership" of these functions and over the rates that are collected.

7. Further, should the Commission propose in a "Re-organisation Scheme" that a Union be established the Motueka Community Board suggests the following:- That Rural Tasman – Motueka Ward – Golden Bay Ward representation be calculated on a "differential-style" basis.

The objective of this would be to retain a non-urban presence at the Council to balance the Nelson City – Richmond conurbation.

Additionally, the Board suggests a requirement to retain office services in Motueka and Golden Bay and Murchison for at least 15 years.

8. The Motueka Community Board wishes to be heard in support of its submission and to respond to any questions raised by the Commissioners.

MOTUEKA COMMUNITY BOARD

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