

RESILIENCE  
TO NATURE'S  
CHALLENGES

Kia manawaroa –  
Ngā Ākina o  
Te Ao Tūroa

# Guidelines for rural community resilience: Summary document

This summary document contains an overview of the community situation analysis described in *Building resilience in transient rural communities: Guidelines for Council*.

RNC032:04, March 2019

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## Rural community resilience

This summary document has been developed from a research project (RNC Rural Partnership project RNC032:04, 2018/19) which investigated rural community resilience in the face of natural hazard events, with a focus on transient population groups. Transient population groups include new residents in a community, people working on a temporary basis, visitors, as well as those people who are simply transiting a location. These population groups contribute to local communities and economies as both producers (in that they represent an increasingly vital employment resource) and consumers (who support communities both economically and socially). In turn, the local resource base and economy determines which transient groups are present in a community.

This resource, designed for council use, will assist councils identify the variety of transient population groups who may be present in their communities and increase understanding of vulnerabilities associated with transience in the community. The length of time individuals are present in the community influences their familiarity with, and connectedness to, that community, and ultimately impacts on community resilience. As such, community resilience associated with transient population groups can be understood in two (interrelated) ways:

1. Resilience associated with each of the transient population groups present in the community which reflects each group's (and the individuals contained within the group) particular vulnerability
2. Resilience in respect of the whole community and the community's vulnerability as a result of both hosting and being reliant on transient population groups

We propose a four category classification within which transience (and its associated vulnerability) can be framed and provide a structured set of questions (a community situation analysis) designed to help identify:

- the population groups found in the community and their demographic characteristics
- ways in which the community connects (both in-group and between group)
- the spatial and temporal dynamics of mobility associated with each group

Together, these analyses highlight a number of factors by which community resilience to nature's challenges (in respect of transient population groups) can be improved and illustrate the importance of taking a whole community approach to understanding resilience.

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**Citation:** Wilson, J. and Simmons, D. (2019). *Guidelines for rural community resilience: Summary document*. Available from <https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/handle/10182/10562>



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This summary accompanies '*Building resilience in transient rural communities: Guidelines for council*' which can be downloaded from <https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/handle/10182/10563>

Additional research materials from the *Building resilience in transient rural communities* project:

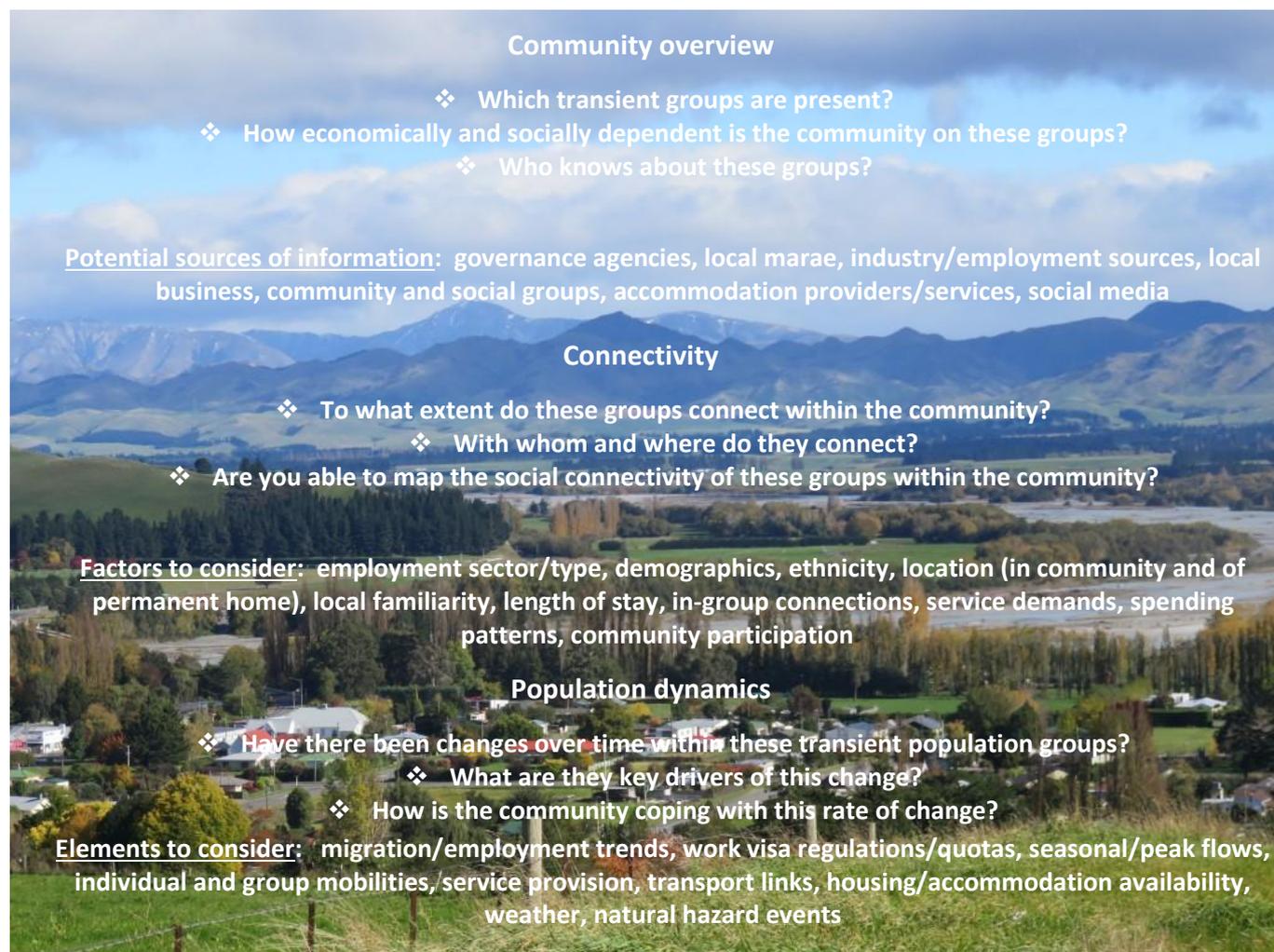
- Scoping report (<https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/handle/10182/10437>)
- Fieldwork report (<https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/handle/10182/10438>)

The full set of research materials from this project, and others undertaken via the Resilience to Nature's Challenges National Science Challenge, can be found on the RNC website (<https://resiliencechallenge.nz/>)

## Transience and vulnerability in the community

<p><b>Permanent residents</b> Intention to remain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long- and medium-term residents, new residents and new migrants</li> <li>• Numbers impacted by: access to employment; public services; and, employment mobility</li> <li>• Broad demographic mix, spatially dispersed in community</li> <li>• Increasing ethnic diversity</li> <li>• Variable engagement with governance and community affairs</li> <li>• Represent the host population for, and employers of, other transient groups</li> <li>• Can be outnumbered by transient groups</li> </ul>	 <p>Image credit: Marlborough Multicultural Centre</p>	<p><b>Vulnerabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Population decline, loss of young people, rural-urban migration, employment shortages</li> <li>➤ Challenges around facility and service provision, reduction in pool of volunteers</li> <li>➤ Lack of community inclusiveness</li> <li>➤ Can be difficult for newcomers to participate in community affairs</li> <li>➤ Extant community services and activities may not suit new migrants</li> <li>➤ Onus on permanent community members to manage others in response to a hazard event</li> </ul>
<p><b>Semi-permanent residents</b> 6 – 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSE scheme workers, secondment and infrastructure workers, some working holiday makers, some holiday home owners</li> <li>• Often employment focused, length of stay determined by visa conditions, can be repeat visitors</li> <li>• Many from overseas, mixed family status and ages</li> <li>• Strong in-group connection, structured employer-led pastoral care, purpose-built accommodation</li> <li>• Variable engagement and integration with host community</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vulnerabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Holiday home owners not as prepared as in home situation</li> <li>➤ Language and cultural differences impact on integration</li> <li>➤ Onus on employers to provide pastoral care (generally and in emergencies)</li> <li>➤ Housing and service provision challenges for host community</li> <li>➤ Acceptance of overseas workers in wider community often reliant on targeted initiatives</li> <li>➤ Competition between communities to attract semi-permanent workers</li> </ul>	 <p>Photo credit: Marlborough District Council</p>
<p><b>Temporary residents</b> 2 weeks – 6 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary and contract workers, working holiday makers, infrastructure workers, volunteer workers, holiday home owners</li> <li>• Influenced by seasonal labour demand and visitor peaks, some groups have habitual visitation patterns</li> <li>• Spatially dispersed and often strongly employment focused</li> <li>• Connect with the host community via commercial services</li> <li>• Some in-group and between-group connections in shared accommodation</li> </ul>	 <p>Photo by ELEVATE from Pexels</p>	<p><b>Vulnerabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work schedules and work location can limit participation in community activities</li> <li>➤ Limited oversight/awareness of some holiday visitors</li> <li>➤ May be unfamiliar with local hazard profile (especially if from overseas)</li> <li>➤ Challenges for communities to attract and retain temporary workers</li> <li>➤ Often competition between communities for the same workforce</li> <li>➤ Housing and transport challenges for some temporary worker groups</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transient populations</b> Less than 2 weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic holidaymakers, international tourists, short-term workers, transiting public</li> <li>• Widely dispersed in the community</li> <li>• Variable engagement with the commercial sector</li> <li>• Variations in the visibility of transient populations in the community</li> <li>• Some groups have strong in-group connections, but limited engagement with host community</li> <li>• A significant number of people, generates local employment</li> <li>• Puts pressure on local infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vulnerabilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All visitors may unfamiliar with local hazard profiles</li> <li>➤ International visitors unfamiliar with broader travel environment</li> <li>➤ Engagement with host community limited to commercial exchange</li> <li>➤ Some groups have minimal engagement with both hosts and commercial sector</li> <li>➤ Pressure on host community to manage these population groups in the event of a hazard event</li> <li>➤ Host community and economy vulnerable if visitors lost</li> </ul>	 <p>Photo credit: Jude Wilson</p>

## A community situation analysis – for each community, consider the following



**Community overview**

- ❖ Which transient groups are present?
- ❖ How economically and socially dependent is the community on these groups?
  - ❖ Who knows about these groups?

Potential sources of information: governance agencies, local marae, industry/employment sources, local business, community and social groups, accommodation providers/services, social media

**Connectivity**

- ❖ To what extent do these groups connect within the community?
  - ❖ With whom and where do they connect?
- ❖ Are you able to map the social connectivity of these groups within the community?

Factors to consider: employment sector/type, demographics, ethnicity, location (in community and of permanent home), local familiarity, length of stay, in-group connections, service demands, spending patterns, community participation

**Population dynamics**

- ❖ Have there been changes over time within these transient population groups?
  - ❖ What are they key drivers of this change?
  - ❖ How is the community coping with this rate of change?

Elements to consider: migration/employment trends, work visa regulations/quotas, seasonal/peak flows, individual and group mobilities, service provision, transport links, housing/accommodation availability, weather, natural hazard events

Photo credit: Jude Wilson

## Resilience to nature's challenges (in respect of transient population groups) can be improved by

- ❖ Knowledge of the above dimensions (including being aware of gaps in that knowledge)
- ❖ Understanding transience so you can update data and accommodate change
- ❖ Documenting/quantifying as much information as possible in advance of a natural hazard event, including understanding data sources and access to these data

## Community resilience recognises

- ❖ That community includes all of the people present
- ❖ The importance of employers and business groups for their role in welcoming and supporting various transient population groups
- ❖ The need to take a whole community approach – encompassing governance, key stakeholder and cultural dimensions, and changes within those dimensions – to understand transients and transience