

## 2. Do you recommend any other Council-funded work on the housing issue?

The proposals in the LTP and recommendations presented to the Marlborough Housing Group on 13 April 2021 are a good start but they do not constitute a strategy. The MSHT recommends Council develop a forward looking housing strategy to provide a coherent and integrated approach to addressing Marlborough's housing problems. The strategy should not only focus on the Council's role in housing, but also involve all key stakeholders in generating housing solutions for Marlborough.

Marlborough has a growing economy and multiple expanding industries. The region is also an attractive retirement destination. Much of the region's housing demand is driven by its ageing population, and incomer retirees. However, younger age groups also lack suitable housing. Lack of affordable housing will be a 'handbrake' to industry attracting and retaining workers. It will also be a barrier to our key and essential workers across the board but particularly in health and social services. The working population 15-64 provides the majority of our workforce. The number of under 15 year olds and over 65 year olds as a percentage of the rest of the population is high in Marlborough and growing. Currently the proportion is 62.3% in Marlborough, compared to 50.3% across New Zealand and 54.7% in Nelson<sup>1</sup>. An increasing proportion of Marlborough's community will be reliant on a relatively smaller group of employed individuals to provide goods and services. Providing affordable housing for young workers and families in Marlborough will be key for our economy to thrive.

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<sup>1</sup> Infometrics Marlborough Region Economic Profile - Population Age Composition 2020