

8 ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND CONTROLS

This section examines respondents' attitudes towards various environmental regulations and controls. Respondents were asked to rate each statement using a five point scale, specifying whether they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed or neither agreed nor disagreed with each statement.

Note: The rating scale used in 2003, 2006 and 2013 for the questions in this section differs from the rating scale used in 1998 and 2000. Therefore, comparisons over time should be interpreted with caution.

Key findings are:

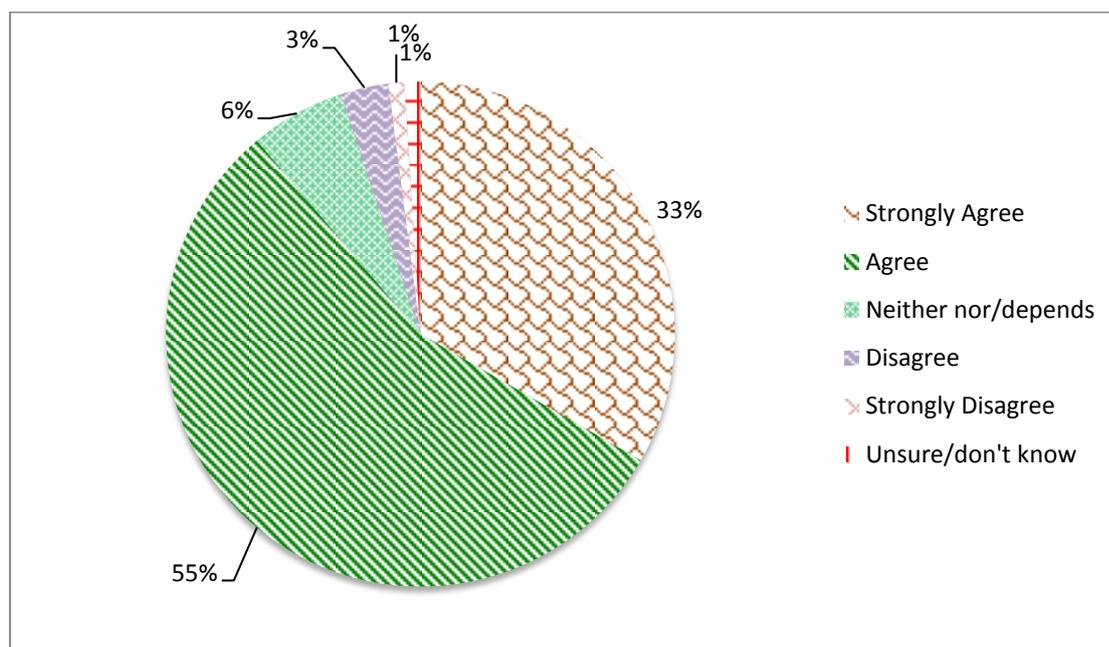
- The majority of respondents agree (88%) that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure the environment is well looked after. These results continue a similar level of support to that of 2000 (87%) and 2003 (88%) though a decrease on 2006 (96%). Respondents in Hamilton (94%) or in urban areas (91%) are more likely to agree with this statement.
- More than half of respondents (56%) agree that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites, this is six percentage points down on 2006 but up on 2003 (49%). Interestingly there is a split between urban and rural respondents with rural respondents significantly more likely to agree with this statement (63%) and urban respondents significantly more likely to disagree (28%). Overall, almost a quarter (24%) of respondents disagree with this statement.
- Sixty-one per cent of respondents agree that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment, while 22 per cent of respondents disagree that the natural environment is threatened by urban sprawl and subdivisions. More respondents neither agree nor disagree with the statement than in previous years (13% compared with 3% in 2006 and 10% in 2003).
- Almost 7 out of 10 respondents (69%) feel that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed, however this is seven percentage points less than 2006. As with many of the results, more respondents neither agree nor disagree with this statement (an increase of 12 percentage points since 2006, but an increase of three percentage points on 2003). Respondents in urban areas are more likely to agree with this statement (70%).
- Twenty-eight per cent of respondents agree that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land, while 47 per cent disagree with this statement. These results have remained reasonably consistent since 2000.
- There is strong agreement amongst respondents that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion with 78 per cent of respondents agreeing with this statement. However, this result shows a significant decrease from the results of 2006 where 88 per cent of respondents agreed with this statement. Respondents in Hamilton (86%) or who live in urban areas (79%) are more likely to agree with this statement.

8.1 COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT OF RULES AND LAWS

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that *Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after.*

8.1.1 OVERALL RESULT

The vast majority of respondents (88%) agree that Council should enforce its rules and laws to ensure the environment is well looked after (33% strongly agree, 55% agree). Only a small proportion of respondents (4%) disagree with this statement (1% strongly disagree, 3% disagree).



Base: All respondents (n=1005)

Figure 8-1: Council Enforcement of Rules and Laws

8.1.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

There has been a decrease in the proportion of respondents agreeing that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure the environment is looked after (total agreeing down from 96% in 2006 to 88% in 2013). However, similar levels of support were recorded in 2000 (87%) and 2003 (88%).

Views are less extreme this year with a smaller proportion of respondents agreeing strongly that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure the environment is looked after (strongly agreeing down from 55% in 2006 to 33% in 2013).

Table 8-1: Changes in Agreement with Council Enforcement of Rules and Laws 2000 to 2013

| | 2000 % | 2003 % | 2006 % | 2013 % | Change 00-13 | Change 06-13 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Strongly Agree | N/A | 36 | 55 | 33 | N/A | -22 |
| Agree | N/A | 52 | 41 | 55 | N/A | +14 |
| Total Agree | 87 | 88 | 96 | 88 | +1 | -8 |
| Neither agree nor disagree/depends | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | -3 | +5 |
| Disagree | N/A | 3 | 2 | 3 | N/A | +1 |
| Strongly Disagree | N/A | 1 | 1 | 1 | N/A | - |
| Total Disagree | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | +1 | +1 |
| Unsure/don't know | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | - | +1 |
| Base (respondents) | 1873 | 1822 | 1000 | 1005 | | |

N/A denotes code not used in previous years. This trend is shown below.

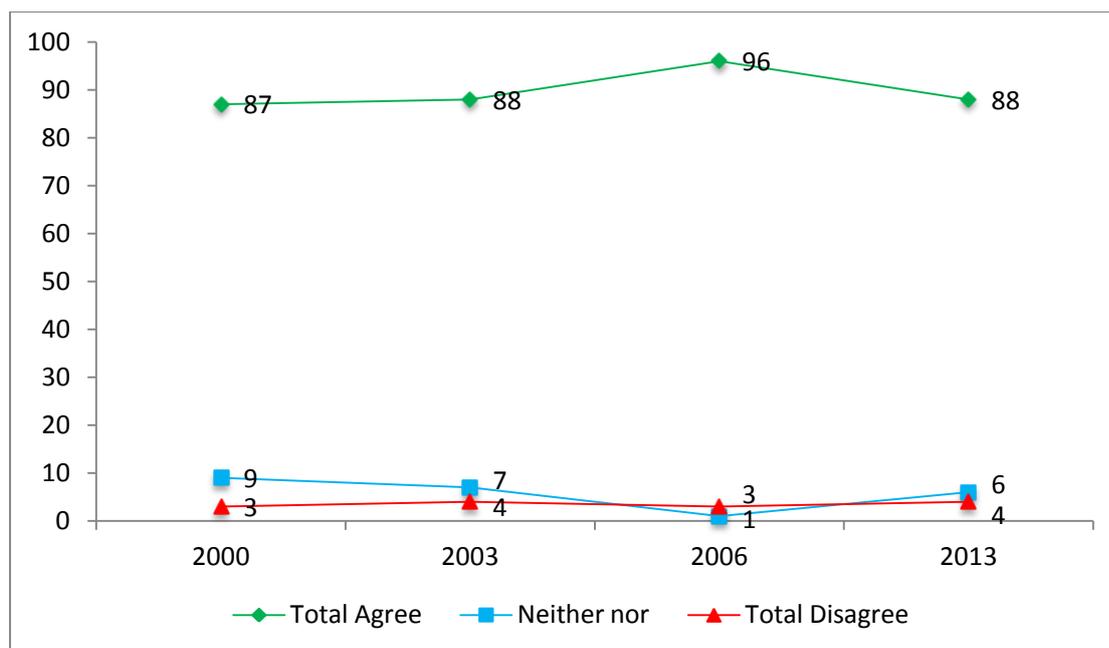


Figure 8-2: Agreement with Council Enforcement of Rules and Laws 2000 to 2013

8.1.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after are those who are:

- aged between 30 and 39 years (94%)
- in a household with income of between \$30,001 and \$60,000 per annum (93%)
- female (92%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after are those who are:

- aged between 60 and 64 years (12%)
- currently working as farmers (20%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after are those who are:

- aged between 40 and 49 years (8%)
- male (6%).

8.1.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

When considered by territorial authority and by urban and rural locations, the following differences emerge:

- Respondents in Hamilton (94%) or in urban areas (91%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after.
- Respondents in rural areas (10%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after.

No respondents from a particular territorial authority or urban or rural setting are more likely to **disagree** that Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after.

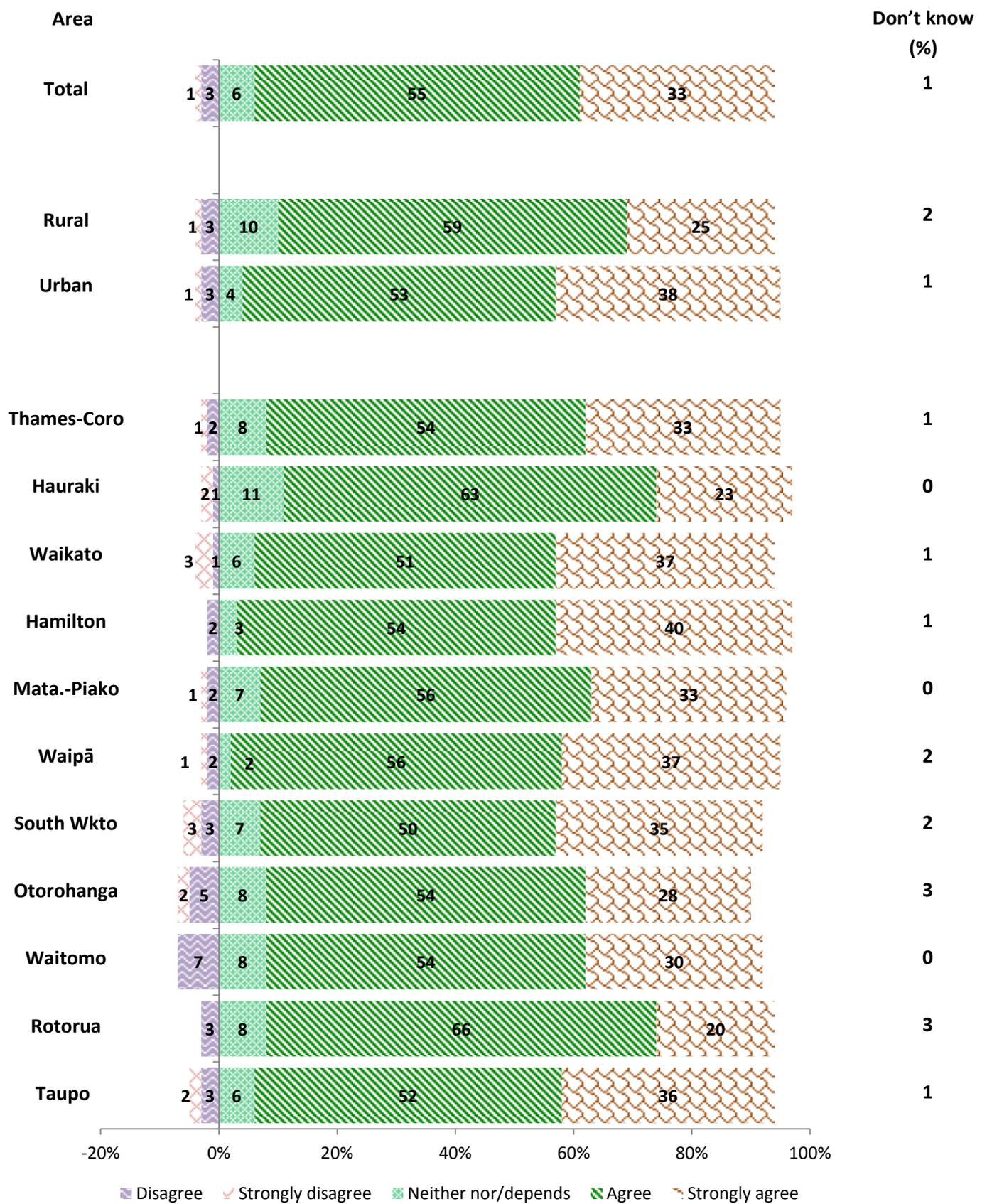


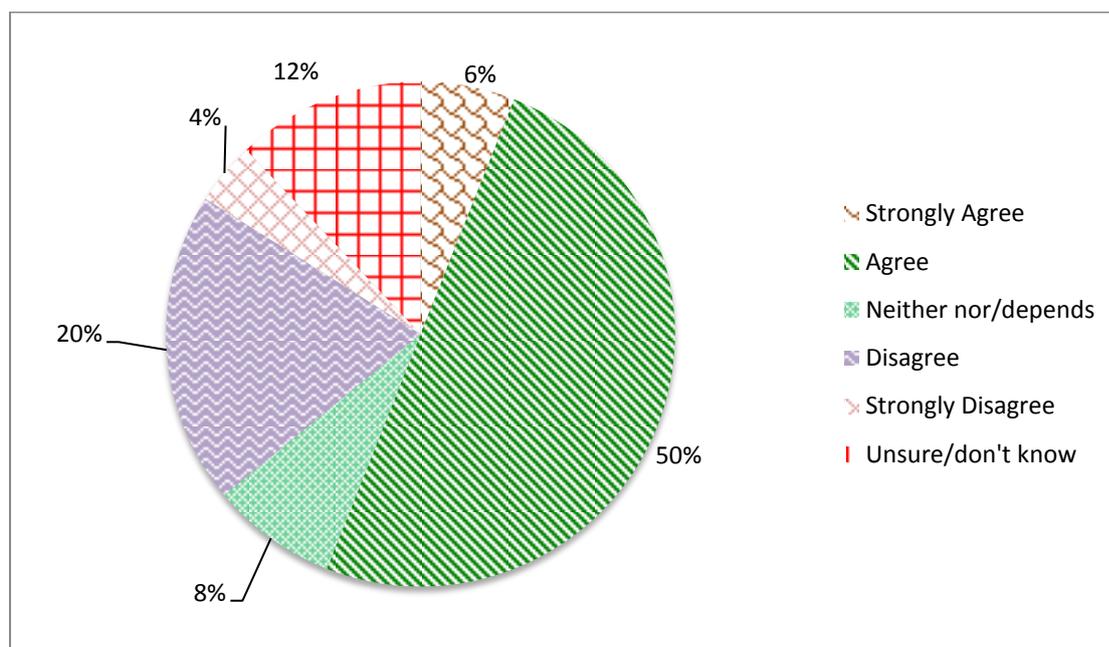
Figure 8-3: Agreement with Council Enforcement of Rules and Laws by Area, Rural and Urban

8.2 PROTECTION OF SIGNIFICANT NATURAL SITES

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that *there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites*.

8.2.1 OVERALL RESULT

More than half of the respondents (56%) think there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites (6% strongly agree, 50% agree). However, almost a quarter (24%) of respondents disagree that the current level of protection for significant natural sites is enough (4% strongly disagree, 20% disagree).



Base: All respondents (n=1005)

Figure 8-4: Protection of Significant Natural Sites

8.2.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

The proportion of respondents agreeing that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites has decreased slightly since 2006 (total agreeing down from 62% to 56% in 2013), though this is an increase since 2003 (49%). The proportion of respondents who disagree that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites has decreased slightly since 2006 (total disagree down from 27% to 24%), with a higher proportion of respondents neither agreeing nor disagreeing (from 2% in 2006 to 8% in 2013).

Table 8-2: Changes in Agreement with the Protection of Significant Natural Sites 2003 to 2013

| | 2003 % | 2006 % | 2013 % | Change 03-13 | Change 06-13 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Strongly Agree | 2 | 6 | 6 | +4 | - |
| Agree | 47 | 56 | 50 | +3 | -6 |
| Total Agree | 49 | 62 | 56 | +7 | -6 |
| Neither agree nor disagree/depends | 10 | 2 | 8 | -2 | +6 |
| Disagree | 28 | 22 | 20 | -8 | -2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 3 | 5 | 4 | +1 | -1 |
| Total Disagree | 31 | 27 | 24 | -7 | -3 |
| Unsure/don't know | 10 | 9 | 12 | +2 | +3 |
| Base (respondents) | 1822 | 1000 | 1005 | | |

The trend is shown below (over the page).

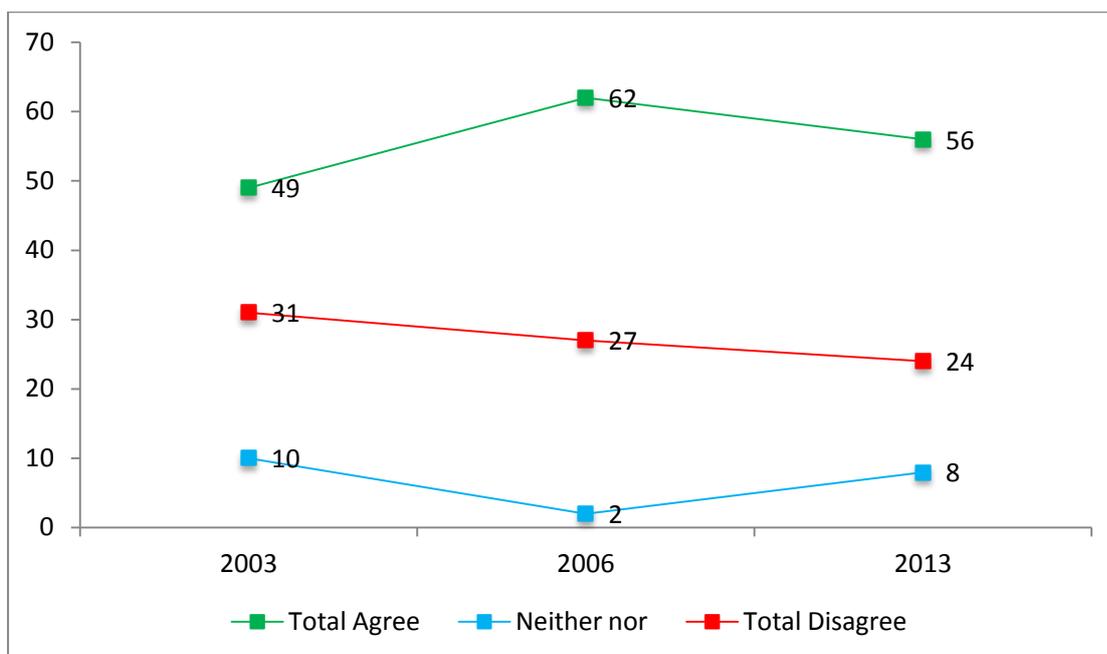


Figure 8-5: Agreement with the Protection of Significant Natural Sites 2003 to 2013

8.2.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites are those who are:

- of no Māori ancestry (58%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites are those who are:

- Māori (13%)
- currently a student (17%)
- in a family household with mainly preschool children (14%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites are those who are:

- Māori (32%)
- currently a student (43%)
- not in paid employment (32%).

8.2.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

When considered by territorial authority and by urban and rural locations, the following differences emerge:

- Respondents in Thames-Coromandel (68%) or rural areas (63%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites.
- Respondents in Waitomo (16%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites.
- Respondents in urban areas (28%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that there is enough protection given to local significant natural sites.

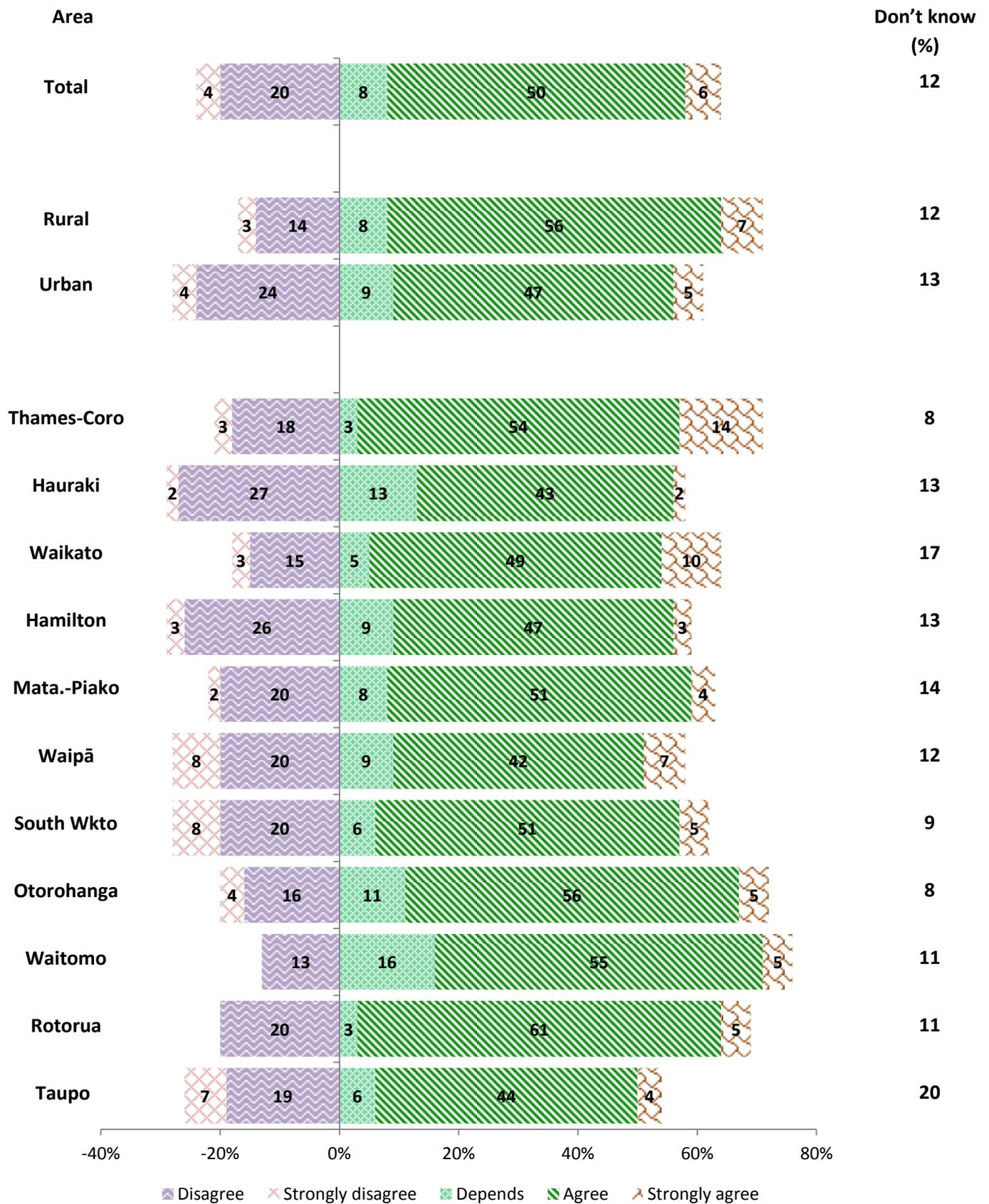


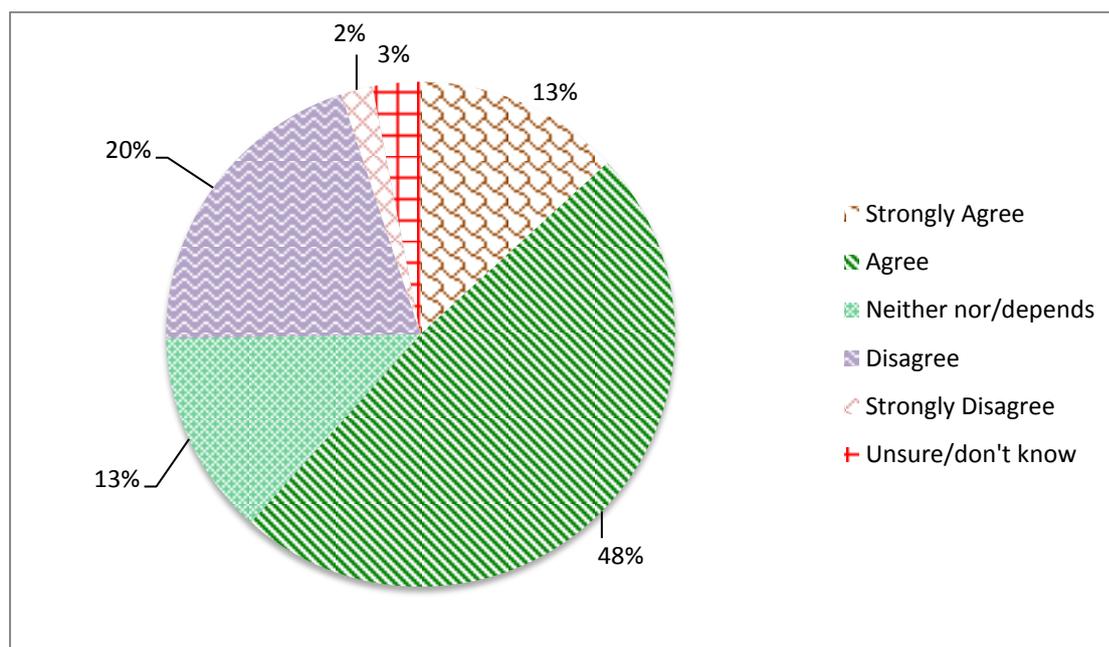
Figure 8-6: Agreement with the Protection of Significant Natural Sites by Area, Rural and Urban

8.3 THREAT OF URBAN SPRAWL AND SUBDIVISIONS TO NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that *urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment*.

8.3.1 OVERALL RESULT

Sixty-one per cent of respondents agree that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment (13% strongly agree, 48% agree). In contrast, 22 per cent of respondents disagree that the natural environment is threatened by urban sprawl and subdivisions (2% strongly disagree, 20% disagree).



Base: All respondents (n=1005)

Figure 8-7: Threat of Urban Sprawl and Subdivisions to Natural Environment

8.3.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

The proportion of respondents agreeing that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment has decreased from 66% in 2006 to 61% in 2013. This increase in levels of agreement has also been accompanied by a smaller proportion of respondents stating that they disagree that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment (22%, down from 27% in 2006). Significantly more respondents neither agree nor disagree with this statement than in 2006 (13% compared with 3% in 2006).

Please note that prior to 2003, the wording of this question was different. Consequently, results for 2013 are not directly comparable with those prior to 2003.

Table 8-3: Changes in Agreement with Threat of Urban Sprawl and Subdivisions to Natural Environment 2003 to 2013

| | 2003 % | 2006 % | 2013 % | Change 03-13 | Change 06-13 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Strongly Agree | 12 | 20 | 13 | +1 | -7 |
| Agree | 52 | 46 | 48 | -4 | +2 |
| Total Agree | 64 | 66 | 61 | -3 | -5 |
| Neither agree nor disagree/depends | 10 | 3 | 13 | +3 | +10 |
| Disagree | 22 | 24 | 20 | -2 | -4 |
| Strongly Disagree | 1 | 3 | 2 | +1 | -1 |
| Total Disagree | 23 | 27 | 22 | -1 | -5 |
| Unsure/don't know | 3 | 4 | 3 | - | -1 |
| Base (respondents) | 1822 | 1000 | 1005 | | |

The trend is shown below.

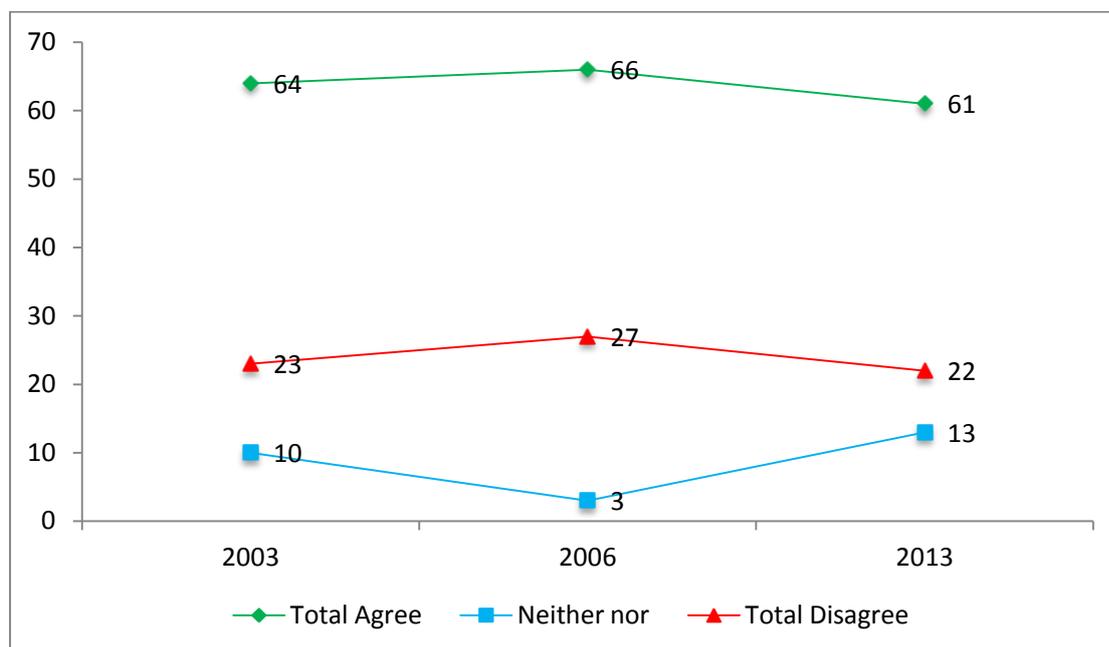


Figure 8-8: Agreement with Threat of Urban Sprawl and Subdivisions to Natural Environment 2003 to 2013

8.3.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment are those who are:

- educated to a tertiary level (66%)
- currently working in education (75%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment are those who are:

- retired (18%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment are those who are:

- aged between 18 and 19 years (36%)
- currently working in semi-skilled roles (38%).

8.3.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

No respondents from a particular territorial authority or urban or rural setting are more likely (than the regional average) to **agree**, **neither agree nor disagree (depends)**, or **disagree** that urban sprawl and subdivisions threaten the natural environment.

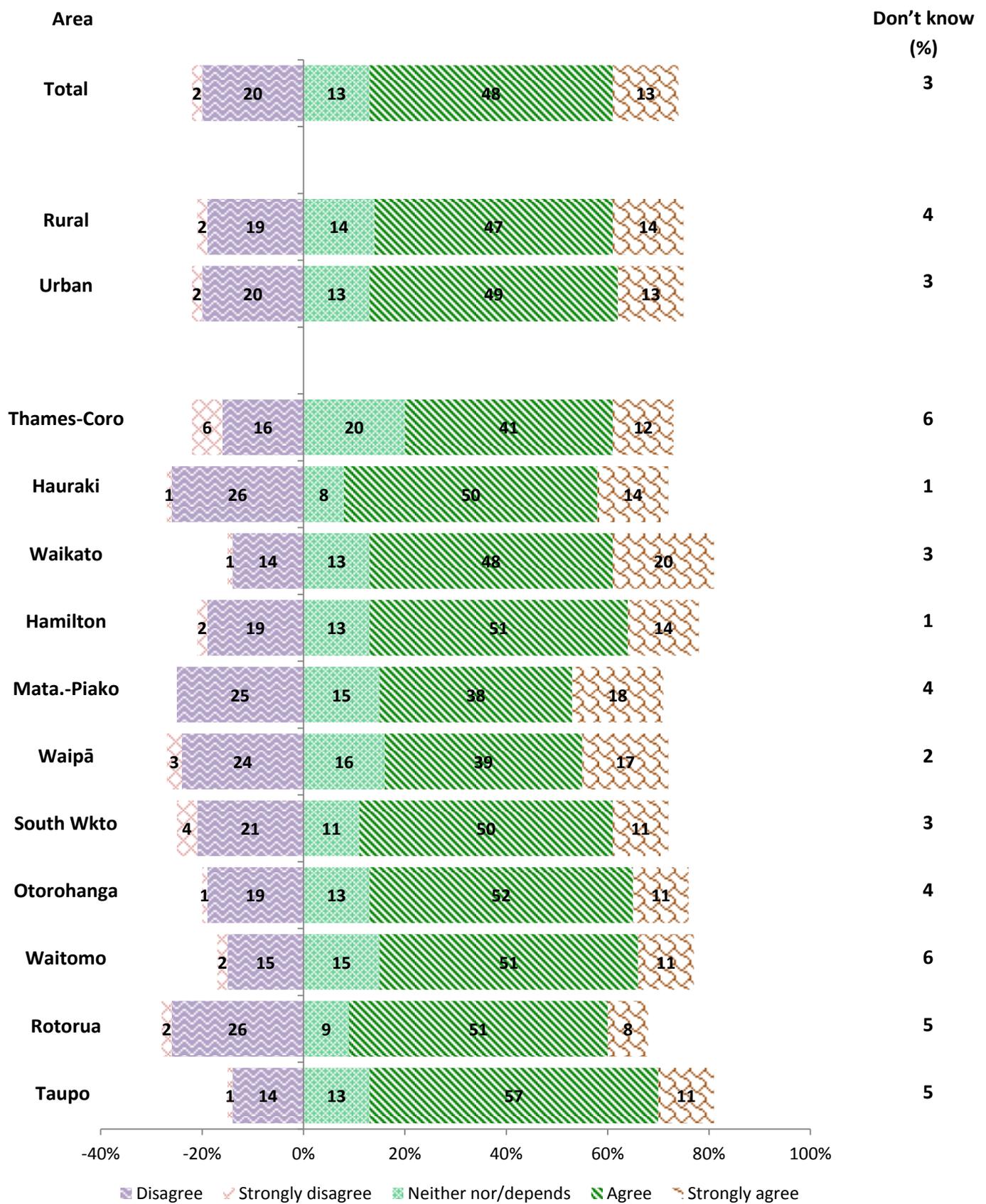


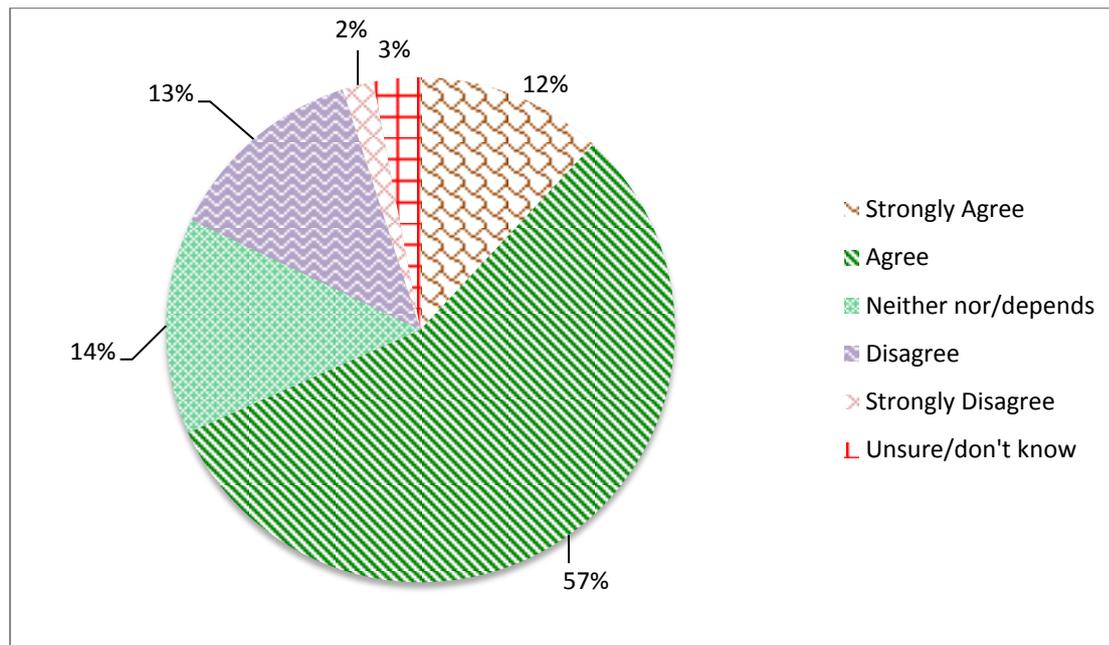
Figure 8-9: Agreement with Threat of Urban Sprawl and Subdivisions to Natural Environment by Area, Rural and Urban

8.4 GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that *government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed*.

8.4.1 OVERALL RESULT

Almost 7 out of 10 respondents (69%) feel that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed (12% strongly agree, 57% agree). However, 15 per cent of respondents disagree with this statement (2% strongly disagree, 13% disagree).



Base: All respondents (n=1005)

Figure 8-10: Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Property

8.4.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

The proportion of respondents agreeing that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed has decreased (total agreement 73% in 2003, 76% in 2006 to 69% in 2013). However, the proportion of respondents disagreeing that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed has also decreased since 2006 (total agree down from 19% to 15%), though this is similar to 2003 (15%). A higher proportion of respondents neither agree nor disagree (11% in 2003, 2% in 2006 to 14% in 2013).

Table 8-4: Changes in Agreement with Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Property 2003 to 2013

| | 2003 % | 2006 % | 2013 % | Change 03-13 | Change 06-13 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Strongly Agree | 9 | 16 | 12 | +3 | -4 |
| Agree | 64 | 60 | 57 | -7 | -3 |
| Total Agree | 73 | 76 | 69 | -4 | -7 |
| Neither agree nor disagree/depends | 11 | 2 | 14 | +3 | +12 |
| Disagree | 13 | 15 | 13 | - | -2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | -2 |
| Total Disagree | 15 | 19 | 15 | - | -4 |
| Unsure/don't know | 1 | 3 | 3 | +2 | - |
| Base (respondents) | 1822 | 1000 | 1005 | | |

The trend is shown below.

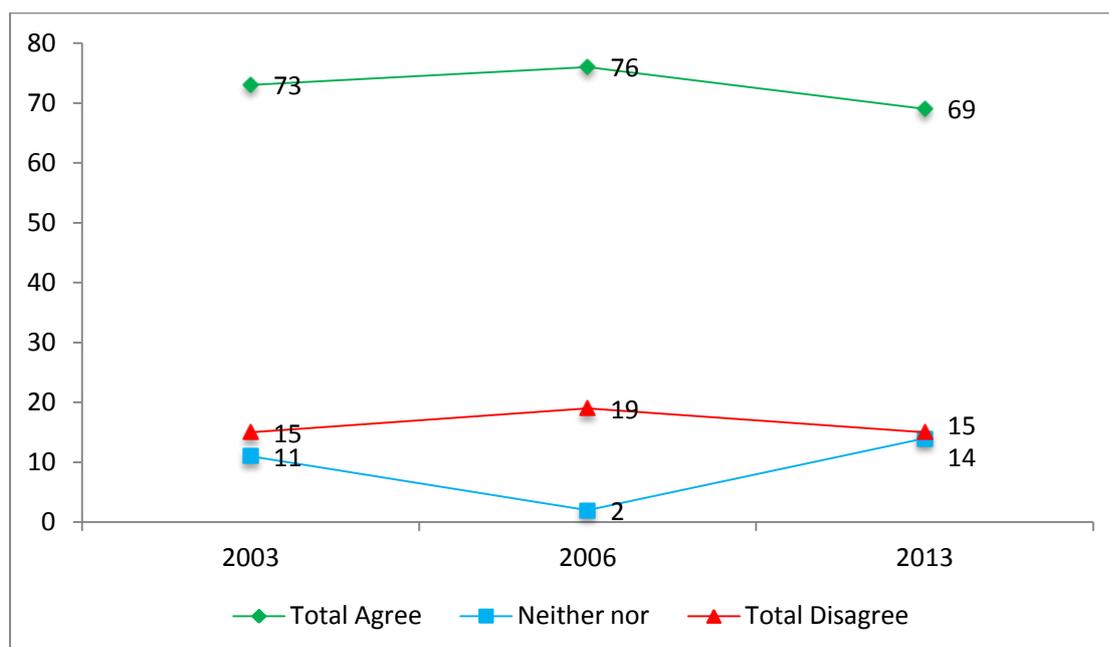


Figure 8-11: Agreement with Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Property 2003 to 2013

8.4.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed are those who are:

- educated to a tertiary level (73%)
- female (70%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed are those who are:

- educated to a secondary school level (19%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed are those who are:

- currently unemployed (24%).

8.4.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

When considered by territorial authority and by urban and rural locations, the following differences emerge:

- Respondents in an urban area (70%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed.
- Respondents in Otorohanga (22%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed.
- Respondents in Waipā (25%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that government restrictions on private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed.

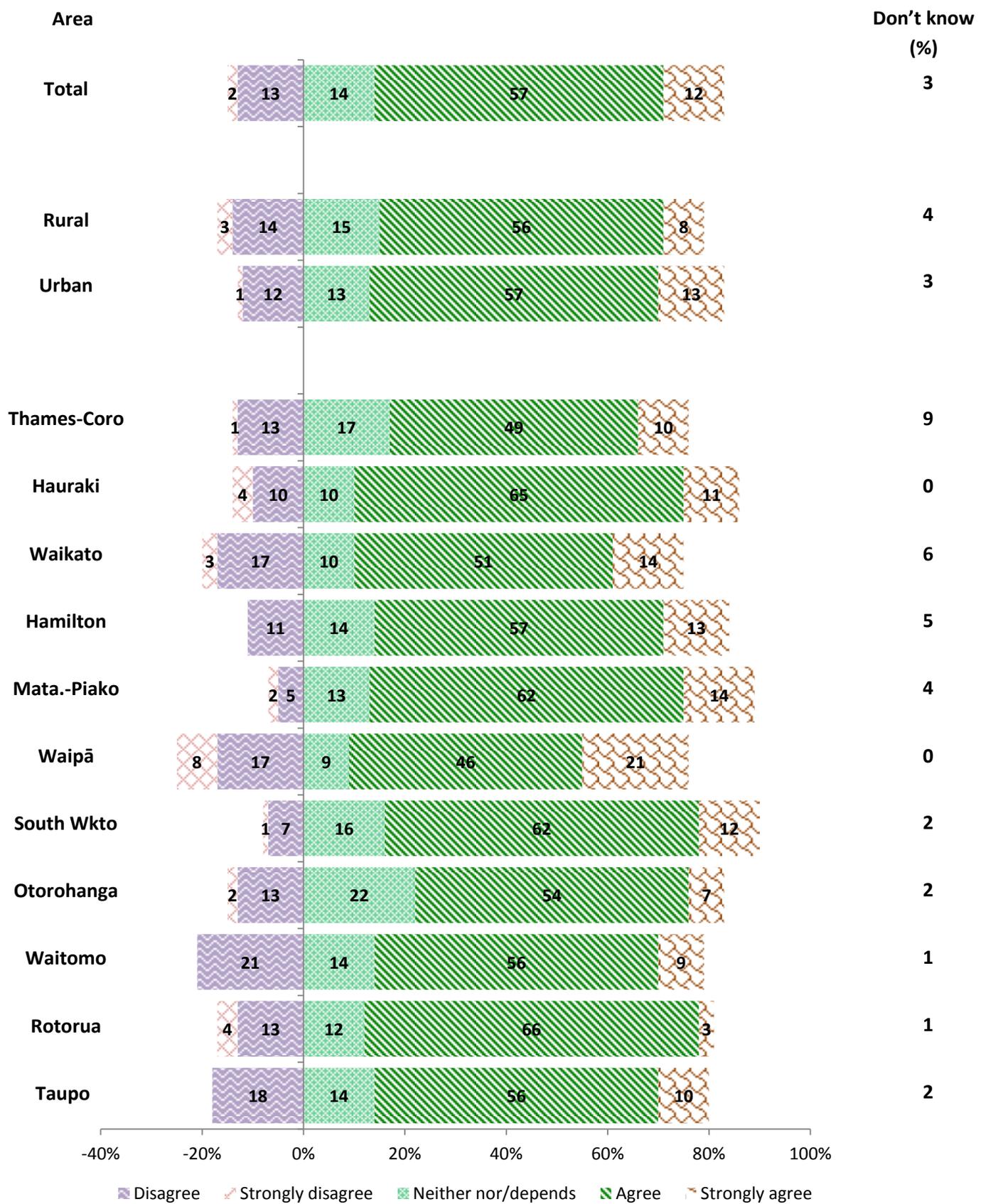


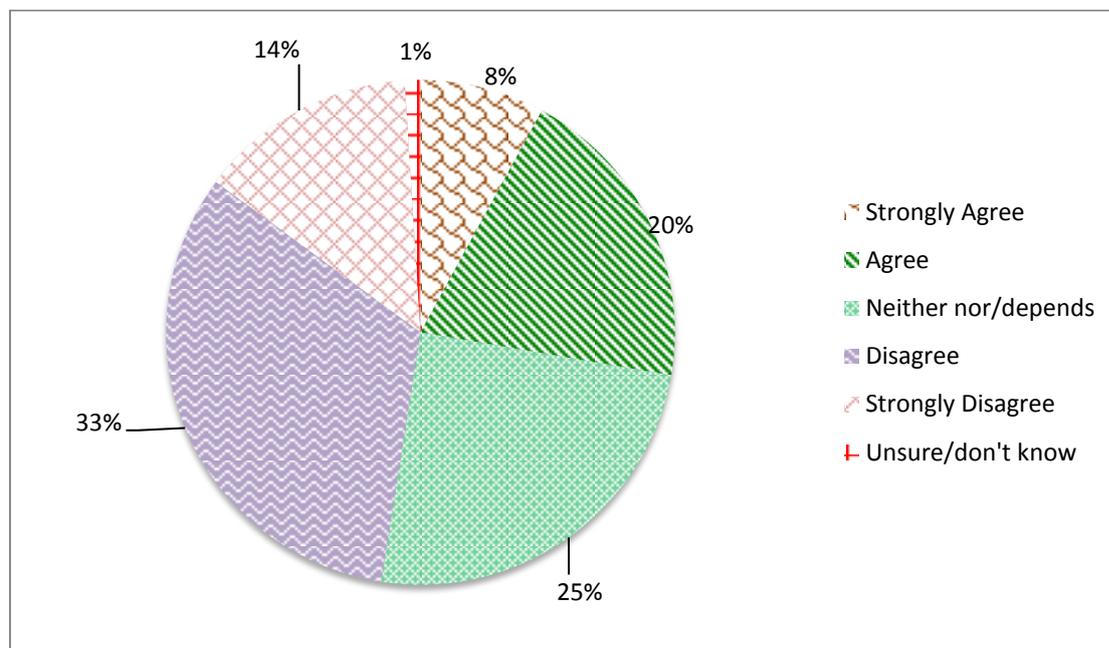
Figure 8-12: Agreement with Government Restrictions on the Use of Private Property by Area, Rural and Urban

8.5 LANDOWNERS AND THEIR OWN LAND

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that *landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land*.

8.5.1 OVERALL RESULT

Twenty-eight per cent of respondents agree that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land (8% strongly agree, 20% agree). Conversely, almost half of respondents (47%) disagree with this statement (14% strongly disagree, 33% disagree).



Base: All respondents (n=1005)

Figure 8-13: Landowners and Their Own Land

8.5.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

There is a decrease in the proportion of respondents agreeing that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land (total agreeing down from 37% in 2006 to 28% in 2013).

This year, a smaller proportion of respondents also disagree that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land (total disagreeing down from 53% in 2006 to 47% in 2013), with more respondents neither agreeing nor disagreeing (up from 2% in 2006 to 25% in 2013).

Table 8-5: Changes in Agreement with Landowners and Their Own Land 1998 to 2013

| | 1998 % | 2000 % | 2003 % | 2006 % | 2013 % | Change 98-13 | Change 06-13 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Strongly Agree | N/A | N/A | 10 | 9 | 8 | N/A | -1 |
| Agree | N/A | N/A | 24 | 28 | 20 | N/A | -8 |
| Total Agree | 21 | 14 | 34 | 37 | 28 | +7 | -9 |
| Neither agree nor disagree/depends | 31 | 35 | 17 | 2 | 25 | -6 | +23 |
| Disagree | N/A | N/A | 37 | 44 | 33 | N/A | -11 |
| Strongly Disagree | N/A | N/A | 12 | 9 | 14 | N/A | +5 |
| Total Disagree | 48 | 51 | 50 | 53 | 47 | -1 | -6 |
| Unsure/don't know | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | +1 | -7 |
| Base (respondents) | 1037 | 1873 | 1822 | 200 | 1005 | | |

N/A denotes code not used in previous years. These trends are shown below.

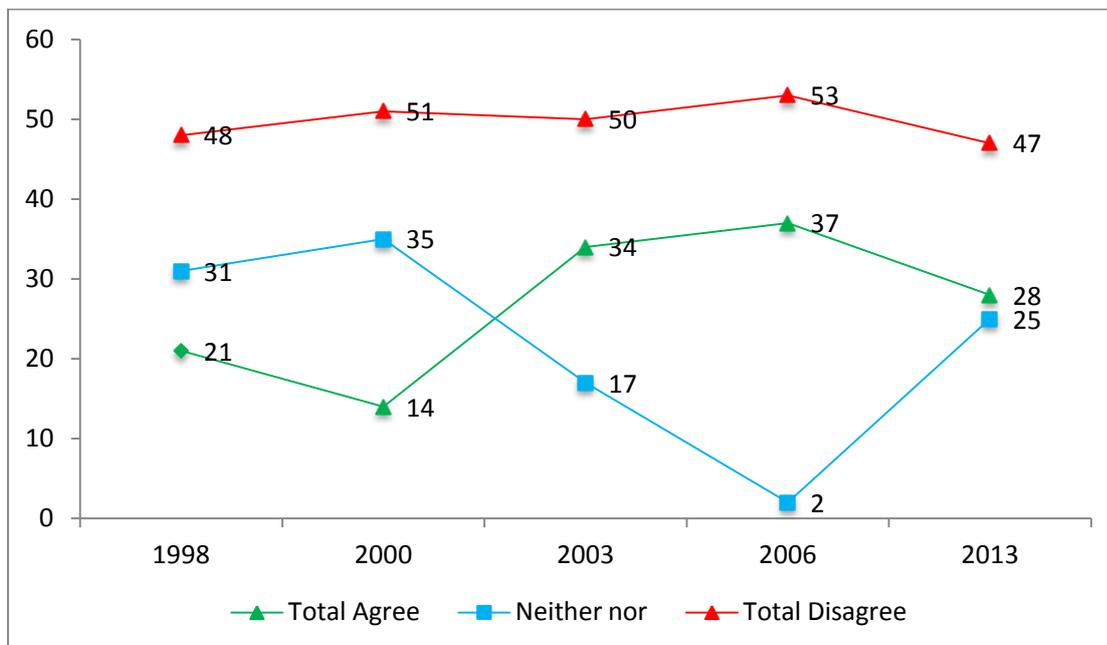


Figure 8-14: Agreement with Landowners and Their Own Land 1998 to 2013

8.5.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land are those who are:

- Māori (50%)
- aged between 18 and 19 years and between 20 and 29 years (58% and 39% respectively)
- in a household with an income of \$30,000 or less per annum (39%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land are those who are:

- aged between 60 and 64 years (37%)
- retired (31%)
- in an older household with no children (31%)
- educated to a secondary school level (32%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land are those who are:

- aged between 50 and 59 years (56%)
- in a household with an income of between \$90,001 and \$150,000 per annum (56%)
- working part time or currently unemployed (34% and 41% respectively)
- currently a student (46%)
- are educated to either a secondary school or tertiary level (33% and 57% respectively)
- female (50%)
- of no Māori ancestry (51%).

8.5.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

When considered by territorial authority and by urban and rural locations, the following differences emerge:

- Respondents in Hamilton (53%) or Waipā (59%) are more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land.

No respondents from a particular territorial authority or urban or rural setting are more likely to either **agree** or **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land.

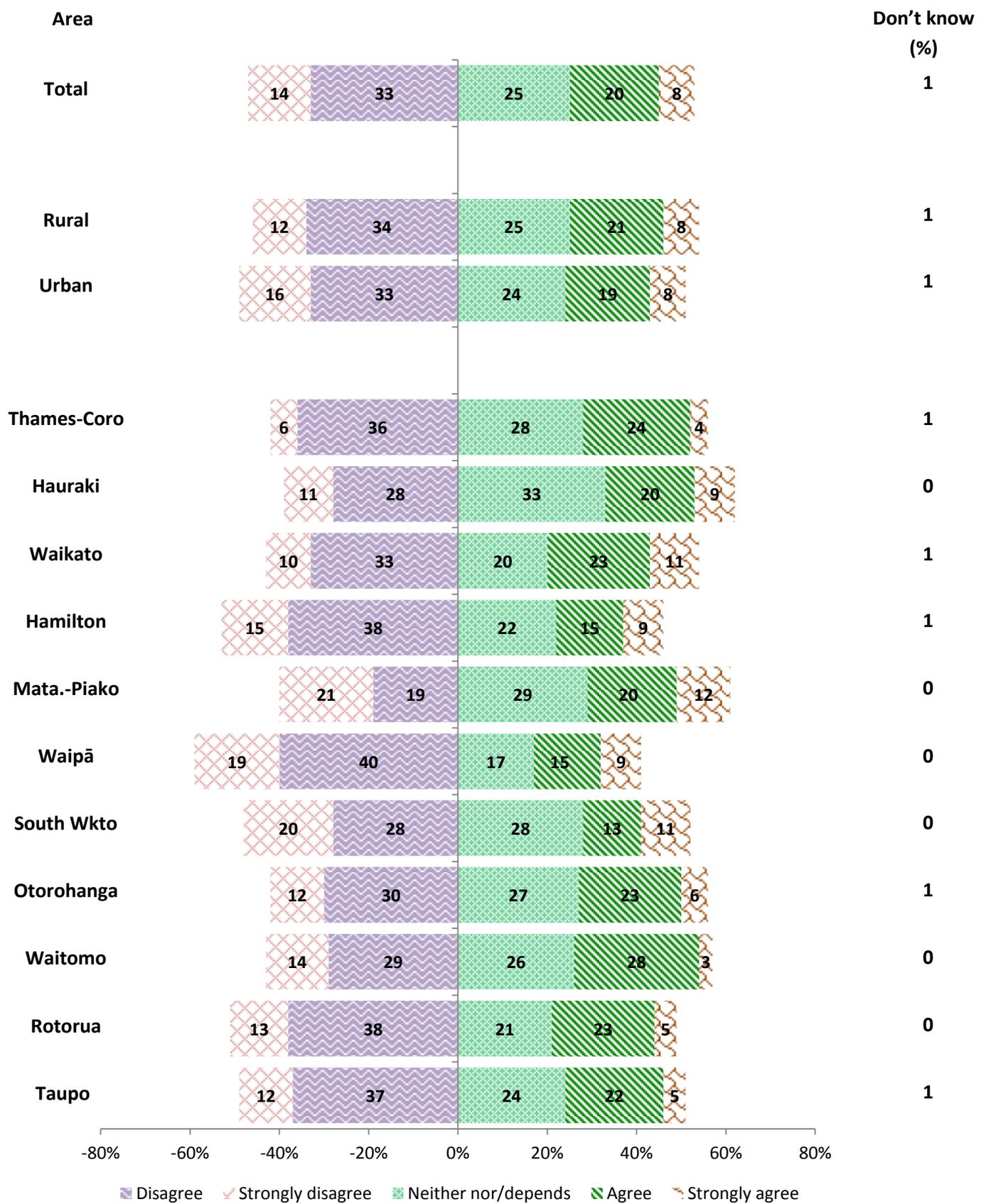


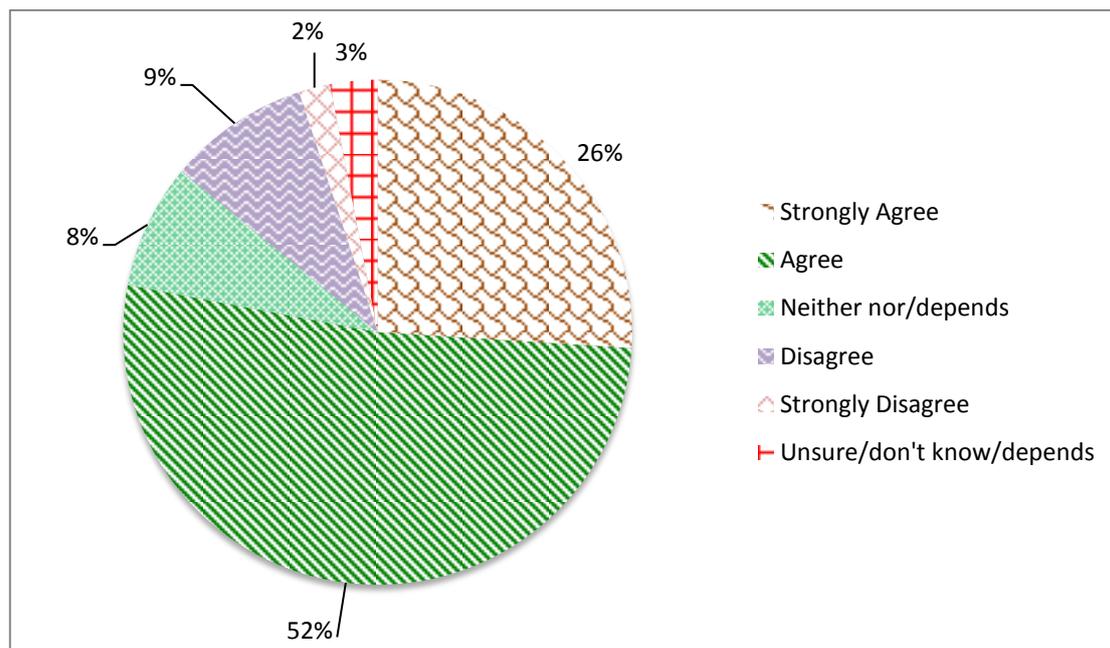
Figure 8-15: Agreement with Landowners and Their Own Land by Area, Rural and Urban

8.6 COUNCIL PROVISION FOR CONSTRUCTION IN AT RISK AREAS

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that *Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion.*

8.6.1 OVERALL RESULT

Over three quarters of those surveyed (78%) agree that Council should tighten its provisions for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion (26% strongly agree, 52% agree). In contrast, only 11% of respondents disagree with the above statement (2% strongly disagree, 9% disagree).



Base: All respondents (n=1005)

Figure 8-16: Council Provision for the Construction of Homes in At Risk Areas

8.6.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

In 2013 a smaller proportion of respondents agree with this statement than in 2006 (78% compared with 88% in 2006) and more respondents neither agree nor disagree with this statement (8% compared with 1% in 2006). A slightly larger proportion of respondents disagree with this statement in 2013 (11% in 2013 and 9% in 2006).

Table 8-6: Council provision for the Construction of Homes in At Risk Areas 2006 to 2013

| | 2006 % | 2013 % | Change 06-13 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Strongly Agree | 46 | 26 | -20 |
| Agree | 42 | 52 | +10 |
| Total Agree | 88 | 78 | -10 |
| Neither agree nor disagree/depends | 1 | 8 | +7 |
| Disagree | 6 | 9 | +3 |
| Strongly Disagree | 3 | 2 | -1 |
| Total Disagree | 9 | 11 | +2 |
| Unsure/don't know | 2 | 3 | +1 |
| Base (respondents) | 1000 | 1005 | |

This trend is shown below.

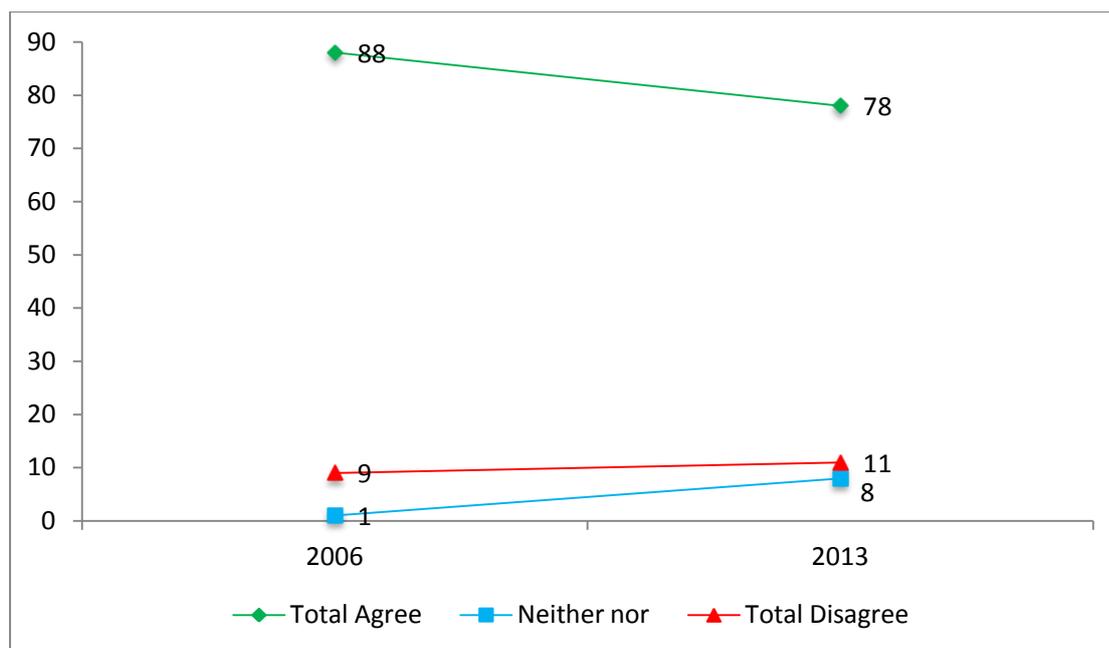


Figure 8-17: Council provision for the Construction of Homes in At risk Areas 2006 to 2013

8.6.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **agree** that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion are those who are:

- retired (83%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion are those who are:

- aged between 40 and 49 years (11%)
- working full time (10%)
- in a family household with mainly school-aged children (11%)
- working in professional/managerial roles (18%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to **disagree** that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion are those who are:

- aged between 18 and 19 years (24%)
- not in paid employment (15%).

8.6.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

When considered by territorial authority and by urban and rural locations, the following differences emerge:

- Respondents in Hamilton (86%) or in an urban area (79%) are more likely to **agree** that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion.
- Respondents in a rural area (13%) are more likely to **neither agree nor disagree (depends)** that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion.

- Respondents in Thames-Coromandel (18%) are more likely to **disagree** that Council should tighten its provision for the construction of homes and buildings in areas at risk from flooding and erosion.

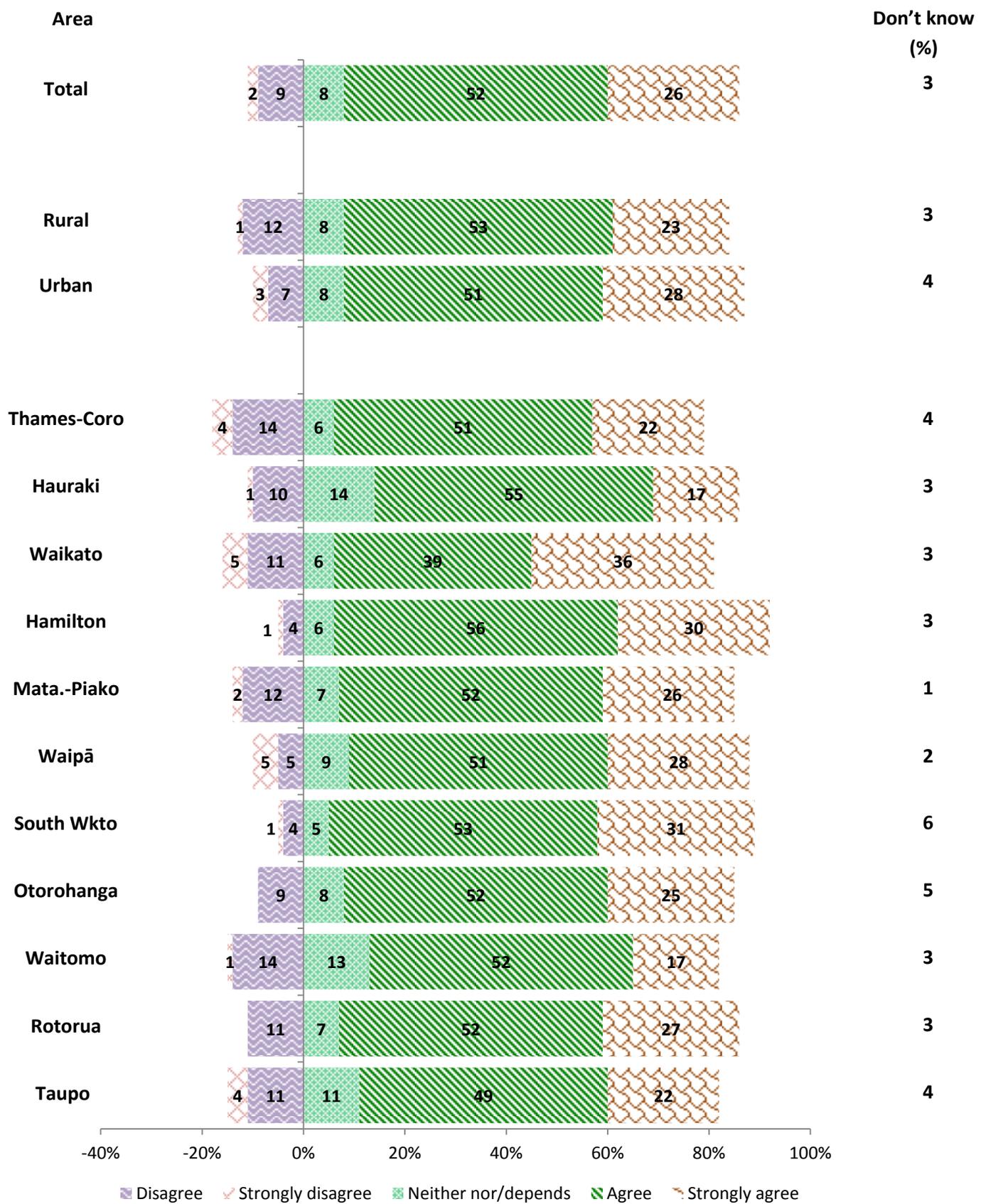


Figure 8-18: Council Provision for the Construction of Homes in At risk Areas by Area, Rural and Urban

8.7 INDEX OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

In order to calculate an overall measure of people's attitudes towards environmental regulations, an Index was created. The Index of Attitudes Towards Environmental Regulations was calculated by totalling the scores for three key indicator questions in this section:

- Council should enforce its rules and laws to make sure that the environment is well looked after.
- Landowners should be allowed to do what they like on their own land.
- Government restrictions on the use of private property are necessary so that the environment will not be harmed.

For consistency with previous index results and calculation methods, the following steps were undertaken:

- The five-point scale used for the questions was reduced to a three-point scale, making the minimum achievable score three (indicative of an anti-environmental regulation attitude) and the maximum achievable score nine (indicative of pro-environmental regulation attitude).
- The question regarding landowners and their own land (an environmentally negative question) had its polarity reversed to be compatible with the two environmentally positive questions.
- Don't know responses were treated as environmentally neutral responses.

8.7.1 OVERALL RESULT

This year, the scores achieved range from three (the minimum achievable score) to nine (the maximum achievable), with the mean being 7.57, the median being 8 and the mode being nine. In accordance with the analysis in 2006, respondents are placed in three groups to allow for further analysis. These groups are defined as:

- Respondents with a total score of six or less (19%) are considered **low** implying that they are against government control over land and landowners' actions.
- Respondents with a total score of either seven or eight (46%) are considered **medium** or neutral.
- Respondents with a total score of nine (35%) are considered **high**, implying that they are in favour of government control over land and landowners' actions.

8.7.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

The mean of Attitudes Towards Environmental Regulations (7.57) is showing a slight decrease since the 2006 result (7.68). These results imply a slight shift in decreasing acceptance amongst respondents for government control over land and landowners. The Index remains lower than that calculated in 2000 (7.80).

Table 8-7: Mean Scores for Index of Attitudes Towards Environmental Regulation

| | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2013 | Change 00-13 | Change 06-13 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mean score | 7.80 | 7.45 | 7.68 | 7.57 | -0.23 | -0.11 |
| Base (respondents) | 1873 | 1822 | 1000 | 1005 | | |

8.7.3 DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATION

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to obtain a **high** index score (a score of nine out of nine, indicating they are in favour of government control) are those who are:

- of no Māori ancestry (40%)
- female (38%)
- of European ethnicity (40%)
- educated to a trade certificate or to a tertiary level (44% and 45% respectively)
- in a household with income of between \$90,001 and \$150,000 per annum (43%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to obtain a **medium** index score (a score of seven or eight out of nine) are those who are:

- Māori (56%)
- in a family household with mainly preschool children (59%)
- educated to a secondary school level (54%).

Respondents who are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to obtain a **low** index score (a score of six or less out of nine, indicating they are against government control over land and landowners) are those who are:

- aged between 18 and 19 years (35%)
- male (23%)
- Māori (26%).

8.7.4 GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION

When considered by territorial authority and by urban and rural locations, the following differences emerge:

- Respondents from Waipā (47%) or urban areas (38%) are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to obtain a **high** index score (a score of nine out of nine, indicating they are in favour of government control).
- Respondents in Thames-Coromandel (30%) are significantly more likely (than the regional average) to obtain a **low** index score (a score of six or less out of nine, indicating they are against government control over land and landowners).

No respondents from a particular territorial authority or urban or rural setting are more likely to obtain a **medium** index score (a score of seven or eight out of nine).