

# Proposed Climate Change Strategy – Work Programme

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 10 June 2020  
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## Purpose/Ngā whāinga

The purpose of this report is to introduce the work programme for the proposed Climate Change Strategy. The work programme aspect will review LTP integration, alignment and collaboration, general budgetary needs, and timelines. Included under collaboration, this briefing will also introduce Councillors to the Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau (CATT) regional joint working group.

## Context/Horopaki

This report is an extension of the previous June 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Briefing report. The previous report introduced projected climate change and connected natural hazards and risks for Kaipara. It provided a broad overview of key deliverables and core components to the proposed Climate Change Strategy. It also introduced a timeline and trajectory for Council leadership on the proposed Strategy.

## Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

The report discusses what strong climate change integration looks like in the LTP. It reviews the three main action plans in the proposed Climate Change Strategy, including an overview of two additional significant deliverables, a proposed Climate Smart Policy and a communications platform. Areas of alignment and collaboration across Council and the region, are both underway and identified as needed. The report provides a detailed introduction and update to CATT regional joint working group, followed by a review of timeframes, trajectories and budgetary needs of the proposed work programme. The report informs the development of a business case for the proposed Climate Change Strategy's LTP bid.

## Climate change integration into LTP

Robust integration of climate change risks, opportunities, and action into the 2021-2031 LTP is a foundational step towards implementation of the proposed Climate Change Strategy. Review of 22 TAs across the country show two main approaches for climate change integration into LTPs. While this review is of 18/28 LTPs, it provides a good indication of how councils have understood and sought to address climate change.

The first method is to write climate change in primarily as a future risk, and as an infrastructure services issue. There is an assumption that the council is aware of climate change and acknowledges it is on the horizon. If climate change presents a specific risk to an activity, the risk is noted, and any attached projected costs identified. Risk identification is an important element to address climate change work<sup>1</sup>. Limiting integration results in the absence of specific directives or commitments that contribute to strong, proactive climate change work. This approach focuses on climate change adaptation.

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<sup>1</sup> Climate change “work” refers to adaptation, mitigation and sustainability actions.

Adaptation defaults to infrastructure services and the actions are limited to projected capital works projects and/or projected increased repair and maintenance to supply expected levels of service. Infrastructure plays an integral part towards adaptation, but it is only one tool of many required for effective climate change response. South Wairarapa District Council 2018-2028 LTP <sup>2</sup> and Ashburton District Council 2018-2028 LTP <sup>3</sup> are examples of this approach.

The second approach for writing climate change into the LTP is more aligned with the proposed Climate Change Strategy and integrates adaptation, mitigation and sustainability streams of work. This is where there is evident strategic direction to the way in which climate change is addressed in the LTP. Climate change work is consistently integrated across the layers and subjects of an LTP, from community outcomes and across the activity groups, through to the Financial Strategy.

As the previous introductory and overview report discussed, climate change impacts, risks and opportunities cross economic, natural environmental, social wellbeing, infrastructure assets, and cultural domains. Therefore, the way in which climate change is 'talked' about [the specific aspect/s of climate change work emphasised] changes based on the function of that section of the LTP. Even across this variety and complexity, climate change language should be consistent throughout. The risks identified, actions identified, and costs and opportunities addressed, all to feed into a connected community outcome directly tied to climate change response.

In this approach there is also clear delineation of responsibility. For example, the Activity Group District Leadership may include strategy development and adaptive pathways planning, but responsibility to carry out assessments of climate scenarios and the risk to infrastructure assets (i.e. wastewater, stormwater, land drainage) sits across infrastructure-related Activity Groups. The delineation is evident, but alignment is also explicitly stated. In this example, the alignment could be applying the same climate scenarios for assessments, matching projected timeframes, and describing the ways adaptive pathways planning decisions will inform works prioritised. The Nelson City Council 2018-2028 LTP <sup>4</sup> and the Whakatāne District Council 2018-2028 LTP <sup>5</sup> provide examples of this approach.

Kaipara District Council's 2018-2028 LTP sits more closely with the first approach than the second. While climate change appears in the LTP across the sections, it is addressed predominantly as a risk that will affect infrastructure assets and services. There is opportunity to apply a more strategic understanding of climate change into the 2021-2031 LTP. Opportunities include a linked Climate Smart Kaipara vision, risk assumptions that draw from the current regional risk assessment (due for completion by August), and supportive actions across Activity Groups and their specific services. Additionally, the proposed Climate Change Strategy and its work programme would be scheduled into Council business for the next 10 years.

The rest of this report will discuss the work programme for the proposed Climate Change Strategy.

## **Key aspects to work programme**

The three main streams to the proposed Climate Change Strategy work programme are the Kaipara Adaptation Action Plan (KAAP), Kaipara Mitigation Action Plan (KMAP), and Kaipara Sustainability Action Plan (KSAP). As noted in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Briefing, these action plans will set a series of objectives and action pathways for Council's adaptation, mitigation and sustainability work. It is currently proposed that KAAP and KSAP take shape through living documents, while KMAP is not a living document, but instead operational, GHG emissions target/s and emissions reductions pathways. KMAP's emissions reductions pathways will develop through internal staff engagement and through Council leadership and direction. KAAP and KSAP's living documents will develop through internal staff engagement and alignment, regional collaboration, Mana Whenua hui and wānanga, and external stakeholder discussions.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/LTP%202018\\_2028%20%28for%20web%29.pdf](https://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/LTP%202018_2028%20%28for%20web%29.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/Long%20Term%20Plan/Long%20Term%20Plan%202018-28/LTP%202018-28%20Volume%201.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nelson.govt.nz/assets/Our-council/Downloads/Plans-strategies-policies/strategies-plans-policies/long-term-plan-2018-28/Long-Term-Plan-2018-28-July19-single-pages.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/sites/www.whakatane.govt.nz/files/documents/documents-section/council-plans/long-term-plan/ltp-2018-web-2.pdf>

In addition to these three action plans, the proposed Climate Change Strategy includes a communications platform and a proposed Climate Smart Policy. The communications platform will be housed in a new KDC climate change webpage. This webpage will provide a succinct review of what climate change means for Kaipara. It will include important links to other reports and climate change information. It will also summarise Council's action on climate change and sustainability and include any relevant links. The webpage is underway and will be completed in the 20/21 business year.

A possible Climate Smart Policy offers another mechanism for strong climate change action. It is an additional tool available to Council on *how* to carry out climate change work. It enables Council to set direction on the proposed Climate Change Strategy work programme. A clear policy ensures that the Strategy, and Council's meeting of statutory obligations, lives on through staff and elected member changes. FNDC and WDC have both indicated a need for climate change policy in their respective climate change programmes. There is opportunity to share resources and align policy development across the region. While review of TA's across the country shows increasing direction towards use of climate policy as a mechanism for action (see June 3<sup>rd</sup> report attachment), there are only a couple climate change policies currently adopted. Refer to Attachment A, Climate Policy Resources, for more detail, including direction from Simpson and Grierson on what an effective policy would entail.

### Alignment

A key aim of the proposed Strategy work programme is alignment across Council. Alignment is critical for ongoing success of the proposed Strategy. It ensures the Strategy is pragmatic and able to be championed by staff and elected members. The following table outlines current and identified work needed to align the proposed Climate Change Strategy across Council business. The table identifies four areas of Council business and describes the kinds of alignment already underway and future direction for alignment. The four areas of business seek to cover all Council functions and responsibilities. Council feedback is asked for additional alignment work that needs to be included in the work programme.

Council Areas	"Our House" [operational]	Decision-Making	Projects	Mana Whenua Partnerships	Community Work
<b>Happening now...</b>	Procurement Process Review  Emissions Inventory - Corporate	LTP  Infrastructure Strategy and AMPs  Procurement Strategy  Financial Strategy  District Plan  Natural Hazards and Climate Change Chapters Review  Spatial Planning  Urban Design Guidelines   NTA Resilience Strategy	Kaipara Kickstart [Kaipara Kai]   PMO Internal Discussions	Work from MoU and MEA  Identified Throughout  Resource Needs and Commitments Written into Work Programme	Possible Engagement Activities Identified   Resource Needs and Commitments Written into Work Programme

<b>Where we're heading...</b>	Business Case Process Council Travel and Accommodation	Climate-related financial risk disclosure and management plan Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, Identify Costings	Kaipara Wharves project Northland Water Storage Project Commitment to Ongoing alignment Embed Climate Change Consideration	Te Ao Māori framework creation Māori governance across action plans Koha Policy and Te Reo Policy	Forums, Draft Document Consultations, Community Panels Significance and Engagement Policy Communities Teams
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### *Regional alignment*

In addition to Council business alignment, the work programme includes alignment with regional climate change work. Activities and deliverables in each of the respective Councils share similarities in terms of approaches and outcomes. Their work programmes also reflect the unique needs and context of the different districts. The table below shows areas of comparison and points of difference.

<b>WDC</b>	<b>FNDC</b>	<b>KDC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change Emergency</li> <li>• Sustainability Strategy</li> <li>• Climate Action Plan (underway)</li> <li>• Climate Change Policy in Climate Action Plan</li> <li>• Planning and Development Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGNZ Declaration</li> <li>• Climate Change Roadmap and FTE (adopted)</li> <li>• Climate Change Policy in Roadmap</li> <li>• Committee Delegation</li> <li>• FNDC CE: Climate Change Roadmap in KPI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGNZ Declaration</li> <li>• FTE</li> <li>• Proposed Climate Change Strategy (and embedded action plans)</li> <li>• Climate Smart Policy proposed</li> <li>• Whole of Council delegation</li> </ul>

## **Regional Collaboration - Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau - CATT**

### *Introduction*

CATT is a regional joint adaptation group that first formed in December 2018. The group's aim is to ensure regional consistency in adaptation planning while recognising the need for unique local approaches at the district and community level. The group is developing a series of core projects, including a communications plan, a climate change adaptation strategy for Northland, an associated 10-year work programme for Councils that identifies and addresses priority issues at both a regional and district level, and a Te Ao Māori Framework that applies a Māori world view to adaptation planning.

At the date of this Briefing, CATT will have officially met seven times. The group meets regularly on a monthly basis and NRC's Natural Hazards Advisor is the chair. Membership currently includes 16 staff from FNDC, WDC, NRC, and KDC. The Four Waters Advisory Group and Northland Transport Alliance are also represented. Te Taitokerau Māori and Council (TTMAC) and Te Huinga representatives have open invitations and have attended a meeting and a risk assessment workshop. In addition to the wider CATT group, a sub-group of six staff exists to progress the planning and delivery of shared adaptation strategy. A Māori climate change adaptation technical advisory group will be established using representatives from existing council Māori advisory groups – this is discussed in the governance section of this report.

### *Communication – Climate Change Key Messages*

CATT seeks to promote consistent communication between councils and communities. With communications staff from the four councils, the group has now developed a list of proposed high-level statements that can be used in external communications by all Northland councils and elected representatives. These key messages have gone to both the CE Forum (February 2020) and Mayoral Forum (March 2020) for review and direction. Once review by respective Mana Whenua partners has occurred, Climate Change Key Messages will come to Council for adoption. This is set to occur at the August Council Meeting. See Attachment B, CATT Resources, for the Draft Climate Change Key Messages.

### *Adaptation Strategy and LTP – Shared Approach to Adaptation*

The rest of this section will explain the shared adaptation strategy in more detail. Core foundational parts of the strategy include a risk screening, spatial risk assessment, adaptive pathways planning methodology, Te Ao Māori Framework, and a prioritised work programme for detailed adaptation planning.<sup>6</sup>

A key deliverable for the strategy will be a coordinated regional adaptation work program for the 2021-2031 LTP period, with aligned priority adaptive pathways planning under KAAP. CATT aims to deliver Part 1, 'What's Happening', and Part 2, 'What Can We Do About It', by August 2020.<sup>7</sup> Part 1 of the strategy will provide results from the risk screening and spatial risk assessment to inform what adaptation work is prioritised. Part 2 will describe the regulatory and non-regulatory tools available to Council to enact adaptation action. Part 1 and Part 2 contributes to a fully scope adaptive pathways planning projects, ready in the works programme for Council's next LTP funding round. Additionally, a regional shared services funding model has been discussed and indicative costing is underway. This is set to be presented to Council at the August Briefing.

### *Governance Structure*

CATT collaboration also involves the establishment of an inter-council joint standing committee. This would be a governance platform aimed to provide a focussed forum for discussing regional climate change planning with elected members from all councils and with Māori representatives. An inter-council joint standing committee would enable communication, coordination and collaboration between councils. Suggested membership will be elected members from the four Northland councils plus Hapū and Iwi representatives. The total number of members is yet to be determined. The proposed ratio would be half elected members and half Mana Whenua partners. Proposed adoption of this structure is set for the August Council Meeting. See Attachment B, CATT Resources, for the proposed CATT governance structure.

### *Mana Whenua Partnerships*

CATT recognises the integral and critical importance of Mana Whenua participation, input and decisions throughout the development and implementation of the adaptation strategy. In addition to development of a Te Ao Māori Framework, CATT involves three levels of Iwi and Hapū involvement.

<sup>6</sup> KDC's proposed Climate Change Strategy work programme incorporates this work into KAAP.

<sup>7</sup> Note: This differs from the timeline in Attachment B, CATT Resources and is still pending approval at NRC.

At a staff level, CATT initially engaged with Māori relationship advisors from councils. The group has been working with existing advisory groups including Te Karearea and TTMAC. Māori relationships advisors from each council are included as members of the regional joint adaptation group and have an open invitation. As a possible extension of Te Ao Māori Framework, CATT is creating a research proposal with GNS and NIWA to develop a methodology for and adaptation planning toolkit for Māori communities isolated from towns and urban centres.

At a technical level, a new Māori adaptation technical advisory group will be established with the aim of providing technical advice and support in the development of the adaptation strategy. Existing Māori liaison groups from councils, TTMAC and Te Huinga, will mostly likely form the basis for membership. It has been agreed that remuneration for meetings and other work will be paid for by respective councils. This is accounted for under Mana Whenua Partnerships category in proposed new costs centres (see Budgetary Needs section below).

At the governance level, it is proposed that Iwi and Hapū representatives make up fifty percent of the proposed inter-council joint standing committee.

### *Hazards Mapping*

NRC is undertaking several coastal hazard assessments to inform coastal flood and coastal erosion risks in adaptation planning. These assessments (and corresponding maps) will be made available end of June 2020. Updated maps will inform priority areas for adaptive pathways planning and will inform indicative costs for infrastructure assets and other Council services at risk. The following two paragraphs are direct quotes from *Northland Council's update report: Climate Change Adaptation* to the Northland CE Forum Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

Ten new sites for coastal erosion will be assessed by Tonkin and Taylor over the next four months, and existing erosion sites updated. This will bring the total number of sites mapped with a detailed probabilistic methodology to 42, with sites in all districts. A separate research project is being undertaken by the University of Auckland to define coastal erosion hotspots across the region which will identify additional sites to be assessed in detail later.

New high-resolution topographic data (LiDAR) has been collected for the whole of Northland and is expected to be delivered to NRC by March 2020. This allows the calculation of coastal flooding including sea level rise projections for the entire coastline.

The Kaipara harbour is currently being assessed for coastal flood hazard and uses an existing model developed for Auckland Council to give a hydrodynamic model of the entire Kaipara harbour. coastal flooding mapping across the entire Northland coastline is expected to be completed by June 2020. These models will use the sea level rise scenarios recommended in the 2017 Ministry for the Environment "*Coastal Hazards and Climate Change*" guidance, namely 0.55m at 2080 and 1.18m at 2130. In line with the guidance, 1.52m at 2130 will be applied to 'category A' development (i.e. new Greenfield subdivisions and major infrastructure). These values were recommended by the group following legal advice and council staff workshops during 2019.

Updated hazards assessments are scheduled to be presented to Council at the August Briefing.

### *Why both CATT and KAAP?*

Under the proposed Climate Change Strategy work programme, CATT is a work stream embedded into KAAP. Council's participation in CATT will be guided by district-wide adaptation objectives and actions that are adopted for KAAP. Both CATT and KAAP are required. CATT will establish a shared adaptive planning approach for coastal areas so Council will need to set adaptation processes for communities outside this scope (i.e. inland communities or farming communities).

Participation in CATT ensures that regional and district planning instruments are aligned, while KAAP enables Council to deal with district specific issues. Additionally, sharing of technical expertise will increase business efficiency and reduce costs.

Important to note is that current timelines do not match. CATT adaptation strategy development is already underway. This proposed strategy and work programme has yet to be adopted or accounted for in the 2021-2031 LTP. The primary aim is that the first instalment of KAAP as a living document (objectives, actions, indicators, etc) is ready before Council engages with community in the CATT-directed adaptive pathways planning process.

So far CATT has progressed well. There is growing interest to expand a collaboration to support a shared mitigation approach (GHG inventory processes, emissions timelines, etc).

### Timeframes and trajectories

Another core aim of the work programme is to outline the trajectory of the Strategy and the main action plans. Each action plan follows a similar trajectory based on the follow five questions:

1. What is happening?
2. Where do we want to be?
3. What do can we do about it?
4. How are we going to do it?
5. How are we doing?

### Work Programme Trajectory

KAAP	KMAP	KSAP
1. Identify what is happening	1. Identify our emissions	1. Assess our sustainability
2. Develop the approach / Set objectives	2. Decide targets	2. Decide objectives for phases
3. Decide with communities	3. Create pathways for reduction	3. Create action steps
4. Integrate across Council	4. Integrate across Council	4. Integrate across Council
5. Assess how it's working	5. Check our indicators	5. Assess our progress

The above trajectory is for years 2021-2024 (three business years) of the 2021-2031 LTP. The table below outlines the specific actions for each year to achieve works towards this trajectory. The upcoming business year 2020-2021 is included since there is climate change work already underway that will need to be included in the proposed Climate Change Strategy work programme (and thus in the LTP). As this is an evolving work programme, timeframes may change as the programme continues.



**LTP Timeframes**

	<b>2020-2021</b> <b>Adopt Strategy</b>	<b>2021-2022</b> <b>Climate Smart Policy</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2031</b>
<b>KAAP</b>	Living Document Outline and Research	Draft KAAP Living Document Adaptation Forums Technical Reports	KAAP Living Document Adopted	Action Steps Outlined and Integrated Across Council	Assess KAAP Living Document Objectives against Adaptive Pathways
<b>CATT Specific</b>	CATT Governance Hazards Mapping Regional Risk Assessment Adaptive Pathways Scoping Indicative Costings	Adaptive Pathways Process Te Ao Māori Framework Mana Whenua Partnership	Pilot Adaptive Pathways Planning Te Ao Māori Framework	Adaptive Pathways Planning with Communities	Adaptive Pathways Planning with Communities Decided Pathways Integration Begins
<b>KMAP</b>	First Annual Emissions Inventory and Footprints Establish Inventory Process	Annual Inventory Establish Emissions Targets Reduction Pathways	Annual Inventory Establish Indicators Community Initiatives	Annual Inventory Action Towards Indicators Community Initiatives	Annual Inventory Review Indicators and Pathways
<b>KSAP</b>	Feasibility and Scoping	Sustainability Assessment Begin Stakeholder Engagement	KSAP Living Document Outline Internal Engagement Across Topics	Set Phased Objectives Across Council Areas Establish Indicators Draft Living Document to Consultation	Final Living Document Transition Actions Implemented across Council Areas Monitor Indicators and Review Phased Objectives

**Budgetary Needs**

The majority of climate change work so far has been budgeted for through the District Plan Review, Infrastructure, or through CATT shared services. This work programme includes two proposed new cost centres in the *District Leadership Activity Group, Policy and District Planning* Sub-Activity. These cost centres are Climate Change Strategy Development and Adaptive Pathways Planning. This funding model proposal comes from finance engagement and from CATT collaboration and shared regional approaches to LTP bids.



The follow categories are the main areas that will need funding (in alphabetical order):

1. Communications
2. Community Engagement
3. Mana Whenua Partnerships
4. Science and Technical Reports (Professional Services)
5. Tool Development (Professional Services)

These areas are identified as projected BAU costs that do not currently have a budget. They are where ongoing work will be required. Each of the five areas is critical to meeting the statutory requirements and to carrying out the proposed Climate Change Strategy.

A business case is underway that will weigh costs and benefits in more detail. Following the past report's leadership trajectory, this can be presented to Council by October. This will develop as CATT shared process progresses and as continued in-house alignment and cost-sharing opportunities are identified.

### **Next steps/E whaiake nei**

In this LTP Briefing, feedback is needed from elected members on the proposed Strategy's work programme and how it may be accounted for in the LTP. Specifically, what aspects of the work programme need further detail and development in order to be integrated into the 2021-2031 LTP?

The Policy Team would also like input on the recommended Climate Smart Policy and whether this mechanism for climate change action sits within Council's vision for Kaipara.

Additional content on the proposed Climate Change Strategy is due to come to Council at the August Briefing and August Council Meeting. This will include presentation on the updated hazards mapping, CATT climate change key messages and governance discussion, GHG emissions inventory results, and responses to any direction and feedback from these initial briefings.

### **Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga**

	Title
A	Climate Change Policy Resources
B	CATT Resources (Terms of Reference, Proposed Governance, Strategy, Original Timeline, Key Messages)