

Climate Change Working Group

[now CATT]

Terms of Reference

Membership

Members:

Northland Regional Council (NRC):

Justin Murfitt, Manager, Resource Management Planning & Policy

Toby Kay, Natural Hazards Advisor, Rivers and Natural Hazards

Far North District Council (FNDC):

Melissa Parlane, Team Leader, Infrastructure Planning

Roger Ackers, Manager, Strategy Development

Whangarei District Council (WDC):

Matthew de Boer, Waste and Drainage Asset Engineer

Bernadette Aperahama, Senior Strategic Planner

Kaipara District Council (KDC):

Matthew Smith, Planning and Design Engineer.

Jessica Hollis, Manager, Planning and Policy

Four Waters Advisory Group

Andrew Carvell, Manager Waste and Drainage

Northland Transport Alliance

Greg Monteith, Roding Asset Engineer

Project Leader – TBC

Project Sponsor - TBC

Background

Climate change and central government's regulatory and policy responses to it, will present significant challenges and opportunities for Northland. Potential impacts on social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being in the region will depend to a large degree on how well communities and industry are able to adapt. Local government will play a critical role in this area.

It is therefore important that all four Tai Tokerau councils collaborate to ensure an effective and coordinated response to the challenges of climate change. To ensure this occurs, Far North District Council (FNDC), Whangarei District Council (WDC), Kaipara District Council (KDC) and Northland Regional Council (NRC) have established a collaborative Climate Change Working Group made up of staff from each council.

Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Change Working Group is to develop a regional collaborative approach to climate change adaptation planning for local government in Northland. This will include a draft climate change strategy for Northland and associated work programme that identifies and addresses priority issues at both a regional and district level.

Justification

Scientific evidence shows that the effects of climate change are already occurring across the country, and are expected to have increasingly significant impacts on services provided by local government. It is important that infrastructure and planning decisions made today by Councils take into account the expected climate changes, to ensure their long-term viability. Having a regionally consistent approach to climate change adaptation will enable us to make effective planning choices while ensuring broad buy-in by our communities.

Key Responsibilities

Data & modelling

- 1) Identify and prioritise data / science needs relating to both climate change adaptation and resilience including mitigation.
- 2) Identify associated resourcing / funding needs.
- 3) Develop an agreed approach to modelling.

Planning

- 4) Identify priority actions / programmes at a district and regional scale over the short, medium and long term.
- 5) Where possible, align timeframes, deliverables and a consistent approach to implementation across the councils.
- 6) Identify our available approaches to adaptation and resilience - resilience to both the effects of climate change and how we respond to central government direction.
- 7) Adaptation Planning Methodology: Agree on a suitable and robust planning methodology to help develop key trigger points which determine when we take certain actions.
- 8) Identify resourcing and funding for deliverables (not implementation).
- 9) Develop a draft climate change strategy for Northland that addresses priority climate change issues at a district and regional scale.
- 10) Recommend and present the draft strategy to each council and Chief Executives forum.
- 11) Assist councils in financial and operational planning to implement the strategy (following relevant approval/adoption), including development of Long Term Plans.

Engagement

- 12) Support any engagement processes on the strategy as needed (following relevant approvals/adoption). This may include developing an agreed set of terminology and key messages for the Elected Members and the community.

Project leader and sponsor

A Chief Executive from one of the participating councils shall be nominated as project leader, with a General Manager from the same council nominated as project sponsor. The project leader will be responsible for reporting on the group's progress to the CEO's of the other participating councils. The project sponsor shall be a member of the group and attend meetings as needed and with the Chair will be responsible for reporting progress to the project leader.

Chair

Chair of the group to be elected from members. The Chair will be responsible for distributing meeting notes, recommendations and actions to the group and project sponsor.

Reporting

The Climate Change Working Group through the sponsor and Chair, will report progress to the project leader every six months or more frequently as required. An action sheet shall be used to record progress.

Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly or otherwise as needed.

Decision making

A credible commitment to the collaborative process by the individuals and organisations involved is required.

A quorum of at least 1 representative from each of the councils is required for all decisions and recommendations.

The group shall endeavour to achieve consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decision making will be based on the majority. Members differing opinions (and the reasons for this) shall be recorded and reported.

Delegations

The Working Party will have no delegated authority. Recommendations of the group must be approved by the relevant council(s) prior to implementation or adoption.

Proposed key climate change messages – abridged version

- Climate change poses a real risk to Northland and local government actions are necessary
- Emissions reduction (i.e. mitigation) is largely central government's responsibility, although councils should reduce their organisation's emissions
- Reducing the impact of climate change (i.e. adaptation) is largely local government's responsibility
- Northland councils are working together on a collaborative approach to adaptation, initially via an adaptation strategy
- We need to work with our communities and Treaty partners on long-term outcomes

Proposed key climate change messages

1. **Climate change represents one of the greatest risks to our communities, biodiversity, economy and the life-supporting capacity of our planet. The effects of climate change are already being felt across Aotearoa New Zealand. Here in Te Tai Tokerau Northland, our communities are already experiencing real changes.**
 2. **The future physical impacts of climate change are likely to be significant and wide-ranging, and will affect our diverse communities, industries and natural environments differently.**
 3. **Urgent action is required at all levels of government to reduce the risk of further harm. Firstly by reducing emissions that cause climate change (known as climate change mitigation) and secondly by building capacity within our communities to adapt to the effects of climate change (known as climate change adaptation).**
 4. **Local government have an obligation to reduce their organisational greenhouse gas emissions, and central government is responsible for measures to reduce emissions of all sectors, via the Zero Carbon Act.**
 5. **Local Government Authorities have an important role to play in climate change adaptation, including providing education and advice, as well as planning and implementing adaptation responses at a local and regional level.**
- A flexible, dynamic response is required as there is uncertainty about the timing and scale of impacts and what solutions are appropriate.
 - This is a new, challenging space for councils and communities. Northland councils are continuously working to improve our information and approaches. (insert links to what each Council is doing).
 - Approaches to adaptation such as plans and strategies need to be collaborative between councils to ensure processes are aligned and resources and knowledge shared, while acknowledging the local needs of communities.
6. **A collaborative approach is underway to ensure an effective and coordinated response to the challenges of climate change in Te Tai Tokerau; the main output in 2020 will be a climate change adaptation strategy.**
- The four Northland councils, hapū and iwi partners, the Northland Transport Alliance and the Four Waters Advisory Group are coordinating the strategy. This strategy will create a roadmap for funding, community planning and implementation and will adopt a community-based adaptation approach.
 - The main aims of the strategy are:
 - to describe adaptation measures and approaches to building resilience;
 - to identify priority areas for action, based on an assessment of risks to our environment, economy, infrastructure and social and cultural wellbeing;
 - and to identify the resourcing required to implement the strategy through council's long term plans.
 - The strategy will be reviewed and updated as we learn more about climate change impacts and risks.
7. **Together with hapū and iwi partners, our communities and central government councils need to plan for and manage impacts on the things we value and to help local communities to become more resilient.**
- Iwi, hapū and community groups around Tai Tokerau and Aotearoa New Zealand hold much knowledge and are already doing adaptation work. We need to work with and build upon this resource.
 - Engagement with communities can help identify issues that need to be addressed nationally vs locally, and create long-term solutions
8. **For our communities to thrive into the future, we must gear up for change.**



