

# Proposed Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 02 September 2020  
**Reporting officer:** Katy Simon, Policy Analyst

## Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To introduce the proposed Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and draft Terms of Reference.

## Context/Horopaki

At the Council Briefing meetings on 3 and 10 June, staff reported on a proposed Climate Change Strategy and Work Programme. These reports introduced the idea of a strategic, unified approach to climate change work that included adaptation, mitigation and sustainability action plans and a Climate Smart Policy. The reports also introduced and updated Council on Council's participation in a joint regional approach to adaptation, Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau (CATT), together with Northland Regional Council (NRC), Far North District Council (FNDC) and Whangarei District Council (WDC).

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 Te Taitokerau 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.

CATT meets regularly on a tri-monthly basis and NRC's Natural Hazards Advisor is the chair. CATT reports to Council's Chief Executives. Membership currently includes 18 staff from FNDC, WDC, NRC, and KDC. The Four Waters Advisory Group and Northland Transport Alliance are also represented. Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) and Te Huinga representatives have open invitations and have attended a meeting and a risk assessment workshop.

Participation in CATT and development of shared regional adaptation approach is a core component of Council's climate change work. This regional approach is integral to the proposed climate change work programme. So far, participation in CATT has been predominantly operational and staff led. CATT is now proposing the establishment of a Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee to support formalising the proposed shared regional approach.

## Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Acting collaboratively in Te Taitokerau Northland to plan how we adapt to climate change ensures an effective, efficient and coordinated approach. Collaborative inter-council arrangements have proven very effective at dealing with complex issues that benefit from cross-council coordination, most recent examples are the Northland Transportation Alliance and matters around Civil Defence Emergency Management.

As stated previously, CATT is currently in the process of developing a regional climate change strategy. While this group is functioning well, it is recommended that a joint council committee is also established to provide governance oversight of climate change adaptation activity.

The proposal to establish a committee was supported by the Chief Executives Forum at its meeting on Monday 3 February 2020, and subsequently endorsed by the Northland Mayoral Forum at its meeting on 24 February 2020. Both the Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives Forum recommended that this committee have equal representation by Māori.

The formation of a joint council standing committee is provided for in Schedule 7, clauses 30 and 30A of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). In terms of process, each Council must formally agree to the establishment of the joint committee and nominate elected members as committee members. Clause 31 of Schedule 7 of the LGA also allows a local authority to appoint non-elected members to a committee, if in the opinion of the local authority those persons have the skills, attributes or knowledge that will assist the work of the committee.

FNDC has formally approved the creation of the committee and the associated draft Terms of Reference (TOR) through resolutions at meetings held in August. WDC is in the process of gaining approval, with the draft TOR having been presented at their August Council Briefing. NRC will be seeking a Council decision on the proposed committee at their August meeting.

It is recommended that the committee have eight members with each Council nominating two elected members – one as their full member and an alternate as a ‘back-up’ in the event the first nominee is unable to attend meetings. Each Council is to also seek the nomination of two Iwi/Hapū representatives from their jurisdictions (again one as ‘back-up’ / alternate).

It is recommended that Iwi / Hapū representatives are remunerated for their participation and that remuneration is the responsibility of the nominating council. For KDC, this remuneration would develop in reference to our Mana Enhancing Agreement (MEA) with Te Roroa and our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Te Uri o Hau. Remuneration for participation in the joint committee falls outside the scope of current compensation as outlined in both agreements since it's a regional, non-policy activity. Remuneration is accounted for in Council's proposed climate change work programme LTP budget. For the 2020/2021 financial year, remuneration costs are anticipated to be small and will come from current, operational budgets. Where hourly costs are not indicated by our MEA and MoU, [NRC's Appointed Members' Allowances Policy](#) will guide remuneration. This policy identifies maximum daily meeting (workshop) allowance of \$170, plus mileage.

NRC's Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party provided their nominations for membership on the committee at their March 2020 meeting. The nominations were Toa Faneva, Te Rūnanga O Whāingaroa (primary member) and Thomas Hohaia, Te Roroa (back up member). Te Huinga (WDC Māori Representative Committee) nominated Delaraine Armstrong (primary) and Rosie Wellington (back up member) at the August 2020 meeting. The draft TOR have been presented to Te Roroa and Te Uri o Hau and staff are waiting on their decisions regarding participation and nomination.

The draft TOR for the committee are included as Attachment A for Council's consideration. The TOR includes a recommended purpose as well as responsibilities and representation arrangements. It is not proposed that the committee have decision making powers or delegations. Any recommendations from the Committee will be brought back to each respective Council to make decisions on. Administrative and technical support would be provided by CATT.

Clause 30A(1) of the LGA states that a local authority may not appoint a joint committee under clause 30(1)(b), unless it has first reached agreement with every other local authority or body that is to appoint members of the committee.

Under Clause 30A(2), an agreement under subclause 30A(1) must also specify—

- a. the number of members each local authority or public body may appoint to the committee; and
- b. how the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the committee are to be appointed; and
- c. the terms of reference of the committee; and
- d. what responsibilities (if any) are to be delegated to the committee by each local authority or public body; and
- e. how the agreement may be varied.

The draft TOR in Attachment A address the necessary requirements. The requirements of Clause 30A(1) will be considered to be met by adoption of the TOR by way of a resolution of each Council.

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

A report to be presented to Council on the above matters for a resolution to adopt the draft TOR and establish the proposed Joint Council Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

### **Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga**

	Title
A	Draft Terms of Reference