



Climate Change Update

Council Briefing, Hui Tanguru

4 February 2020



Agenda

- . Context and Central Government activity
- . Our climate change work to date
 - . Adaptation
 - . Mitigation
- . Next steps
 - . Key messages
 - . Action Plan



Context and Central Government

Climate change projections for Northland

Hotter

- 2040 up to 1.1deg
- 2090 up to 3.7deg
- Mostly daytime temperatures in summer and autumn

Sea level rise

- 75cm by 2100
- Could be 1.4 to 1.9m
- salt water intrusion to aquifers

Rainfall

- Higher intensity rainfall events
- 23% less spring and winter rainfall by 2100
- More severe storms

Drought

- More frequent dry spells
- Lower river flows / aquifer levels

Biosecurity

- New / 'sleeper' pests



Central Government Activity

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

1. a new statutory domestic GHGs reduction target for New Zealand to:
 - reduce net emissions of all GHGs (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050
 - reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24 – 47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050,
 - including to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030
2. establish emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target
3. the Government is required to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation
4. the establishment of an independent Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term mitigation and adaptation goals. The permanent membership of the Climate Change Commission was established in mid-December.



Central Government Activity

- **Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Bill**
 - The NZ ETS – NZs main tool for reducing GHG emissions.
 - The changes proposed - October 2019.
 - Aim to strengthen and improve the operation of the ETS.
- **Phasing out off-shore oil and gas exploration**
- **Promotion of electric vehicles**
- **Improvements to public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure**
- **Investments in forestry**
- **Establishment of a \$100m green investment fund, New Zealand Green Investment Finance, promote commercial co-investment in companies, projects and technologies that facilitate or provide lower emissions benefits.**



Whangarei District Council Timeline

2017	Staff to develop a 2 part climate change strategy: Corporate sustainability strategy & an adaptation strategy.
Mid 2018 - ongoing	Regional climate change adaptation group established – Tai Tokerau Councils Climate Change Adaptation Group.
Nov 2018	Corporate Sustainability strategy adopted. A Notice of Motion including – ‘ <i>adopt</i> ’ and ‘ <i>promote</i> ’ more sustainable practices and <i>Report to Council on the benefits and implications becoming the most sustainable Council in New Zealand</i>
March 2019	WDC signs LGNZ Local Government Leaders’ Climate Change Declaration.
9 May 2019	Report ‘Benefits and implications of becoming the most sustainable Council in NZ’ part of the 2019-2020 Annual Plan Deliberations. Meet our commitments = doing well but more opportunities.
27 June 2019	Submission to central government on the Zero Carbon Bill approved including that ‘the emission target be achieved by the year 2030’
25 July 2019	Declares a climate emergency and commitment to a climate action plan.
6 Nov 2019	Representatives of Te Huinga join collaboration on climate change actions.
Jan 2020	Corporate Sustainability Officer position advertised.



Climate change adaptation

Regional & District Adaptation

to anticipate, prepare for & cope with the expected and unavoidable impacts of climate change

(cultural, economic, environmental, social)

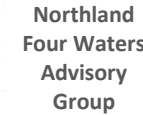
- Despite the uncertainty (exact amount & timing of warming) Council needs to be informed & prepared in order to manage associated risks; this is the basis for adaptation planning.
- Key role for local government (managing natural hazard risks, land use and infrastructure planning, civil defence etc).
- Adaptation plans and reporting is now mandatory through legislation.



Regional & District Adaptation

Tai Tokerau Councils Climate Change Adaptation Group

- Established July 2018
- Reports to Chief executives forum
- All 4 Northland councils + 4WAG and NTA represented (staff) + Te Huinga and TTMAC representation.



Summary of the terms of reference

- Consistent approach to data and methodology
- Identify priority actions and resourcing
- Identify and co-ordinate actions and implementation
- Co-ordination of operational and project planning



Climate change mitigation

Mitigation

Corporate Sustainability Strategy

- Strategy adopted Nov 2018.
- learn how we use resources & the origin of the resource;
- set targets & focusing resources based on opportunity areas.
- embedding sustainability & climate change as a decision-making criteria across Council functions;
- enabling behavioural change.
- Internal waste audit across all Council locations; Sustainability advisor position advertised, procurement eg Civic Building.



Mitigation



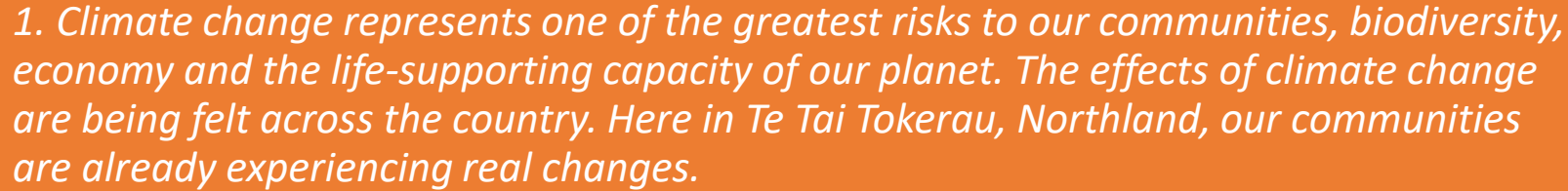
- Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill – no mandatory emission reporting. But there will be ETS requirements to pay for emissions.
- Commitment to developing a Climate Action Plan for the District - Declaration of a climate emergency.
- Report 'Benefits and implications of becoming the most sustainable Council in NZ'. Meet our commitments = doing well but much broader opportunities to avoid GHG generation & mitigation & build resilience.




Key messages

Proposed Climate change key messages

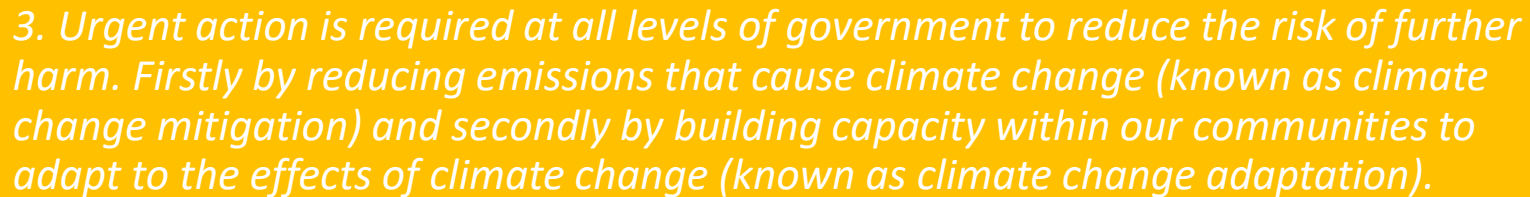
1. Climate change represents one of the greatest risks to our communities, biodiversity, economy and the life-supporting capacity of our planet. The effects of climate change are being felt across the country. Here in Te Tai Tokerau, Northland, our communities are already experiencing real changes.

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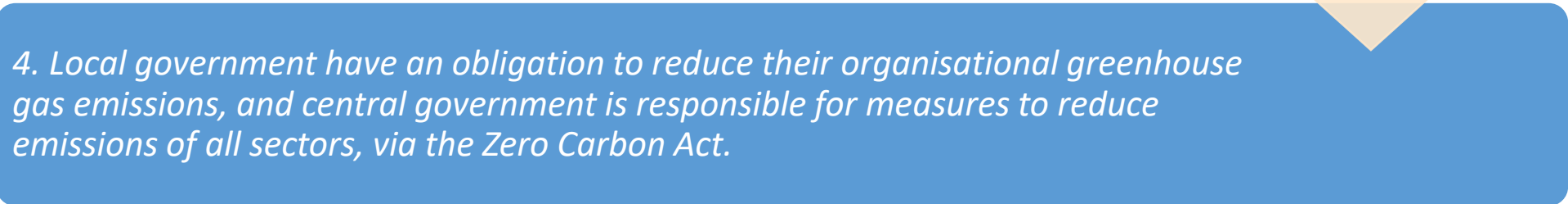
2. The future physical impacts of climate change are likely to be significant and wide-ranging, and will affect our diverse communities, industries and natural environments differently.

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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).


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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.

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Proposed Climate change key messages


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.



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.



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.



8. For our communities to thrive into the future, we must gear up for change.



Climate Change Action Plan

Declaration of a climate emergency – Climate Action Plan for the District

- *Declaring a Climate Emergency recognises the speed and extent of change needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.*
- *It triggers a shift out of our ‘business as-usual’ and even ‘reform-as-usual’ approach to accelerate our efforts in the face of an extraordinary climate change threat.*
- *It puts climate change to the front and centre of all Council’s decision making.*

Climate Action Plan for the District



Build

Collate what we are already doing + committed to

Source solutions from other Local Authorities

Basic structure: action/owner/how should this be funded/timeframe

Actions focus on areas where we can prevent emissions or sequester carbon



Relationships

Our hapu partners + key contacts within network: NDHB, NRC, Portland Cement, Waste Management, Food Rescue

Identify WDC actions
Get buy-in from partners.

How can Council empower our community?



Draft Action Plan

Review + decision making by Elected Members prior to engagement.



Engage

Crowd source further viable actions & gather community support for actions.

Workshops driven by partners, sectors, community groups

Online tool / platform for uploading solutions.



Decision making

Review + decision making by Elected members prior to endorsement of Action Plan and timetable for implementation

Budget and resource implication to be considered through LTP

Partnership approaches explored with key agencies



Implementation

Action implemented and monitored

Council to receive progress reports



Climate Action Plan for the District

Areas of action	Examples of Local Solutions
Energy – The power sector generates 40% of global annual emissions making it the highest-emitting sector.	Healthy Homes Tai Tokerau is reducing energy consumption with insulation and solar power installations are growing fast.
Food – food production accounts for about 12% of anthropogenic emissions globally, but it is a higher percentage of our emissions here.	Tai Tokerau’s regenerative farmers manage their pastures to take carbon from the air and sequester it in the soil.
Buildings and cities – Our cities account for a significant percentage of human energy use, mostly for heating and cooling.	Whangarei’s cycle and walkway network are helping us reduce our carbon footprints. And google the Te Mirumiru Centre, Kawakawa.
Land use – Deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems are responsible for about 12% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.	The Northland Tōtara Working Group is helping land owners manage tōtara as permanent cover sustainable forest.
Materials -Our consumer society produces a lot of stuff that consumes energy and often produces toxic waste and emissions.	Pak’n’Save Whangarei recently replaced its refrigeration with much more climate friendly CO2 refrigerant gas.
Transport - Transport globally produces 7 gigatons of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions annually.	Tai Tokerau is a leader in electric vehicle uptake thanks to the work of dedicated EV enthusiasts.

Next Steps

Climate Change Key messages:

- Developed into a communications strategy for the regional climate change adaptation work;
- Share comms strategy with Elected Members

Climate Action Plan

- Staff will keep Elected members informed on Engagement approach and timetable
- Elected members will review feedback and inform actions