



# Climate Change Update

Council Briefing

6 May, 2020



# Agenda

- . Central Government RMA Reform Update
- . Our climate change work to date
  - . Adaptation
  - . Mitigation
  - . Action Plan
- . Next steps



# RMA Reform: Climate Change in RMA

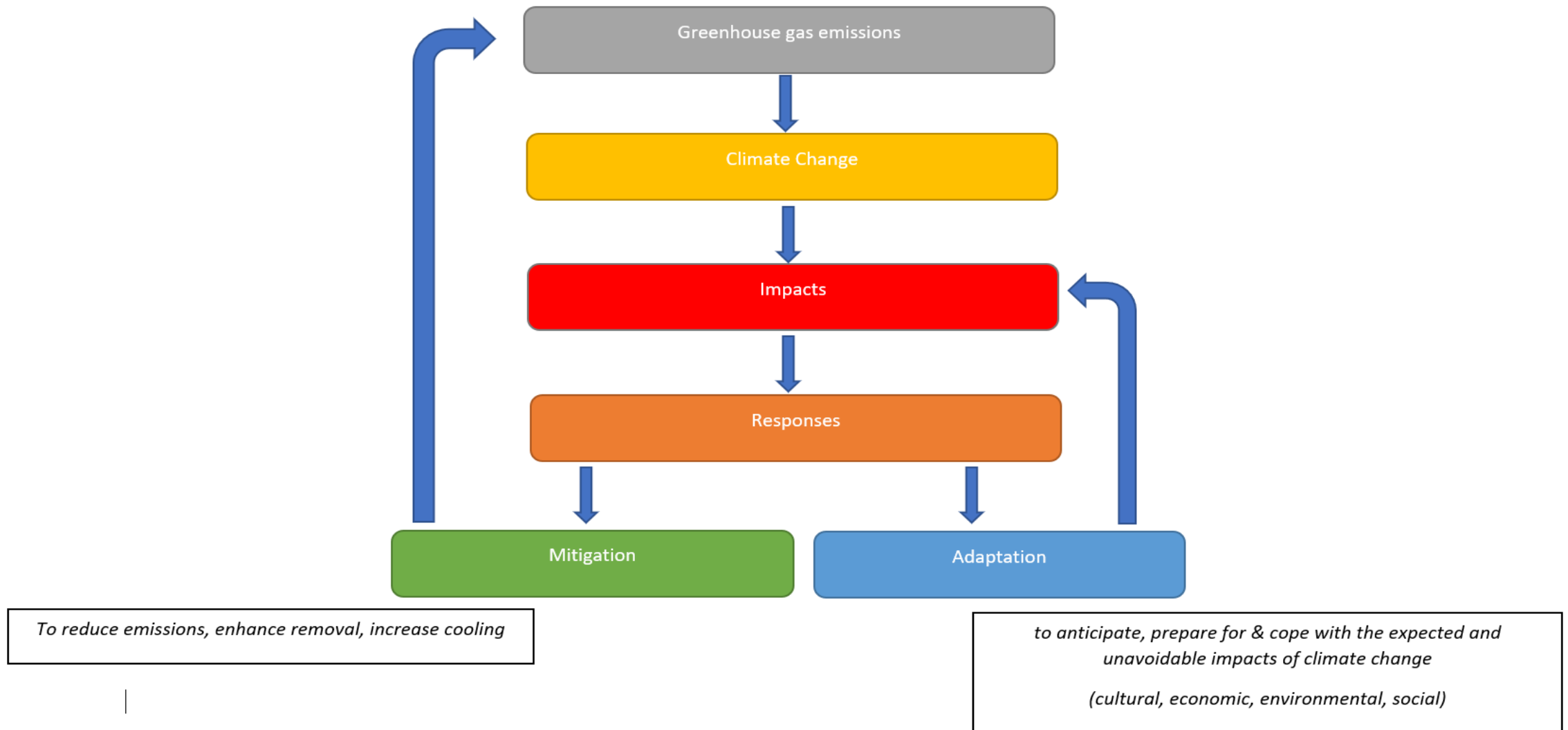
- Late 2019 - Resource Management Amendment Bill introduced to Parliament – Stage 1 of the Government's proposed reform our resource management system.
- Purpose of reform is to "reduce complexity, increase certainty, and reinstate public participation opportunities ... [and] to improve freshwater management and outcomes."
- Submissions closed in November 2019.
- April 2020 , Select Committee released its report on the Bill incl recommended amendments.



# Summary of Proposed Climate Change Amendments

- A significant number of submissions: climate change, NZ's broader climate change policy and the interaction with the RMA.
- Regarding Climate Change, the amendments propose:
  - Removing the existing statutory barriers to considering the effects of activities on climate change in both **the plan making** and **resource consent** processes. Achieved by repealing sections 70A and 104E.
  - Currently, sections 70A and 104E bar councils from having regard to the effects of the discharge of greenhouse gases on climate change in the planning and consenting processes, respectively, except in relation to the use and development of renewable energy.
  - Adding "emissions reductions plans" and "national adaptation plans" to the list of matters that local and regional authorities must consider when making and amending their regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans.
- The Bill will now go to Parliament for its second reading.
- In force 31 December 2021 to allow time for national direction and policy to develop around local government decision-making on climate change, and to align with the release of the first emissions reduction plan.
- Recommendation - transitional period does not apply to decision-making by B.O.I and the Environment Court. These bodies would be granted the ability to take into account global environmental impacts (incl mitigating & adapting to climate change) from the date of the Act's commencement.

# Mitigation and Adaptation: The different objectives



# Realms of work

## Mitigation

*Reduce emissions*

*Enhance removal, Increase cooling*

## Adaptation

*To anticipate, prepare for & cope with the expected and unavoidable impacts of climate change.*

**Corporate  
Complete Nov 2018**



**Regional  
Climate Adaptation  
Taitokerau**



**District  
Climate Action Plan for Whangarei –  
in development**

**District  
WDC programme of work with  
communities – in development**



# Climate change adaptation





# Regional - Climate Adaptation Tai Tokerau C.A.T

## Work underway

- **Risk Assessment workshops - Feb 2020**
- Staff and hapū and iwi representatives
  - Infrastructure & assets
  - Maori cultural values
  - Amenity, culture and well being
  - Private property and business
  - Natural Environment.
- **GIS tool to use online** – apply hazard data to enquire about impacts. Eg number of houses impacted.
- **Regionwide coastal flood hazard assessment.** Will get data on both extreme events and inundation. Will include calculating different sized storms being modelled.
- **Te Ao Maori Framework** – develop a framework to embed tikanga aori. Key outcome – tools that can be used throughout Tai Tokerau.



# Regional - Climate Adaptation Tai Tokerau C.A.T

Thinking so far;  
3 Sections

**1. What is the current state of play?** Risk analysis workshops and hazard mapping information.

**2. What are the tools Council can use to address adaptation and climate risks?** Statutory and Non-Statutory.

**3. Implementation:** The programme of work proposed by each Council using the tools available to Council work with communities to respond to the risks and information we have about expected change. Engagement via the LTP process.

**Aiming for an adaptation plan August 2020**

Staff will engage with WDC prior to finalizing the plan and being clear about the implication of the Strategy on our Council's functions.  
Primarily online platform.

# District

## Work underway

### Climate Change Gaps Analysis

Review of our Strategies, Policies, Projects and Tools

How do these each address:

- Climate change mitigation
- Corporate Sustainability Strategy
- Climate Change adaptation

If they don't, why not?

Prioritised higher order documents / influence the LTP / under review.

### 2021 – 31 Long Term Plan

- Integration of climate change considerations into the Infrastructure Strategy and Asset Management Plans
- Climate Change Action Plan (discussed later in the presentation) integration into operational and capital programmes/budgets
- Investigating how Climate Change may impact on levels of service








# Draft Climate Change Action Plan



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# Draft Climate Change Action Plan

- Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019 committed us to develop a Climate Change Action Plan
  - On 5 February 2020, following local body elections, staff briefed elected members on the proposed approach to the Action Plan.
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# COVID-19



## Climate Action Plan for the District


COVID-19 has disrupted our ability to progress this action plan, due to the difficulty in engaging with internal and external stakeholders.

The recovery from COVID-19 presents a number of opportunities for the Climate Action Plan, including decarbonising our economy, more sustainable operating models and looking more locally sourced goods and services. This needs to align with the COVID-19 Response Strategy.

COVID-19 also presents challenges for implementation, including a more limited budget for the next 12 months and potentially into the 2021-31 LTP.

Ultimately, elected members will work through and determine priorities and budget allocations for the LTP. The Action Plan will assist in this decision making by identifying those actions which are practicable, meet our climate change obligations, but also help support the recovery and reset of our economy through alignment with the COVID-19 Response Strategy.

# Outcomes



## Climate Action Plan for the District

Reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the Council and Whangarei District in line with the Government's national emission reduction targets or better.

Council supports hapū, iwi, the community and industry towards a Carbon Zero 2050.

Whangarei is rapidly sequestering carbon.

The cooling capacity of Whangarei is growing.

Council future-proofs its resources, assets and services from the risks of climate change.

Council works with hapū, iwi, industry and communities to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The residents of Whangarei are informed, engaged and take ownership of this kaupapa.

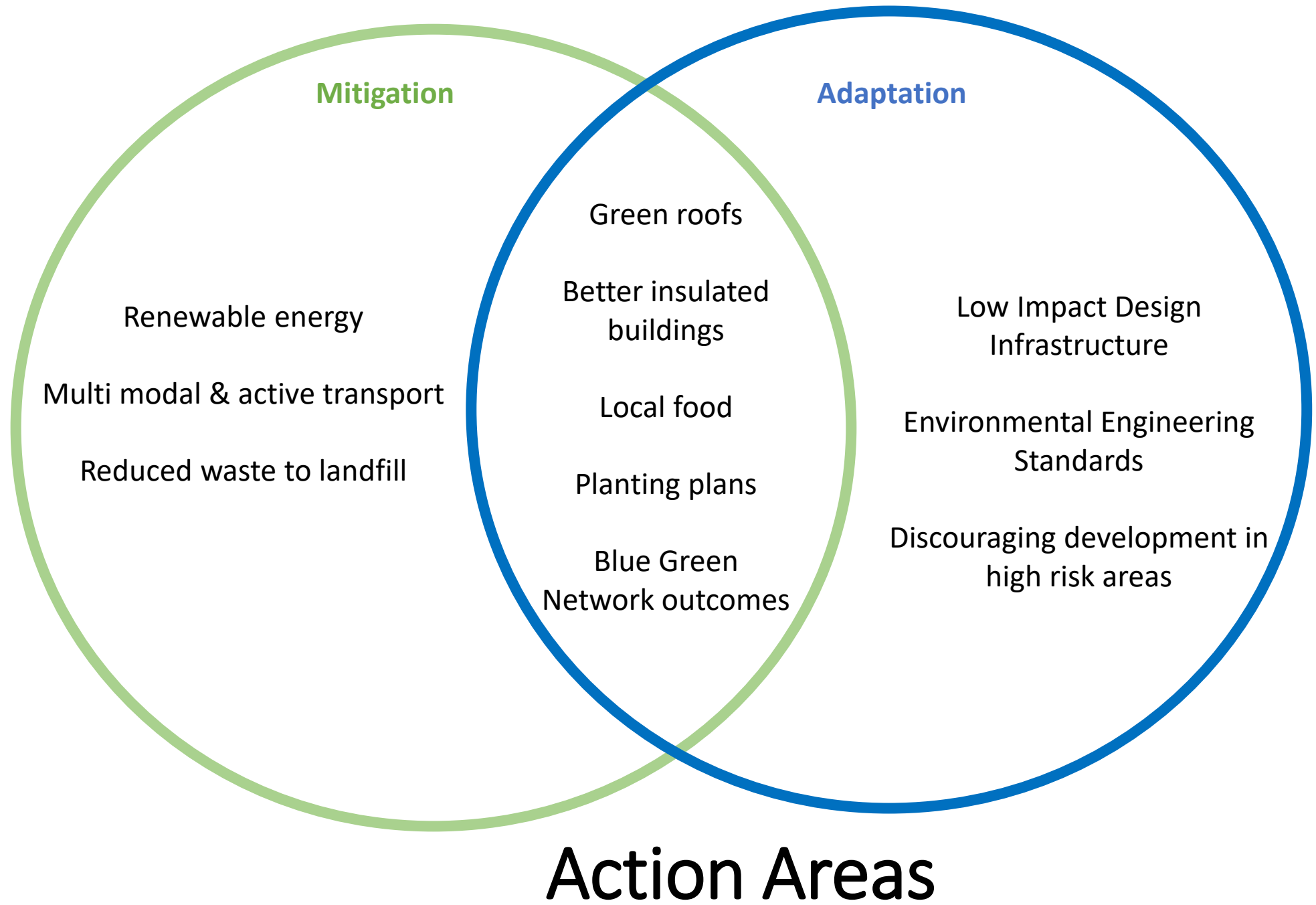


# Proposed structure of the Action Plan

The Action Plan is grouped by sector. These sectors align with best practice approaches to Climate Change Action:

- Treaty of Waitangi
- Decision making
- Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation
- Waste Management & Materials
- Transport
- Land Use
- Buildings and Infrastructure
- Education and engagement
- Vulnerable populations
- Innovative and Resilient Economy

Within some of these sectors, Council can take a leadership role in the delivery of actions. In other sectors that responsibility sits with other agencies, and therefore our role is one of advocacy



Develop an implementation plan for the Blue Green Network Strategy

Develop a net zero emissions, equitable public transport plan for Whangarei to encourage and enable modal shift including targets for emissions reductions, public transport patronage and moving people to active transport.

Develop a framework based on Te Ao Maori for decision making, monitoring and evaluating. This framework will be adopted by Council to improve partnership with hapū and Council processes including care for the environment.

Measure the district's GHG emissions and develop an emissions reduction masterplan with science-based targets, and an emissions reduction toolkit.

Investigate establishing a commercial scale composting facility within Whangarei and the option for it to be incorporated within the existing waste CCO.

**Potential Key Stone  
Actions (to be worked  
through with stakeholders)**



# Action Plan Resourcing

- Resourcing of the Climate Change Action Plan is a key consideration, even more so in light of COVID-19.
- Some actions are already underway and/or within existing operational budgets.
- Other actions will require additional resourcing which will need to be considered against other Council priorities through the LTP process.
- We acknowledge budgets will be limited and that Council's strategic outcomes have shifted in response to COVID-19. Therefore there may be difficult trade-offs to be made if we want to proceed.
- At this draft stage indicative costs are being developed by staff to support that discussion.

# 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

Present to Elected Members



## 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

Elected members to review and endorse Action Plan and timetable for implementation

Budget and resource implication to be considered through LTP

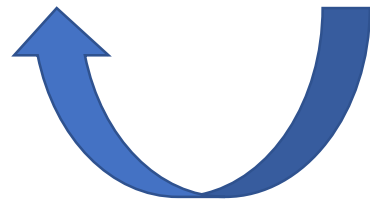
Partnership approaches explored with key agencies



## Implementation

Action implemented and monitored

Council to receive progress reports



# Next Steps

## **Climate Action Plan**

- Work through policy direction and actions with staff, hapu and key contacts.
- Bring draft to Council for further feedback with details of costs, benefits and implementation requirements.





Any Questions