Climate Change

Briefing to Elected Members: August 2020

Whangarei District Council

Purpose for Today

Update Elected Members on recent activity from central government.

Note proposal for an inter-council climate change Joint Standing Committee for the regional collaborative work on climate change adaptation – CATT project.

Update Elected Members on the progression of the draft Climate Action Plan and gauge comfort levels with the proposed priority actions and engagement.

Whangarei District Council

Realms of work

Mitigation

Objective: Reduce emissions
Enhance removal, Increase cooling

Adaptation

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

Corporate Sustainability Strategy
- Complete Nov 2018
- Sourcing & consumption of resources within Council
- Target setting
- Reducing emissions & resource

Climate Adaptation Taitokerau
- In development
- Regionally consistent approach
- District level programme of work

District Climate Action Plan for Whangarei
- In development
- Addresses mitigation & adaptation

National Climate Change Risk Assessment Release

- Under Climate Change Response Act - NZ's first NCCRA released this week. First national picture of the significant environmental, social, cultural, economic risks NZ faces as a consequence of climate change. *Based on a high emissions, 'business as usual' future with projected 67cm of SLR & 3 degrees Celsius temp increase by 2090.*

- 43 priority risks & 10 most significant risks identified across following domains: Natural Environment, Human, Economy, Built Environment, Governance. Strong interconnection between domains.

- National Adaptation Plan due in 2 years max. Will be an overarching strategy to outline what we need to do to prepare for these risks.

Resource Management Reform & Proposed RMA Climate Change Amendments

- Proposed amendments to existing RMA as well as Resource Management ‘framework’ reform.
- Recommendations from the RM Reform Panel include:

Amendments to RMA – discussed in May.

- Repealing provisions that didn’t allow considering the effects of activities on climate change in both **the plan making** and **resource consent** processes.
- 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.

Resource Management Reform

- Enacting a dedicated Managed Retreat and Climate Change Adaptation Act, which would provide for managed retreat and for the establishment of a climate change adaptation fund.

- Further information from MFE: how the proposed provisions and reform mechanisms come together.

NAP: reporting powers, support to build capacity, funding support for local government.

Part 1: Climate Adaptation Taitokerau (CATT) Proposed Inter-council climate change Joint Standing Committee

Overview of the CATT work…

Aim: To collaboratively develop a regional climate change adaptation strategy that will set out the approach to adaptation by Council's across Northland.

Who is involved: Councillors (through regular briefings), hapu and iwi representatives, and staff from the four northern Council's.

Recap of our update in May

Work that has been completed so far:

1. Risk Assessment Workshops.
2. GIS tool- is currently in development which will enable us to apply hazard data and enquire about the impacts on the things we value. Eg: the number of houses impacted by flooding.
3. Regionwide coastal flood hazard assessment- this will provide data on both extreme events and inundation, now and in the future.
4. LTP Costing guidance

Approach to the regional strategy:

1. Section 1: sets the current state of play for Taitokerau. It will be layers of information that we have so far with the acknowledgement that the information gets richer as we engage with our communities. This would encompass the risk analysis workshops and the hazard mapping information.
2. Section 2: is about the tools that Council can use to address adaptation and climate risks. This will cover statutory and non statutory tools available to Council.
3. Section 3: will be the implementation section. This is essentially the programme of work proposed by each Council to work with communities to respond to the risks and information we have about expected change.

Proposed joint standing committee of Council

- Local government collaboration at a governance level is essential
- To provide governance oversight and support a ‘joined up’ approach in Taitokerau (NTA & Civil Defence)
- Significant value in ensuring an effective, efficient and equitable response to the impacts of climate change.
- Participation of four Northern Councils with equal representation by Elected Members & iwi / hapū.
- 8 full time members comprised of:
  - 2 elected members – 1 full member & 1 alternative per Council
  - 2 iwi or hapū representatives – 1 full member & 1 alternative per Council
- No decision making powers.
- Ensures each council & Māori are informed and able to have input into climate change adaptation activity by local government.

Proposed joint standing committee of Council

- Supported by Chief Executives Forum - Monday 3 February 2020 & Northland Mayoral Form - 24 February 2020. Both recommended the committee have equal representation by Māori.
- Recommended that iwi / hapū representatives should be remunerated for their participation and that remuneration is the responsibility of the nominating council.
- Te Huinga: written update in July & presentation on 6th August.
- Formation of joint council committees & appointment of non-elected members to such committees is provided for in the Local Government Act 2002 (Clause 30 and 30A Schedule 7).

Next steps & process to follow to establish the committee

- Seek feedback from hapū or iwi partners; and
- Council to formally consider the arrangement; and
- Nominate councillors as committee members – one full member and one ‘back up’ in the event the first nominee is unable to attend; and
- Two hapū/iwi representatives nominated (again one as ‘back-up’ / alternate) from their jurisdictions.

Part 2: Climate Action Plan (CAP) Overview

Driver: Declaration of a climate emergency

Aim: Mitigation and adaptation

Who is involved: Councillors, hapu representatives and WDC staff.

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

Outcomes	
Outcome 1: Honouring the Treaty of Waitangi	Our commitment to our partnership with hapū and iwi under the Treaty of Waitangi is embedded in everything we do.
Outcome 2: Reducing emissions	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.
Outcome 3: Drawing down carbon	Whangarei is rapidly sequestering carbon.
	The cooling capacity of Whangarei is growing.
Outcome 4: Adapting to climate change	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.
Outcome 5: Community ownership	The residents of Whangarei are informed, engaged and take ownership of this kaupapa.

Preparation of the Draft CAP

Different tranches for the action:

1. Priority actions.
2. Medium term actions.
3. Long-term actions.

At times, there will be triggers that move actions ahead in the order of priority. For example, if funding applications to central government for a compost facility are successful, then actions around waste infrastructure will be brought forward.

Today's focus will be directed towards our 'Priority' actions. Nevertheless, we want to give you visibility of how the entire Action Plan is taking place.

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Engagement with hapu

- COVID-19 impacted our ability to progress this action plan and engage as we had hoped.

- Fortunately, staff were able to meet with Delaraine Armstrong, Rosie Wellington prior to ‘lock down’ and embed several important actions into the draft that is currently being workshopped with staff.

- We are trying to understand resourcing implications and potential challenges and then we will invite hapū to workshops on the action plan. These workshops will likely be in August – September 2020. Prior to that climate change is booked into the agenda for the August meeting of Te Huinga.

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Engagement with staff

The draft CAP has been shared for guidance and feedback across all departments. Specific work shops were held with the following areas:

- Community Development
- District Development
- NTA
- Finance
- Revenue
- People & Capabilities
- Capital Works
- Parks and Reserves
- Risk and Audit

Engagement will continue as the development of the draft CAP progresses.

Where are our actions focused?

- Treaty of Waitangi Partnership
- Decision-making.
- Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.
- Waste Management and Materials.
- Smart City.
- Public Transport.
- Active Modes.
- Land use.
- Buildings and Infrastructure.
- Plant and Trees.
- Innovative and Resilient Economy
- Education & Training.
- Vulnerable Populations.
- Programme Delivery.

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How we have identified the following 'Priority' Actions.

Methodology we have applied:

1. Is it a catalyst action?
2. Achievability.
3. Resourcing.
4. 'Low hanging fruit': Ultimately some of the 'Priority' actions that have been identified are due to the project(s) being already underway.
5. What teams across Council are ready to begin work.
6. What are the missing gaps that we have identified?

Working Together to Achieve the Best Outcome for our District.

Your guidance to both finalizing the first initial ‘Priority’ actions and helping us to ensure the Action Plan is successfully implemented will be crucial.

It is important to note that this is still in development. Further information is required in regards to the future implementation of each of these actions.

Staff, our hapu climate change representatives and outside expertise have helped us identify the initial ‘Priority’ actions.

Priority Actions

Climate Action Plan Priority Actions

1. Treaty of Waitangi Partnership.

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

2. Decision-making.

Embed low emission outcomes and climate change adaptation into the following:

- all higher order internal WDC strategies and policies for example the spatial planning process eg walkability into placemaking; decision making reporting such as reports to Council;
- influential processes such as procurement, tender evaluations and project scoping.
- Education – training.

3. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.

Build relationships with industry representatives with the intention of developing a district wide emissions profile.

Climate Action Plan Priority Actions Continued

4. *Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.*
Ensure that risks arising from climate change mitigation and adaptation are embedded into WDC's risk management framework and Long Term Plan.

5. *Smart City.*
Investigate options for the use of new technology across Whangarei and moving to a 'Smart City' concept. Identify priority areas eg NTA owned Infrastructure, OR service Delivery OR Data Collection.

6. *Public Transport.*
Whangarei District Council partnering with Northland Regional Council to identify options for net-zero emissions public transport. Opportunities to trial innovative ideas will be explored with a view to wider implementation

7. *Active Modes.*
Prioritise the delivery of our existing Walking & Cycling Strategy actions through additional funding, NZTA subsidies, and working in partnership with our communities.

Climate Action Plan Priority Actions Continued

8. Buildings and Infrastructure.

Develop an implementation plan and partnership agreements for the Blue Green Network Strategy that includes a programme of work prioritising projects that align with:

- the Walking & Cycling Strategy;
- City Core Master Plan;
- planned infrastructure upgrades;
- low impact stormwater designs.

9. Education and training.

Develop training packages to ensure staff are appropriately trained as to how climate action affects their roles and could be delivered in their roles and to ensure that suitable skillsets are within the organisation i.e. carbon accounting and change management.

Looking at proactively sharing what our staff have learnt with our community and business partners.

10. Education and Training.

Develop change management philosophy and processes to support and embed climate change thinking into the organisational culture and practice.

Discussion

Next Steps for the CAP

Revise

Amend CAP following feedback from Elected Members

Engage

Workshops driven by partners, sectors, community groups.

Progress the development of the detail for the priority actions through internal & external engagement.

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

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