



Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee

Te Komiti Taiao, Pūngao me te Aumangea

Thursday, 22 February 2024

Rāpare, 22 Huitanguru 2024

Totara Room, Council Chambers
Council Building, 14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
Commencing at: 9:00 am

Chief Executive: Steph O'Sullivan
Publication Date: 15 February 2024

Live Streaming the Meeting - *Ka whakapāho mataora te hui*

Live Streaming the Meeting - *Ka whakapāho mataora te hui*

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The live stream link will be available via Council's website.

All care will be taken to maintain your privacy however, as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded. By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent is given if your image is inadvertently broadcast.

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A Membership - *Mematanga*

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Mayor Dr V Luca - Chairperson

Deputy Mayor L N Immink

Councillor N S Tánczos - Deputy Chairperson

Councillor T Boynton

Councillor G L Dennis

Councillor A V Iles

Councillor W B James

Councillor J C Jukes

Councillor T O'Brien

Councillor J W Pullar

Councillor N Rangiaho

B Delegations to the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee - *Tuku Mahi ki te Komiti***B Delegations to the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee - *Tuku Mahi ki te Komiti***

To oversee development of strategies and plans that reflect and implement the Council's vision.

To oversee the development of strategies, plans and programmes that protect and restore the District's natural environment, resources, and ecology.

To monitor and advise on the strategy, policies and direction on the impact of climate change on the District.

To improve community resilience to environmental threats.

Specific functions and delegations:

- a. Develop the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan and determine the form and extent of public consultation methods to be employed (Note1: the Council cannot delegate to a Committee the adoption of the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan, Note2: the Council retains for itself the strategic direction setting responsibility of the Long-term Plan process).
- b. Develop, and monitor implementation of, Council's Climate Change Strategy and programme.
- c. Monitor the development of associated Central Government Reform programmes.
- d. Develop and review associated bylaws (Note: only Council has the power to make a bylaw).
- e. Develop, review and approve associated strategies, policies and plans (Note: only Council has the power to adopt policies associated with the Long-term Plan).
- f. Develop a proposed plan or a change to a district plan under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- g. Climate change science, impact and strategy overview - mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
- h. Foster community environmental and climate change understanding.

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1 Meeting Notices

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1. Live Streaming

The Whakatāne District Council livestreams Council and Standing Committee meetings held in Tōtara Room, within the Council building. The webcast will live stream directly to Council's YouTube channel in real time. The purpose of streaming meetings live is to encourage transparency of Council meetings.

By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent has been given if your presence is inadvertently broadcast.

The room microphones are sensitive to noise, hence please remain silent unless asked to speak.

2. Health and Safety

In case of an emergency, please follow the building wardens or make your way to the nearest exit. The meeting point is located at Peace Park on Boon Street.

Bathroom facilities are located opposite the Chambers Foyer entrance (the entrance off Margaret Mahy Court).

3. Other

2 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

At the time of compiling the agenda, an apology was received from Councillor J Pullar.

3 Acknowledgements / Tributes - *Ngā Mihimihi*

An opportunity for members to recognise achievements, to notify of events, or to pay tribute to an occasion of importance.

4 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interests they might have.

The Elected Member Register of Interest is available on the Whakatāne District Council website. If you wish to view the information, please click this [Register link](#).

5 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui***5 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*****5.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui***

The Council has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

5.2 Deputations - *Nga Whakapuaki Whaitake*

A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Committee on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a longer timeframe may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

- Anna Berka, PhD
Ms Berka is a Senior Lecturer in climate change and energy governance and policy at Massey University. She does research on energy decentralisation, social innovation, and co-benefits of climate change and energy policy, using impact evaluation, country comparative studies to draw lessons for policy and practice. In the past, she has worked as a consultant and policy advisor, working with the Scottish Government and with EECA.

Ms Berka will provide the WDC Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee an overview of community energy: the what (what is it?), why (what can it deliver?) and how (what might it look like?). The aim of this talk is to provide a starting point for WDC to discuss the pro's and con's of the project proposal on the table.

- Waiewe Cafe Group Activities - Annette Such

Note: A third Deputation is scheduled as the final agenda item.

6 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

6 Confirmation of Minutes - *Te whakaaetanga o ngā meneti o te hui*

The minutes from the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee held on 20 November 2023 can be viewed via the Council website.

Click on the link below in order to view the 'unconfirmed minutes'.

- [Council website | Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee - 7 December 2023](#)

7 Reports - Ngā Pūrongo

7 Reports - Ngā Pūrongo

7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption



To: **Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 22 February 2024**

Author: **C Ball / Climate Change Project Manager**

Authoriser: **S Perdia / General Manager Strategy and Transformation**

Reference: **A2614327**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Climate Change Strategy 2024-27 (Whakatāne Climate Pathway) to the Committee, for approval as a supporting document to the Long Term Plan 2024-34. The draft strategy will undergo public consultation alongside the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. **THAT** the Draft Climate Change Strategy for Adoption report be received; and
2. **THAT** the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee adopt the draft Climate Change Strategy 2024-27 - Whakatāne Climate Pathway as a draft supporting document to the Long Term Plan 2024-34; and
3. **THAT** the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee note that the draft Climate Change Strategy will be subject to community consultation, alongside the Long Term Plan 2024-34, between 12 March and 12 April 2024.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

In June 2023, the Committee approved a draft climate change strategic framework as the basis for community consultation, noting that the framework will be part of a wider Climate Change Strategy, developed in consultation with the community. Since then, a month of pre-consultation between 25 August and 25 September 2023 has been undertaken to ensure the new Climate Change Strategy is developed collaboratively with the community and includes a broader community-wide response.

In November 2023, the Committee approved a long list of actions to be included in the draft Action Plan for formal consultation, noting that the draft Climate Change Strategy would be brought back to the Committee for approval to consult in March 2024.

4. Draft Climate Change Strategy – *Kaupapa*

This report looks to bring together the strategic framework and action plan already approved by the Committee, with new targets. Together, the strategic framework, action plan and targets create the draft Climate Change Strategy.

7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption(Cont.)**4.1. Strategy title**

To reflect a community wide document, it is proposed that the title of the strategy be amended to create something more engaging and inclusive. The Steering Group have recommended either Whakatāne Climate Pathway or Whakatāne Climate Hikoī as a title. Additional options identified include:

- Whakatāne's Climate Journey/Trail/Roadmap
- Whakatāne District's Climate Plan
- Climate Change Strategy
- Whakatāne's Climate Response

4.2. Climate Change Targets

As the component of the strategy that has not yet been reviewed by the Committee, this report focuses on the development of targets.

Based on analysis of Council's existing climate change targets, a workshop with the Council's Technical Advisory Group, and recommendations from the Climate Change Steering Group, a draft target framework has been developed. This is included in the draft Strategy (Appendix 1) and represents the main component of the strategy for discussion through this report.

4.2.1. Link to Climate Change Goals

The Committee approved a new Vision, Purpose, and Goals for the Climate Change Framework on 20 November 2023, following community engagement. The new Goals include:

- Goal 1 - We all understand and are able to act on the impacts of climate change.
- Goal 2 - We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions.
- Goal 3 – We have adapted to reduce climate change risk.

7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption(Cont.)

4.2.2. Targets Framework Format

The proposed targets framework includes a clear alignment between the new strategy goals, targets and measures to show how we can monitor progress towards the goals, and the key actions proposed to contribute towards achieving the targets. A separate table is provided for District-wide targets and Council organisation targets.

4.2.3. Setting of targets

Goal 1 District Targets

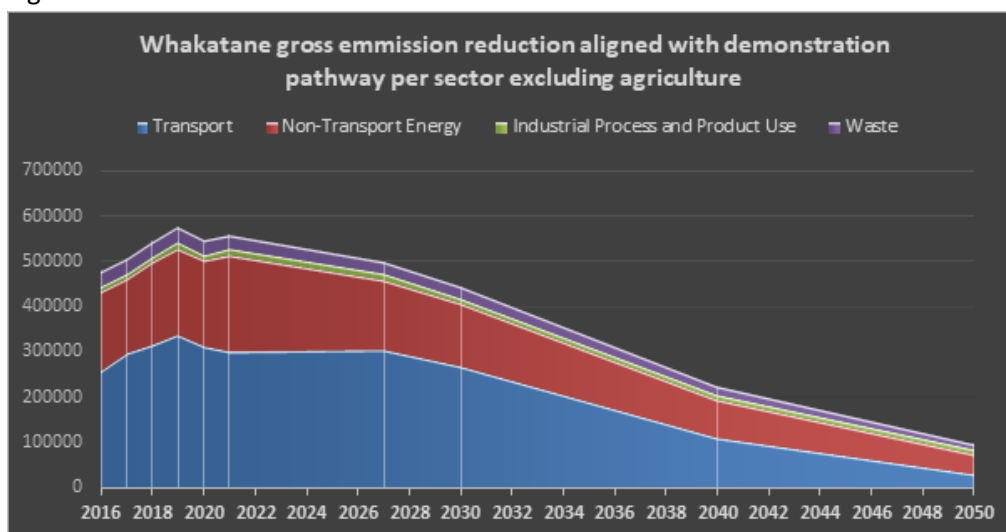
These targets are primarily derived from the survey results of the pre-engagement survey undertaken as part of this project in August/September 2023. The focus of this goal is about the community understanding and being able to act on the impacts of climate change. Therefore, it is proposed that a community survey is an appropriate method of monitoring the community’s perception of whether they have the know-how or available options to act.

Goal 2 District Targets

These targets are primarily based on emission reduction and have been modelled to provide a Whakatāne District lens over the national modelling using the Climate Change Commissions demonstration path. This has shown we need to aim for a minimum of 82% reduction in our District’s gross emissions, excluding agriculture emissions, by 2050¹. This reflects our share of the national target of net zero by 2050 (excluding biogenic methane).

Using the modelling provided to central government by the Climate Change Commission, we have considered how Whakatāne District’s emissions may reduce from now until 2050. This is represented in Figure 1 (below), which shows a pathway for how Whakatane’s emissions could reduce if central government applied all the advice from the Climate Change Commission. Based on this modelling, we could expect to see a reduction of 21% in Whakatāne’s district-wide gross emissions, excluding agriculture, in 2030. The proposed targets include measures for each sector, for the years 2027, 2030, 2040 and 2050.

Figure 1:



7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption(Cont.)

An additional measure is included identifying the required emission reduction required in the agriculture sector (51% by 2050), modelled on the Climate Change Commission demonstration path.

A suggestion from the Steering Group is to round percentage figures up to the nearest 5% for ease of engagement, the Committee may like to consider this option.

Goal 3 District Targets

Looks at the adaptation steps required for the District. These steps are based on the Council's Climate Change Adaptation programme which is proposed to commence shortly, starting with a local climate change risk assessment. This programme is the subject of a separate report on this agenda. These targets are similar to the Council's 2020 Strategy but provide greater detail and timeframes.

Council Targets

These targets follow a similar approach to the district targets, but for the organisation. Goal 1 targets ensure Council has the capability and capacity to embed climate change considerations into the organisation. Goal 2 targets take the same approach to the district but applying the Climate Change Commission demonstration path to the Organisation's carbon footprint. With a reduction in organisational emissions (excluding wastewater) of 79% by 2050. Goal 3 looks to apply the District climate change risk assessment to Councils asset management and infrastructure planning.

4.2.4. Key Actions

The target framework includes key actions from the 'long-list' of climate actions previously approved by the Committee. These key actions have been identified as contributing directly to the achievement of the targets and corresponding goals. These actions will be included within the strategy document, with the full action list included as an addendum. A key has been used to show an indication of the cost and timeframe of the actions, with more detail included in the addendum.

5. Options analysis - Ngā Kōwhiringa

Development of the draft Strategy has been informed by the Council's Climate Change Technical Advisory Group, Climate Change Steering Group, Community Panel, Youth Panel and broad pre-engagement with the community. The Strategic Framework and Actions have already been approved by the Committee for inclusion in the draft Strategy, therefore this report focuses its option analysis on the draft targets.

The targets included in the draft Strategy have been recommended to the Committee by the Steering Group. The Committee can either decide to approve the draft targets, as recommended, or amend them. The Technical Advisory Group have recommended to Council that the benefits of targets can be:

- demonstrate local leadership to the district;
- influence relevant actions and establish priorities for Council; and
- encourage transparency and accountability.

The Committee may choose to amend any of the targets, if they are not appropriately achieving the above benefits effectively.

7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption(Cont.)**6. Significance and Engagement Assessment - *Aromatawai Pāhekoheko*****6.1. Assessment of Significance**

The decisions and matters of this report are assessed to be of moderate significance, in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

The following criteria are of particular relevance in determining the level of significance.

- **Level of community interest:**
There is expected to be a moderate level of community interest, including high levels of both support and opposition.
- **Level of impact on current and future wellbeing:**
The expected level of adverse impact on the current and future wellbeing of our communities or district is low, the draft strategy looks to enhance future wellbeing.
- **Rating impact:**
- Whilst the strategy includes actions that will have a high cost, the strategy in itself is not requiring those actions, rather it acts as a tool to help Council priorities actions. Therefore, the expected costs to the community, or sectors of the community, in terms of rates is low.
- **Financial impact:**
As above, the expected financial impact on the Council, including on budgets, reserves, debt levels, overall rates, and limits in the Financial Strategy is low.
- **Consistency:**
The draft strategy responds to the Council's key priorities defined through the Long Term Plan and is consistent with the Council's strategic direction, policies and significant decisions already made.
- **Reversibility:**
The draft strategy is still subject to community consultation and can be altered by Council prior to adoption of a final strategy. Therefore, the expected level of difficulty to reverse the proposal or decision, once committed to, is low.
- **Impact on whānau/hapū/iwi:**
The draft strategy seeks to have a positive impact on whānau/hapū/iwi, taking into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.
- **Impact on levels of service:**
The draft strategy seeks to address potential vulnerabilities in Council's levels of service as a result of a changing climate.
- **Impact on strategic assets:**
The draft strategy seeks to address potential vulnerabilities in Council's Strategic Assets.

6.2. Engagement and community views

Pre-consultation on the Strategic Framework and to inform the development of Actions and Targets was undertaken in August/September 2023. The draft Strategy reflects feedback received from this and past Council engagement processes.

The Draft Strategy will now be consulted on alongside the Long Term Plan 2024-34 in March/April 2024, using the special consultative procedure under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Feedback will be used to inform a final Strategy.

7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption(Cont.)**7. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro*****7.1. Financial/budget considerations**

The financial consideration of the Climate Change Strategy primarily relate to the delivery of Actions. The proposed actions have been considered as part of the LTP development, and the Actions included in the strategy indicate the 'financial impact' and whether the actions are currently funded in the Long Term Plan. The Climate Change Strategy will continue to be developed alongside the Council's Long Term Plan to ensure alignment where required.

The more proactive the Council chooses to be in the final Climate Change Strategy, the likely greater costs in the short term to fund the actions identified. However, the cost of inaction, or delayed action, will have greater anticipated cost for the community in the long-term, particularly a lack of resilience to a changing climate. This is spelt out through Council's existing Climate Change Principle:

"We will think and act long-term: Whakatāne District Council recognises that allocating funding to climate change mitigation and adaptation now is an investment for the future, will save money in the long-term, and is necessary to ensure future generations are not unfairly burdened with the financial, cultural, social, and environmental costs of climate change."

7.2. Strategic alignment

The climate change pathway is designed to replace the Council's current Climate Change Strategy. The proposed actions and strategic framework signify a shift in emphasis towards a response that sees the whole community working together to collectively respond to a District-wide issue. The actions also intend to apply greater emphasis on increasing community resilience, reflecting Council's strategic priority and feedback from the community.

7.3. Climate change assessment

This report is part of a project to review Council's Climate Change Strategy. This will ultimately have a significant impact on the way in which the Council, our partners and the wider communities respond to and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

In accordance with Council's current Climate Change Principles, those of particular significance to the development of the draft framework include:

1. We will act now – Council:
 - i. "Will show climate change leadership, including by facilitating and supporting emissions reduction across the Whakatāne District"; and
 - ii. "Will properly resource our part in mitigating and adapting to climate change to meet our moral and legal obligations and the aspirations of our communities, while recognising that all of society has responsibilities to respond."
2. We will care for and protect the environment – Council:
 - i. "Acknowledge that our response to climate change must be flexible, and respond to developments in data, science, and central government direction while being locally and culturally appropriate."

7.1 Draft Climate Change Strategy for adoption(Cont.)

3. We will acknowledge those most affected – Council:
 - i. "Acknowledges that mitigating and adapting to climate change is the right thing to do not only for people but also for the health of the planet"; and
 - ii. "Will support the community to mitigate and adapt to climate change, recognising that capacity to do so is dependent on physical, social, economic and political factors."
6. We will be part of the solution – Council:
 - i. "Will take a leadership role to work with our communities and key stakeholders to understand, prepare for and respond to the multi-dimensional impacts of climate change in this place we share."
7. We will build capacity to recover from difficulties – Council:
 - i. "Will explore opportunities to build awareness of risk and encourage community-led steps to increase preparedness and resilience."

Based on this climate change assessment, the decisions and matters of this report are assessed to have high climate change implications and considerations, in accordance with the Council's Climate Change Principles.

7.4. Risks

This report is part of the process to develop a Climate Change Strategy. As this report presents a draft strategy for consultation, the only risk is public perception. During the engagement process, communication will be clear that this is a draft, and that community feedback and views are sought and will be incorporated into the final Climate Change Strategy. Clear communication regarding what is and is not proposed to be funded will alleviate unrealistic expectations from the community of the Council delivering all actions identified.

The final Climate Change Strategy has a greater level of risk, including;

- ensuring actions identified enable Council to meet its legislative obligations;
- ensuring that the wellbeing of the community is promoted through taking a proactive response to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change;
- ensure the final response is aligned with the community's expectations and aspirations; and
- associated financial implications of acting and not acting.

8. Next steps - *Ahu whakamua*

Following adoption of the draft Strategy, the document will be included alongside other supporting documentation, as part of the Long Term Plan engagement in March/April 2024. Feedback from the consultation process will then be used to inform a final Strategy, which will be brought back to the Committee to adopt in May/June 2024.

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy

Attached to this report:

- Appendix 1 – Draft Climate Change Strategy.

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)



Draft Whakatāne District Climate Change Strategy 2024-27

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)



Whakatauki

Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua.

As man disappears from sight, the land remains.

Like a hikoī, we have to be clear about our end goal – where we need to get to, but also keep our eye on the environment along the way. Responding to new challenges and opportunities as they arise and adjusting our pathway slightly to respond to the environment. Still raising our head to ensure we are travelling in the right direction and will meet our end goal. This journey will be enhanced by bring together people and resources, strengthening the outcomes and helping us to reach our goal. External events will impact our course of action, and like the flowing water we must remain fluid and flexible, able to respond to the changes without being derailed from our end goal.

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)*Introduction*

Responding to the impacts of climate change on our District and doing our bit to reduce future climate change is the responsibility of each of us, individually and collectively. Therefore, this document presents Whakatāne's first District strategy – Whakatāne Climate Pathway.

Thanks goes to the people who have collaborated to develop this document for their hard work, dedication and wisdom. Over the last year, this pathway has been carved out by members of the Community Panel, Youth Panel, Technical Advisory Group and Steering Group. The result is a pathway for the District that seeks to balance community, industry and science.

We know that the sooner we act to transition away from a high carbon society, the less we will need to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and fewer devastating extreme weather events will ultimately impact our communities.

As a District, we are feeling the impact of increasing costs, uncertainty caused by international events and national political change. However, despite these challenges, now is not the time to decrease our climate effort. The impacts of climate change will be felt across our communities and reach into homes, neighbourhoods, and businesses. We can build resilience, capacity to recover from difficulties, and prepare for change, but to be effective we must act together.

Increasing our resilience to climate hazards is a key priority for our communities. Similarly, defining a new pathway that ensures everyone in the District understands and is able to act on the impacts of climate change as we prioritise a just transition to low emissions is a key priority.

The Whakatāne District Council has had a Climate Change project underway since 2017. In 2019 the Council adopted a set of Climate Principles and in 2020 Council adopted the first Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans. Council has learnt from this journey, and celebrated wins along the way. Significant improvements have been made in some areas (like reducing Council's emissions from energy), but other areas have gone backwards (like an increase in emissions from harvesting forestry), or not made as much progress as Council would have liked in other areas (like adaptation planning).

We know we still have a long way to go as a District. The vision is that this document will help carve a pathway for us all to work together as one, to shape sustainable, low-emission climate resilient communities.

This document is supported by extensive documentation included on the Council's website: www.whakatane.govt.nz/climate-change

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

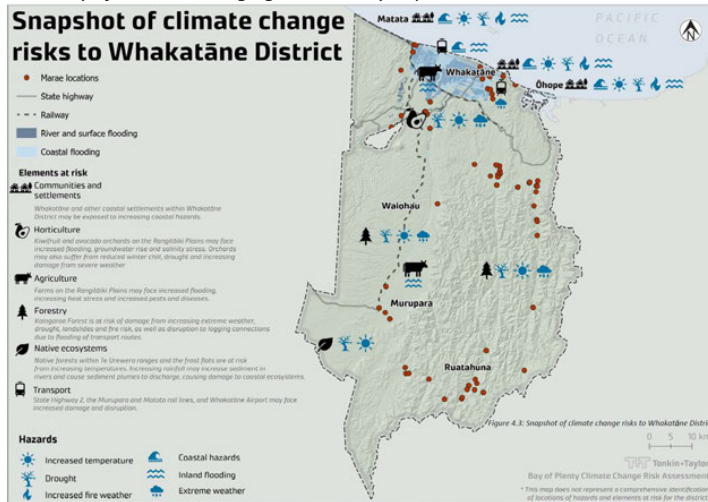
What a changing climate will mean for the Whakatāne District

Climate is about so much more than just weather. The things that we love about this place we call home are at risk, including swimming in our waterways, our cultural taonga and historic places, tramping in the bush, fishing in our ocean, abundant food production, even the homes we live in. Our climate directly impacts on our local culture, economy, wellbeing, health and environment.

Summary of projected changes to the Whakatāne climate by 2090¹:

Climate hazard/variable	RCP 4.5 (2090)	RCP 8.5 (2090)	Sub-district variation
Air temperature	↑ 1-1.5°C	↑ 2.5-3°C	Consistent mean temperature increases within Whakatāne District.
Hot days (>25°)	↑ 20-40 more hot days	↑ 40-90 more hot days	↑↑ Most of Whakatāne District is projected to experience large increases in number of hot days, particularly along the Rangitāiki and Tarawera Rivers.
Drought	↑ 80-114 mm of Potential Evaporation Deficit (PED) (coastal) ↑ 60 - 100 mm of PED (inland)	↑ 120-160 mm of PED (coastal & Rangitikei River) ↑ 50 - 120 mm of PED (elevated)	↑↑ Coastal Whakatāne District and inland areas surrounding the Rangitāiki River are projected to experience relatively large increases in of PED (which indicates an increased potential for drought).
Frost days	↓ 2-6 days (coastal areas) ↓ 2-5 days (inland)	↓ 5-8 days (coastal areas) ↓ 4-30 days (inland)	Inland elevated areas experience the greatest number of frost days at present and are projected to experience the greatest decrease in frost days in future.
Rainfall	↑ 0-8% increase in winter rainfall ↓ 0-10% decrease in spring rainfall	↑ 2-8% increase in winter rainfall ↓ 4-10% decrease in spring and summertime rainfall	↑↑ Winter rainfall increases the most near the coast. ↓ Summer rainfall decreases the most in inland areas. Extreme rainfall events across the region are projected to become three times more frequent under RCP 8.5.
Sea level rise	↑ 0.55 m	↑ 0.74 m	Vertical land movement (VLM ¹) may influence the effect of sea level rise on inland areas as follows: • Ōtamarākau approx. +2.8 mm/year (uplift); Matatā approx -3 mm/year (subsidence); Whakatāne and Ohiva Harbour +/- 1mm/year (neutral)

Summary of how the changing climate may impact the Whakatāne District:

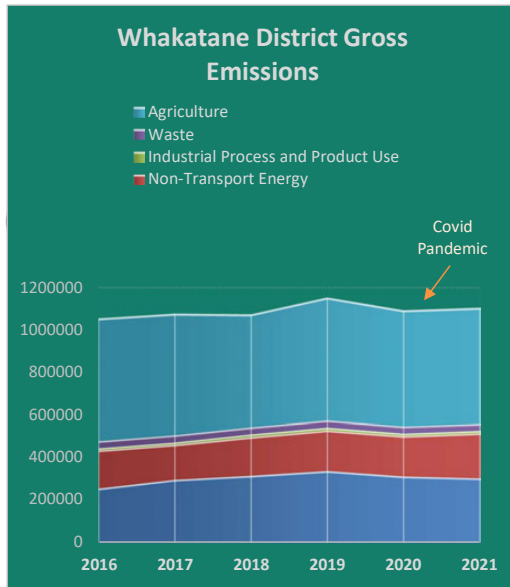
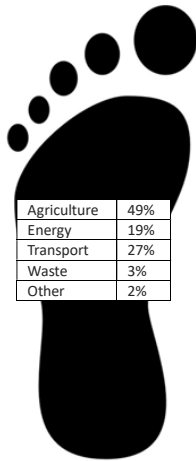


¹ Bay of Plenty Regional Risk Assessment: <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/regional-risk-assessment>

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

How we are contributing to a changing climate

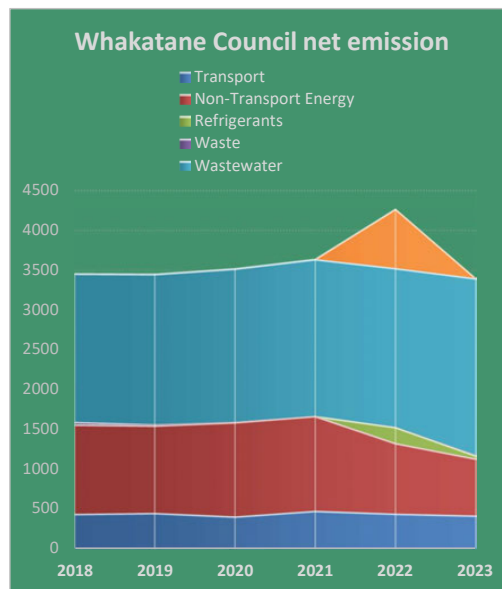
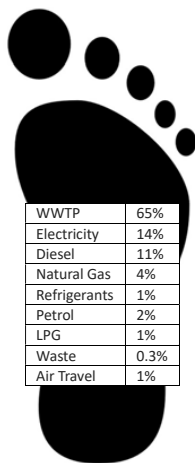
As a District, we all have a role to play in looking to reduce our individual and collective footprint. This document seeks to chart a pathway to reducing our emissions, collaboratively



The District emission profile was steadily increasing between 2016 and 2019, however the impact of Covid-19 on our District resulted in a reduction in emissions, particularly in the transport and agriculture sectors. Agriculture emissions reduced due to a reduction in live-stock during this period.

As a percentage of District emissions, agriculture has reduced from 55% in 2016, to 49% in 2021.

New emission sources were added to Council’s emission inventory in 2022, accounting for a large increase in emissions. The largest of these was the result of a significant forestry harvest. Emissions from the District’s wastewater treatment plants continue to be the organisations largest source of emissions, increasing from 54% in 2018, to 65% of Council’s emissions in 2023. Council has achieved significant reduction in energy emissions over recent years.



7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

Strategic Framework

Vision / Matakiteanga

Mahi tahi/working together to shape sustainable, low emission, climate resilient hapori/communities.

Purpose / Te take

Collaborate and build capacity to enable climate change mitigation and adaptation action across our hapori/communities.

Goals

Ngā whāinga

1. We all understand and are able to act on the impacts of climate change.
2. We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions.
3. We have adapted to reduce climate change risk.

Our principles / Ngā mātāpono



We will act with urgency
Ka mahi mātau ināianei



We will learn
Ka ako mātau



We will acknowledge, care for, and support our people most affected
Ka tautoko mātau i a rātau ka pāngia mārīka e ngā Take Āhuarangi



We will be part of the solution
Ka āwhina mātau ki te whakatika i ngā raru



We will care for and protect the environment
Ka tiaki mātau i te taiao



We will build capacity to recover from difficulties
Ka whakakaha mātau i a tātau kia tere whakaora ai i ngā raru



We will think and act long term
Ka whakaaro pae tawhiti, ka mahi pae tawhiti mātau

Priority areas / Ngā whakaarotau mātua

- Leadership and collaboration
- Communities
- Transport
- Energy
- Water services
- Waste
- Circular economies
- Land use
- Built environment

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

Climate Change Targets

Whakatāne District-wide Targets

KEY:	
\$ = low cost (<\$10k)	🕒 = short term (1-3yeras)
\$\$ = medium cost (\$10k>\$50k)	🕒🕒 = medium term (4-6yrs)
\$\$\$ = high cost (>\$50k)	🕒🕒🕒 = long term (7-10yrs)
	🕒> = ongoing
<i>Italics signifies not currently funded through Council's draft Long Term Plan</i>	

Target (What we want to achieve, by when)	Measure (How we'll know if we've achieved it)	Key Actions (This will be achieved through)
Goal (where we want to be):		
#1 - We all understand and are able to act on the impacts of climate change.		
<p>Annual increase in the percentage of community reporting that they regularly take transport action (2023 baseline - 26.5%).</p> <p>Increase in alternative or active modes of transport for students getting to school.</p> <p>Increase in uptake of electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Community survey shows an annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on transport but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 4.44%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 38.89%).</p> <p>School Travel Survey Report shows a decrease in the percentage of Primary School children driven to school (2021 baseline 66%).</p> <p>Percentage of light vehicles in the District that are electric (12/2023 baseline 4%).</p>	<p>#130 - Continue to support initiatives such as e-bike library, bike maintenance workshops, Bike Month and support for 'Bikes in Schools', Bike Ready, Cycle Skills training. \$\$🕒</p> <p>#131 - Engage with Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Regional Transport Committee to advocate for enhanced, accessible, affordable, and low-emission public transport services. \$🕒></p> <p>#138 - Collaborate with the private sector to increase the number of strategically located EV charging stations and electric bike docks/charging stations throughout the district. \$🕒></p>
<p>Annual increase in the percentage of community reporting that they regularly take waste action (2023 baseline - 55.6%).</p>	<p>Community survey shows an annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on waste but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 28.57%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 19.05%).</p>	<p>#89 - Support community-led composting, home composting workshops and subsidies. \$🕒></p> <p>#93 - Education campaign regarding correct recycling. \$🕒></p>
<p>Annual increase in the percentage of community reporting that they regularly take energy action (2023 baseline – 34.9%).</p> <p>Increase in the uptake of solar installations on homes and the total capacity of solar generation installed.</p> <p>Increase in uptake of electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Community survey shows an annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on energy but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 31.03%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 17.24%).</p> <p>Total capacity of installed solar generation in the Eastern</p>	<p>#56 - Make easily digestible, useful and relevant information available to the community to enhance awareness and knowledge regarding energy efficiency in the home, school, marae and workplace \$🕒></p> <p>#54 - Investigate opportunities to collaborate with partners (including iwi) regarding Healthy Homes Programmes, home audits and investigate opportunities to support funding for home improvements \$🕒></p>

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

	<p>Bay.(31/12/2023 baseline 3.049MW).</p> <p>Number of solar Installations on residential properties in the Eastern Bay (31/12/2023 baseline 569 ICPS).</p>	<p>#59 - Collaborate with relevant groups (building suppliers, community groups) to run energy efficiency workshops \$ (1) ></p> <p>#76 - Advocate and facilitate through provision of information to encourage the community to transition from gas to electricity in buildings and facilities. \$ (1) ></p>										
<p>Annual increase in the percentage of community reporting that they regularly take food action (2023 baseline - 41.4%)</p>	<p>Community survey shows an annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on food but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 17.39%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 15.94%).</p>	<p>#3 - Support community groups encouraging plant based diets - providing education regarding affordable plant based choices. \$ (1) ></p> <p>#194 - Support community groups who are promoting food growing at home/marae, including seed swaps, vegetable garden workshops, compost workshops. Including groups building vegetable gardens \$ (1) ></p> <p>#195 - Identify ways to support local food growers and promote buying-local, including supporting local farmers markets \$ (1) ></p>										
<p>Annual increase in the percentage of community reporting that they regularly take shopping action (2023 baseline - 36.1%)</p>	<p>Community survey shows an annual reduction in people who want to take (more) action on shopping but report: 'not really sure how' (2023 baseline 19.75%) or 'lack of options' (2023 baseline 30.86%).</p>	<p>#2 - Support community-led 'buy local' and 'shop seasonally' campaigns. \$ (1) ></p> <p>#31 - Running educational campaigns through Council's social media to the community annually, for example actions that can be taken at home, i.e. FutureFit and GenLess. \$ (1) ></p>										
<p>Locally relevant, engaging and accurate information is readily available by Dec 2025.</p>	<p>Local risk assessment findings are published on Council's website for local community by Dec 2025.</p>	<p>#9 - Work with business sectors to build sectorial awareness to projected climate impacts. For example supply chain, production and demand impacts. \$ (1) (1) ></p> <p>#10 - Produce local climate projection and risk assessment information tailored at business to support decision-making. \$\$ (1) ></p>										
<p>Goal (where we want to be): #2 - We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions.</p>												
<p>Whakatāne District gross emissions <i>excluding agriculture</i> have reduced from 2021:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Reduction	2027	11%	2030	21%	2040	60%	2050	82%	<p>Whakatāne District Transport emissions</p>	<p>#126 - Implement Active Whakatane Strategy \$\$\$ (1) ></p> <p>#127 - Work with rural communities through the 'Small Towns Initiative' \$\$\$ (1) ></p> <p>#125 - Plan transportation investments with consideration for the expected alignment with the Emission Reduction Plan (ERP) \$ (1) (1) (1) ></p>
Year	Reduction											
2027	11%											
2030	21%											
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2050	82%											

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

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7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

Year	Reduction		
2027	7%		
2030	9%		
2040	16%		
2050	19%		
Increase in community funding that support a just transition to low emissions	Number of successful applications to a community fund that have an outcome of emission reduction within the community.		#36 - Develop a targeted community fund to support community-led climate action. \$\$ 📌
Goal (where we want to be): #3 - We have adapted to reduce climate change risk.			
District risk profile identified and communicated to community by Dec 2025	Technical assessment of climate risks undertaken – by June 2025 Climate risks prioritised by June 2026		#162 - Determine Council dynamic planning and risk management approaches. \$\$\$ 📌 #32 - Develop Whakatāne District specific educational material including projected impact of climate change on the District and community risk profile, ensuring easily accessible, relevant and useful, including te reo versions. \$\$ 📌 #10 - Produce local climate projection and risk assessment information tailored at business to support decision-making. \$\$ 📌 > #164 - Climate change related risks in our District will be clearly communicated, so that our communities’ understanding and resilience to climate change impacts will increase over time. \$\$\$ 📌 > #161 - climate change related risks in our District will be clearly identified and mapped. Providing a climate change evidence base and risk assessment to feed into future planning. \$\$\$ 📌
Community adaptation plans developed by Dec 2028 - ongoing	Local community adaptation plans for priority risks develop by June 2027. Local adaptation plans incorporated into formal Council planning documents such as the LTP, District Plan, and Spatial Plan by June 2029.		#163 - Community Action Groups established for high risk communities. Strategies/community-led plans for individual communities developed. \$\$\$ 📌 > #166 - Recognise local adaptation Plans in regional and local spatial strategies. 📌 > #167 - Identify budget requirements and timing for when adaptation plans commence, and recognise in future LTPs as necessary. 📌 📌

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

		<p>#170 - Embedding climate change in District Plan and ensure future development avoids areas most at risk \$\$\$ (👉)</p> <p>#173 - Ensure that land use decisions create no further disconnect for local Iwi to their traditional sites and practices \$\$ (👉)</p> <p>#174 - Support iwi to develop adaptation plans where requested. \$\$ (👉) (👉)</p>
Adaptation plans implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated by Dec 2035 - ongoing	Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of climate impacts to commence by June 2030. Where Council has control, and action triggered, implement adaptation plans to reduce ongoing effects of climate change by plan timeframes.	#169 - Support local communities to implement local adaptation plans once identified triggers and thresholds have been reached. \$\$\$ (👉) (👉) >

Whakatane District Council Organisation Targets

Target (What we want to achieve, by when)	Measure (How we'll know if we've achieved it)	Key Actions (This will be achieved through)
Goal (where we want to be):		
#1 - We all understand and are able to act on the impacts of climate change.		
An internal Council climate policy is adopted and implemented by June 2025 that ensures climate change is embed within the organisation.	<p>Percentage of Council Teams with targets related to climate change goals.</p> <p>Climate considerations included in Procurement Policy and project management templates.</p> <p>Climate Policy adopted.</p>	<p>#4 - Update procurement policy and procedures to include; embedding carbon considerations and waste minimisation into procurement decisions; and estimating emissions impact of all major Council decisions. \$ (👉)</p> <p>#12 - Develop an internal Council policy to ensure climate change principles and targets are included in all decision-making reports, project management and the development and review of; activity management plans; policies, bylaws and strategies; and assumptions for climate change in the LTP \$ (👉)</p>
All new staff have undergone a climate change learning module as part of their induction, within 6 months of employment, for all new starts after 1 July 2024.	Percentage of new staff who have undertaken the Climate change eLearning module within 6 months.	#16 – Measure and understand organisation carbon emissions \$\$ (👉) >
50 percent of staff who have been working for the Council for more that 6 months have	Percentage of staff who have undertaken the Climate change eLearning module.	

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

<p>completed the climate change learning module by Jun 2025</p>																																																						
<p>Goal (where we want to be): #2 - We have prioritised a just transition to low emissions.</p>																																																						
<p>Whakatāne Council Organisation gross emissions excluding wastewater have reduced from 2023:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 640 456 792"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Subtargets: Whakatāne Council emissions have reduced from 2023:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 900 421 1503"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Transport</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>66%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Energy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>77%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Industrial Process and Product Use</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Waste</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2030</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2040</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2050</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Reduction	2027	12%	2030	21%	2040	57%	2050	79%	Year	Reduction	Transport		2027	5%	2030	16%	2040	66%	2050	90%	Energy		2027	16%	2030	25%	2040	54%	2050	77%	Industrial Process and Product Use		2027	1%	2030	7%	2040	12%	2050	11%	Waste		2027	11%	2030	20%	2040	40%	2050	54%	<p>Whakatāne Council Transport emissions</p> <p>Whakatāne Council Stationary/ Non-transport Energy emissions</p> <p>Whakatāne Council Industrial Process and Product Use (IPPU) emissions</p> <p>Whakatāne Council Waste emissions</p>	<p>#142 - Install EV charging stations at Council facilities to support the use of electric vehicles. \$\$\$ 🔄></p> <p>#140 - Adopt an EV First/Low Emission policy to guide the transition to low-emission vehicles in the Council fleet. \$ 🔄</p> <p>#116 - Encourage low-travel options such as virtual meetings and webinars/virtual conference attendance - \$ 🔄</p> <p>#118 - Facilitate staff e-bike purchases 🔄</p> <p>#41 - Include energy efficiency as a criteria within Council's procurement policy. \$ 🔄</p> <p>#42 - Advance opportunities to electrify Council operations where emission reductions can be achieved. \$\$\$ 🔄></p> <p>#43 - Retain Council's Energy Management Programme. \$\$ 🔄></p> <p>#49 - Deliver energy efficient upgrades to assets identified through energy audits. \$\$\$ 🔄></p> <p>#50 - Deliver specific energy efficiency initiatives at Council facilities \$\$\$ 🔄</p> <p>#206 - Ensure emissions is a key consideration in Three Waters projects \$\$ 🔄</p> <p>#49 - Deliver energy efficient upgrades to assets identified through energy audits, prioritising those that have the greatest impact on reducing whole of life emissions. \$\$\$ 🔄></p> <p>#105 - Conduct waste audits of Council facilities and develop internal waste data collection and monitoring systems to track and manage waste. \$ 🔄></p> <p>#87 - Organic waste produced from Council operations composted. \$ 🔄</p> <p>#86 - Raise internal organisation awareness of recycling through internal awareness campaign. \$ 🔄></p>
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7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

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<p>Goal (where we want to be): #3 - We have adapted to reduce climate change risk.</p>																						
<p>Ongoing effects of climate change on Council assets and Infrastructure is known by June 2025</p>		<p>#161 - climate change related risks in our District will be clearly identified and mapped. Providing a climate change evidence base and risk assessment to feed into future planning. \$\$\$ 🕒</p> <p>#225 - Identify at risk and vulnerable water supply and wastewater infrastructure susceptible to various climate change models. \$\$ 🕒</p> <p>#156 - Identify vulnerable transport infrastructure and take measures to enhance their resilience \$\$\$ 🕒</p>																				
<p>Adaptation planning for Council infrastructure in place and incorporated into asset management planning and Long Term Plan by June 2027.</p>	<p>Put in place a robust planning framework and make robust decisions considering ongoing effects of climate change by June 2027.</p>	<p>#162 - Determine Council dynamic planning and risk management approaches. \$\$\$ 🕒</p> <p>#157 - Incorporating climate change into Asset Management Planning, considering protection, retreat, design, capacity (e.g. stormwater pipe size). \$\$\$ 🕒 ></p> <p>#219 - Development of hydraulic models and combine with best available data into one database to inform future planning and continue to enhance asset management systems. \$\$ 🕒 🕒</p> <p>#153 - Integrate climate change risk management considerations into the planning, ongoing operations, and infrastructure renewal of the transport network. \$ 🕒</p>																				

7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

Adaptation plans implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated by December 2030.	Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of climate impacts by December 2023.	#158 - Minimise or mitigate risk to Council infrastructure from climate change, prioritising essential services. \$\$\$ >
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7.1.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy(Cont.)

Ensuring success

This is Whakatāne's first District Pathway and it defines a pathway for us all to follow together, he waka eke noa (a canoe which we are all in with no exception).

Responsibility for delivering on the goals and actions of this plan do not sit with one group, person or organisation. However, the Whakatāne District Council acknowledges its role in leading the community on this journey and has committed to ongoing climate action and leadership. Delivering on Council-led actions in this plan is a key component of the Council's long-term plans. Whilst the journey may not be a straight line, this plan will provide a clear pathway, direction and vision to work towards over time.

Reporting

Monitoring and reporting progress towards the targets in this plan, and the actions taken along the journey will be undertaken by the Council and reported back to the community through the Council's Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee.

6 monthly reporting of delivery of the action plan will be made available on Council's website.

Review of Strategy - 2027

Climate science, transition tools, political and social change and technology is evolving at such a fast pace that the District's response must continue to be regularly reviewed.

This Strategy will be reviewed by June 2027, to ensure it remains relevant, current and effective. This review will include 3 yearly reporting of targets to inform the review process.

This plan is supported by a Climate Action list. This list was developed utilising input from community consultation, iwi management plans, national and international examples, technical reports and Council's previous Climate Change Action Plans. This Climate Action list is a living document and overtime actions will be added as appropriate. Whilst not all actions are currently budgeted or committed to be delivered, the list will help to guide future action and provide an opportunity for new collaboration and community wide action.

7.2 Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment**7.2 Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment**

To: **Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 22 February 2024**

Author: **Jeff Farrell - Manager Strategic Projects**

Authoriser: **David Bewley - GM Development and Environment Services**

Reference: **A2612377**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The purpose of this report is to obtain the Committee's support to commence a Whakatāne District climate change risk assessment.

2. Recommendations - *Tohutohu akiaki*

1. **THAT** the Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment report be received; and
2. **THAT** the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee approve the Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment Project Plan for implementation.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

In 2020 the Council introduced its first Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy proposed targets and initial actions to enable the Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare to plan for impacts of climate change. Consultation through the development of that Strategy demonstrated high and wide-ranging levels of community interest in the district responding to the challenges of climate change. A significant number of responses related to the need to better manage the physical effects from a changing climate to minimise the scale of adverse impacts from future climate events. Adapting what we do and how we do it to manage the effects of climate change is better known as climate adaptation. This is different from focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions which more commonly referred to as climate mitigation. This report focuses on climate adaptation.

The Council is currently reviewing its Climate Change Strategy. The second-generation Strategy builds on the achievements of the first Strategy as well as extending its scope to incorporate a broader District-wide perspective. The broader scope includes development of a District Climate Adaptation Programme that will enable our communities to better manage climate-generated challenges now and in the future.

The District Climate Change Adaptation Programme will comprise five stages:

- Stage 1 is a technical assessment of climate risks to the Whakatāne District that will enable decision makers to make informed decisions on priorities and resource allocation for adaptation responses. Development of an online interactive viewer is also included in this stage.

7.2 Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment(Cont.)

- Stage 2 involves prioritising climate risks through an extensive community engagement programme and Council workshops.
- Stage 3 builds on the Stage 2 engagement to develop local community adaptation plans for priority risks. Local adaptation plans will include defining both specific climate impacts for monitoring and thresholds at which interventions are required.
- Stage 4 involves incorporating local adaptation plans into formal Council planning documents such as the LTP and District Plan.
- Stage 5 will involve monitoring of climate impacts and implementation of local adaptation plans when intervention thresholds are reached.

A District Climate Change Risk Assessment is the necessary precursor to developing a District Climate Change Adaptation Programme to build resilience to climate effects within District communities. The district assessment will align to, and utilise information from, the National and Regional climate change risk assessments¹, and be supplemented with District-focused natural hazard modelling which has been undertaken over the past three years. In the context of the wider Climate Change Adaptation Programme, the assessment will: raise community awareness of climate risks communities face; inform discussions with resident groups over prioritisation of those risks; and inform composition of local community adaptation plans. In some instances, further location-specific assessments may be required.

The proposed project plan for the Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment forms Appendix 1 of this report.

4. Issue/Subject – *Kaupapa*

Although discrete pieces of hazard and asset modelling have factored in climate projections, there has not been a comprehensive integrated assessment of climate risks that the Whakatāne District may face over the next 100+ years.

5. Options analysis - *Ngā Kōwhiringa***5.1. Option 1: Implement the proposed project plan – preferred option**

The Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment identified a number of climate risks facing the Bay of Plenty region. Climate risks were identified at a regional level which resulted in risks from each district being aggregated to form a regional perspective. The process of aggregation can result in dilution of the importance of a risk at a local level. The Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment can therefore not be relied upon to accurately reflect climate risks to individual communities. A district level assessment is required if climate risks to individual communities are to be identified.

[1] <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/national-climate-change-risk-assessment-for-new-zealand-main-report/>

[1] <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/regional-risk-assessment>

7.2 Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment(Cont.)**5.1.1. Advantages**

There are substantial benefits to understanding risks to communities from climate change.

- Importantly, management of climate change effects is a statutory requirement of local authorities. Management of effects infers understanding the nature of the effects and the drivers of change in order to determine if/what actions are required and when. A risk assessment programme provides that understanding.
- As outlined in the Council's submission on the Ministry for the Environment's proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making, there is well-documented evidence that front-footing investment in natural hazard risk reduction is a far more efficient alternative to post-event investment.
- A key output of the risk assessment process will be publicly available information that individuals and District communities can utilise to become more resilient to the effects from a changing climate and to recognise and optimise opportunities that result. Empowering communities through providing information and support is an essential element of improving community resilience.
- Although risk models within the insurance sector are becoming more sophisticated, the level of granularity tends to be fairly coarse. In the event that insurers' risk models over-estimate individual community or property risk, access to alternative risk information from a reputable independent organisation will be important for Whakatāne District property owners in order for them to have informed dialogue with their insurer.
- Key outcomes of a climate change risk assessment include enhanced public and private sector decision-making, reduced instances of poor investment in projects that can be impacted by climate change, and informed statutory reporting of financial and non-financial climate risks. In this latter regard, Audit NZ has already included reporting of assets exposed to climate risks in its annual audit programme. It can be reasonably anticipated that the existing programme of reporting of financial disclosures of climate risks by Government agencies and Auckland Council will be extended to the balance of local government in the foreseeable future.
- Overall, a Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment is the first stage of a project that will promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of District communities in the present and for the future.

There are good reasons therefore why undertaking a climate change risk assessment is appropriate.

The draft project plan for a Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment reflects current best practice. It has been reviewed by the Council's Climate Change Technical Working Group, the consultancy firm involved in the National and Regional climate change risk assessments which has also undertaken climate change risk assessments for several other local and regional councils, and by colleagues within Council and from the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network - a network of local government practitioners working in the climate adaptation space.

5.1.2. Disadvantages

Information on climate change risks to communities will become formalised. Whereas some members of the public will appreciate having this information available, others may find this threatening and therefore perceive this project as a disadvantage. It reinforces the importance of careful management of the process of releasing the information.

7.2 Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment(Cont.)**5.2. Option 2 Status Quo**

The status quo option means not progressing with a Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment.

5.2.1. Advantages

Resources could be deployed elsewhere.

5.2.2. Disadvantages

This option is not supported for the following reasons:

- The risk assessment is included in the current LTP and funding has been allocated.
- Several Action Plans in the Council's current Climate Change Strategy identify this work and are reliant on this work being completed.
- The benefits provided by Option 1 would not be realised.
- A reputational risk to the Council is likely to arise.

6. Significance and Engagement Assessment - *Aromatawai Pāhekoheko***6.1. Assessment of Significance**

The decisions and matters of this specific report are assessed to be of low significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. However, this report is part of a broader process that is, or may be in future, assessed to be of high significance.

The Climate Change Risk Assessment is the first stage of a Whakatāne District Climate Adaptation Programme. It involves a technical assessment of which climate risks are likely to affect the Whakatāne District. Stakeholder input will occur during the process. Subsequent stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Climate Adaptation Programme will involve considerable community consultation and a high assessment of significance will apply.

6.2. Engagement and community views

As outlined above, targeted engagement with key stakeholders is necessary to inform the risk assessment. Community engagement is an essential component of subsequent stages of the Whakatāne District Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Separate conversations with iwi/hapu will be necessary to identify individual and collective preferences around the nature and level of involvement in the risk assessment process and subsequent stages of the District's Climate Adaptation Programme. The Policy Hub will be used to have conversations with iwi and to develop input into the Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

7.2 Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment(Cont.)**7. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro*****7.1. Financial/budget considerations**

Financial resourcing of \$80,000 per year for 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years for this project has been provided for in the LTP. The output of this project will inform the level of additional funding necessary to complete the remaining stages of the District Climate Adaptation Programme.

Information available on completion of the project will contribute to more informed decision-making, prevent maladaptive investment, and inform statutory reporting of financial and non-financial climate risks.

7.2. Strategic alignment

A Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment is consistent with the Council's strategic direction and previous decisions (e.g. LTP and Whakatāne District Climate Change Strategy) and supports all of the Council's Community Outcomes (Effective Leadership, Sustainable Economic Development, Community Needs, Quality Services, Valuing our Environment, and Reliable and Affordable Infrastructure).

7.3. Climate change assessment

Due to the influence a Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment will have on future Council decision-making, the decisions and matters of this report are assessed to have high climate change implications and considerations when assessed against the Council's Climate Change Principles.

7.4. Risks

Legal and publicity/reputational risks for the Council exist if the District Climate Change Risk Assessment does not proceed.

There will need to be a comprehensive engagement and educational component to later stages of the project to ensure risks and the development of actions are made in an informed way and for the betterment of the community (personal safety) and the environment.

8. Conclusion - *Kupu whakamutunga*

A Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment is the first stage of a broader Whakatāne District Climate Adaptation Programme that will enable Whakatāne communities to be more resilient to climate-related impacts.

The Whakatāne District Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023 includes a climate change risk assessment of the Whakatāne District. Budget provision for the climate change risk assessment was included in the LTP.

Sequencing the District assessment after the National and Bay of Plenty Regional climate change risk assessments, and aligning the assessment methodology to them, will provide project efficiencies.

There are substantial benefits to be provided through completion of a District climate change risk assessment. These include meeting Council's statutory responsibilities, better decision-making through improved understanding of climate risks, and support to property owners through provision of

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024

information. Subsequent stages of the Climate Adaptation Programme provide significant opportunities to involve members of communities in Council decision-making on decisions that directly affect them and their future generations.

Overall, completion of the assessment will enable a wide range of decision makers to make informed decisions on priorities and resource allocation for climate adaptation responses.

Attached to this report:

- Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment

**High Level Project Plan
February 2024**

Jeff Farrell
MANAGER STRATEGIC PROJECTS

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

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7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

1 Background

Global climate change has been identified as the single greatest threat to human health. Two primary approaches have developed to manage the effects of climate change. One approach, referred to as climate change mitigation, aims at reducing or avoiding emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to limit the warming of our planet. In contrast, the second response recognises that some warming of the planet is unavoidable and involves adjusting the way we live to actual or expected future climate. This approach is referred to as climate adaptation. The Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment sits under the climate adaptation approach.

In recognition of the unsustainable levels of costs associated with responding to climate events, New Zealand, together with 186 other countries, signed up to the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which refocused international policy direction for disaster reduction from disaster management to disaster risk management. Management of risk requires firstly understanding the nature and level of risk before making value judgements on prioritising which risks require intervention, what interventions might look like, and how and when interventions should be implemented.

Also in 2015, NZ was also a signatory to the Paris Climate Agreement which required signatories to recognise the importance of managing all of the adverse effects of climate change.

In 2017, changes to New Zealand's Resource Management Act formally recognized the Sendai Framework and the Paris Climate Agreement through increased emphasis on front footing management of natural hazard risks and the effects of climate change.

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 introduced a provision where the Minister of Climate Change or the Climate Change Commission are able to require information on governance in relation to the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and the processes, metrics and targets used to assess and manage them¹.

In 2020, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) released the first National Climate Change Risk Assessment that identified at a national scale, the climate risks New Zealand faces. The top-priority risks included risks to coastal ecosystems, community wellbeing, potable water supplies, and buildings. The National Adaptation Plan (2022) subsequently identified priority actions for the Government to reduce the potential harm from the top climate risks to New Zealand communities as well as to seize on opportunities that arise through a changing climate.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) completed a Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2023. This was a collaborative undertaking with representatives from each territorial authority within the region, as well as other key stakeholders, included in the project team. The assessment provided a regional overview of current and future risks and confirmed that climate change effects will have significant and wide-ranging impacts upon communities within the Bay of Plenty region.

In 2023, WDC initiated a review of its first Climate Strategy (2020-2023). The first Strategy proposed targets and initial actions to enable the Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare to plan for impacts of climate change. The second generation Strategy not only proposes to build on the achievements of the first Strategy, but it also introduces a broader District-wide perspective in the form of developing a climate adaptation programme that will enable our communities to meet climate-generated challenges now and into the future.

A District Climate Change Adaptation Programme comprises five stages:

¹ Section 52W.

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

- Stage 1 is a technical assessment of climate risks at the district scale that will enable decision makers to make informed decisions on priorities and resource allocation for adaptation responses.
- Stage 2 involves prioritising climate risks through an extensive community engagement programme and Council workshops.
- Stage 3 builds on the Stage 2 engagement to develop local community adaptation plans for priority risks. Local adaptation plans will include defining both specific climate impacts for monitoring and thresholds at which interventions are required and implemented over time.
- Stage 4 involves incorporating local adaptation plans into formal Council planning documents such as the LTP, District Plan, and Spatial Plan.
- Stage 5 will involve monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of climate impacts, incorporating learning, and implementation of local adaptation plans when intervention thresholds are reached.

This project plan focuses on Stage 1 as a District Climate Change Risk Assessment is a necessary precursor to developing a District Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The District assessment will utilise information from the National and Regional climate change risk assessments and be supplemented with District-focused natural hazard modelling that has been undertaken over the past three years. The assessment will: raise community awareness of climate risks communities and the Council face; inform discussions with resident groups over prioritisation of those risks; and inform composition of local community adaptation plans. In some instances, further location or risk-specific assessments may be required.

2 Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to build an understanding of the risks to the Whakatāne District from climate change over the next 100-plus years to help inform adaptation responses that will grow communities' capabilities to be more resilient to climate-related impacts.

This project will also contribute to the Council fulfilling its statutory responsibilities to avoid or mitigate natural hazards and have regard to the effects of climate change when making certain decisions under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Building Act 2004, the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, the Local Government Act 2002, and the Local Government and Official Information Meetings Act 1987.

The methodology that will be used for the project aligns with the National Climate Change Risk Assessment², the Bay of Plenty Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment³, and Ministry for the Environment guidance for local authorities undertaking climate change risk assessments⁴.

In order to align with national climate change risk assessment cycles, it is likely that the risk assessment will need to be refreshed every six years.

Some adaptation planning already occurs as business as usual practices, especially where climate risks are known, accountabilities are clear, and budgets and work programmes are in place. The District Climate Change Risk Assessment will complement and augment existing work practices; it will

² <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/national-climate-change-risk-assessment-for-new-zealand-main-report/>

³ <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/regional-risk-assessment>

⁴ <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/a-guide-to-local-climate-change-risk-assessments/>

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

also provide a considerable amount of additional information relevant for future projects by the Council and other stakeholders.

3 Project Objectives

The project objectives include:

- a) To identify current and define future climate risks relevant to the Whakatāne District, and to specific communities within the District.
- b) To identify opportunities that could present through a changing climate.
- c) To inform climate adaptation planning by communities, stakeholders, and by the Whakatāne District Council.
- d) To inform statutory decision-making where climate hazards are required to be considered.
- e) To inform statutory reporting of financial and non-financial climate risks.
- f) To prevent maladaptive investment.
- g) To raise community awareness of climate hazards.
- h) To identify information gaps where further location or risk-specific assessment may be needed.

4 Project Scope

The scope of the project is a technical assessment of climate risks that the Whakatāne District may face over the next 100+ years. Completion of the assessment will enable decision makers to make informed decisions on priorities and resource allocation for adaptation responses.

4.1 Out of Scope

This project is Stage 1 of a 5-stage District Climate Adaptation Programme. Stages 2 through to 5 will be subject to specific project plans.

The project does not address climate change mitigation or an assessment of transition risks (i.e. risks associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to renewable energy).

5 Project Overview

The District Climate Change Risk Assessment involves three distinct phases:

1. Establishment:
 - a. Establish the project team, governance and communication plan;
 - b. Establish the project principles, purpose and level of engagement;
 - c. Identify stakeholders and plan engagement.
2. Preparation:
 - a. Identify inputs and scale of assessment;
 - b. Confirm climate change scenarios and timeframes;
 - c. Confirm organising themes and document structure;

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

- d. Confirm data availability, sources, and which risk element groupings (within agreed themes) should be assessed geospatially, and how this should be best presented (e.g. static maps, vs online viewers/dashboards)
- 3. Assessment process:
 - a. Identify hazards and screen elements at risk;
 - b. Undertake geospatial assessments;
 - c. Detailed physical risk assessment;
 - d. Identify opportunities;
 - e. Identify consequences associated with indirect and cascading risks;
 - f. Develop geospatial and non-spatial outputs, and draft report;
 - g. Quality assurance/sense check;
 - h. Issue report;
 - i. Develop an interactive web-based viewer to enable the public to access and interrogate information in a way that benefits them. This should enhance individual and community understanding of climate risks relevant to the Whakatāne District, include guidance on climate actions people can take to be better prepared for climate events, and provide a mechanism to capture user feedback to inform ongoing improvements to the viewer.

In recognition of a combination of the demographic make-up of the District, a desire for self-determination by tangata whenua, and the uniqueness of indigenous knowledge systems shaped by generations of sustainable interactions with ecosystems, conversations with mana whenua groups will be necessary to identify individual and collective preferences around the nature and level of mana whenua involvement in the risk assessment process and subsequent stages of the District’s Climate Adaptation Programme. Although the Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment process included tangata whenua members on the project team to ensure Mātauranga was considered alongside Western science, the tangata whenua preference, in that instance, was for a parallel te Ao Māori-centric process reported as a complementary appendix to the final risk assessment report. The decision on the level of input into the Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment is a decision for mana whenua.

6 Project Steps and Timelines

The project steps and timeframes are described below:

Project Step 1: Establishment		
Project Approval	The Whakatāne District Climate Technical Advisory Group workshops the approach to developing a Whakatāne District Climate Adaptation Programme.	2 February 2024
	Draft project plan presented to councillor workshop.	14 February 2024
	The Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee receives a report introducing the Whakatāne District Climate Adaptation Programme and Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment project.	22 February 2024

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

	<p>Council approves project plan for a Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Media release confirming the project has been approved.</p>	14 March 2024
Project Structure	Confirm the project team, governance reporting framework and communication plan.	Mid-April 2024
Engagement	Identify stakeholders and plan engagement.	Mid-May 2024
Project Step 2: Preparation		
Project Principles and Engagement	<p>Workshop with TAG and the project team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project principles. • Inputs and scale of assessment. • Climate change scenarios and timeframes. • Organising themes. 	Mid- May 2024
Project Step 3: Assessment Process		
Hazard and risk screening, and risk assessment	<p>Workshops with project team and key stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop#1: Identify hazards and elements at risk (full day). • Workshops#2-6: Detailed risk assessment workshops (online, 2 hours each). • Workshop#7: Identify consequences and opportunities. • Workshop#8: QA/Sense check by project team and key stakeholders. • Geospatial analysis to support workshops and broader reporting • Additional TAG input – <i>confirm at what points in the above process</i> 	June through to end of September 2024
Draft Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report writing, data analysis, mapping, further engagement with TAG • Draft report for review by project team and TAG. • Preparation of draft collateral, e.g. community-specific 1-page summaries, interactive viewer. • Workshop draft report with Council. 	<p>Sept-Nov</p> <p>End November 2024</p>

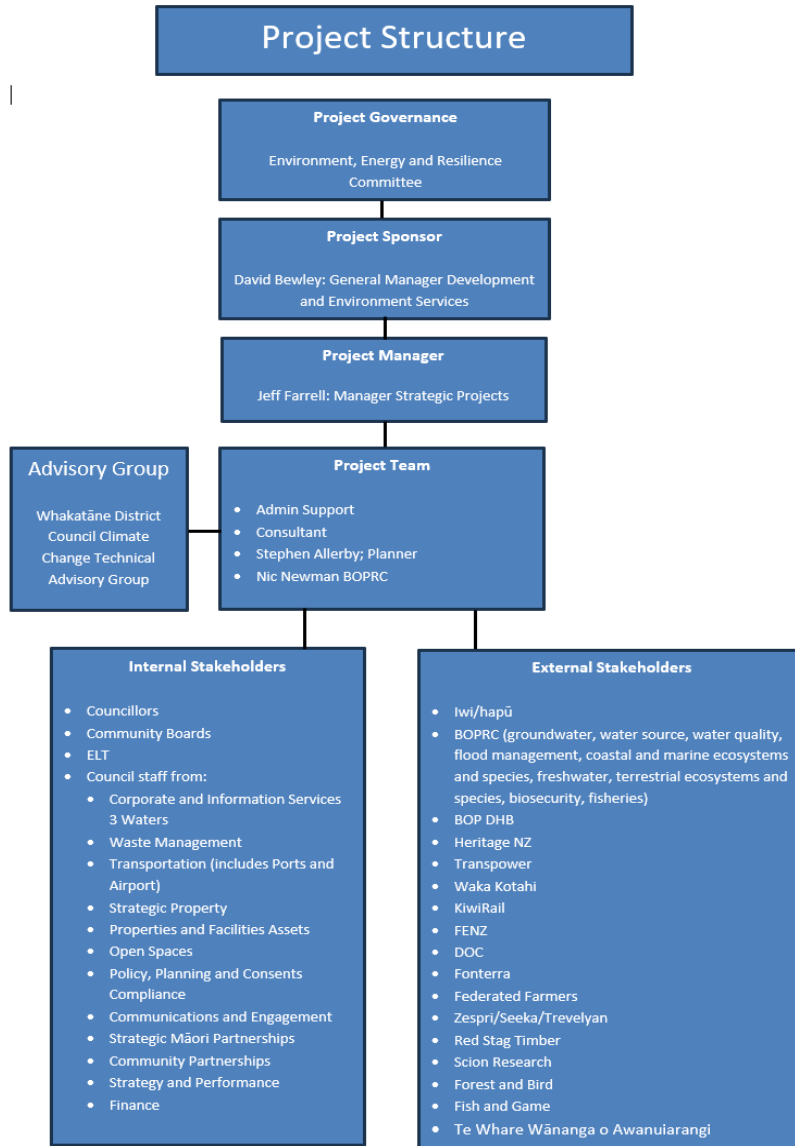
7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

Final Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise report. • Report to Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee. • Public release of report and placement on Council website 	February 2025

7 Project Structure

In addition to quantitative information, a range of potential stakeholders with subject matter expertise related to the assessment themes could contribute additional information and analyses that would enrich the assessment as well as engender stakeholder connection to the project. Noting that membership and iwi involvement are still to be finalised, an indicative project structure including potential stakeholders is detailed in the following figure.

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)



8 Communication and engagement

A list of key engagements with elected members is detailed in the following table:

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

Council workshop 1 – Introduction to project	14 February 2024
Environment, Energy, and Resilience Committee – Endorse the Project Plan	22 February 2024
Council: Approve the project plan	14 March 2024
Environment, Energy, and Resilience Committee: Governance updates	Frequency TBC
Council workshop 2 – Presentation of draft report	November 2024
Environment, Energy, and Resilience Committee: Receive report	November 2024
Council – Approves report for public release	February 2025
Community Boards (plus Iwi Chairs and other key stakeholders): Presentation of final report	Following public release of report

9 Project Assumptions

The project plan assumptions include:

- The work programme expectations must align with available resources.

10 Project Constraints

Constraints on this project include:

- Information gaps will be discovered during the assessment.
- Limitations and assumptions used in hazard modelling will be carried through into assessments.
- Availability of staff.
- Other constraints are likely to be identified during refinement of this Plan.

11 Budget

Financial provision of \$80,000/year, commencing this financial year, has been provided in the current LTP for this project. The output of this project will inform the level of additional funding necessary to complete the remaining stages of the District Climate Adaptation Programme.

12 Risk Management

A project risk is the combination of the likelihood of an event or condition occurring and the consequence of that impact on the project were it to occur.

A comprehensive risk register will be developed for the project which will be monitored by the Project Team. In the interim, the risks outlined below are preliminary examples of some risks likely to be relevant.

7.2.1 Appendix A - Building Resilience - Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment– High Level Project Plan 2024(Cont.)

Risk description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Work doesn't reflect District-wide response	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure agreed plans and timeframes enable iwi partners, communities and other stakeholders to participate.
Iwi/hapū participation does not occur.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage one or more experts who have expertise in both Te Ao Māori and climate change.
The Assessment is not complete by November 2024.	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate some flexibility in scheduling timeframes. A detailed project schedule will be followed. Any potential issues will be identified and flagged early.
The Assessment does not contain sufficient information to inform local community adaptation planning.	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the risk assessment methodology is aligned to the National and Regional climate change risk assessments methodology and Ministry for the Environment guidance. Engage consultant with known expertise in the above risk assessments and that has full access to the technical information necessary to inform the full range of climate risks the District is exposed to.
Delays due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient resource; Need for timely and effective engagement across Council, many stakeholders, iwi and the wider public; Staff absence and turnover. 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any potential issues will be identified and flagged early. Initial project plan clear and updated throughout project. The Project Sponsor's role includes securing and confirming the necessary resource to meet timeframes and scale of work. Ensure absences are planned for (as far as possible) and the team is flexible to cover workload. Establish clear project plan with clear responsibilities and plans that ensure meaningful engagement.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update



To: **Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 22 February 2024**

Author: **N Woodley / Manager Policy, Planning and Consents Compliance**

Authoriser: **D Bewley / GM Development and Environment Services**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan project.

2. Recommendation- *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan project update report be received.

3. Background - *He tirohanga whakamuri*

3.1. Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan

Spatial plans are about the places we live in and how we want them to be for our future generations.

When completed, they provide a roadmap for our future spaces and places and an evidence base and direction to align other strategies and planning processes towards common outcomes.

In late 2022, local authorities and Iwi authorities in the Eastern Bay of Plenty began to work collaboratively with Government agencies to scope and develop a spatial plan for the sub-region. The intention is for a plan that reflects the partners aspirations for our rohe, informs council long term plan processes and Government infrastructure investment decisions.

3.2. Spatial Planning Act 2023 Repeal

The Spatial Planning Act 2023 required each region to develop a regional spatial strategy that set out the long-term issues, opportunities and challenges for development and the environment in the region.

This Act was repealed in December 2023 by the incoming National led Government. However, this will have no material impact on the need for the Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan, as our project is grounded firmly in meeting the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991 and Central and Local Government investment decision-making processes, which remain unchanged by the incoming Government.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)

The development of an agreed spatial strategy that is supported by all local authorities and Iwi in the subregion and Government agencies is even more important in the absence of a statutory instrument to guide planning and investment processes. It is reasonable to expect that the incoming Government will be looking at spatial plans to provide evidence-based guidance regarding where investments are required in our communities.

The Project Leadership Group will need to continually monitor the emerging Government directions and adjust the scope and pace of the project accordingly. The first signal of the new Government's emerging direction with respect to investment decision making will come with release of the Draft Government Policy Statement for Transport (likely March 2024) and the text of the legislation designed to fast-track specified resource consents.

3.3. Project Partnerships

The Spatial Plan will influence decisions that impact a wide range of our communities in the short-term to long-term. These communities have differing needs and aspirations, and the Spatial Plan is being developed in an inclusive and collaborative manner.

Working in genuine partnership with tangata whenua is particularly important at all stages of the spatial planning process. A Spatial Plan will provide a long-term vision for the way our rohe develops and it is critical that Iwi/hapū are at the decision-making table. This project is also a unique opportunity to give expression to Iwi visions and strategies and to make provision for them tangibly and appropriately. Recognising this, the project is weaving the aspirations of Iwi into the project and ensuring all decision-making forums have Iwi representation and participation. This is critical to the success of the project.

The Spatial Plan will also have implications for Government agencies that deliver infrastructure, housing development and other critical services (such as health and education) that will be needed to meet the growth needs across the Eastern Bay of Plenty and deliver on partner aspirations. To ensure that the project and funding implications arising from the Spatial Plan can be implemented, the Spatial Plan is being developed collaboratively with Government agencies including Waka Kotahi, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), Kāinga Ora, Ministry for Education.

3.4. Last update reports to Council

June 2023:

Addressed the project structure, inaugural meeting of the Project Governance Group, and provided an update on tangata whenua engagement, communications/engagement, and technical work.

August 2023:

Addressed an update on the set up for the Project Governance Group, tangata whenua engagement, communications/engagement, and technical work.

November 2023:

Addressed an update on communications/engagement, a review of the project delivery, an update on the Project Leadership Group/the Project Governance Group meetings, technical work update and a programme update.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)**4. Issue/subject - *Kaupapa*****4.1. Project Progress**

The following activities have been progressed since the last update report to Council in November 2023.

4.1.1. *Communications and Engagement*Friends of our Places Hui

The first Friends of our Places Hui took place on 28 August 2023 at Whakatāne District Council Chambers.

The Friends of Our Places group is a well-defined group of stakeholders. Their purpose is to inform the Spatial Plan content because of what they do or who they represent and their sub-regional perspective. They will be critical partners in the delivery of the outcomes. The 'Friends' are representatives from Central Government ministries and agencies, major local industries, local agencies, telecommunications, energy and utility providers, and neighbouring Councils.

Our intention is to hold further hui and one on one meetings with the 'Friends' in 2024 as the project progresses. We will also keep this group updated on developments in the project. This project forum is important as it ensures that highly influential stakeholders have an opportunity for their inputs to be considered in the development of the Spatial Plan.

Project website

The project website was launched in September 2023 and will be added to as the project progresses, <https://ourplacesebop.org.nz/>.

Te Reo Māori project name

A process to confirm a Te Reo name will continue and be adopted by the project and applied to the project branding when agreed.

4.1.2. *Review of project delivery approach*

The senior management of the four councils involved in the Spatial Plan have been reviewing how we deliver it. There are a range of matters that need to be covered while ensuring the Spatial Plan is developed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

In addition, a plan with this scope and level of participation has not previously been undertaken in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Those involved recognise the opportunity to build organisational relationships and capacity, and to influence the outcome through local knowledge, to create strong ownership of the work within the organisations.

For these reasons, we plan to move toward a combined project team by pooling resources across all four Councils to second staff to the project team. This cross-council spatial planning team will have primary responsibility and be the primary leads for delivering the Spatial Plan.

The intended benefits of this approach are to increase staff ownership of the product and implementation plans, build staff capabilities, strengthen Council relationships with stakeholders, and reduce the input of consultants to improve project cost affordability. When we eventually move

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)

from development of the plan to implementation of the plan, this approach will result in a well-informed team, stakeholder relationships that transition into implementation, and strong local champions for the project outcomes.

A seconded team was confirmed in principle in 2023 and we are continuing to work with all four Councils to gather and finalise a competent seconded team and procure any gaps as necessary, in fitting with our budget, to ensure consistency and continuity of the work on the spatial plan in 2024. This will be a more cost-effective way to continue the project for 2024-2025.

We have filled some roles and are currently inquiring into whether there are any staff from the four Councils involved who can fill the remaining key roles, these roles are proving more difficult to fill given the level of expertise required.

4.1.3. *Tangata Whenua Engagement*

As noted, a key aspect of this spatial planning partnership is the role of tangata whenua representatives as full partners in the process. Not only is this critical to ensure the voice of Iwi partners, including their vision and aspirations, are well articulated in the plan, and this also recognises that Māori make up a significant percentage of the population and are amongst the most significant landowners in terms of the scale and location across the Eastern Bay.

A variety of hui with the 11 Iwi across the sub-region have taken place to date. Furthermore, the Whakatāne District Collaborative Iwi Policy Hub will be up and running shortly and this will provide additional support for spatial planning for Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare and Ngāti Rangitīhi Iwi in particular. This is a significant positive input to the project and is being resourced by Better Off Funding.

4.1.4. *Project Leadership Group*

The Project Leadership Group comprises of Council, Iwi Authority Chief Executives, and senior Central Government representatives.

A Project Leadership Group Meeting was held on 27 November 2023, where we presented an update on the technical work, endorsed the findings of the Housing and Business Needs Research Report completed by MRCagney, discussed the Friends of our Places event, discussed further work to be undertaken and discussed the change of Government and subsequent possible changes to the Spatial Planning workspace as a result.

The Project Leadership Group for February 2024 was postponed until March 2024 to give the project team time to complete the Interim Development Options Report. The next meeting will present this report along with a project update and the progress on the seconded team model.

4.1.5. *Project Governance Group*

The Project Governance Group includes district Councils Mayors, Eastern Bay of Plenty General Constituency Regional Councillor, Chairs of Iwi Authorities, senior Government representatives, and an independent chairperson.

A Project Governance Group Meeting was held on 19 December 2023, where we presented all work undertaken to date and sought direction on measures of success for the outcomes sought through this project, we also had a meaningful discussion around what this would mean for all those involved in the project.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)

We have also written to the new National Party Member of Parliament, Dana Kirkpatrick, inviting her to be involved in the Governance Group. She was not available to attend the December 2023 Governance Group meeting, however indicated her willingness to be involved in 2024, which we will explore further once the next meeting is set down. This is an important opportunity to involve Central Government in the project and ensure their commitment to support the project.

4.2. Programme Update

The general programme includes the following tasks by calendar year, which are subject of review following the change to a seconded team delivery approach. Changes will be communicated in future updates to Council.

2024

- Establish seconded team;
- Confirm sub-regional economic development opportunities;
- Community engagement on priorities and options;
- Select a growth option and transformative outcomes for wellbeing.
- Begin to draft an implementation programme.

2025

- Writing the spatial plan and implementation programme;
- Engagement to wrap up loose ends, if required;
- Final approvals by Councils and Iwi authorities.

4.3. Technical work

Technical Working Group activities have been focused on the following project elements:

Completed

- Population and land needs assessment;
- Three waters preliminary assessment;
- Friends of our places – group established and first event held;
- Project website;
- Changes to mapping to reflect the change to a sub-regional scale for the project.

Currently underway

- Project plan refresh with respect to seconded team and revised programme;
- Preparing a sub-regional perspective of Iwi aspirations;
- Scope for economic development workstream;
- Draft development options report;
- Transport assessment;
- Three waters – options analysis;
- Areas to protect and avoid report and mapping at sub regional scale.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)**5. Significance and Engagement Assessment - *Aromatawai Pāhekoheko*****5.1. Assessment of Significance**

The decisions and matters of this specific report are assessed to be of low significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. However, this report is part of a broader process that is, or may be in future, assessed to be of moderate or high significance.

5.2. Engagement and community views

Engagement with the project partners including Eastern Bay of Plenty Iwi is underway, and this process is confirming Iwi partner's level of interest and involvement at all levels of the project and enabling this to be realised.

Wider community engagement in this project will be facilitated through the project's communications and engagement approach, which is currently in development, and as part of this, the project is considering the way in which project decision-making made through this project structure should be shared with Eastern Bay of Plenty communities. An engagement plan is being developed to guide engagement across the three districts.

It is recognised that engagement and consultation with the community is essential to the success to the project.

6. Considerations - *Whai Whakaaro***6.1. Financial/budget considerations**

The project is being funded through a blend of Council sources and Better off Funding. The project plan approved by the Project Leadership Group in April 2023 presented an updated financial position which is summarised below.

Cost to date

From inception to January 2024, project costs are close to \$780,000.

This has been spent on the following services: scenarios development, demographics and land needs research, public and stakeholder engagement activities, Iwi engagement activities, project management, project director, quality assurance, project governance support (including an interim independent chairperson for the governance group), and three waters technical work.

Funding sources

Project costs incurred by Whakatāne District Council, as per table below, are funded within the Resource Management - Policy activity and are included in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. Both Kawerau and Whakatāne District Councils have had a Better Off Funding allocation approved to support the acceleration of this project to align with other critical planning workstreams.

Further funding from the Councils involved is likely to be forthcoming but is still being confirmed for the 2024-2025 financial year.

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Partner	Committed Funding
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	\$300,000
Whakatāne District Council	\$400,000
Better off Funding-WDC	\$200,000
Better off Funding-KDC	\$120,000
Total	\$1,020,000

“In kind” contribution sources

Partner	Committed staff
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	General Manager, Manager, Planner, GIS support, Communications support. Total approximately 20 hours per week.
Whakatāne District Council	General Manager, Manager, Planner, Communications Support. Total: approximately 20 hours per week.
Ōpōtiki District Council	Senior Planning Policy Officer. Total approximately 20 hours per week (However currently not being provided as planner on long leave and no other staff available).
Kawerau District Council	General Manager, Communications support. Total: approximately 10-15 hours per week
All Councils are providing technical expertise as required (Three waters, Transport, Open Spaces, Natural Hazards)	
Total	70-75 hours per week

Forecast costs

The original comparable (Stage 1) cost estimate as per the Whakatāne-Kawerau Spatial Plan Project Plan was \$548,750-\$573,750. This was re-assessed as part of the Project Plan update, and a revised estimate received by Project Leadership Group estimated between \$640,000-\$790,000 to complete the first part of the project from the point the new project plan was approved.

Total project cost was estimated between \$1.85M to \$3M and reflects the complexity of managing the inputs from four Councils, up to eleven Iwi partners, stakeholders/public, and Government agencies over several years of work.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)

The current funding allocations means we are working under budget constraints. The seconded team model will be a more affordable approach going forward. It is intended to deliver the project with an increasing reliance on seconded Council resources and lower consultant costs. This is expected to retain direct project costs to a lower threshold and improve ownership of the plan by Councils and Iwi through the project lifecycle and into the post-project implementation tasks. We are hopeful we can fill remaining seconded team roles internally from the four Councils involved.

A revised project plan is expected to be developed once the new project management team is established in 2024. An updated funding allocation will be required to complete the plan, with Councils signalling the investment required in their Long-Term Plans, as well as seeking additional funding sources as appropriate. The team are also seeking funding for the project through our Central Government partners.

6.2. Strategic alignment

No inconsistencies with any of the Council's policies or plans have been identified in relation to this report.

6.3. Climate change assessment

Based on this climate change assessment, the decisions and matters of this report are assessed to have low climate change implications and considerations, in accordance with the Council's Climate Change Principles.

6.4. Risks

A summarised risk register and primary mitigations are noted below for higher project risks:

- A risk that the project is not fully funded means it cannot finish due to a funding shortfall and does not reach a suitable level of quality and partner expectations are not fulfilled. This is being mitigated by reviewing the project delivery approach and seeking to allocate seconded internal resources where practicable in order to realign the cost profile. This is also being mitigated through a slowed down engagement process with project partners to enable sufficient time for full participation in the project.
- A risk of misalignment of partner expectations (Council, tangata whenua and Central Government) is being mitigated by working to ensuring all partners and key stakeholders understand and agree project principles, deliverables, timeframes, and accountabilities and being proactive in addressing where and when misalignment occurs. This is the value of a collaborative approach to the Plan.
- A risk that Iwi engagement is limited by their capacity to actively engage in the project is being mitigated by engagement of project Tangata Whenua engagement lead, seeking technical and general support by engaging local expertise to support project, providing support from the technical working group for Iwi engaging in the project, and implementing the Collaborative Iwi Policy Hub support to alleviate capacity issues.
- A risk that implementation is unaffordable will be mitigated by quantifying implementation costs as part of project, and sequencing and staging activities, and using acceptable cost calculation methodologies.

7.3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan Project Update(Cont.)

7. Next steps - *Ahu whakamua*

- i. Senior Managers of Councils to confirm seconded team in early 2024.
- ii. Further technical work, including:
- iii. Transport assessment;
- iv. Areas to protect and avoid report and maps;
- v. Updating a development options report to reflect new evidence;
- vi. Preparing scope of economic development task.
- vii. Project Leadership Group Meeting on March 2024.
- viii. Project Governance Group Meeting to be scheduled for early 2024.
- ix. Refreshed project plan in 2024.

8 Public Participation continued - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

8 Public Participation continued - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

A deputation from Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) will be presenting - estimated start time at 12:30 pm.

BOPRC Councillors will present to Whakatane District Council covering highlights from their DRAFT Long Term Plan.