



**Te Kaunihera  
o Te Hiku o te Ika**  
Far North District Council



[Placeholder – Te Reo Māori Name]

Draft Community Adaptation Programme Plan (Part 1)

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## Part 1

### 1. Vision

**The people and the environment of Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North District prosper, thrive and are resilient in a changing climate.**

This vision contributes to Far North 2100, Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy, Climate Change Roadmap and Climate Action Policy.

### 2. Purpose

**To support Te Hiku o Te Ika – The Far North District to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.**

### 3. Why community adaptation planning?

#### **Councils are at the forefront of adaptation.**

Councils are at the forefront of providing local adaptation responses. We are responsible for delivering services that enable the ongoing maintenance of community structure and function. Other critical partners in the delivery of adaptation actions include hapū and iwi, lifelines infrastructure companies, and government agencies.

#### **Local communities are most important.**

Perhaps most important in adaptation responses are local communities and hapori. Our communities bear the costs of ongoing climate risks and the impacts of damaging hazard events. Our communities fund local adaptation responses to reduce risk.

#### **We can still plan, even with uncertainty.**

Our knowledge of the changes to Far North's climate and what these changes mean for natural hazards is improving. But there is still a large degree of uncertainty on the timing, likelihood and severity of different natural hazards and their impacts. This makes it difficult to plan definite, time-bound responses that can adjust to shifting climate risks over time. Even with this uncertainty, the risks and costs of minimal action and maintaining the status quo are too high.

#### **Community adaptation planning is an opportunity.**

Community adaptation planning attempts to address these challenges and seek out opportunities. The process allows for uncertainty so that we can develop a plan even when there are numerous unknown factors. In adaptation planning, we will work with local communities to understand likely impacts and the community values that are at stake, to then identify flexible short, medium and long-term responses, that span across multiple pathways.

#### **Done well, community adaptation planning has many benefits.**

Community adaptation planning is recommended for local government as best practice planning. Done well, it gives local communities a voice in council planning and brings together many Council services and functions in one place, especially land use planning, infrastructure planning and civil defence. It embraces a structured community engagement process to enable local solutions, drawing on a wide range of technical, scientific and local knowledge. The process is also flexible enough to adjust to Te Ao Māori and kaupapa Māori, guided by tikanga and grounded in values and relationships.

## 4. What the programme will deliver

The Community Adaptation Programme brings community adaptation planning to the most at-risk places across the Far North District. The programme will deliver a staged series of projects throughout the district over the next 10 years, starting with communities with the greatest needs first.

**Stage One** (2024-26) Hokianga, Whangapē and Herekino

**Stage Two** (2027-29) Kaeo, Waitangi-Paihia

**Stage Three** (2030-32) Awanui, Ahipara, Taipa, Tokerau, Hihi

**Stage Four** (2033-35) Matauri, Rangitane, Purerua, Kororāreka-Russell

Each staged project will deliver local community adaptation plans, developed alongside tangata whenua, communities and other critical stakeholders.

Community adaptation plans will include recommendations from the communities on short, medium and long-term actions to respond to current and future risks. The plans will also include decisions on signals for when it's time to start moving from one response to another, to continue protecting community values and objectives.

The plans will be adopted and implemented by Council. All plans will deliver technical reports and assessments guided by land-use planning, natural hazards and risk, infrastructure, science and Te Ao Māori technical expertise.

The programme will also deliver tools, templates and resources to support tangata whenua-led adaptation planning and community-led adaptation planning.

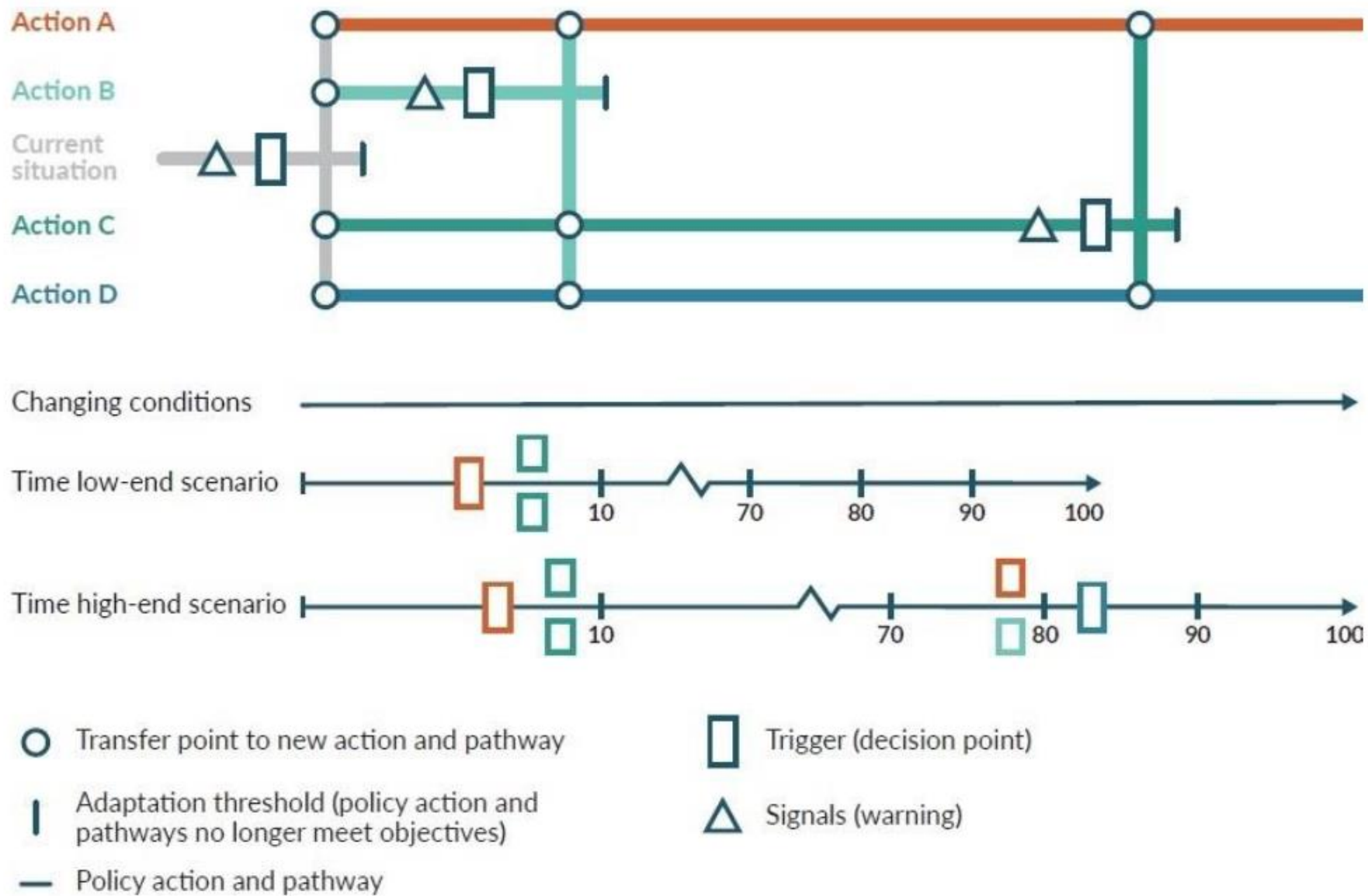


Figure 1 - Example of a community adaptation plan (dynamic adaptive pathways plan), from Ministry for the Environment Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance (2024)

## 5. Outcomes

These are the programme's long-term benefits.

A successful programme will...

Reduce the risk of harm and damage from natural hazards.

Provide resilient and adaptive planning, infrastructure and lifelines services.

Grow high-trust relationships with tangata whenua that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and mana motuhake.

Deliver equitable adaptation responses that meet the needs of future generations.

Enhance the values that matter most to communities.

Enhance sustainability and wellbeing.

## 6. Goals

These are the important elements to achieve throughout the programme.

If we get each community adaptation planning project 'right' we will...

Build strong working relationships between Council staff and tangata whenua.

Uplift kōrero tuku iho, pūrākau, mātauranga Māori and Te Atuatanga Māori to form a central pillar of knowledge.

Use the best practice, evidence and latest science and local experiences to continuously improve our understanding.

Deliver plans that are ready for uptake and implementation.

Align Council and other groups' services, resources and functions.

Respond to the readiness, needs and aspirations of communities and meet communities where they are at.

Ensure community voices directly guide Council decisions to deliver locally relevant plans with strong community ownership.

Ensure tamariki and rangatahi have ownership over the work and decisions.

Actively support tangata whenua-led resilience and adaptation planning.



## 7. Process

These are the key questions we will ask in each community adaptation planning project.

What's happening?

What can we do about it?

How will we do it?

How is it working?

We will aim to follow the steps in the Ministry for the Environment's adaptation planning cycle. The steps will take different amounts of time for each project.

These questions and steps may also be different for Te Ao Māori, Kaupapa Māori adaptation. Each project cycle may look different as we work alongside tangata whenua.

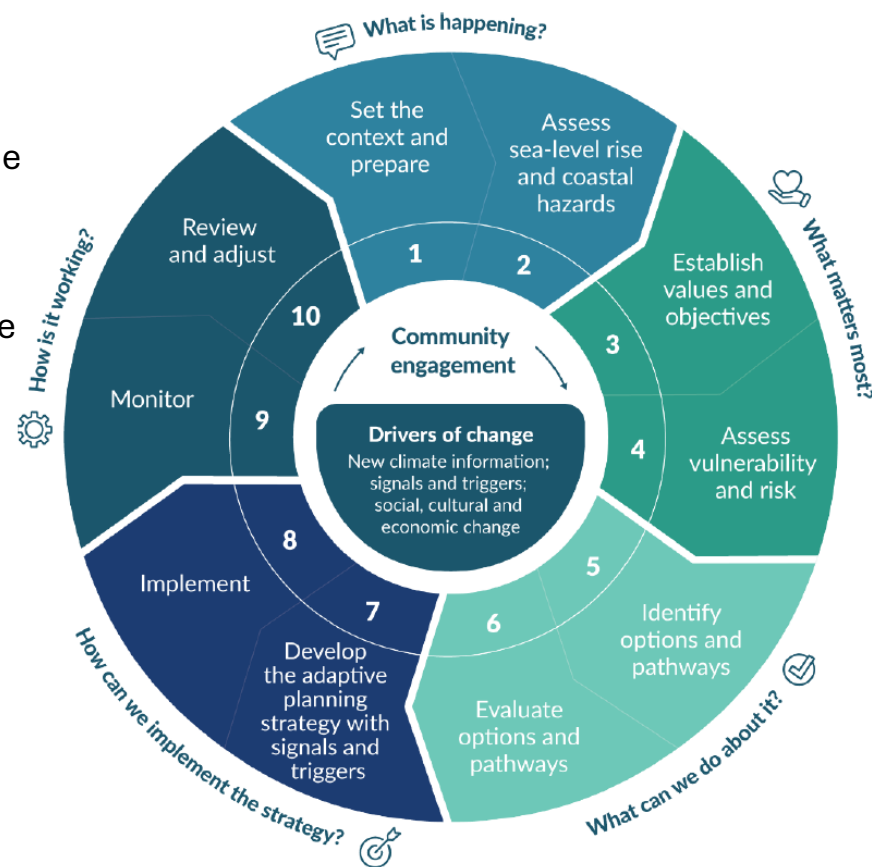


Figure 1- 10 Step Adaptation Planning Cycle, from Ministry for the Environment Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance (2024)

## 8. Scope

**We will consider these issues, values, assets and adaptation approaches in each adaptation planning project.**

The programme scope is large so that each project can meet the needs of its people and place. Each project will have a different final scope for the hazards, values and elements, and assets. This will depend on the available resources, data and knowledge.

**All projects** will, at a minimum, address coastal hazards.

**All projects** will consider all five approaches to adaptation responses.

<b>Issues, Changes and Natural Hazards</b>	Sea level rise						
	Increased intensity and severity of storms	Coastal flooding and permanent tidal inundation	Coastal erosion	Fluvial and pluvial (river flood) hazards	Land instability and land movement		Drought Wildfire
	Increased temperatures						

<b>Value domains</b>	Natural environment	Cultural and spiritual	Community and social	Economic	Built environment and infrastructure
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<b>Elements and assets</b>	Wai	Kai	Whenua	Kāinga	Moana	Rangi	Marae	Wāhi Rongonui
	Water and wastewater	Stormwater, drainage and flood management	Transport in all forms	Buildings and facilities (private, public and commercial)	Reserves, parks, public spaces	Community readiness	Emergency response and recovery	Education and awareness tools and resources

<b>Adaptation approaches</b>	<b>Maintain</b>	<b>Accommodate</b>	<b>Protect</b>	<b>Relocate</b>	<b>Avoid</b>
	Continue to live in a hazard-prone area	Continue to use land in an area by lowering our sensitivity or exposure	Try to keep the hazard away	Move away from the hazard, relocating existing and planned development to reduce our exposure	Don't move into the way of the hazard in the first place

## 9. Partnership and engagement approach

This is how we intend to partner and engage with tangata whenua and the wider community in each project.

- We will be community centred. Each project will always have some form of a community panel or community advisory group that provides formal recommendations to Council.
- There will always be focused engagement with groups, organisations, neighbourhoods, schools, etc. that make up different communities.
- There will also always be community-wide consultation and opportunities for input.
- We will always seek tangata whenua collaboration and participation. This will be guided by tikanga and rooted in relationships.
- We will work with iwi, hapū, marae and whānau across takiwā, rohe and haukāinga areas of interest. This will always be agreed on by tangata whenua and can vary from operational input to Māori technical expertise to formal representation.
- We will work with and follow any Council tangata whenua governance model and existing relationship agreements.
- We will always be open to tangata whenua – led adaptation and resilience planning. We will take a supportive role that will be agreed upon in each project.

## Part 2 Outline

1. The programme stages / programme design
2. Strategic context (legislation and other strategies that the programme feeds into and supports)
3. Detailed issues and opportunities
4. Resources and resource requirements
5. Risks and how we'll manage them
6. Measuring success
7. Changes to programme and programme management