



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

AGENDA

Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Council Chamber
Memorial Ave
Kaikohe

Membership:

Far North District Council Appointed Representative Kelly Stratford
Far North District Council Appointed Representative (Alternate) Arohanui Allen
Far North District Council Iwi/Hapū Representative Nyze Manuel
Kaipara District Council Iwi/Hapū Representative Fiona Kemp
Kaipara District Council Iwi/Hapū Representative (Alternate) Snow Tane
Northland Regional Council Appointed Representative Arama Morunga
Northland Regional Council Appointed Representative (Alternate) Amy Macdonald
Northland Regional Council Iwi/Hapū Representative George Riley
Northland Regional Council Iwi/Hapū Representative (Alternate) Rowan Tautari
Whangārei District Council Appointed Representative Scott McKenzie
Whangārei District Council Appointed Representative (Alternate) Nicholas Cannop
Whangārei District Council Iwi/Hapū Representative Delaraine Armstrong
Whangārei District Council Iwi/Hapū Representative (Alternate) Hinemoa Apetera

Far North District Council
Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee Meeting
will be held in the Council Chamber, Memorial Ave, Kaikohe on:
Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 1:00 pm

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER**2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA ME NGĀ PĀNGA MEMA / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Committee and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to review the matters on the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a Member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting or of the relevant item of business and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item. If a Member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the Chief Executive Officer or the Manager - Democracy Services (preferably before the meeting).

It is noted that while members can seek advice the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

3 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

3.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

File Number: A5623810

Author: Rhonda-May Whiu, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To outline the process for appointing the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) at the first meeting of the 2025–2028 triennium.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee must appoint a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson at its first meeting, as required under the Local Government Act 2002. The administering council will call for nominations. If more than one nomination is received for either role, the Committee must choose a voting system (System A or System B). Staff recommend **System A**.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Climate Change Adaption Committee:

- a) use **System A (Clause 25, Schedule 7, Local Government Act 2002)** if more than one nomination is received.
- b) elect _____ as **Chairperson of the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee for the triennium October 2025 to 2028**.
- c) elect _____ as **Deputy Chairperson of the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee for the triennium October 2025 to 2028**.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee is a standing joint committee of Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council, and Whangārei District Council, with tangata whenua representation.

At the first meeting of each triennium the Committee must elect its Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Election process

- Nominations are called by the administering council.
- Each nomination requires a mover and seconder.
- If only one nomination is received, that nominee is declared elected.
- If multiple nominations are received, the Committee must select a voting system (A or B).

System A

- Requires a majority of votes.
- Uses sequential voting rounds.
- Less likely to result in a decision being made by lot.

System B

- Single voting round.
- Ties resolved by lot.

Staff recommended option: System A, as it reduces the chance that the decision is determined by drawing lots.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

System A provides a clearer path to majority support and reduces reliance on random selection. Appointment of a Chair and Deputy Chair is required to enable the Committee to carry out its functions for the triennium.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or budgetary requirements as a result of receiving this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	Not applicable.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Not applicable.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	Not applicable.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	Not applicable.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	Not applicable.
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no financial implications or budgetary provisions as a result of this report.
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report

3.2 CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

File Number: A5623893

Author: Rhonda-May Whiu, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This paper formally confirms the appointed members of the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) for the 2025–2028 triennium.

It also highlights relevant provisions in the Committee's Terms of Reference (TOR), including:

- the powers and functions of the Committee
- remuneration provisions for non-councillor members

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Based on nominations received from member councils and iwi/hapū partners, the following individuals are confirmed as members of the JCCAC for the new triennium. Noting that elected members are formally discharged at the end of each triennium in accordance with the local government act. The terms of reference state that the Committee is not discharged at triennial elections, and therefore Iwi/Hapū representatives persist.

Elected Member Representatives:

	Primary Appointment	Alternate
Northland Regional Council (NRC)	Arama Morunga	Amy Macdonald
Whangārei District Council (WDC)	Scott McKenzie	Nicholas Connop
Far North District Council (FNDC)	Kelly Stratford	Arohanui Allen
Kaipara District Council (KDC)	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Note: KDC has not appointed a councillor representative currently. The position remains vacant and may be filled at any point during the triennium.		

Iwi/Hapū Representatives:

Northland Regional Council (NRC)	George Riley	Rowan Tautari
Whangārei District Council (WDC)	Delaraine Armstrong	Hinemoa Apetera
Far North District Council (FNDC)	Nyze Manuel	
Kaipara District Council (KDC)	Fiona Kemp	Snow Tane

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee receive the report Confirmation of Membership.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Powers and Functions of the Committee under the Terms of Reference

The TOR establishes the JCCAC as a standing joint committee of all four Northland councils and iwi/hapū representatives. Key responsibilities include:

- Providing direction and oversight for climate change adaptation activities across Te Taitokerau.
- Receiving advice and providing guidance to Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau (CATT).
- Making recommendations back to member councils to support a consistent regional approach to adaptation.
- Acting collectively as an advocate for climate adaptation across the region.
- Ensuring consistent communication and shared understanding of climate change risks and adaptation work.
- Receiving progress reports from CATT and advising on ongoing work programmes.

Powers and Functions of the Committee under the Local Government Act

- Mayors may hold ex-officio membership status where this is supported by the LGA and not modified by the joint-committee agreement. Ex-officio members retain the same rights as other members unless the agreement specifies otherwise.
- Invite or appoint of observer members, who may participate in discussions but do not have voting rights. Observers are not remunerated, can be appointed at any time by resolution of the Committee.
- Engage with national agencies to share information and operation experience or provided the Committee does not state a formal policy position on behalf of member councils without authorisation.
- Request and receive technical advice from staff, consultants, crown agencies and sector bodies as part of gathering information to support the Committee function.
- Establish informal working groups in an advisory capacity to support the work programme.

Remuneration of Non-Council Members

- The TOR notes that remuneration for non-councillor iwi/hapū representatives is to be provided in line with either the non-elected members remuneration policy of that council or alternatively the Northland Regional Council Non-Elected Members Allowances Policy. Failure to comply with the adopted joint-committee agreement is a governance and administrative breach. Northland Regional Council as acting administrative body can confirm entitlement and work to resolve non-compliance with Council members. This is to avoid attracting attention of the Ombudsman if a complaint is made, or exposure to Audit risk (under sensitive expenditure and fairness) if raised through the Office of the Auditor-General.

Relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) Provisions

- *Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee – Terms of Reference*

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or need for budgetary provision in receiving this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. [TOR-joint-climate-change-adaptation-committee-2025-2028 - A5637399](#)  

Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC)**Terms of Reference (TOR)****Background**

Climate change poses significant risks to the environment and people of Te Tai Tokerau - local government has responsibilities in reducing the impact of climate change (adaptation). It is essential that councils, communities and iwi / hapū work collaboratively to ensure an effective, efficient and equitable response to the impacts of climate change. Work on adaptation has already started between council staff with the formation of the joint staff working group Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau and the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Tai Tokerau. The formation of a joint standing committee of the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei district councils and Northland Regional Council elected council members and iwi / hapū is fundamental to ensuring these outcomes are achieved in a coordinated and collaborative way across Te Tai Tokerau.

Role and Responsibilities

- 1) Provide direction and oversight of the development and implementation of climate change adaptation activities by local government in Te Tai Tokerau
- 2) Receive advice and provide direction and support to Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau
- 3) Make recommendations to member councils to ensure a consistent regional approach is adopted to climate change adaptation activities
- 4) Act collectively as an advocate for climate change adaptation generally and within the individual bodies represented on the Committee
- 5) Ensure the bodies represented on the Committee are adequately informed of adaptation activity in Te Tai Tokerau and the rationale for these activities
- 6) Ensure the importance of and the rationale for climate change adaptation is communicated consistently within Te Tai Tokerau
- 7) Receive progress reports from Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau

Membership

The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (the committee) is a standing committee made up of elected members from the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei district councils, the Northland Regional Council and representatives from Northland hapū and iwi.

The committee shall have eight members as follows:

One elected member from:

- Kaipara District Council
- Far North District Council
- Whangarei District Council
- Northland Regional Council

Iwi / hapū members:

One representative from iwi / hapū appointed by each council from within their jurisdiction. Where possible, this appointment should follow recommendations from council Māori advisory groups or committees.

Each council shall also appoint one alternative elected member and one alternative iwi / hapū member who will have full speaking and voting rights when formally acting as the alternate.

Status

The Committee is a joint standing committee of council as provided for under Clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of Clause 30A of that Act. The committee is an advisory body only and has no powers under the Local Government Act 2002 (or any other Act) other than those delegated by decision of all member councils. The joint standing committee shall operate under Northland Regional Council Standing Orders.

Committee Chair and deputy Chair:

The Chair and Deputy Chair is to be appointed by the members at the first meeting of the committee.

Quorum

At least 50% of members shall be present to form a quorum.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet a minimum of two times per annum.

Service of meetings:

The Northland Regional Council will provide secretarial and administrative support to the joint committee.

Draft agendas are to be prepared by Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau and approved by the Chair of the Committee prior to the Committee meeting.

Remuneration

Remuneration and / or reimbursement for costs incurred by council members is the responsibility of each council.

Respective iwi / hapū representatives will be remunerated and reimbursed by the nominating council in accordance with either the non-elected members remuneration policy of that council or alternatively the Northland Regional Council Non-Elected Members Allowances Policy.

Joint Committee not discharged at triennial elections

Pursuant to Clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the councils have resolved that this joint committee is not discharged at the triennial elections. However, on coming into office following an election, a council may choose to review its appointments on the committee.

Amendments

Any amendment to the Terms of Reference or other arrangements of the Committee shall be subject to approval by all member councils.

3.3 CLIMATE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS FOR NORTHLAND WATER DONE WELL

File Number: A5601819

Author: Aya Morris, Net Zero & Sustainability Programme Lead

Authoriser: Roger Ackers, Head of Strategic Reform Initiatives

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To propose that the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee recommends to the Establishment Advisory Group and Elected Members Steering Group for the new Northland Water Done Well council-controlled organisation that community adaptation planning and emissions reduction opportunities should be considered during the scoping and preparation phase for the new water services entity.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A new regional water services entity is to be jointly established by Northland's three district councils to manage potable water and wastewater in the region. It is presently in a scoping and preparation phase.
- There are opportunities for the new entity to take climate action through its establishment operations, supporting existing climate policy, strategy and plans for each council and for the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.
- Water infrastructure will be increasingly impacted by climate change over time.
- Councils' community adaptation planning will set requirements for water infrastructure.
- Climate mitigation in the form of emissions reduction must be implemented by the new water services entity if Northland's district councils are to meet their existing emissions reduction commitments.
- Climate Action Loans available through the Local Government Funding Agency offer the new water services entity an opportunity to progress climate action through incorporating climate adaptation and emissions reduction within planning processes for new water infrastructure and renewals for existing water infrastructure.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee:

recommends to the Establishment Advisory Group and Elected Members Steering Group for the new Northland Water Done Well council-controlled organisation that community adaptation planning and emissions reduction opportunities should be considered during the scoping and preparation phase for the new water services entity.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

A new regional water services entity for Northland, presently known as Northland Water Done Well, is to be established.¹ This new council-controlled organisation (CCO) will be jointly owned by Northland's three district councils, and is presently in the scoping and preparation phase. Therefore, it is a suitable time for the Establishment Advisory Group (EAG) and Elected Members Steering Group (EMSG) overseeing the CCO establishment to consider opportunities for the new water services entity to implement climate action.

Northland's district councils will transfer existing wastewater and potable water infrastructure to the new entity once it is established, while retaining responsibility for stormwater management. Responsibility for the delivery of wastewater services and potable water services across Northland

¹ [Northland Water Done Well - Whangarei District Council](#)

will then sit with the new water services entity. The transition period for the transfer of assets and service delivery from the district councils to the CCO is expected to begin during FY2026-27.

The projected impacts of climate change on water infrastructure will be significant within Northland, as changing weather patterns are expected to deliver an increased frequency of drought, particularly in northern and western areas, alongside increased frequency of severe weather events and heavy rainfall.²

Rising sea levels and rising groundwater levels will also impact water infrastructure, as many of the region's wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) are in coastal locations projected to be impacted by rising seas, coastal erosion, and increased storm surge severity, potentially leading to events similar to the recent catastrophic failure of the Moa Point WWTP in Wellington, which triggered an independent review by the Crown.³

Emissions reduction for wastewater has an important role to play in climate change mitigation and in progressing nationwide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets set out in legislation.⁴ Aligning local emissions reduction efforts with national targets can assist to mitigate the severity of climate change, while also lowering operating costs and reducing exposure risk to future carbon pricing and expensive retrofits for water infrastructure. GHG emissions from wastewater primarily comprise methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).⁵ Biogenic methane emitted by wastewater is relevant to the national split-gas emissions reduction target, which requires a 10% reduction in biogenic methane emissions by 2030.⁶

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Climate action opportunities for the new water services CCO have significance for the Northland region, both in terms of climate adaptation and climate change mitigation. **Strategic and Organisational Risks for Water Infrastructure**

Much of Northland's water infrastructure will require upgrades in response to years of underinvestment.⁷ In some cases, water infrastructure may require relocation to areas less vulnerable to climate change impacts, to reduce the risk that potable water may be contaminated, or that untreated or partially treated wastewater might be discharged to waterways or the marine environment.⁹ It would be sensible to target emissions reduction alongside climate adaptation during these infrastructure upgrades and potential relocations for water infrastructure.

With a typical design life of 30-50 years, infrastructure invested in today will still be operating in 2030 and 2050 and will contribute to net emissions and to compliance with national and international emissions reduction targets. It is therefore critical that these targets are embedded in current design, investment and operational decisions to ensure long-term compliance and avoid costly retrofits.

Failure to implement climate change adaptation for water infrastructure could expose Northland councils to increased reputational, financial, legal and compliance impacts. Infrastructure failure also has potential cultural implications for Māori if these failures impact on the health of lands and waters.

Existing Climate Policy, Strategy and Plans for Northland

Northland councils have previously indicated their intent to align with national emissions reduction targets through the development and adoption of climate policy, strategy and plans. Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy, adopted in 2022, was developed through a partnership between all

² [Future impacts - Northland Regional Council](#)

³ [Independent review into Moa Point failures | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

⁴ [Climate Change Response \(Zero Carbon\) Amendment Act 2019 No 61, Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

⁵ [Methane and other major greenhouse gases | Ministry for the Environment](#)

⁶ [Climate Change Response \(Zero Carbon\) Amendment Act 2019 No 61, Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

⁷ [Infrastructure-NZ-Policy-Positions-Water-Infrastructure-002.pdf](#)

⁸ [Poor drinking water safety findings reflect long term lack of investment : Water New Zealand](#)

⁹ [NIWA Client report](#)

four Northland councils and tāngata whenua representatives.¹⁰ The strategy sets out a commitment to joint regional adaptation, and community adaptation planning with the new CCO will form part of the regional approach to adaptation.

Each council's community adaptation planning will also affect the CCO's waters services. The purpose is to effectively plan for existing assets and elements of value to community, to manage and reduce risk to council services and to Northland communities. Adopted community adaptation plans will set acceptable levels of risk, impacts to services, and preferred adaptation responses for waters infrastructure services.

Northland Regional Council has set a net zero 2050 target and an intermediate target to halve emissions by 2030.¹¹ Whangarei District Council has published draft science-based targets aligned to the national emissions reduction targets, including net zero emissions by 2050 and a 10% reduction in biogenic methane by 2030.¹² Far North District Council has a net zero 2050 target and recently adopted science-aligned intermediate targets.^{13,14} Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori, FNDC's adaptation programme, outlines commitments to include waters services and assets in community adaptation. Kaipara District Council has previously adopted a net zero 2050 target, which has not been officially cancelled, although work toward this target was paused in 2023 and has not yet been recommenced.¹⁵

Northland's Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Wastewater

Regional data indicates that waste and wastewater accounted for approximately 2% of the Northland region's GHG emissions in 2022.¹⁶ GHG emissions are categorised as Scope 1, direct emissions from fuel, fertilisers, refrigerant gases, waste, and wastewater, where emissions sources are owned or controlled by the emitter; Scope 2, indirect emissions from purchased electricity; and Scope 3, indirect emissions from goods and services.

Northland Councils' Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Wastewater

Corporate GHG emissions inventories completed by Northland councils to date demonstrate that wastewater emissions form a significant share of corporate emissions. Wastewater emissions totalled over 5000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) for the Far North District in FY2022-23,¹⁷ 4500 tCO₂e for the Kaipara District in 2021,¹⁸ and 4,939 tCO₂e for the Whangarei District in 2022.¹⁹ When ownership of water infrastructure is transferred to the new CCO, the emissions generated by this infrastructure will change category from Scope 1 (direct emissions) to Scope 3 (indirect emissions from supply chain), and will still be counted as corporate emissions for the councils.

Climate Action Loans

Climate Action Loans from the Local Government Funding Agency are available both to councils and to the new entities formed through Local Water Done Well, if science-aligned emissions reduction plans are set in place and emissions are measured and verified for assurance purposes.²⁰ This lending at a lower loan margin can offer a potential avenue to fund upgrades for water infrastructure. These loans are not tied to specific projects and may be used to reduce interest costs by refinancing existing debt, such as the \$1m debt which is to be transferred from Whangarei District Council to the new CCO on its inception.²¹

¹⁰ [Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy - Te Taitokerau Can!](#)

¹¹ [Media releases - Northland Regional Council - 'Ambitious' plan to slash council carbon emissions - Northland Regional Council](#)

¹² [Draft Emission Reduction Plan 2023](#)

¹³ [Climate-Action-Policy.pdf](#)

¹⁴ https://www.youtube.com/live/4vvJYhrABxQ?si=0_X5D-P44T1LcxkR

¹⁵ [The Climate Action Plan - Climate Change, Kaipara District Council](#)

¹⁶ [Northland's climate issues and emissions - Northland Regional Council](#)

¹⁷ [Council Emissions | Far North District Council](#)

¹⁸ [Kaipara District Council Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report FY21](#)

¹⁹ [Draft Emission Reduction Plan 2023](#)

²⁰ [Climate Action Loans | New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency](#)

²¹ [Northland Water Done Well - Whangarei District Council](#)

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation has been made in response to the ongoing work underway to establish the new Northland Water Done Well CCO.

Water infrastructure in Northland is vulnerable to the projected impacts of climate change, and climate adaptation will be necessary for infrastructure in future. Active collaboration with the CCO is critical to successful community adaptation planning, and to the management and reduction of risk to water services and infrastructure.

As the new CCO's emissions will continue to contribute to the emissions footprints for each of Northland's three district councils in future, it is timely to consider how emissions reduction will be implemented by the new CCO. The incorporation of both climate adaptation and emissions reduction considerations in planning for water infrastructure can reduce exposure to future carbon pricing, avoiding costly retrofits and stranded assets, alongside potential to deliver lower operating costs.

Support for climate change mitigation action may make the new CCO eligible for Climate Action Loans, creating opportunities to fund climate adaptation work alongside climate change mitigation work for Northland's water infrastructure.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no costs for the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee to make a recommendation to the EAG and EMSG for the new Northland Water Done Well CCO.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	The proposal has a low level of significance as defined by Far North District Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as it is consistent with existing policy and plans.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	FNDC Climate Action Policy FNDC Climate Change Roadmap FNDC Far North 2100 Strategy KDC Climate Action Plan NRC Climate Change Strategy WDC Draft Climate Action Plan Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act (2019) Local Government Act (2002) Resource Management Act (1991)
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	The proposal has regional relevance.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	Climate change mitigation and adaptation have implications for Māori as lands and waterways, as well as indigenous biodiversity, are vulnerable to climate change impacts. Māori leaders are involved in decision-making by the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example	All the groups named are affected by climate change, alongside the general population.

– youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no financial implications.
Chief Financial Officer review.	Not applicable for JCCAC reports.

3.4 PROGRAMME UPDATE

File Number: A5623898

Author: Rakesh Pinao, Regional Climate Adaptation Programme Co-Lead, Northland Regional Council

Authoriser: Roger Ackers, Group Manager - Planning and Policy

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the committee with information on the climate adaptation programme across the region, and to enable the committee to give informed and strategic guidance to the climate adaptation programme delivery staff.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Several adaptation planning projects are in progress across the region, including tangata-whenua led projects of different types, as well as larger scale Community Adaptation Planning projects.

Underway now, the two large Community Adaptation Planning projects are:

- Stage 1: Hokianga, Herekino, Whangapē, Waimāmaku (Far North)
- Whangaruru-Oakura (Whangārei)

Across the region, tangata whenua-led project types include;

- Council support (tools & guidance)
- Climate change risk assessment
- Climate adaptation planning

Below is a Council report against those activities.

Note:

1. *Tangata whenua-led projects are not reporting directly to the committee. These reports come via Council and so are limited to stage or reporting based information, not the latest update from each project.*

2. *This programme update has been provided in a proposed new format that elevates current adaptation planning projects and the most relevant programme activities for the committee to review.*

3. *Staff welcome feedback on further per project reporting structure if sort by the committee.*

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee receive the report Programme Update.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Adaptation Planning Update (Priority Action T29, T30, T09, T10)

Committee to give strategic direction to climate adaptation planning projects

Far North District

Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori - Community Adaptation Programme

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika | Far North District Council adopted an accelerated Community Adaptation Programme, Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori, in August 2025. The Community Adaptation Programme is held up by three pou, shown in Figure 1 below. The full programme can be found on [Adaptation | Far North District Council](#).

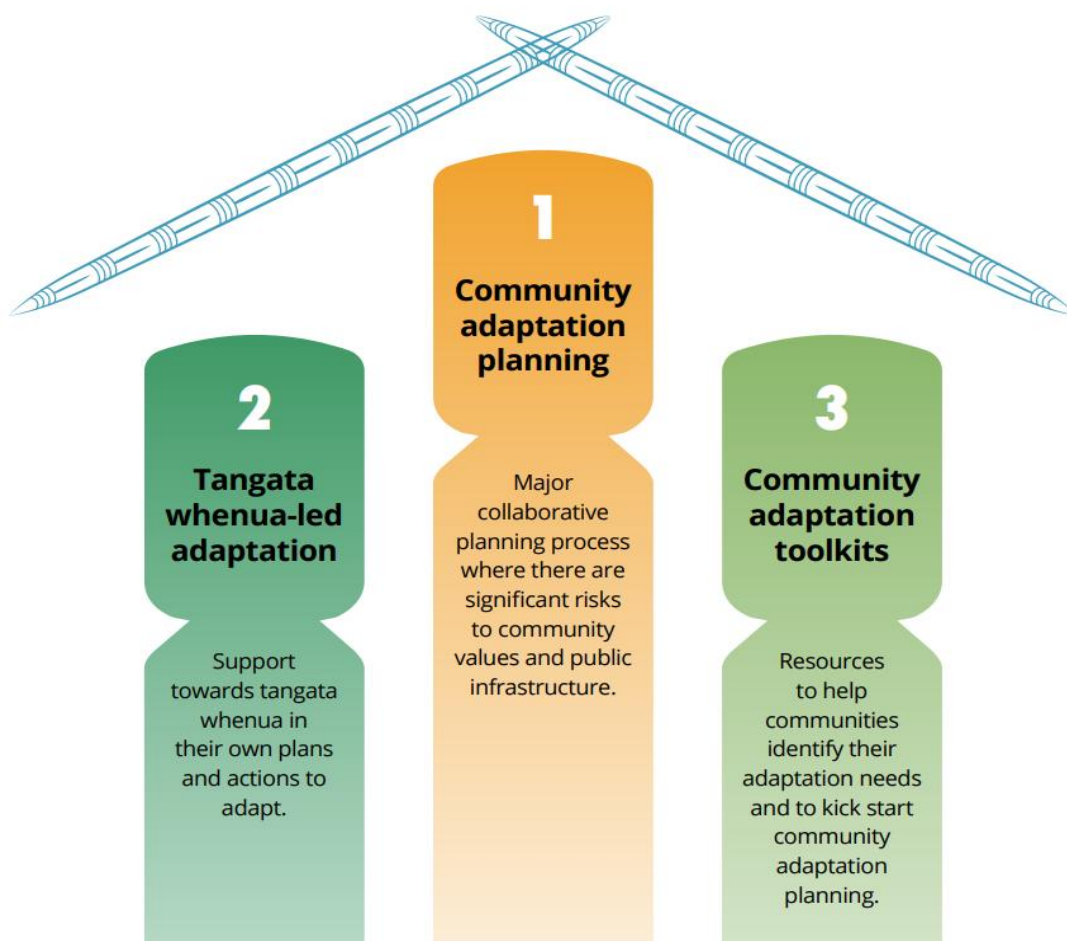


Figure 1 Community Adaptation Programme

Pou 1, Community Adaptation Planning is described in the following section.

Pou 2, Tuia ngā tai o te ao – Tangata whenua-led adaptation includes He Ara Ki Tua: tools and resources to support tangata whenua in their own adaptation planning.

- *This video introduces He ara ki tua: [Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Planning](#) .*
- *The resources are now available at [Pou 2 Tangata Whenua-Led Adaptation | Far North District Council](#).*

Pou 3, Community Adaptation Toolkits are practical resources to help communities get a headstart on adaptation planning. Staff are finalising a plan to launch the toolkits and aim to release them in April 2026.

The resources in Pou 2 and Pou 3 can be used across Te Taitokerau.

Pou 1, Community Adaptation Planning

Stage One Community Adaptation Planning is FNDC's main community adaptation planning project. The project delivery team is made up of FNDC, NRC and consultants from Tonkin & Taylor, Isthmus, and ĀKAU. Stage One is in phase one, scoping and context setting. Attachment 1, Stage One project summary, shows the key activities and deliverables for each phase. This attachment also outlines anticipated governance touchpoints.

In February the project team travelled across North and South Hokianga to meet with local community groups and tangata whenua. The team introduced the project goals with an early look at the natural hazards risks. They listened to feedback from locals on a range of topics; from the role of councils in communities, previous council projects and concerns, opportunities to improve council-community working, how to realise community values, and how to understand council levels of service. These broad discussions signalled the beginning of an adaptation conversation with communities about values, risks and opportunities for the future given our changing climate. This haerenga was the main engagement event of phase one and will inform the Stage One scoping. Images below show the in-place in-formal discussion from the haerenga.



Whangārei District

Community Adaptation Planning

Whangarei District Council (WDC) continues to progress the Climate Adaptation Programme, funded through the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan, to support proactive planning for communities and infrastructure exposed to climate and natural hazard risks.

As part of this programme, WDC is delivering Whangaruru/Oakura Community Adaptation Planning Pilot, the first catchment-scale adaptation planning initiative in the district. The pilot will test adaptation planning approaches, incorporate lessons learnt that can inform future work in other catchment communities.

In the initial stages of the pilot, the project team focused on project scoping, coordination across Council teams, and building relationships with Ngātiwai Trust Board, local communities, and partner agencies.

The project will soon transition into its next phase. The project team has drafted the project plan and procurement documentation to engage a specialist consortium to undertake the technical components of the adaptation planning work. The project team is currently preparing for a Council briefing scheduled for 1 April 2026, where the team will provide an overview of the programme, an update on progress, and the next steps.

The programme continues to align with the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Tangata Whenua-Led Climate Change Fund

The Tangata Whenua-Led Climate Change Fund supports Priority Actions 9 and 10 of the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy 2022, enabling tangata whenua-led climate risk assessments and adaptation planning across the district.

Funding has been allocated through the contestable fund to seven recipients, and projects are currently progressing well. Dedicated project management support has been established to assist recipients with project delivery and ensure outcomes are achieved without drawing on Council operational budgets.

The fund has also supported collaboration and knowledge sharing among recipients. A regional networking event was held on 1 December 2025, providing an opportunity for recipients to share progress and experiences. The event included presentations from Te Waiariki, Ngāti Kororā, and Ngāti Takapari Hapū Iwi Trust, who previously completed a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Strategy with Better Off Funding support. This earlier project served as a case study and proof of concept for the types of resources and planning outputs the contestable fund recipients are expected to develop.

Funding agreements with recipients run through to December 2026, with payments linked to agreed project milestones. While delivery is progressing well, the milestone-based nature of the funding means there is some schedule risk in ensuring that all projects meet agreed timelines.

Council staff will continue to provide monitoring and support to recipients to help ensure successful delivery of the funded projects.

Kaipara District

Tangata Whenua-Led Adaptation Planning Pilot - Te Uri o Hau

Following Kaipara District Council's disestablishment of the Ruawai Adaptation Project, Northland Regional Council redirected partnership resourcing for adaptation planning to tangata whenua partners in the district. Given the concentration of coastal hazard risk affecting Te Uri o Hau marae and communities, an adaptation planning project was scoped and approved in late 2025 as a district flagship plan.

To initiate work promptly where risk is concentrated, NRC used a direct partnership approach with Te Uri o Hau for this Pilot. This reflected: (i) clear exposure at specific marae (ii) areas outside major district council assets; (iii) limited supplier market; and (iv) internal capacity constraints to run a full contestable process.

Phase 1 (planning and setup) is nearing completion. Phase 2 will begin shortly, focusing on risk assessment and marae-led engagement. The project covers three Te Uri o Hau marae (outside Ruawai). It will develop Māori approaches to adaptation and build capability within Te Uri o Hau to support future decision-making. Emphasis on Te Ao Māori decision-making (Te Mana o Te Ao

Turoa), hapū capability, and sustained engagement as core elements of the wider community adaptation planning outcomes.

Phase 1 deliverables include:

- *Detailed Project Plan; and*
- *Data Sovereignty Agreement.*

Enabling Programme Update

Committee to give strategic direction on enabling projects that improve adaptation planning and adaptive capability.

Note:

4. Attachment 2 provides a list of the proposed enabling programme. The full programme is attached to Priority Actions Reworking paper.

Climate Governance Update

Committee to give strategic direction on effective governance settings (accountabilities, leadership, advocacy, and decision-making) for climate adaptation.

Note:

5. No information is available yet. This is a proposed programme reporting area, to be agreed by the Committee, as part of the Governance Activation Pathway. Where delegations to other committees are reported.

Legislative Implications & Policy Update

Committee to give strategic direction on legislative and policy changes for climate adaptation.

All council options for policy and planning are impacted by current legislative reforms underway at present. This impacts adaptation planning, and any climate change outcomes from existing policy.

Note:




6. A separate information paper is provided to the Committee on legislative changes.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications in receiving this report

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 - Stage One Project Summary - A5623183** [↓](#) 
2. **Priority Actions - Enabling Programme Update to Feb 2026 - A5623928** [↓](#) 
3. **Te Tai Tokerau Climate Action Programme - Performance Scorecard to March 2026 - A5623958** [↓](#) 



Project Initiation	Phase one: Stocktake + scoping	Phase two: Establishment + frameworks	Phase three: What's happening + What matters most?	Phase four: What can we do about it?	Phase five: How will we do it?	Finalise Plans
	By March 26 (4 months)	By May 26 (2 months)	By October 26 (5 months)	By March 27 (4 months)	By December 27 (6 months)	
Engagement						
Local-Led Enablers & Adaptation Experts	● ●	●	● ●	● ●	● ● ● ●	
Community Panels		● setup Community Panels	Community Panels Design week #1	Community Panels Design week #2		● circle back to community recommendations
Strategic & Technical Advisory	●		●	● ●	● ●	
Project Lead Team	● ●	● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●	
Public-Wide Engagement						● wider public engagement
Governance Decision Making						
	● For Information Project Plan and initial briefing	● DRAFT Stage One Scoping Report	● FINAL Community Panel ToR/ DECISION	● FINAL Stage One Scoping Report/ DECISION	● Adaptation Plan Outcomes + community risk profiles briefing/ WORKSHOP	● FINAL Adaptation Plan Outcomes + community risk profiles Report
					● DRAFT Options shortlist briefing/ WORKSHOP	● FINAL Options shortlist/ DECISION
					● DRAFT Pathways Briefing/ WORKSHOP	● DRAFT Community Adaptation Plans - Briefing DECISION to engage
						● FINAL Community Adaptation Plans DECISION
Tasks						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Strategic Advisory Panel - Haukainga Kaitiaki Immersive haerenga Spatial mapping for areas of current focus and momentum- local knowledge, landscape and settlement patterns. Natural Hazard, Risk and Policy/ planning stocktake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess existing Kaupapa Māori frameworks, Develop outcomes compass and values framework tools Advise on data sovereignty and compensation protocols Establish community panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immersive Design Week #1 with Community Panels Collation and interpretation of participatory inputs, including technical review of risk + vulnerability mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine outcomes compass evaluation tools. Longlist adaptation response options - evaluation Immersive Design Week #2 with Community Panels Shortlist adaptation response options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways design and selection Develop draft Community Adaptation Plans Public engagement Review feedback and finalise Plans. 		
Deliverables						
Draft Stage One scoping report including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial maps and infographics depicting existing risk data, locally-led planning / focus areas/ gaps. 	Stage One scoping report and frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-developed comms and engagement plan Kaupapa Māori values framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Week #1 with Communities: collation and reporting, vision and values, focus areas. Community risk profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Week #2 with Communities: collation, evaluation and priorities. Options/ extend from stakeholders Options shortlist, pathways design and selection. 	Community Adaptation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Plans for review and consultation Final Community Adaptation Plans 		
Planning for success: Te Hōtaka Urutau Hāpori Adaptation Outcomes						
✓	✓					Build strong working relationships between Council staff and tangata whenua.
✓	✓		✓		✓	Use the best practice, evidence, latest science and local experiences.
✓	✓		✓		✓	Follow kōrero tuku iho, pūrākau, mātāuranga Māori and Te Atuatanga Māori.
✓			✓		✓	Support the development of plans that are ready for uptake and implementation by Council.
✓			✓		✓	Align Council and other groups' services, resources and functions with adaptation plans.
✓		✓	✓		✓	Respond to the readiness, needs and aspirations of communities.
✓			✓		✓	Support community capacity and capability to identify adaptation needs and advocate for adaptation responses.
✓			✓		✓	Awahi tamaki and rangatahi voices and ensure they have real power in adaptation decisions.
✓	✓					Actively support tangata whenua-led resilience and adaptation planning.

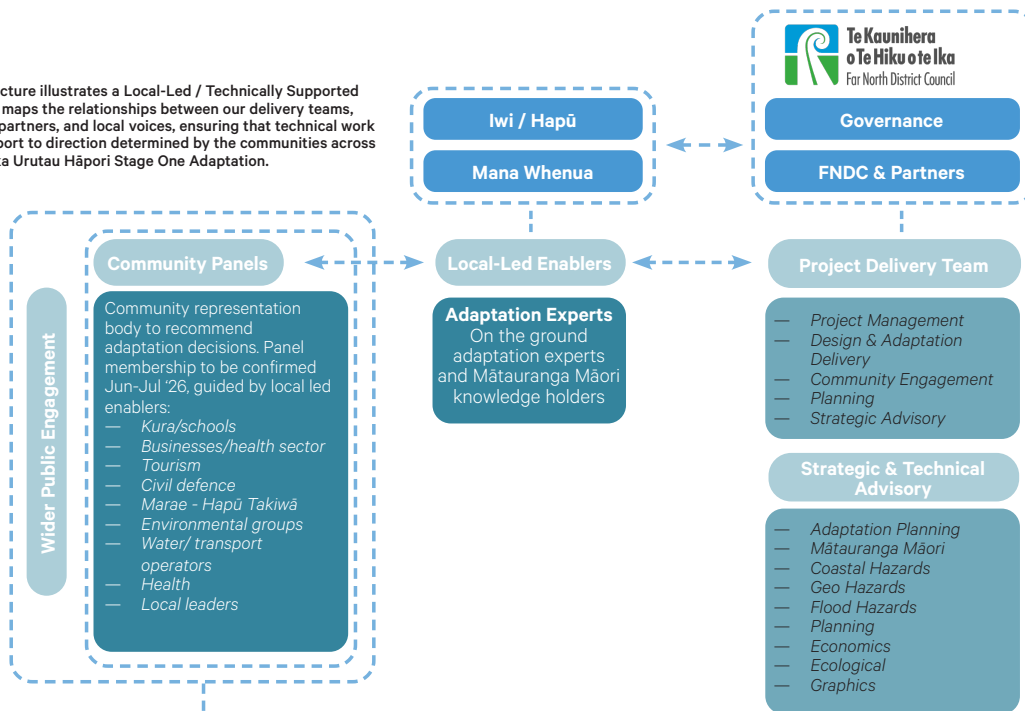
Te Hōtaka Urutau Hāpori.
 Methodology & Programme Overview -S1
 Far North District Council.
 13 February 2026.



Kotahitanga: Working Together for Resilience.

Haukainga Rōpū

This structure illustrates a Local-Led / Technically Supported model. It maps the relationships between our delivery teams, regional partners, and local voices, ensuring that technical work is in support to direction determined by the communities across Te Hōtaka Urutau Hāpori Stage One Adaptation.



Te Hōtaka Urutau Hāpori.
Methodology & Programme Overview -S1
Far North District Council.
13 February 2026.

Priority Actions - Enabling Programme Update to Feb 2026

Created on 03/03/2025
Created by Rakesh Pinao

Grow Relationships			
Activity Description	Previous Due Date	Status Update	Updated Due Date
T03 - Clarify funding responsibilities Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee <i>Develop shared understanding on clear responsibilities for the funding and management of adaptation responses, especially between regional and district councils (e.g. for coastal structures).</i>	End 2022	Next LTP Previous LTP bids have secured individual council funding. It is recommended that after the Climate Adaptation Framework is completed by Government the JCCAC forms a set of regional recommendations for funding to support LTP planning	Oct 2026
T07 - Community awareness All Councils collaboration <i>Develop a communications and engagement plan to address the needs of the Te Tai Tokerau Adaptation Strategy, including media releases, publication of key documents, and internet and social media presence.</i>	End 2021	Ongoing The engagement season for FY25/26 is underway with a focus on Adaptation Planning projects, and limited summer community days. Our own Coastal Conversations event is planned for May with one in Whangarei and another in Far North and online staff and governance sessions proposed.	Ongoing
Improve knowledge and understanding			
Activity Description	Previous Due Date	Status Update	Updated Due Date
T11 - Consistent infrastructure risk assessment criteria All Councils collaboration <i>Develop consistent standards and processes for undertaking risk assessments for council assets and infrastructure (e.g. agreed criteria, hazard scenarios and damage functions).</i>	Dec 2022	Partial Regional risk portal (Resilience explorer) allows all adaptation planning to utilise a consistent data set and risk assessment methodology, including allowing for tailoring per project. Roll out of the system to climate adaptation staff is underway. Use for Infrastructure Planning as part of the LTP is possible for Council Asset and Infrastructure Planners form a strategic level. More detailed asset specific analysis will require asset data integration as required.	Jun 2026
T18 - River flood risk assessment Northland Regional Council <i>Undertake risk assessments for communities exposed to flooding using region-wide flood model projections, and use this information to prioritise future flood management programmes. Ensure all river flood models include consistent climate change factors, including rainfall intensity and sea level rise.</i>	Ongoing	Ongoing River flood modelling improvement programme continues and includes consistent climate change factors for sea-level rise and rainfall intensity. All models are periodically now loaded into the risk portal for consistent use in risk assessments and adaptation planning.	
T19 - Coastal hazards Northland Regional Council <i>Continue to improve coastal hazards assessments, including methods for understanding impacts, considering the combination of river and coastal flooding, sea level rise and ex-tropical cyclones, and coastal erosion.</i>	Ongoing	Ongoing Coastal hazards have not been updated, but the current coastal erosion hazards have been reviewed against national coastal erosions research database. Priority open coastal areas for erosion risk assessment have been identified. NRC supported a National research bid to consider erosion of harbours and estuaries but was not successful.	
T20 - Land hazard data Northland Regional Council <i>Collate existing information on geotechnical instability and slips in a common spatial database; and look for research partnerships (e.g. GNS, Waka Kotahi, NTA) to further develop information and data.</i>	Dec 2022	In Progress A map of the landslides triggered by the 2026 rainfall events, as well as aerial photographs and LiDAR of the affected area is underway. This mapping will form the basis of future hazard modelling and landslide forecasting. NRC partnering with Earth Sciences NZ on Landslide hazard model for Northland. Future project planned for 2026/27 financial year, building on the current landslide mapping project.	June 2027
T21 - Wildfire hazard data Northland Regional Council <i>Collate information on projected fire hazards and at-risk landscape information in a common spatial database; and look for research partnerships (e.g. FENZ, Scion) to further develop information and data.</i>	Dec 2022	Not funded Future project planned for 2027/28 financial year. In the meantime staff monitor national modelling and ensure that information is implemented in tools such as Resilience Explorer and cross referenced on our website.	~2028
T22 - Coastal aquifers Northland Regional Council <i>Further develop groundwater models to predict aquifer responses to sea level rise and over extraction from coastal aquifers.</i>	Medium-term	Not funded No funding at present. Requires prioritisation with the Natural Science team's work programme.	~2030
T23 - Community drought adaptation opportunities All Councils collaboration	Dec 2023	Not funded No funding at present. Requires prioritisation with the Natural Science team's work programme.	~2027

Priority Actions - Enabling Programme Update to Feb 2026

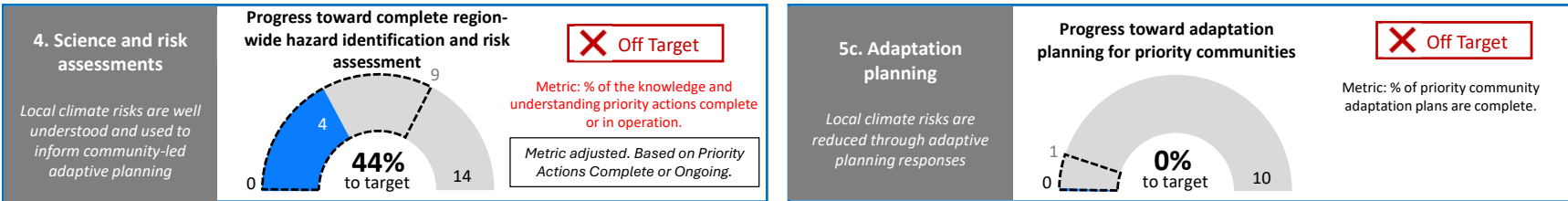
Created on 03/03/2025
Created by Rakesh Pinao

<p><i>Collate data on drought vulnerability, and develop community vulnerability assessments. (N.B. The responsibility for this item may be impacted by the Three Waters Reform process.) Investigate priority hapū and community needs and existing adaptation/water resilience programmes/actions; and clarify opportunities for the Councils to add value by facilitating adaptation planning.</i></p>			
<p>Reduce risk and vulnerability</p>			
Activity Description	Previous Due Date	Status Update	Updated Due Date
T27 - Region-wide coastal management policy All Councils collaboration <i>Investigate and apply a coordinated and integrated approach to coastline management in regional policy. For example, include a requirement to develop adaptation plans where significant hard coastal protection works, major development or infrastructure is being considered, (N.B. RMA reforms will impact this item and review may be required.)</i>	Long-term	<p>Delayed No opportunity or appetite for policy development since late 2023. Interim measures to enhance engagement around benefits of nature and to improve risk communication in the coastal environment. Awaiting reform clarity.</p>	TBC
T28 - Embed community adaptation plans All Councils collaboration <i>Investigate and develop methodologies to embed adaptive pathways plans into planning regimes, including using environmental cues to trigger changes to planning rules (N.B. RMA reforms will impact this item and review may be required.)</i>	Ongoing	<p>Delayed A formal mandate for adaptation planning is expected as part of the Climate Change Response Act amendment due out mid 2026.</p>	TBC
T35 - Water tank assistance All Councils collaboration <i>Provide assistance to remote communities to install water collection, storage and treatment with a focus on community resilience, e.g. NRC's water tank programme.</i>	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing Largely supported by NRC resilience grants. The demand for community groups exceeds available funding.</p>	
T36 - Water resilience funding coordination All Councils collaboration <i>Improve coordination between agencies to build collaborative, aligned water resilience responses including: tangata whenua, CDEM, District Councils (Four Waters Advisory Group), and agencies (FENZ, MPI, TPK, DIA).</i>	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing Largely supported by NRC resilience grants. The demand for community groups exceeds available funding.</p>	
<p>Build capacity</p>			
Activity Description	Previous Due Date	Status Update	Updated Due Date
T37 - Communication to elected members Individual Councils <i>Ensure clear reporting of organisational and regional climate change risks and progress on adaptation/response actions to decision-makers, including mandatory disclosure of climate change implications to elected members in reports.</i>	Ongoing	<p>Partial Climate considerations are present in most major reports and planning documents, except for the Kaipara District Council. However, consistent and effective inclusion in all decision reports, especially at the operational level is still evolving for all councils.</p>	
T38 - Joint climate change policy framework All Councils collaboration <i>Develop consistency between climate change policies that embed consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation responses in all council decision-making (which may also include council emissions reduction). This framework should define approaches and principles on data/information, definitions, reporting, standards and criteria.</i>	2023	<p>Delayed Initial policy work was undertaken in 2023 by FNDC, WDC and KDC. No work is currently planned until legislative and policy changes are enacted.</p>	TBC
T42 - Alignment of adaptation plans Individual Councils <i>Develop processes to ensure alignment of community adaptation plans with council plans and policies, including long-term plans, infrastructure strategies and financial plans.</i>	Ongoing	<p>Delayed Changes in the legislative and policy system will have wide implications on this process, and this remains an area of uncertainty for the adaptation plans going into the LTP.</p>	2027

Te Tai Tokerau Climate Action Programme: Performance Scorecard to March 2026

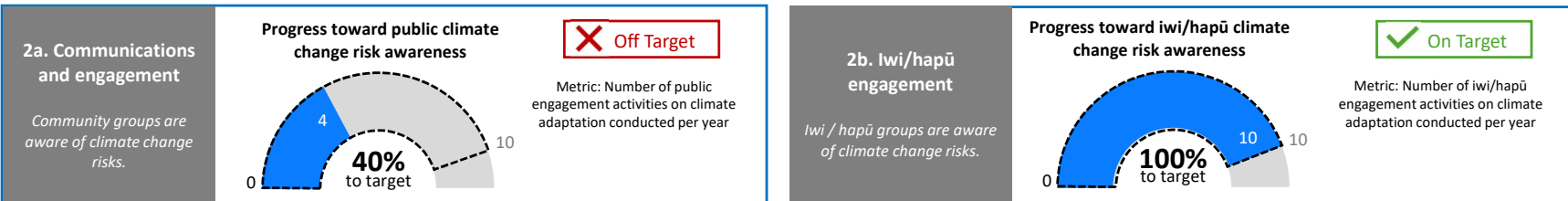
Adaptation: Planning to thrive in a changing world (Theme 4 & 5)

Improving our understanding of the risks of climate change and impacts on our communities, and implementing measures to ensure our communities thrive



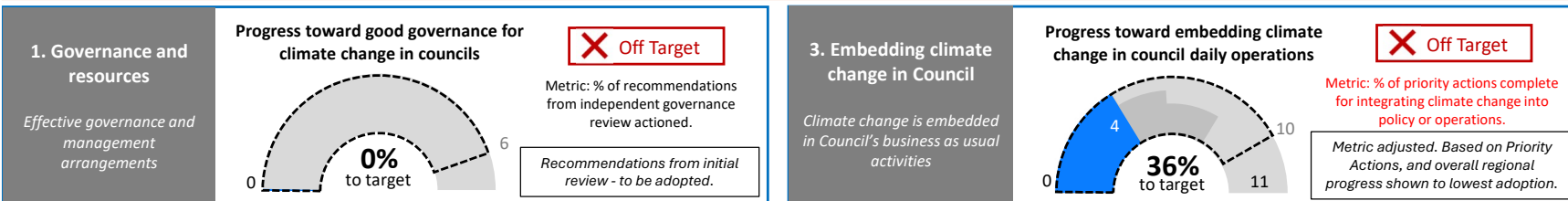
Communications & Engagement (Themes 2)

Northland communities, and Iwi / hapū groups are aware of climate change risks and are actively involved in adaptive planning.



Governance, resources, management and adoption (Themes 1 & 3)

Establishing effective governance arrangements and embedding climate change responses into our usual work



3.5 PRIORITY ACTIONS REWORKING TO FEBRUARY 2026**File Number: A5627502****Author: Rakesh Pinao, Regional Climate Adaptation Programme Co-Lead, Northland Regional Council****Authoriser: Roger Ackers, Head of Strategic Reform Initiatives****TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To improve delivery of Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy priority actions by:

- 1) Confirming what Priority Actions need JCCAC oversight; and
- 2) Formally notifying all other governance committees / bodies which Priority Actions they should be working on.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Priority Actions range from cross-council enabling work (e.g., shared risk methods, joint policy alignment) through to sector-specific programmes (transport resilience, flood modelling, coastal hazards, biosecurity, statutory plan changes, lifelines, etc).

Given JCCAC meets twice per year and is advisory in status, attempting to “govern” the full action set within JCCAC creates duplication and slows delivery.

A proposed simple remedy is to retain Priority Actions that directly undergo or enable adaptation planning in the region while also acknowledging where existing delegations provide formal governance authority over specific actions.

This distributes clearly the governance accountabilities and risks to the appropriate governance body and frees up the JCCAC to more effectively govern the critical elements.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee:

- a. Receives the “Priority Actions Reworking to February 2026” as the baseline list of 46 Priority Actions for the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy.**
- b. Recommends the approach of clarifying a “Focused and Enabling Programme” from the set of 46 Priority Actions for JCCAC oversight by:**
 - i) Converting some actions to quality requirements of the programme overall.**
 - ii) Focusing reporting on Adaptation Programme needs**
 - iii) Maintaining oversight on joint enabling Actions**
 - iv) Handover of all other Priority Actions to the governance committees / bodies.**
- c. Delegates to the Chair and Secretariat the administrative responsibility to issue letters and collate responses with other governance committees / bodies.**

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Since the adoption of the Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptations Strategy in April of 2022, the committee has received long reports on 46 priority actions with a mix of quality requirements. Due in part to the range and reach of those actions, and the capacity of staff and the levels of coordination required across council.

In attempts to report efficiently and effectively the programme has struggled to provide the Committee meaningful information in line with it's function under the terms of reference. This was a finding of the Leadership Review in 2025.

Trimming, prioritising and rationalising the Priority Actions in line with the Terms of Reference of the committee and other governance groups within local government is the first step in providing better quality information to the committee.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

THE PROPOSED APPROACH

Attachment B shows all the Priority Actions and Proposes to categories them into four types:

Reworking Grouping	How it's treated by JCCAC
0. Treat as a Quality Requirement	These actions are necessary to maintain effective quality in delivering the programme. The are not individual actions but ongoing commitments. They do need to be tracked but are not one off actions or separate workstreams.
1. Adaptation Planning	This is the core focus of the committee, the success or otherwise of this work is one indicator of how successful the other areas are. If this are not performing well, it is reasonable to question whether quality requirements or enabling actions are involved.
2. Enables Adaptation	These actions need further focus as they directly feed into or impact adaptation planning. They are often difficult forms of collaboration or have investment or resourcing hurdles.
3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	The actions have existing governance accountabilities outside JCCAC. JCCAC's role should be to confirm good governance is in place (it is not overlooked or a gap in accountability).

To avoid blurring governance ownership:

- JCCAC will not retain a “residual governance role” on confirming governance accountability for all actions, up to the point when they are clearly accepted elsewhere.
- Instead, JCCAC will issue a formal request to the receiving governance body to:
 1. accept the action as within their mandate; and
 2. confirm how they will progress it and report it through their normal governance system.

The only continuing JCCAC involvement is administrative traceability: tracking that the handover occurred and that a response was received.

WHAT WOULD HANDOVER LOOK LIKE

If the Committee adopts the recommendations, this will help us to deliver on a Governance Activation Pathway actions also, by writing to each governance body.

Step 1: Issue formal handover letters

The Secretariat will write to each receiving committee / body listed in the table, attaching:

- the relevant Priority Action row(s);
- a handover cover notes on why they hold accountability; and
- and request a structure response that acknowledge and confirms their actions (below)

Step 2: Receiving bodies confirm ownership & next steps (within 8–10 weeks)

Each receiving committee / body will confirm:

- Whether it accepts governance responsibility.

- How the action will be incorporated into its work programme; and
- How it will report progress (within its usual statutory or council reporting).

Step 3: JCCAC receives a confirmation

CATT will present at the next JCCAC meeting a simple register showing:

- Priority action
- Handover letters sent (Y/N)
- Confirmations status (Accepted/Declined)
- Record of actions proposed
- Gaps identified

Only if a receiving body declines an action (or disputes governance ownership), that exception is brought back to JCCAC for direction on re-allocation or advocacy to councils.



TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- **Risk of non-response:** Some committees may not respond. In this case the action will remain live for the programme to follow up on responses and present an update at the next committee meeting until all are handed over, or JCCAC resolve alternative measures.
- **Risk of dispute over mandate:** Some actions may sit across governance boundaries. In this case by requesting a response we hope to clarify how work will be coordinated (or where it will be reported), including closer collaboration or refined governance ownership.
- **Risk of perceived loss of oversight:** JCCAC may appear to be losing oversight. This approach deliberately removes blurred responsibilities, including the issue of perceived ownership that is not realised or effective. This approach to put appropriate actions where decisions are made, could result in some gap emerging, but JCCAC will be better informed to take ownership of gaps or structure a future governance direction.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications of this adjustment of priority and reporting. Resourcing of 0.2 FTE for 6 months from the programme is proposed to undergo the letter writing work between governance groups, this is already within staff capacity if supported by the committee.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Template Handover Letter - A5623968** [↓](#) 
2. **Priority Actions Proposed Reworking Approach - A5623929** [↓](#) 

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	Low
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Joint Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. No further council policies are relevant to this decision.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	No councils, boards or committee have been consulted on this change. However, they will be consulted where terms of reference is found to overlap with delivery of specific priority actions.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	No impacts on tangata whenua or Māori are proposed. The reporting and priorities aim to give great visibility to adaptation planning, including tangata whenua-led adaptation planning.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	The impact is mostly to other council governance and operational delivery teams.
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no budgetary impacts, but is expected to make CATT reporting more efficient.
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report

Attachment A - Template Handover Letter (draft)

Subject: Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy - Governance Handover of Priority Action(s).

Kia ora [Chair and Secretariat],

The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) has resolved to clarify accountability over Priority Action(s) **[Txx, Tyy]** from the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy to **[Receiving Committee/Body]**, as we acknowledge these actions sit within your governance mandate and decision pathways.

These Priority Actions were identified as being critical to the regions ability to adapt.

JCCAC requests that your committee/body provide a written response confirming:

1. whether you accept governance responsibility for the action(s);
2. how the action(s) are or will be incorporated into your work programme (or rationale if not); and
3. how progress will be reported through your normal governance reporting.

Attached:

- Handover Table extract for [Txx, Tyy]
- Priority Actions Update context (July 2025 report reference)

Ngā mihi,

[Chair / Secretariat]
Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee

Priority Actions Proposed Reworking Approach (List 1 of 3 - Principals and Adaptation Planning)

Priority Actions (Identified in the Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy)				Approach to Reworking Priority Actions				
Code	Project	Description	Council	Reworked Approach	Delegate to Primary Governance? (Y/N)	Governance – primary	Governance – others	JCCAC role
T01	Tangata whenua involvement	Ensure inclusive processes for tangata whenua representation at all stages of adaptation decision-making, including providing appropriate resourcing, supporting training and developing targeted programmes.	All Councils collaboration	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T04	Advocacy	Targeted advocacy with central government, regarding the development of new funding mechanisms and legislation.	JCCAC	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T05	Central government engagement	Prioritise engagement and advocacy with MfE on development of new legislation including RMA reform, the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Act.	Individual Councils	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T06	National partnerships	Contribute to collaborative projects and partnerships, and leverage existing knowledge from other regions and internationally.	Individual Councils	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T08	Public access to adaptation documentation	Establish a facility to enable community access to adaptation information, such as reports, research, interactive maps, strategy documents, programme details, community meeting minutes, etc.	All Councils collaboration	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T24	Research participation	Support and participate in adaptation research programmes, and collate relevant information to enhance local understanding and adaptation response options.	Individual Councils	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T43	Climate change teams	Establish appropriate teams to deliver organisation-wide climate change implementation at each council, reporting to an appropriate level of management and given sufficient support.	Individual Councils	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T44	Staff resources	Ensure sufficient staff resources are allocated to enable an ongoing organisation-wide climate change response, including climate change focused roles and professional development and training.	Individual Councils	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T45	Adaptation funding	Investigate and prioritise potential funding opportunities to enable the implementation of adaptation responses.	All Councils collaboration	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T46	Inter-council collaboration	Continue to support and invest in the regional collaborative adaptation work programme, including establishing a process for sharing of resources between the Councils on specific projects, acknowledging the significant benefits and efficiencies of collaboration. Expand group to include Northland Transport Alliance.	All Councils collaboration	0. Treat as a Quality Requirement Across All	N	JCCAC	All councils	Quality consideration across the programme
T09	Māori adaptation impact assessment	Work with tangata whenua to undertake iwi- and hapū-focused risk assessments, including communicating risks from Te Ao Māori perspectives, identifying risks associated with climate hazards, impacts of adaptation responses and limits to Māori adaptive capacity. This may include direct impacts on cultural values such as waahi tapu; as well as compounding risks, such as interactions between councils and government legislation resulting in unintended consequences, or barriers for Māori adaptation responses.	All Councils collaboration	1. Adaptation Planning	N	JCCAC	All councils	Direct Advisor
T10	Iwi/hapū-focused adaptation	Work with tangata whenua to develop a programme to facilitate hapū or iwi-led holistic climate change adaptation plans to integrate multiple climate risks as well as other community objectives. Draw on approaches to adaptation engagement with Māori that have been successful in the past. This may include provisions to support iwi/hapū with risk assessments and technical analysis as well as enabling data sovereignty.	All Councils collaboration	1. Adaptation Planning	N	JCCAC	All councils	Direct Advisor
T29	Coastal adaptation programme	Develop a region-wide coastal adaptation programme, identifying key locations, timeframes and engagement methodologies, using recommended considerations in the Coastal Community Profiles and Adaptation Engagement Framework reports.	All Councils collaboration	1. Adaptation Planning	N	JCCAC	All councils	Direct Advisor
T30	Coastal adaptation planning projects	Deliver projects in the coastal adaptation programme. Undertake community pre-engagement to confirm site selection and appropriate engagement methodology. Work alongside communities to understand, plan and implement adaptation responses by co-developing community adaptation plans in at-risk areas, following recommendations in the Coastal Community Profiles and Adaptation Engagement Framework reports.	Individual Councils	1. Adaptation Planning	N	JCCAC	All councils	Direct Advisor

Priority Actions Proposed Reworking Approach (List 2 of 3 - Enabling of Adaptation Planning)

Priority Actions (Identified in the Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy)				Approach to Reworking Priority Actions				
Code	Project	Description	Council	Reworked Approach	Delegate to Primary Governance? (Y/N)	Governance – primary	Governance – others	JCCAC role
T03	Clarify funding responsibilities	Develop shared understanding on clear responsibilities for the funding and management of adaptation responses, especially between regional and district councils (e.g. for coastal structures).	JCCAC	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	All councils	Direct Advisor
T07	Community awareness	Develop a communications and engagement plan to address the needs of the Te Tai Tokerau Adaptation Strategy, including media releases, publication of key documents, and internet and social media presence.	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	All councils	Direct Advisor
T11	Consistent infrastructure risk assessment criteria	Develop consistent standards and processes for undertaking risk assessments for council assets and infrastructure (e.g. agreed criteria, hazard scenarios and damage functions).	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	Council Infrastructure	Direct Advisor
T18	River flood risk assessment	Undertake risk assessments for communities exposed to flooding using region-wide flood model projections, and use this information to prioritise future flood management programmes. Ensure all river flood models include consistent climate change factors, including rainfall intensity and sea level rise.	NRC	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	CDEM	Direct Advisor
T19	Coastal hazards	Continue to improve coastal hazards assessments, including methods for understanding impacts, considering the combination of river and coastal flooding, sea level rise and ex-tropical cyclones, and coastal erosion.	NRC	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	CDEM	Direct Advisor
T20	Land hazard data	Collate existing information on geotechnical instability and slips in a common spatial database; and look for research partnerships (e.g. GNS, Waka Kotahi, NTA) to further develop information and data.	NRC	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	CDEM	Direct Advisor
T21	Wildfire hazard data	Collate information on projected fire hazards and at-risk landscape information in a common spatial database; and look for research partnerships (e.g. FENZ, Scion) to further develop information and data.	NRC	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	CDEM	Direct Advisor
T22	Coastal aquifers	Further develop groundwater models to predict aquifer responses to sea level rise and over extraction from coastal aquifers.	NRC	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	NRC Natural Resources Working Party	Direct Advisor
T23	Community drought adaptation opportunities	Collate data on drought vulnerability, and develop community vulnerability assessments. (N.B. The responsibility for this item may be impacted by the Three Waters Reform process.) Investigate priority hapū and community needs and existing adaptation/water resilience programmes/actions; and clarify opportunities for the Councils to add value by facilitating adaptation planning.	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	District Councils	Direct Advisor
T27	Region-wide coastal management policy	Investigate and apply a coordinated and integrated approach to coastline management in regional policy. For example, include a requirement to develop adaptation plans where significant hard coastal protection works, major development or infrastructure is being considered, (N.B. RMA reforms will impact this item and review may be required.)	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	All Councils	Direct Advisor
T28	Embed community adaptation plans	Investigate and develop methodologies to embed adaptive pathways plans into planning regimes, including using environmental cues to trigger changes to planning rules (N.B. RMA reforms will impact this item and review may be required.)	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	All Councils	Direct Advisor
T35	Water tank assistance	Provide assistance to remote communities to install water collection, storage and treatment with a focus on community resilience, e.g. NRC's water tank programme.	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	NRC	Direct Advisor
T36	Water resilience funding coordination	Improve coordination between agencies to build collaborative, aligned water resilience responses including: tangata whenua, CDEM, District Councils (Four Waters Advisory Group), and agencies (FENZ, MPI, TPK, DIA).	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	NRC	Direct Advisor
T37	Communication to elected members	Ensure clear reporting of organisational and regional climate change risks and progress on adaptation/response actions to decision-makers, including mandatory disclosure of climate change implications to elected members in reports.	Individual Councils	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC		Direct Advisor
T38	Joint climate change policy framework	Develop consistency between climate change policies that embed consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation responses in all council decision-making (which may also include council emissions reduction). This framework should define approaches and principles on data/information, definitions, reporting, standards and criteria.	All Councils collaboration	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC		Direct Advisor
T42	Alignment of adaptation plans	Develop processes to ensure alignment of community adaptation plans with council plans and policies, including long-term plans, infrastructure strategies and financial plans.	Individual Councils	2. Enables adaptation	N	JCCAC	Individual Councils	Direct Advisor

Priority Actions Proposed Reworking Approach (List 3 of 3 - Supports Adaptation Outcomes)

Priority Actions (Identified in the Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy)				Approach to Reworking Priority Actions				
Code	Project	Description	Council	Reworked Approach	Delegate to Primary Governance? (Y/N)	Governance – primary	Governance – others	JCCAC role
T02	Embed Māori values in council processes	Co-design with iwi and hapū representatives of a decision-making framework based on Te Ao Māori concepts and values. The framework will include implementation tools and will recognise that there are regional and local differences within Te Tai Tokerau that inform how local authorities operate.	Led by Whangarei District Council	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Individual Councils		Indirect Watchdog
T12	Infrastructure risk assessments	Undertake infrastructure climate risk assessments for each council and include documented climate risks in infrastructure and financial strategies.	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Council Infrastructure Committees or Council		Indirect Watchdog
T13	Roading risk assessments	Develop a regional roading network resilience plan, assessing critical roads at risk from landslides and slips, with the potential for future assessment of flooding and coastal hazards under climate change scenarios.	All Councils collaboration	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Regional Transport Committee		Indirect Watchdog
T14	Lifelines risk assessments	Develop a lifelines utilities infrastructure risk assessment, working with Northland Lifelines Group members' spatial data.	Northland Lifelines Group	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Northland Lifelines Group		Indirect Watchdog
T15	Infrastructure planning	Develop and implement processes/policy to ensure consideration of climate change impacts in infrastructure planning, activity management plans and infrastructure strategies, including a monitoring and evaluation plan. This should include consistent application of climate risk assessments and adaptive management approaches. (N.B. This should also include emissions reductions considerations – see priority actions 11 and 12.)	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Council Infrastructure Committees or Council		Indirect Watchdog
T16	Biosecurity risk assessment	Undertake preliminary high-level investigations into future biosecurity threats (both sleeper and offshore), aligned with national research programmes and information from agencies (e.g. MPI and MoH). The scope may include: human pathogens, primary industry pests and pathogens (agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture) and environmental pests (freshwater, terrestrial and marine). Develop prioritised monitoring and response programmes for relevant target species.	NRC	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party		Indirect Watchdog
T17	Ecosystem and biodiversity risk assessment	Undertake preliminary high-level investigations identifying major at-risk species and ecosystems, followed by targeted research into key ecosystems. Develop monitoring and response plans for key species, habitats and ecosystems, including wetland/peat, terrestrial, marine, freshwater, lakes, coastal dunes, and foreshore and estuarine ecosystems.	NRC	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party	NRC Natural Resources Working Party	Indirect Watchdog
T25	District plans	As required by legislation, ensure new river and coastal hazard maps are included in district plans, with adequate rules and policies to avoid increasing risk associated with new development and redevelopment. (N.B. RMA reforms may impact this item and review may be required.)	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Individual Councils		Indirect Watchdog
T26	Spatial planning	Undertake region-wide spatial planning to highlight risks and opportunities for strategic land-use planning that enables adaptation responses and enhances wellbeing. (N.B. RMA reforms will impact this item and review may be required.)	All Councils collaboration	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Individual Councils		Indirect Watchdog
T31	Civil defence	Ensure alignment of civil defence response plans, climate risk assessments and adaptation planning.	All Councils collaboration	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Civil Defence Emergency Management Committee (Northland)		Indirect Watchdog
T32	Nature-based solutions	Continue to support community dune restoration and enhancement projects such as the Coast Care programme in line with regional adaptation planning, and as alternative interim measures in place of hard protection structures.	NRC	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	NRC Natural Resources Working Party	Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party	Indirect Watchdog
T33	River flood management	Continue to deliver prioritised river flood management projects, and plan and secure funding for future flood management implementation across the region.	NRC	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	NRC Infrastructure Committee		Indirect Watchdog
T34	Coordinated flood risk management	Work together to promote projects with multiple partners and co-benefits (e.g. the Blue-Green Network involving WDC and NRC).	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	NRC Infrastructure Committee		Indirect Watchdog
T39	Policy review and improvement plan	1) Identify improvement opportunities by undertaking a maturity assessment for each council of all relevant policies, strategies, plans and processes (which may also include council emissions reduction), and 2) develop and deliver a climate change policy improvement plan that outlines a programme of policy updates to embed climate change objectives within a defined timeframe.	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Individual Councils		Indirect Watchdog
T40	Climate risk disclosure	Clear disclosure and reporting of climate risks, policy maturity, and progress on response actions in alignment with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure. This may include actions such as ensuring climate change is included in council risk frameworks, financial reports and infrastructure strategies; regularly reporting to auditors, and establishing KPIs for senior managers and CEOs.	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Individual Councils		Indirect Watchdog
T41	Climate change in business cases	Ensure disclosure of climate change risks in business cases, proposals and procurement documents, including long-term risks such as sea level rise.	Individual Councils	3. Wider Adaptive Contribution	Y	Individual Councils		Indirect Watchdog

3.6 GOVERNANCE ACTIVATION PATHWAY SUMMARY

File Number: A5628870

Author: Rakesh Pinao, Regional Climate Adaptation Programme Co-Lead, Northland Regional Council

Authoriser: Roger Ackers, Head of Strategic Reform Initiatives

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report provides guidance on how the programme can further the Governance workstream theme of the Climate Adaptation Programme in line with decisions in July 2025 for a Governance Activation Pathway to be detailed.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CATT staff have reviewed the details of the Governance Activation Pathway recommendations and provided options for the committee to consider giving effect to all, part or none of the recommendations, including a best practice and minimal option.

We ask the Committee to review five options from largest to no current investment in governance for adaptation, that are named: A) Best Practice, B) Prioritised, C) Minimal Only, D) Hold All, with a final option given to members to select their own combination of priority investments.

This report should be read in the context of wider programme update, including ongoing uncertainty from legislative reform, the long-awaited start of key adaptation projects in the region, and the further uncertainty of local government reform and national elections this year.

Also included in attachment is a draft Governance Protocols Pack for comment by committee. This will be brought to the next Committee meeting for decision, after review and support by the Chair and Deputy Chair.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION
That the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee recommend Option B for Prioritised Governance Improvements within existing budgets.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

At the last meeting of the Committee, in July 2025, a Leadership review had concluded and provided recommendations to the committee. The recommendations were based on a best practice review and aligned with the good governance models. It proposed a “Governance Activation Pathway” that was supported by the Committee to be developed further by staff.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Governance Activation Pathway Options

Options Analysis	A) Best Practice	B) Prioritised	C) Minimal Only	D) Hold All
Cost	4 – Exceeds budget	2 – Within existing funding	1 – No new costs	1 – No spend
Resourcing	4 – High FTE demand across all areas	3 – Moderate FTE, focused on priority areas	1 – Low FTE requirements	1 – Frees resourcing for other work
Time	4 – Full programme	3 – Staged delivery with	1 – Fast to maintain minimal activity	1 – No delivery work progressing

	rollout, long duration	quicker gains in priority areas		
Quality	4 – Highest governance uplift across all areas	3 – Strong in priority area; moderate elsewhere	1 – Minimal improvement in core gaps	1 – No improvement
Strategic Value	4 – Maximum longterm readiness and alignment	3 – High flexibility and targeted uplift	2 – Maintains activity but low strategic gain	1 – Momentum loss and misalignment risk
E) Committee selection				
Committee discuss and select their own combination of Minimal Resourced and Best Practice options.				

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION





The current programme struggles with the scale of the Strategy’s Priority Actions, the uncertainty of Council priorities, the change and uncertainty in legislation and policy, as well as the resourcing constraints and pressures of councils. This *IS* the broader governance issue, of attempting to respond proactively to a changing climate, while both being impacted by severe weather events and proposing changes to social and procedural systems in Council and the public.

The recommendation provides meaningful but limited governance improvements, that do not attend best practice changes with limited resource and commitment. They take tangible short-term outputs while also focussing most on the highest value outputs. It leaves space for the JCCAC to correct over time should resourcing, commitments or other factors change.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

The financial cost of the *Option A: Best Practice Governance Improvements* pathway exceeds existing CATT budgeted and available funding. The *Staff Recommendation* option have been identified to limit total funding to under \$80K (within existing budget) and align with the risk assessment and science programmes of NRC.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Governance Activation Pathway - Options Analysis - A5623922**  
- 2. JCCAC Protocols Pack (draft) - A5623925**  

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	Low
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Joint Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Council Standing Orders.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	No councils, boards or committee have been consulted or are expected to be impacted by this change.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	No impacts on tangata whenua or Māori are proposed. The Committee protocols are intended to better align working of the committee specifically the role of tikanga within standing orders in Protocol 4 of the Governance Protocol Pack (draft)
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	The Committee and staff reporting to the Committee are those impacted by this decision.
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	The financial impacts are outlined in Options Analysis, but are recommended within existing budgetary provisions.
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report

Governance Activation Pathway: Options Analysis

Governance Activation Activities	Priority	Best Practice (Option A. Full Resourced Governance Improvements)	Minimal Resourced (Option C Minimal Only Governance Improvements)
<p>Regional Adaptation Risk Governance Framework To develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework that ensure Council adequately communicates regional adaptation risks, and reports against regional progress.</p>	1	<p>Develop a Regional Climate Change Risk Reporting, with regional, district and catchment-based summary statistics. For example, some metrics could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of homes in high-risk areas from flooding and coastal inundation (Private homes exposure). - % of agricultural land exposed to sea level rise (NbS measure). - % of Māori sites of significance (as known by council) in high-risk areas per catchment. <p>Cost: \$80K Design and Setup Resource: 0.8 FTE for 6 mth, 0.4 FTE ongoing Timing: Staged by risk areas and data availability</p>	<p>Maintain the existing Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting dashboard (included in this report) which focusses on delivery progress rather than regional risk.</p> <p>Cost: None Resource: 0.1 FTE Ongoing Timing: Quarterly & Bi-annual reporting</p>
<p>Regional Adaptation Governance Dialogue and Co-Design To ensure any changes are context specific, collectively owned, and aligned to regional priorities.</p>	2	<p>Facilitated cross-council, hapū, and agency workshops to co-design governance principles, resourcing frameworks, system architecture, and partnership agreements. May combine elements of mapping from priority 5.</p> <p>Cost: None (or ~\$10-20K outsourced) Resource: 0.8 FTE for 6 mths Timing: July to November 2026</p>	<p>Draft letters to regional governance groups confirming expected risk responsibilities, and request understanding of proposed governance responses. Requesting a report to JCCAC were appropriate.</p> <p>Cost: None Resource: 0.2 FTE for 6 mths Timing: Letters Sent by Aug 2026.</p>

Governance Activation Activities	Priority	Best Practice (Option A. Full Resourced Governance Improvements)	Minimal Resourced (Option C Minimal Only Governance Improvements)
<p>Governance Protocol Development To operationalize JCCAC’s mandate and strengthen institutional coherence.</p>	3	<p>Workshop to develop and adopt governance protocols, manuals, charters and advocacy guidelines that clarify roles, embed co-governance, support decision-making, and enable consistent oversight.</p> <p>Cost: None or ~\$10K outsourced. Resource: 0.6 FTE for 2-4 mths Timing: Workshop with the next JCCAC meeting</p>	<p>Draft Protocols for JCCAC review to be circulated and feedback via email. Protocols suggested include; structure and focus agenda, reporting requirements, use of committee’s authority (based on standing orders and tikanga), advocacy guideline, meeting conduct & discipline.</p> <p>Cost: None Resource: 0.1 for 1-2 mths Timing: Agree at next JCCAC Meeting.</p>
<p>Leadership Development To ensure strong foundations for all subsequent activities.</p>	4	<p>Workshops to look at governance and climate risks with participants from JCCAC, council executives, hapū partners, and agency leaders. Based on two 4 hour in person workshops, covering; Local Government Climate Change Financial Risks, Integrating Māori Knowledge and Partnership, Community Vulnerability & Inclusive Climate Resilience, Drought Management & Water Security, What is Adaptation Planning.</p> <p>Cost: None (or ~\$20K outsourced) Resource: 0.8 FTE for 6 mths Timing: Mid 2026 to Late 2026</p>	<p>Online recorded 1 hour information sessions offered to JCCAC members on locally relevant integrated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Government Sector Scenarios - Local Government Financial Authority. 2. Te Ao Māori adaptation framework - Te Mana o Te Ao Turoa. <p>Cost: ~\$5-8K Resource: 0.4 FTE for 3 mths Timing: By Nov 2026.</p>

Governance Activation Activities	Priority	Best Practice (Option A. Full Resourced Governance Improvements)	Minimal Resourced (Option C Minimal Only Governance Improvements)
<p>Governance Review To enable trust and transparency of alignment of the programme with new legislation.</p>	5	<p>An independent and open report on the state of programme design and governance. Includes review of legislation, interview with staff and review of programme structure and resourcing. Cost: \$40-60K outsourced Resource: 0.2 FTE for 6 months Timing: Across 2027 JCCAC meetings</p>	<p>Staff proposal for amendments to the TOR, depending on the shape of legislative reforms. Yet to be known. Cost: \$0 Resource: 0.5 FTE for 12 mths Timing: Across 2027 JCCAC meetings</p>
<p>Governance Mapping and Stocktake To provide the evidence base to the committee for targeted governance relationships and interventions on gaps, risk or opportunities.</p>	6	<p>Interviews of structured mapping, stocktakes, and horizon scans across councils, hapū, and delivery partners to assess the ability, resourcing, mandate clarity of each unit. Governance processes and system architecture mapped. Cost: None (or ~\$10K outsourced) Resource: 0.4 FTE for 6 mths Timing: Mid 2026 to Late 2026</p>	<p>Staff to draft Regional Climate Adaptation Governance Map for review by Committee members. This mapping exercise will remain in draft until relationships between local government governance groups and priority actions are identified with the risk governance work (below). Cost: None Resource: 0.1 FTE for 1 mths Timing: By Nov 2026</p>

JCCAC GOVERNANCE PROTOCOL PACK (DRAFT)

Purpose of the Protocols

To provide simple, consistent, lightweight governance processes that strengthen the Committee's ability to deliver its ToR responsibilities, particularly oversight, alignment, and cross-council coordination.

Protocol 1: Focussed Agenda Template

Every JCCAC meeting agenda to include, in roughly this order, but at the discretion of the Chair and Sponsor.

1. **Meeting Administration (Attendance, Minutes, Actions Register)**
2. **Adaptation Planning Update (Priority Action T29, T30, T09, T10)**
A focus on the purpose of the committee to give strategic direction to adaptation in the region adaptation planning work, order by district.
3. **Enabling Programme Update**
A focus on the wider purpose of the committee to give strategic direction to adaptation in the region through enabling work that improves adaptation planning and adaptive capability in the system. Taken from Priority Actions and structured as a programme.
4. **Climate Governance Tracking**
A watching brief over the roles of other governance bodies to consider climate change risk and incorporate adaptive capability and adaptation plans into their work. Structure by delegated Priority Actions.
5. **Legislative Implications & Policy**
A watching brief over the legislative changes and implications for adaptation in the region.

Protocol 2: Reporting Requirements (CATT to JCCAC)

Purpose: Ensure efficient reporting at the level of governance oversight needed.

At each JCCAC meeting, CATT will provide:

1. KPI Dashboard
2. Programme Update
3. Exception Reports

Protocol 2: Clarification of the committee's authority through resolutions

1. JCCAC may, as defined by standing orders ([Standing Orders - Northland Regional Council](#)):
 - **Accept** - information that is acknowledged by the committee.
 - **Recommend** - decision that is non-binding of committee members, and may be formal directed to councils or other committees or agencies.
2. JCCAC may not, as defined by terms of reference (LINK):
 - **Submit** - Cannot make formal submissions to government on behalf of councils
 - **Decide** - Cannot make formal commits of funding or resourcing of councils.
3. When handover or escalation is required, the committee will use its powers to recommend. In doing so the committee will:
 - Identify the correct governance body.

- Include a short summary of the committee recommendation.
 - Request acknowledgment and advice on next steps.
4. Secretariat responsibilities:
- Send resolutions & handover notes within 10 working days.
 - Track responses in the Action Tracker, including:
 - acknowledge receipt.
 - confirm governance ownership.
 - indicate how the matter will be integrated into work programme.

Protocol 3: Action Tracker

The existing actions tracker will be updated to include:

1. Action (name and description)
2. Priority Action code (link to the Strategy)
3. Owner(s)
4. Next step / Update
5. Due date
6. Status (action status – open, in progress, closed, cancelled)
7. Governance Network Link (which committee is responsible for actions/decisions)

Protocol 4: Meeting Conduct & Role Discipline

Purpose: To enable constructive and efficient co-governance decision-making, the committee should not only operate within Council standing orders but also incorporate tikanga into its values and practices.

The challenges of having limited time in working together means a discipline and commitment to this is critical, and this protocol helps remind members of that function.

Principles & Values:

NRC Standing Orders identify these Principles for conducting local authority meetings:

- Conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner;
- Give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner;
- Make itself aware of, and have regard to, the views of all its communities;
- Take account, when making decisions, of the diversity of the community, its interests and the interests of future communities as well;
- Ensure that any decisions made under standing orders comply with the decision-making provisions of Part 6 of the LGA; and
- Ensure that decision-making procedures and practices meet the standards of natural justice.

NRC Taiki Ē Strategy identifies Ngā Tikanga (Values) that signals a shared commitment to important work done collectively:

- Titiro atu ki ngā taumata o te moana - Always remain strategic in our approach/intent/view
- Mahi tahī tutuki noa - Identifying opportunities, increased collaboration and completion of projects
- Me whakatau mā roto i te kōrero - Resolution through conversation

- Kaitiakitanga - Dedicated stewardship by tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau

These values translate into practical meeting behaviours and role discipline, as set out below.

Committee Member Discipline

1. Members **participate as regional governors** in JCCAC prioritising region-wide stewardship and collective outcomes.
2. Members **are asked to express local perspectives** and constraints that build towards a regional picture and should be acknowledged as a partial but important view. An example might be
“My council’s current position is X, and the implication for regional alignment is Y.”
OR
“My community’s current capacity/need is B, and the implication for the regional programme is C.”
3. Members **are expected to listen to understand** the wider perspectives of the group that enable effective and informed decisions.

Committee Member Behaviour

1. Respectful engagement
2. Focus on agenda outcomes and decisions
3. Timeboxing and staying within scope of the paper
4. Good faith participation, including co-governance partnership practice and tikanga-informed process
5. Members speak once before speaking twice.
6. No interruptions; use the Chair to manage turn-taking.

Chairperson Tools and Escalation

These tools are to support fair process, effective participation, and timely decision-making; they are not used to limit legitimate viewpoints.

1. Chair may:
 - timebox speakers
 - summarise discussion and move to decision
 - park items and assign follow-up
 - call a short break if needed
2. If behaviour persistently prevents the committee functioning:
 - Chair notes it in the record
 - Issue is managed through the relevant council’s existing elected member conduct processes.

4 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING PRAYER

5 TE KAPINGA HUI / MEETING CLOSE