

ARF001 Climate Change

Risk Status Progress Report for September 2021

Prepared: 10/08/21

Description of Risk and Impact

Climate change is the highest scoring risk on the organisational dashboard with significant risks both to the community and to the council.

Significant risks to the community include:

- Coastal retreat and displacement of people due to sea level rise
- Increased insurance premiums and potential inability to insure some areas
- Difficulty sourcing mortgage finance for those in vulnerable locations
- Public health risks e.g. due to new vector diseases
- Agriculture/horticulture will be different, and the economy will change
- More Civil Defence emergencies relating to more extreme weather events and the increased risk of forest fires
- Burden of rates for the District as whole and especially for deprived communities.

Significant risks for Council include:

- Damage to vulnerable infrastructure and assets such as parks and reserves
- Cost to protect/shift/future-proof infrastructure and assets
- Large/long term financial risks
- Increasing insurance costs and potential inability to insure some areas
- Our ability to borrow money will potentially be at risk if we have inadequate plans and strategies to adapt to climate change
- Reputational, legal and financial risks both through action (e.g. identifying locations at risk and tagging LIM reports, thus affecting property values) and inaction (e.g. by not identifying vulnerable locations, which then suffer from sea level rise).

Response to these risks

Existing treatments in response to these risks include:

- The Council's Climate Change Roadmap approved by Council in May 2020
- A baseline carbon footprint measure presented to Council in October 2020
- Ongoing participation in the regional Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau (CATT) working group comprising representatives of the four Northland councils with the purpose of creating a regional climate change adaptation strategy.

Progress overview

Main activities in the last six months include:

- Analysis and research to determine possible communities to include in community engagement work over the 2021-2024 LTP period. Around thirty coastal communities were identified which are at significant risk

from coastal erosion, flooding and inundation and damage to the surrounding roading network. We plan to select three communities where pilot community engagement projects will take place over the next three years in conjunction with the Regional Council and GNS Science;

- Contributing to a joint CATT submission to the Climate Change Commission on its advice to the government on developing a national carbon reduction plan;
- Formation of a Joint Committee to oversee the CATT group including elected members and iwi/hapū reps from each Council. The first meeting of the Committee was in April 2021;
- Working on a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy with the CATT Group. This strategy was workshopped with the Joint Committee on 9 August 2021 and will be presented formally to the Joint Committee on 30 August for endorsement, after which it will be sent back to the individual Councils, including FNDC, for consideration;
- Taking part in a cross-Council hui on climate change communication in August 2021, which resulted in a joint working group being established to develop climate change communications material and a regional platform to communicate progress;
- Appointment of a new Principal Advisor to further Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy;
- Formation of a cross-functional Climate Change Risk Reference Group of council staff charged with reviewing the current climate change risk analysis. As discussed in the "Deep Dive" exercise that took place with the Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee in February, it is likely that this will result in two separate analyses, one for Council and one for the Far North District as a whole.

Planned projects

Looking forward, the main climate change-related projects planned for 2021/22 include:

- Further development of a carbon reduction plan
- Guidance for sustainability initiatives e.g. solid waste, sustainable procurement
- Input into spatial planning work
- Broad communication & engagement with the community and key government agencies
- Hui with iwi and hapū
- Pre-engagement & research for pilot community adaptation projects
- Bringing the draft regional climate change policy to elected members for consideration
- Development of a climate assessment policy for Council.

Inherent Risk:	Trend	Residual Risk:	Accountable:	CEO	Date raised:	29/11/18	Report frequency:
	Increase		Responsible:	GM SPP	Date accepted:	30/05/19	Six monthly