

Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy Appendix One

Part 5 – Priority actions by Tai Tokerau Councils

The Priority Actions list below sets out Northland council actions. It is important to note that there will be other parties involved, who may sometimes lead the delivery of actions. This could include our hapū and iwi partners, government agencies and other sectoral groups such as farmers, insurance providers, civil defence teams, social support providers and landowners.

A number of resourcing commitments have already been made by Northland councils, which address the majority of actions. This is indicated by the term ‘Existing funding’ in the Funding status column below. Funding decisions will be made by individual Councils where actions need more resourcing. Timeframes are an indication of urgency and relative priorities, reflecting interdependencies between activities. Priority statuses are subject to review pending external community engagement through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes.

‘Indicative resources required’ column shows estimated total cost per annum (p.a.) and staff resourcing.
Estimated total costs p.a.: \$=<\$10k, \$\$=\$10-100k, \$\$\$=\$100-500k, \$\$\$\$=\$500k-1M, \$\$\$\$\$=\$1M+
Staff resourcing: P =low, PP=moderate, PPP=large staff effort required

Key area	Topic		Title	Aim	Description	Council involvement	Start	End	Indicative resources required	Funding status
Grow Relationships	Tangata whenua	1	Tangata whenua involvement	Ensure tangata whenua are appropriately involved in adaptation decision-making.	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	In progress	Ongoing	\$\$ P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		2	Embed Māori values in council processes	Ensure Māori values and worldviews are included in council processes and decision-making relating to climate change.	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	In progress	Mar 2022	\$\$ P	Existing funding
	Governance	3	Clarify funding responsibilities	Clarify adaptation management and funding responsibilities between councils.	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).	Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee	Feb 2022	End 2022	P	Existing funding
		4	Advocacy	Promote Northland's voice in central government policy and legislation development.	Targeted advocacy with central government, regarding the development of new funding mechanisms and legislation.	Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee	Feb 2022	Ongoing	P	Existing funding
	Nation-wide engagement	5	Central government engagement	Ensure Northland has input into central government adaptation policy and legislation development.	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	In progress	Ongoing	P	Existing funding
		6	National partnerships	Develop partnerships and knowledge sharing with regional and sector groups.	Contribute to collaborative projects and partnerships, and leverage existing knowledge from other regions and internationally.	Individual Councils	In progress	Ongoing	P	Existing funding
	Communications	7	Community awareness	Ensure widespread community awareness and interaction on adaptation issues.	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	In progress	End 2021	P	Existing funding
		8	Public access to adaptation documentation	Improve public access to adaptation planning processes, information and documents.	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	Jan 2022	End 2022	\$ P	Existing funding
Improve knowledge and understanding	Impacts on Māori	9	Māori adaptation impact assessment	Improve bi-cultural understanding of climate risks and consequences.	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	May 2022 depending on tangata whenua capacity	TBA	\$\$ PP	Additional funding/resourcing may be required

Key area	Topic		Title	Aim	Description	Council involvement	Start	End	Indicative resources required	Funding status
	Public infrastructure	10	Iwi/hapū-focused adaptation	Enable iwi/hapū-led adaptation planning at appropriate scales.	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	Dec 2021	Ongoing	\$ P	Existing funding (NRC – but additional funding may be required from other councils)
		11	Consistent infrastructure risk assessment criteria	Improve consistency and quality of climate risk assessments for council assets and infrastructure.	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	Jun 2022	Dec 2022	\$ P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		12	Infrastructure risk assessments	Improve knowledge of climate risk for council assets and infrastructure.	Undertake infrastructure climate risk assessments for each council and include documented climate risks in infrastructure and financial strategies.	Individual Councils	Aug 2021	TBA	\$ PP	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
Improve knowledge and understanding	Public infrastructure	13	Roading risk assessments	Improve understanding of long-term climate risks to roading infrastructure.	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.	Northland Transport Alliance	In progress	Jun 2022	\$ P	Existing funding
		14	Lifelines risk assessments	Improve understanding of long-term climate risks to lifelines infrastructure.	Develop a lifelines utilities infrastructure risk assessment, working with Northland Lifelines Group members' spatial data.	Northland Lifelines Group	Aug 2021	Mar 2022 (?)	\$ P	Existing funding
		15	Infrastructure planning	Ensure consideration of climate change impacts in 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	TBA	Medium-term	\$ PP	Existing funding
	Natural environment	16	Biosecurity risk assessment	Improve understanding of climate change-driven biosecurity threats and develop monitoring and response programmes.	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.	Northland Regional Council	TBA	Medium-term	\$ P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
	Natural hazards	17	Ecosystem and biodiversity risk assessment	Improve understanding of climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem function and develop monitoring and response programmes.	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.	Northland Regional Council	TBA	Medium-term	\$ P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		18	River flood risk assessment	Improve understanding of river flood risk under climate change and plan future river flood management programmes.	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.	Northland Regional Council	In progress	Ongoing	\$ PP	Existing funding
		19	Coastal hazards	Improve understanding of coastal hazards under climate change scenarios.	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.	Northland Regional Council	In progress	Ongoing	\$ P	Existing funding
		20	Land hazard data	Improve understanding of land hazards under climate change scenarios.	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.	Northland Regional Council	Jun 2022	Dec 2022	\$ P	Existing funding
		21	Wildfire hazard data	Improve understanding of wildfire risk under climate change scenarios.	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.	Northland Regional Council	Jun 2022	Dec 2022	\$ P	Existing funding
	Water resilience	22	Coastal aquifers	Improve understanding of the impacts of sea level rise on coastal aquifers.	Further develop groundwater models to predict aquifer responses to sea level rise and over extraction from coastal aquifers.	Northland Regional Council	TBA	Medium-term	\$ P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required

Key area	Topic		Title	Aim	Description	Council involvement	Start	End	Indicative resources required	Funding status
	Water resilience	23	Community drought adaptation opportunities	1) Improve understanding of the impacts of drought on rural and community water supplies, and 2) identify opportunities to support community adaptation to drought.	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	Feb 2022	Dec 2023	\$\$ PP	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
	Research	24	Research participation	Improve local adaptation knowledge through local programmes and national and international research.	Support and participate in adaptation research programmes, and collate relevant information to enhance local understanding and adaptation response options.	Individual Councils	In progress	Ongoing	PP	Existing funding
Reduce risk and vulnerability	Resource management planning and policy	25	District plans	Avoid increasing risk from new development and redevelopment in areas exposed to projected hazards.	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	In progress	End 2022	PP	Existing funding
		26	Spatial planning	Embed climate change risks and adaptation planning into strategic spatial plans.	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	2024	ongoing	\$ PP	Existing funding
		27	Region-wide coastal management policy	Ensure integrated coastal management and adaptation objectives are met in region-wide 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	2024??	Long-term	P	Existing funding
		28	Embed community adaptation plans	Ensure community adaptation plans are embedded in regulatory instruments.	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	2024	ongoing	P	Existing funding
	Coastal communities	29	Coastal adaptation programme	Develop a programme of coastal adaptation planning projects aligned with community needs.	Develop a region-wide coastal adaptation programme, identifying key locations, timeframes and engagement methodologies, using recommended considerations in the <i>Coastal Community Profiles</i> and <i>Adaptation Engagement Framework</i> reports.	All Councils collaboration	In progress	Mid 2022	P	Existing funding
		30	Coastal adaptation planning projects	Enable flexible, planned adaptation responses to coastal hazards by co-developing adaptation plans with communities.	Deliver projects in the <i>coastal adaptation programme</i> . 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 <i>Coastal Community Profiles</i> and <i>Adaptation Engagement Framework</i> reports.	Individual Councils	2022	ongoing	\$\$\$ PPP	Existing funding
		31	Civil defence	Integrate civil defence and community adaptation planning objectives.	Ensure alignment of civil defence response plans, climate risk assessments and adaptation planning.	All Councils collaboration	In progress	Mid 2022	P	Existing funding
		32	Nature-based solutions	Promote nature-based solutions as interim hazard-reduction options for coastal impacts.	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.	Northland Regional Council	In progress	Ongoing	\$\$ PP	Existing funding
	River flooding	33	River flood management	Reduce flooding risk to communities through river management.	Continue to deliver prioritised river flood management projects, and plan and secure funding for future flood management implementation across the region.	Northland Regional Council	In progress	Ongoing	\$\$\$\$ PPP	Existing funding
		34	Coordinated flood risk management	Improve coordination between the District and Regional Councils in pluvial and fluvial flood management.	Work together to promote projects with multiple partners and co-benefits (e.g. the Blue-Green Network involving WDC and NRC).	Individual Councils	In progress	Ongoing	PP	Existing funding
	Water resilience	35	Water tank assistance	Improve community water resilience through water tank programmes.	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	Early 2022	Ongoing	\$\$\$\$ PP	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		36	Water resilience funding coordination	Improve coordination between agencies/organisations to improve water resilience outcomes.	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	In progress	Ongoing	P	Existing funding
Build capacity	Governance	37	Communication to elected members	Enable governance focus and oversight of climate change issues.	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	In progress	Ongoing	P	Existing funding

Key area	Topic		Title	Aim	Description	Council involvement	Start	End	Indicative resources required	Funding status
	Internal policy and processes	38	Joint climate change policy framework	Ensure consistent consideration of climate change issues across individual Councils.	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	2022??	2023	PP	Existing funding
	Internal policy and processes	39	Policy review and improvement plan	Embed climate change objectives across individual council policies, strategies, plans and processes.	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	2023	TBC	PP	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
	Internal policy and processes	40	Climate risk disclosure	Ensure transparent monitoring and reporting of climate risks and responses.	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	2022	2023	P	Existing funding
		41	Climate change in business cases	Embed climate change considerations in business cases and procurement policies.	Ensure disclosure of climate change risks in business cases, proposals and procurement documents, including long-term risks such as sea level rise.	Individual Councils	2022	2023	P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		42	Alignment of adaptation plans	Ensure community adaptation planning processes are aligned with council funding processes.	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	2022	Ongoing	PP	Existing funding
	Organisational capacity	43	Climate change teams	Establish appropriate portfolio, programme and project governance and management structures to build organisational capacities.	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	In progress	Ongoing	\$ P	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		44	Staff resources	Ensure sufficient staff resourcing and capacity.	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	In progress	Ongoing	\$\$\$	Additional funding/resourcing may be required
		45	Adaptation funding	Identify and pursue adaptation funding avenues.	Investigate and prioritise potential funding opportunities to enable the implementation of adaptation responses.	All Councils collaboration	In progress	Ongoing	PP	Existing funding
		46	Inter-council collaboration	Continue to develop collaborative inter-council programmes and shared services.	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	In progress	Ongoing	PP	Existing funding