

7.4 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Information Only - No Decision Required

Report To:	Strategy and Policy Committee
Meeting Date:	7 March 2024
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1. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 1.1 This report provides brief updates on progress with the implementation of the Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2034). It also provides climate change updates in brief at the regional, national and international levels.

2. Recommendation/s / Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Strategy and Policy Committee

1. receives the Climate Change Update report.

3. Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Action Plan – progress update

- 3.1 An internal working group comprising 20 staff from across Council meets bi-monthly to ensure the Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2034 progresses. Highlights from the last quarter (November 2023 to February 2024) are presented in this section.
- 3.2 Climate change and resilience have been embedded into Activity Management Plans (AMPs), the Consultation Document and supporting documents to the Long Term Plan. Budgets have been assigned to the draft Tasman Climate Response Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2034, which forms one of the supporting documents to the LTP. The LTP consultation round is scheduled to begin on 28 March.
- 3.3 A new ring main and condensate removal system has been completed at York Valley Landfill. The new system has reduced the energy required to draw gas from the landfill and has resulted in a small increase in the volume of gas being removed from the landfill.
- 3.4 We have provided free monthly composting workshops to the community and distributed recycling and waste minimisation information in collaboration with Nelson City Council.

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- 3.5 The construction waste diversion trial has concluded, with staff now reviewing the cost effectiveness of this programme and next steps.
- 3.6 Several Streets for People projects were rolled out during the past quarter, with painted cycle-lanes now in place on Upper Queen Street and Champion Road, Richmond, and shared paths and cycle lanes installed on Aranui Road, Māpua. In addition, funding from the Transport Choices project was used to complete the shared path on William Street, Richmond, and will be covering additional wayfinding signage for public transport.
- 3.7 During February, staff members and the wider community were encouraged to join the [Aotearoa Bike Challenge](#), bike to work, and participate in one of three Bikers Breakfast events hosted by Council. These activities align with the 'travel fresh' aspects of the '[Take the Jump](#)' campaign, which is being rolled out in-house throughout 2024.
- 3.8 We have been developing 'Resilient Tasman', an online platform for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation workstreams. The platform will be piloted internally. It aims to facilitate communication, collaboration, and access to information about the Council's climate response and strengthen internal networks.
- 3.9 As part of our work with [Kotahitanga mo te Taiao](#), a spatial mapping exercise is underway to identify indigenous ecosystems and habitats at risk from the effects of climate change and opportunities for ecological restoration across the top of the South. Once complete this data will be added to the Nelson Tasman Risk Explorer tool.
- 3.10 Guidelines for elected members on incorporating climate change considerations into decision-making are being peer-reviewed and finalised.
- 3.11 We are collaborating with other councils to advocate for centrally funded, standardised greenhouse gas emissions models and to secure government funding for a decarbonisation tool.
- 3.12 Staff are chairing the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network's (ACAN) group working on mapping existing adaptation metrics and indicators.
- 3.13 Tasman District Council is collaborating with FENZ, Civil Defence, Police, and St John on a Rural Resilience Expo planned for 21 April 2024 in Wakefield. The community event aims to inform, educate, and encourage self-sufficiency amongst the Wakefield community in the event of a disaster, with a concentration on main risks like earthquakes, flooding, wildfire, or other disaster-type events that could see the community cut off for a while.

4. Regional update**Nelson-Tasman Joint Waste Review Working Party**

- 4.1 A Joint Waste Review Working Party for Nelson Tasman has been established. Working Party convenes to review the Joint Waste Assessment and make recommendations on the next steps to Councils. The work is led by Karen Lee (NCC) with the support of David Stevenson, Nadine Wakim, Mike Schruer, Cr McKenzie, Cr Maru, and Barbara Lewando.

Nelson-Tasman Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment project

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- 4.2 As outlined in previous 'Climate Change Update' reports, we are working together with NCC and iwi partners to undertake a [Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) (RCCRA) for both the Tasman and Nelson regions.
- 4.3 This work is being led by consultant [Urban Intelligence](#). The project aims to evaluate and communicate climate change risks, as well as cascading risks and impacts¹. The outcome is a 'living' platform called the 'Risk Explorer' that can be used by councils, iwi, businesses, organisations, and communities for climate adaptation planning, asset and spatial planning, and emergency planning.
- 4.4 The initial assessment is complete and feedback from domain and place-based workshops has been collected, focusing on identifying hazards and screening elements at risk for each domain. Tasman and Nelson staff are providing feedback on datasets and methodology. The consultant is preparing the regional climate change risk report. The work has now been extended until mid-May 2024.

Nelson City Council (NCC) update

- 4.5 A climate change strategy has been developed by the NCC Climate Change Advisory Working Group.
- 4.6 Concurrently, NCC's Climate Action Plan is being updated.

Nelson Tasman Climate Forum update

- 4.7 Staff and Councillor representatives continue to attend monthly Leadership Group hui of the [Nelson Tasman Climate Forum](#). In December, all four representatives attended a half-day strategy session to identify Forum priorities for 2024.
- 4.8 Forum members have begun initial planning for Climate Action Week 2024, which will be held from 24 May to 2 June.
- 4.9 In 2023, the Forum launched the [Take the Jump campaign](#) in Nelson/Tasman. Originating in the UK, Take the Jump is a global movement to tackle climate action. The Forum continues to offer free Take the Jump ambassador training, which several Council staff members have enrolled in. We launched this campaign internally late last year and plan to roll out a range of 'Take the Jump' events and initiatives for staff throughout 2024.
- 4.10 The Motueka Repair Café has now held two events, attended by community members keen to have their various items repaired, and will open monthly during 2024. Repair Cafes are about changing the way household items are viewed as throw-away when they get broken or stop working. By fixing these items we not only reduce waste but also build valuable skills as we learn how to fix them, making us all part of a circular economy that focuses on reuse rather than disposal.

5. National update

Briefing to incoming Ministers

¹ Cascading impacts from extreme weather/climate events occur when an extreme hazard generates a sequence of secondary events in natural and human systems that result in physical, natural, social or economic disruption, whereby the resulting impact is significantly larger than the initial impact (IPCC).

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- 5.1 In November 2023, MfE published a [Briefing for Incoming Ministers – Environment, Climate Change and RMA reform](#) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) published a [Briefing for Incoming Minister of Climate Change](#).
- 5.2 Ministry for the Environment will soon be releasing the new version of *Coastal hazards and climate change: guidance for local government*.

Resource management reform update

- 5.3 The Spatial Planning Act 2023 (SPA) and the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 (NBA) came into effect in August 2023. Legislation to repeal the two Acts were passed in parliament in December 2023. The SPA and most of the NBA's provisions are not in use.
- 5.4 Almost all resource management activities and areas continue to be covered by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
- 5.5 The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has prepared [information on what the NBA repeal means](#) for:
- fast-track consenting;
 - freshwater consents;
 - the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management;
 - requiring authorities; and
 - Treaty settlements and other arrangements with Māori.
- 5.6 The repeal legislation retains the NBA fast-track consenting process. Any consent issued will be treated like a consent under the RMA.

Fast-track consenting

- 5.7 The Government is progressing changes to resource management laws as part of its 100 Day Action Plan, with the first steps taken to [establish a new fast-track consenting one-stop shop regime](#). The NBA regime described above applies until this new legislation is passed.
- 5.8 The proposed new regime aims to “improve the speed and process for resource approvals for major infrastructure projects, unlocking opportunities in industries such as aquaculture and mining in our regions,” Regional Development Minister Shane Jones says.
- 5.9 Cabinet has agreed that the new fast-track consenting regime will consist of:
- a new fast-track process contained in a standalone Act, with its own purpose statement focused on economic development;
 - a priority for regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and development projects;
 - a process for projects to be referred by Ministers into the fast-track process if it meets appropriate criteria;
 - a list of projects that will be first to have their consents approved and conditions set by an Expert Panel;
 - a process where referred projects will go to an Expert Panel which will apply any necessary conditions to ensure adverse effects of the project to the environment are

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managed appropriately, and where the panel will have only a limited ability to decline a project once referred; and

- a “one-stop-shop” where other relevant permits are obtained in addition to resource consents.

5.10 Phase two of the new government’s RMA Reform agenda includes introducing this permanent one-stop-shop fast-track consenting regime, as well as progress on their [Going for Housing Growth package](#), and other amendments to make it easier to get things done in New Zealand across aquaculture, farming, energy and other industries.

5.11 Assuming that provision is made for public input to development of this new legislation, staff will prioritise development of a written submission from Council on the Bill.

Updated coastal climate change guidance

5.12 On 29 February, the Ministry for the Environment published [updated Coastal Hazards and Climate Change guidance](#).

5.13 This national guidance is a technical document designed for practitioners involved in land-use planning, resource management, building consenting, asset and flood risk management, and infrastructure planning.

5.14 Key updates include:

- Advances in sea-level rise science and updated global projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report
- New relative sea-level rise projections and vertical land movement estimates from the NZ SeaRise Programme
- Advances in knowledge relating to the types of coastal hazards (such as sea-level rise, storms, flooding, or rising groundwater) and how they interact and exacerbate each other
- Updated guidance on carrying out risk assessments and adaptation pathway planning.

5.15 This guidance updates previous Coastal Hazards and Climate Change guidance released in 2017 and interim guidance on sea-level rise published in 2022.

5.16 Technical supplementary documents to support the guidance will be published in mid-2024.

5.17 Broader guidance on the practical steps to take as part of the adaptation process is expected to be published later in 2024. When this Adaptation Planning Guidance is released, a condensed technical version of the Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance will sit alongside it as a companion document.

5.18 At the time of writing, staff are currently reviewing the new guidance to understand what implications it may have for our work programmes and resource and building consent processes. In particular, it is understood from MfE staff that the interim guidance on sea-level rise published in 2022 has been incorporated into the new 2024 guidance largely unchanged, which would suggest that there are no significant changes to our existing information on relative sea level rise and how we apply this in our decision-making processes.

Clean Car Discount Scheme repealed

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- 5.19 The Government has [passed legislation](#) repealing the Clean Car Discount for all vehicles registered after 31 December 2023.
- 5.20 The Clean Car Discount started in 2021 to provide rebates and charges based on carbon emissions for new and used vehicle imports.
- 5.21 The National and ACT parties campaigned on repealing the programme, saying it was unfair on some groups like farmers who had no viable low-emission alternative to utes, and was therefore adding to their costs.
- 5.22 “Our coalition government is committed to increasing the uptake of electric vehicle ownership by supercharging EV charging infrastructure. We will deliver a comprehensive, nationwide network of 10,000 public EV chargers by 2030, while considering robust cost/benefit analysis,” Transport Minister Simeon Brown said.
- 5.23 The [Land Transport \(Clean Vehicle Discount Scheme Repeal\) Amendment Bill](#) passed its third reading on 14 December 2023.
- 5.24 The repeal of the Clean Car Discount scheme applies to all vehicles registered from 11.59 pm on 31 December 2023 and rebate applications closed at the same time.

National electric vehicle charging strategy

- 5.25 On 6 October 2023, Te Manatū Waka Kotahi Ministry of Transport released '[Charging our future: National electric vehicle charging strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand 2023–2035](#)'.
- 5.26 The strategy outlines Government's long-term strategic vision for a national electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure that can support a growing EV fleet, while helping New Zealand meet its climate commitments. Key targets are:
- there will be a journey charging hub every 150–200 km on main highways by 2028; and
 - to support the installation of at least 600 EV charging stations in rural locations by 2028.
- 5.27 The strategy was informed by consultation on a draft EV charging strategy in May 2023.
- 5.28 The government's plan focuses on establishing a nationwide network of public EV charging infrastructure, with NZTA overseeing progress towards the targets set down in the strategy vision. The initiative involves expanding the current 1200 EV chargers to 10,000, mitigating "range anxiety" to promote EV adoption.
- 5.29 The comprehensive charging network is a key element of the Government's strategy to revitalise the economy for the benefit of all New Zealanders, and a map outline charging facilities for the South Island.

Government changes speed limit rules

- 5.30 Transport Minister Simeon Brown announced that the Government is [amending speed limit rules](#) made by the previous Government's Land Transport Rule.
- 5.31 Changes made in December remove mandatory requirements for Road Controlling Authorities to implement speed management plans and remove deadlines for local Road Controlling Authorities to submit these plans by 29 March 2024.

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- 5.32 “This will allow work to begin on a new Rule to ensure that when speed limits are set, economic impacts – including travel times – and the views of road users and local communities are taken into account, alongside safety,” Minister Brown said.
- 5.33 The new Rule will also implement variable speed limits on roads approaching schools during pick up and drop off times, rather than permanent reductions.
- 5.34 The Minister is writing to Road Controlling Authorities throughout the country to notify them of the changes and to advise them that work has begun on the new Rule. This will allow them to stop work on current speed management plans until the Rule is put in place.
- 5.35 The Joint Regional Transport Committee is Tasman and Nelson has just closed consultation on possible speed limit changes to recommend to the Joint Council Committee." It will consider any new requirements alongside the feedback from the community.

New forestry rules

- 5.36 Changes have been made to how commercial forestry is managed to give local councils more power to decide where new forests are located. The regulations are known as the [National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry](#) (previously the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) to reflect the inclusion of carbon forests. They came into force on 2 November 2023.
- 5.37 Forests planted for carbon sequestration will now be managed in the same way as plantation forests. All forests will now have clear rules about harvesting practices. Councils will be able to have plan rules, developed in consultation with their communities, controlling where new commercial forests are located.
- 5.38 Other changes include clear rules on harvesting practices and new requirements to remove large pieces of slash.

Climate Change Commission’s final advice for the second emissions reduction plan

- 5.39 On 12 December, the Minister of Climate Change released He Pou a Rangi the Climate Change Commission’s [final advice](#) to inform the Government’s plan to meet Aotearoa New Zealand’s greenhouse gas reduction goal for 2026-2030.
- 5.40 The Commission’s [analysis](#) shows the country has made progress, but it is not on track to meet its climate goals for the end of this decade.
- 5.41 The Commission’s advice makes 27 recommendations to the Government, focused on areas where there are critical gaps in action, or where efforts need to be strengthened or accelerated. This includes:
- building more renewable electricity and ensuring networks keep up with growing and variable demand;
 - support moves to swap fossil fuels for renewable energy in heating and industry;
 - retrofit buildings so they are healthier, more resilient, lower emissions and cheaper to run;
 - avoid installing new fossil gas in buildings where there are affordable low emissions alternatives;

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- encourage households and businesses to switch to electric vehicles;
- make it easier for more people to choose public or active transport;
- prepare for the rapid roll-out of low emissions technologies and practices on farms;
- directly resource iwi/Māori efforts to reduce climate pollution;
- sort out the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme and the role of forests;
- commit to how much climate pollution must be cut at its source; and
- manage the impacts of climate policy on people, businesses and communities using existing policy options while a broader strategy is developed.

5.42 The Commission's advice is intended to inform the Government's decisions about the policies it includes in its second emissions reduction plan.

5.43 The Government has until the end of 2024 to consider the advice, consult on policies to meet the country's emissions budgets and release the emissions reduction plan for 2026-2030.

5.44 From next year, the Commission will also independently assess and publicly report on how the country is tracking against emissions budgets as well as how well emissions reduction plans are being delivered.

Our atmosphere and climate 2023 report

5.45 On 11 October, the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ released the latest, three-yearly update about the state of Aotearoa New Zealand's atmosphere and climate. The report '[Our atmosphere and climate 2023](#)' provides further evidence that emissions from human activities are putting pressure on our climate, which is adversely impacting the environment, communities, Māori interests, infrastructure, and the economy. Findings noted in the report include:

- eight of the 10 warmest years recorded in Aotearoa up to 2022 have been in the last decade;
- glaciers are in retreat and sea levels around parts of the country rose twice as fast in the last 60 years as they did in the previous 60 years;
- the frequency of extreme temperature events in Aotearoa has doubled due to human activities; and
- about 750,000 New Zealanders and 500,000 buildings worth more than \$145 billion are near rivers and in coastal areas already exposed to extreme flooding.

5.46 A key theme of the report is the impact that climate change is having on biodiversity and ecosystems. This natural infrastructure acts as a buffer against the worst effects of climate change.

5.47 Alongside the report, the Ministry has also used the digital storytelling platform ArcGIS StoryMaps to look at the impacts our changing climate is having on the plants and animals that call Aotearoa home. The [four stories](#) include, photos, maps, videos, graphics and

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interactive features, to show how climate change is causing impacts on plants and animals in Aotearoa.

Research findings on emissions from household food purchases

- 5.48 A paper published in the Journal of Cleaner Production in December 2023: [Quantifying the greenhouse gas emissions of New Zealand households' food purchases: An analysis by demographic variables](#) found that eating less meat and dairy has the potential to help New Zealand reach its climate goals.
- 5.49 Red and processed meat (35%) and dairy products (19%) were responsible for over half of dietary greenhouse gas emissions associated with New Zealand households' food purchases in 2019, according to an analysis of data from almost 2,000 households and two million purchases.
- 5.50 The study used data on greenhouse gas emissions for various foods through the production cycle from farming, to processing, transport, and refrigeration, up until the point of purchase.
- 5.51 Households with older primary shoppers had higher per capita dietary emissions, while larger households had lower per capita dietary emissions.
- 5.52 The inverse relationship between household size and per capita dietary emissions could be attributed to increased energy efficiencies and reduced food waste associated with larger households, the study found.

Climate change reform and the impact on local government

- 5.53 Last October, LGNZ commissioned guidance to support councils to factor climate change into their long-term plans: [Climate Change Reform and the Impact on Local Government A Guide for 2024 – 34 Long-Term Plans](#).

6. International update**United Nations Climate Summit National Statement for New Zealand**

- 6.1 The United Nations climate conference known as the Conference of the Parties (COP), held in Dubai in November 2023 is significant in driving rapid action to meet the Paris Agreement goal. Last year marked the conclusion of the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement. New Zealand commitment to its Paris Agreement goals includes a focus on both adaptation and mitigation. Climate Change Minister Hon Simon Watts stated [COP28 National Statement for New Zealand | Beehive.govt.nz](#) that New Zealand will develop a national Climate Adaptation Framework, engaging various stakeholders, and collaborate with Pacific neighbours on addressing climate change impacts.
- 6.2 Throughout COP28, New Zealand endorsed several initiatives, including the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Targets Pledge, the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, the Mutual Recognition of Certification Schemes for Renewable and Low-Carbon Hydrogen and Derivatives Pledge, and the COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transition and Climate Action Partnership Pledge.

New Zealand climate and biodiversity solution presented to the world at COP28

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- 6.3 "Recloaking Papatūānuku" is a proposed nature-based solution to strategically restore and enhance 2.1 million hectares of diverse indigenous forest across Aotearoa New Zealand over the next decade. The proposed initiative, which seeks to address climate and biodiversity challenges, was [presented at COP28](#) by Pure Advantage and WWF-New Zealand.
- 6.4 Political leaders, including Minister of Climate Change Simon Watts and predecessor James Shaw, expressed support for the initiative, emphasising the urgency of addressing environmental challenges. Former Green Party Co-Leader, James Shaw, highlighted that a large-scale indigenous forest initiative like Recloaking Papatūānuku could make a significant difference to the country's future National Determined Contributions (NDC) and reduce the need to purchase offshore carbon credits.
- 6.5 While Recloaking Papatūānuku has been designed specifically for New Zealand's unique landscape and indigenous forests, it was discussed throughout the presentation how the framework for the initiative could be replicated in regions across the world.
- 6.6 More information about the Recloaking Papatūānuku proposal is available on the [Pure Advantage website](#).

UK's First Local Authority with Climate Action Just Transition Plan launched at COP28

- 6.7 Newham Council in the United Kingdom has become the first local authority to pioneer a Climate Action Just Transition Plan. The plan aims to tackle the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Newman's residents, who bear costs for climate adaptation.
- 6.8 Timed to coincide with the with the UN's COP28 Summit, the plan outlines a strategy to ensure that the transition to Net Zero benefits the community, promoting a fairer Newham with lower emissions and improved resilience to the climate emergency. Find out more about our Just Transition Plan: [Executive Summary](#).

2023 officially warmest year on record, WMO says

- 6.9 The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has officially confirmed that 2023 was the [warmest year on record](#), by a huge margin.
- 6.10 In 2023, the global temperatures reached 1.45 ± 0.12 °C above pre-industrial levels, bringing the world closer to the limits outlined in the Paris Agreement. The combination of El Niño and climate change intensified heat in the latter part of the year, with 2024 anticipated to be potentially even warmer. The record-breaking heat in 2023 had significant socioeconomic impacts.

Synergising Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

- 6.11 The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction flagship initiative, Comprehensive Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CRM), in alignment with Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Target E aims to increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, emphasising the promotion of policy coherence with climate change. The CRM programme seeks to integrate risk-centred approaches into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and climate/forecast information into

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national and subnational risk reduction strategies, aligning them better with the national adaptation goals. Watch the video [here](#).

World Population Data Sheet 2023 supports climate resilience

- 6.12 The [2023 World Population Data Sheet](#), released during a year marked by climate change related events, provides demographic insights such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status. This data can aid in identifying groups vulnerable to climate change impacts, allowing decision-makers at all governance levels to consider these characteristics when planning resilience-building strategies for their communities.

7. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri
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Nil